

For our homebound and sick parishioners:
Livestream our 11 a.m. Mass at stcatherine.info



Saint Catherine of Siena

Roman Catholic Church

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14, 2025

A Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford

Mass/Liturgy Schedule:

Saturday Vigil at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses at 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Livestreamed)
Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Wednesday, and Friday. (Yearly)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday from 4:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.
Monday from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
Or by appointment, please call the parish office.

Baptisms and Baptismal Preparation:

Please call the parish office at 860 658 1642

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony:

Please call the parish office at 860 658 1642 at least 6 months in advance

Choir Practices: Summer Hiatus

Adult—Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Russell Hall.
Youth—Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room.

Choirs accompany the 11 a.m. Mass.

Bulletin Deadline: Monday at 10:00 a.m.

Website News: email to:

StCatherineWebMaster@Comcast.net

267 Stratton Brook Road, Box 184
West Simsbury, Connecticut 06092
Tel: 860 658 1642 /Fax: 888 297 3134
Email: stcathy@comcast.net

Website: www.stcatherine.info, Facebook Page:
St. Catherine of Siena Parish-West Simsbury CT

WELCOME!

We welcome all visitors who are celebrating with us today. As is our custom at St. Catherine of Siena, please remain in your pew for the singing of the first and last designated verses of the recessional hymn.

The St. Catherine Parish Legacy Fund is committed to ensuring the long-term stability of our parish and its ministries. Please consider a gift in lieu of flowers upon a loved one's passing as a way to ensure our community will thrive well into the future.

Pastor: Reverend Michael Whyte, 860 658 1642

PARISH STAFF

Administrative Assistant-Parish Office

Mrs. Lisa Cerchia
860 658 1642 or stcathy@comcast.net

Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Helen Treacy, 860-658-4737,
helentreacyff@gmail.com

Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Office
Mrs. Manuela Hanshaw, 860 658 1642 or
manuelahanshawym@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry

Mrs. Susan Zybert
860 217 0600 or susanzybert@comcast.net

Facilities Manager

Mr. Christopher Berg, 860 658 1642

Sacristan

Mr. Michael Grappone, 860 658 1642

Parish Council President

Mrs. Kathleen Mangiafico, 860 869 8468

Finance Council Chairman

Mrs. Jennifer Orzell, 860 729 1079

Parish Legacy Fund Chairman

Mr. Peter Pabich, 860 810 5069

Parish Lay Trustees

Mrs. Colleen Langlais, 860-508-0487
Mr. Robert Hensley, 860-916-5057

Thanks for worshipping with us.
If you would like to join our parish family, fill out a yellow membership form found in the vestibule or atrium and mail it to us, drop it in the collection basket or call us at 658 1642.

We Welcome You to Our Family of Faith!

**WEEKLY MASS
INTENTIONS**



- **Saturday, September 13th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *Bill Adams, 4th anniversary*, requested by Nancy, Craig & Ryan Taylor;
- **Sunday, September 14th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *Priscilla Provencher, 1st anniversary*, requested by Alex Nolen;
- **Sunday, 14th @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Jack Mulcahy, 1st anniversary*, requested by his family;
- **Monday, September 15th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Bob Bellacosa, birthday remembrance*, requested by his family;
- **Monday, September 15th @ 9:00 a.m.** Rosary;
- **Tuesday, September 16th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Nancy Salt, birthday remembrance*, requested by her family;
- **Tuesday, September 16th @ 9:00 a.m.** Adoration;
- **Wednesday, September 17th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Ann Doe Little, birthday remembrance*, requested by her family;
- **Wednesday, September 17th @ 9:00 a.m.** Rosary;
- **Friday, September 19th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Julia McCabe*, requested by David & Maryellen Bailey;
- **Friday, September 19th @ 9:00 a.m.** Chaplet & Rosary;
- **Saturday, September 20th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass *Grade 6 Class Mass; for Dick Hopkins, birthday remembrance & 66th wedding anniversary remembrance*, requested by his family;
- **Sunday, September 21st @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *Theresa & Joseph Laskowski*, requested by their children; and,
- **Sunday, September 21st @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Rob & Mike Larose, anniversary*, requested by their family.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Our Sunday Collections constitute the operating funds for the parish. You make it possible for us to continue serving you each week. Thank you for your generosity! May God bless you always. *Thank you for parishioners like you!*

*Thank you for using both our online Faith Direct services or for mailing your envelope to:
Post Office Box 184, West Simsbury, Conn. 06092*

Weekly Loose Cash/Checks: \$ 7,113.00

Faith Direct weekly giving: \$ 4,072.08

Total: \$11,185.08

Gaza Collection \$ 3,590.00

Repair & Refurbishment \$ 165.0(Add'l)

Various \$ 65.50

This week's second collection is for Repair & Refurbishment. Next week's second collection is for Catholic Elementary Schools.

