

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



Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 28, 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

Director of Youth Ministry

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 27th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *Ralph Ritacco, birthday remembrance*, requested by his family;
- **Sunday, September 28th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *Julia McCabe*, requested by Frances Koczera;
- **Sunday, 28th @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Nancy Cannariato, 30th anniversary*, requested by her family;
- **Monday, September 29th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Dan Reilley*;
- **Monday, September 29th @ 9:00 a.m.** *Rosary*;
- **Tuesday, September 30th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Dan Reilley*, requested by the O'Bryan Family;
- **Tuesday, September 30th @ 9:00 a.m.** *Adoration*;
- **Wednesday, October 1st @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Rebecca Mimeault*, requested by the Rosary Group;
- **Wednesday, October 1st @ 9:00 a.m.** *Rosary*;
- **Friday, October 3rd @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Margaret Hark*, requested by the O'Bryan Family;
- **Friday, October 3rd @ 9:00 a.m.** *Chaplet/Rosary*;
- **Saturday, October 4th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *John Hayes, birthday remembrance*, requested by his family;
- **Sunday, October 5th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *Gilbert & Shirley Murdock, wedding anniversary remembrance*, requested by the