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

September

- Sat, 13th —Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 14th—Faith Formation begins, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.
- Sun, 14th—St. Elizabeth House, prkng lot, 3:30 p.m.
- Sun, 14th—Confirmation 1 & 2, 6:00 & 7:15 p.m.
- Mon, 15th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Mon, 15th—Prayer Shawl, Rooney-A, 3 p.m.
- Mon, 15th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 15th—Parish Council, RH, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 16th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 16th—Prayer Shawl, Rooney-A, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 16th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 16th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 17th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Fri, 19th—Chaplet & Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 20th—Pantry Partners, Vestibule, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 20th—Confession, Church, 4p.m.
- Sat, 20th—Grade 6 Class Mass, 5 p.m.
- Sun, 21st—Coffee & Donuts, RH, 9 a.m. & 12 noon
- Sun, 21st —Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.
- Sun, 21st—YM CAR WASH at ST. MARY, 12 noon
- Sun, 21st—Living Your Faith, Rooney-A, 12:15 p.m.
- Sun, 21st—Sr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 5:30 p.m.
- Mon, 22nd—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Mon, 22nd—*Mass at McLean Home, 11 a.m.*
- Tues, 23rd—NO Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 23rd—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 23rd—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Lamp

For

Bob Bellacosa,

birthday remembrance

requested by his family.



Pope Leo's Canonization of Millennial Saints Opens Evangelization Opportunities

Pope Leo XIV elevated Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati to sainthood this past weekend, and they are known as the millennial saints. His timing—or God's timing—was perfect as a recent (the Barna Group) study on Catholic Mass attendance illustrates that GEN Zers are the generation that attends Mass most regularly (about 23 Sundays a year) representing 1.9% of the Mass attendance. Our two new saints present an opportunity for our Church and parish to reach out to our Gen Zers+ and invite them to “try us again for the first time;” to bring their questions, doubts and hopes here to St. Catherine and grow their Faith in Him. *The new message has to be that we are all imperfect people but, and that is a very important word, we all can “come as we are-flawed but beautiful and He will transform us into His Perfection.”*

Gen Z, who were in high school and college during the Covid-19 Pandemic, were deeply impacted by the pandemic and resulting cultural changes. They had their world turned upside down by pro-longed school closures, isolation, online classes and ambiguity. Experts have found that that the reason for their desired-return to Mass was for two primary reasons: (1) they are in search of truth and attempting to move away from ambiguity, and (2) they are looking for community where people act together. Our Catholic Mass provides both: Absolute Truth (the Word of God) and actions that the congregation joins in together—Mass is a dialogue between God and His people with the priest as a leader with like-minded believers coming together. In fact, NY Cardinal Timothy Dolan recently paraphrased St. Augustine, when he said “they (Gen Zers) are searching for certainty, not ambiguity. They are searching for meaning in their lives, and that their ‘hearts will not rest until they rest in God.’”

So what does this “good” news mean for us here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish? And, how do we “capture” this opportunity to seize upon human nature's desire for truth and community?

Thank-you Forward with Faith participants! Due to the generosity of so many St. Catherine of Siena parishioners during our Forward with Faith campaign, we are set to locate and bring-in age-appropriate and issue-specific speakers to talk to our young adults—and other parishioners of various ages—regarding the **relevance and applicability** of our Catholic faith in this modern world. We are prepared to reorient the reception of the Church's teaching—from being received and understood as burdensome, outdated and divisive requirements impinging on my personal freedom to be “who I am” rather to be rightly understood as the formational and ultimate love of God for my/our excellence—and all about *Who God made us to be. We have a purpose!*

Our parish is now working on invitations for dates and events regarding active discussions about faith, cultural implications, and God's call. An updated list will be forthcoming.

Reminder: Come meet Archbishop Coyne

On **Sunday, October 5th**, at the **11 am Mass Archbishop Christopher Coyne** will be our principal celebrant of the Mass here at St. Catherine of Siena Church. The Archbishop will offer the homily and after the Mass welcome you to a meet-and-greet in Russell Hall for a reception. The Archbishop is approachable and very much interested in meeting his flock and hearing from you. **Please plan to attend the 11 am Mass on Sunday, October 5th and meet Archbishop Coyne in Russell Hall for a lite brunch.**

Remember St. Elizabeth House...

This weekend, September 13 & 14, is the St. Elizabeth House dinner ministry, *which has been moved from the 3rd to now the 2nd Sunday of every month.* This monthly schedule change is so that we don't have all our food ministries on the same weekend. Please check the list of needs in the atrium—from bread and fruit to salads and casserole dinners. **Put your “John Hancock” on the sign-up sheet and bring your promised items to the parish kitchen by 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 14. THANK YOU!**

Continued on page 6.

St. Catherine of Siena Church ~ Faith Formation
Helen Treacy, Director, helentreacyff@gmail.com
Phone: (860) 658-4737

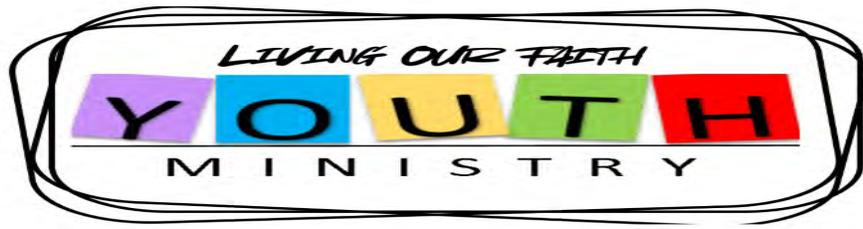
- **Faith Formation Classes (K-8) begin THIS SUNDAY, September 14th from 9:30-10:30 AM at Henry James Memorial School.** Please remember that children in K-2 grades *NEED* to be signed in and out. **We are excited to see you!!**
- Confirmation I meets at 6:00 – 7:15 PM in Russell Hall and Confirmation II meets from 7:15– 8:30 PM in Russell Hall.
- **There will be a Parent Meeting in the Henry James Cafeteria @ 9:30 AM after the children have gone to their respective classes.**
- If you still need to register, go to www.stcatherine.info, under the Faith Formation tab or follow this link: <https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=c406ae27-73b6-4b94-b4bc-b58720fcdc5a>
- Classes have filled up and **we are still in need of an 8th grade teacher.**
- **Please consider volunteering your time. Contact Helen Treacy at: helentreacyff@gmail.com if you are interested or need more information.**

Women’s Ministry Fall Bible Study-All women are welcome, regardless of Scripture experience
Morning Session-Please join us beginning **September 24th and continuing through October 29th** from 9:30–11:00 a.m. each Wednesday morning. In *Encountering the God of Faith, Hope, and Love in the Bible*, award-winning Scripture commentator Fr. George Smiga explores how God is revealed through various stages of salvation history—from the call of Abraham through the resurrection of Jesus—and how faith, hope, and love have evolved as our understanding of God grows. Books will be available in the parish office, 658-1642, to purchase for \$17.95. **Please register here: <http://bit.ly/4fX0Qt1> and read the first chapter before the first class on September 24th.** Questions? Contact Judy Manza, jmanza@verizon.net

Evening Session-Please join us beginning on Wednesday **October 8th from 7-8 p.m. and continuing weekly through October 29th.** We will be using Stephen J. Binzer's book *Angels of God*. This study enhances today's fascination with angels with an overview of the Bible's presentation of God's angels as guardians and messengers. Books will be ordered for those who *register by September 15th*. Cost of the book will range between \$11-18. **Please registration here: <http://bit.ly/4fX0Qt1>** Questions? Contact Michelle Page, pagekoe@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Would you like to learn to knit or crochet? Would you like to bring comfort, hope, and love to others? Then this ministry is for you! Please consider joining us at one of our next meetings on Monday, Sept. 15th at 3:00 p.m. or Tuesday, Sept 16th at 6:30 p.m.. Please contact Kathy Oaks with any questions or to request a prayer shawl at ktoaks@gmail.com or 860-614-2773.

Put on your apron and come cook dinners for **“Neighbors in Need”** on Thursday September 25th, 9 a.m. If interested, call Diane at (860) 913-0241.



REGISTER FOR:

YOUTH MINISTRY 2025-2026

ALL Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join Youth Ministry. REGISTER NOW and receive a free t-shirt. Did you miss our KICKOFF meeting? No worries, get your t-shirt at the CAR WASH (see below). Even if you registered in prior years, you need to register using this link:

<https://forms.gle/6xwkJira6jdiwpu8>

Youth Ministry Mission Statement :

To foster a group of compassionately engaged teenagers, energized for service, open to spiritual growth, willing to build community in the context of faith, friendship and fun.

SENIOR & JUNIOR HIGH YM

ANNUAL CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st, 12:15 - 2:15 pm at St. Mary's Church parking lot– Rain or shine! A free hot dog & chips lunch will be served to our parishioners as they get their car washed. Sign up for Youth Ministry to receive a free t-shirt! **TEEN & PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Sign up for one or more shifts using this link:

<https://bit.ly/46a3Wpd>

*Please be sure to follow us on Instagram at
stcatherine_youthministry*

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

AFTER THE CAR WASH...

BONFIRE AT THE FIRE PIT & MORE

Sunday, September 21st, 5:30-7:30 pm:

Everyone worked hard today, join us by the bonfire at St. Catherine of Siena. **BRING AN APPETIZER** to share, we will provide the desserts and drinks. Relax by the fire pit with friends for some s'mores and more.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

CHEFS NEEDED FOR OUR COOK & BAKE

Wednesday, September 24th, 6-8 pm:

Join us for a fun evening of cooking & baking as we prepare meals & treats to donate to local families in need. Don't know how to cook? No worries as we provide the ingredients, recipes and step by step instructions. **PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND WELCOME!** Sign up using this link: <https://bit.ly/4mJtjF4>

SAVE THE DATE

PARISH -WIDE FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD. 6:00-8:30PM—

In Russell Hall at St. Catherine of Siena . All are invited to join us from **ages 5-105. TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Play too to win some **amazing prizes!** Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Sign up as an individual or a team (up to 4 team members). We hope you will all join us! Sign up link coming soon!

St. Elizabeth's House

Drop off is Sunday, September 14th.

Please use this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44ADAD2DA64-54521748-stelizabeth>

Pantry Partners

The next distribution date for Pantry Partners will be September 20th. Thank you so much for your continued support!

STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

September sandwiches will be collected on the weekend of Sat, the 27th from 8-9:30 a.m., Sun, the 28th, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Mon, the 29th, from 8-9:30 a.m. Please use this link to sign up:

<https://bit.ly/4oCHld4>

FEED THE HUNGRY Lunch

Service on Sat, September 27th.

Please sign up by Weds, Sept. 24th.

There are 4 ways to help:

1. **Serve Lunch In-Person:** Carpool from St. Catherine's at 9:45 a.m. to St. Elizabeth's House in Hartford. At the shelter we will serve a meal for residents as well as for other food insecure guests.

We will be done by 1:00 p.m.

2. **Prepare a cold salad:** Please prepare your favorite macaroni or potato salad to feed 10-12 people. Deliver your dish in a disposable container to St. Catherine's Russell Hall Kitchen between 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. on Sat., 9/27.

3. **NEW - COOKIES:** Make some sweet treats. Make 24 cookies and drop off on Sat, 9/27 to Russell Hall kitchen between 8:30-9:30 a.m.

4. **Make sandwiches:** Please see the weekly bulletin "Street Sandwich Ministry" section to sign-up. <https://bit.ly/FTHLunchSept27>



Going Once, going twice, Please!

You think you are tired of hearing me on this...I have to repeat it...looking for parishioners who would be willing to be:

- An eighth grade faith formation teacher. Call Helen Treacy 658 1642 for details;
- Ushers while you are already at Mass. Call Eileen Landi at 860 490 5472;
- Altar Servers, Fourth grade and up. Call Lisa Cerchia at 658 1642;
- Eucharistic Ministers to serve Christ at the Mass. Call Fr. Michael at 658 1642; and,
- Lectors to proclaim God's Word while at Mass. Call Fr. Michael at 658 1642.

Please pray over how might you help our parish out and help her to grow. You own our parish, take charge!

Altar Flowers?

Do you like to arrange flowers? St. Catherine of Siena parish is looking for a "few good people" who would like to take charge of our altar flowers for the weekend Masses. If you have a talent for the visual displays of God's creation, come join our team...of parishioners who would prepare and place the flowers in the sanctuary.

Here's how this should work: if we have a group of about 6 or 7 people, taking turns every 7 weeks—to prepare and place the flowers on the tabernacle altar for the Masses, this would then be a simple and creative ministry that doesn't require too much time. If you are interested or want to find out more, call the office (658 1642) and give your name and number to Lisa Cerchia. Our team leader will reach out to you with details. Again, the goal is to have more 'hands do less work.'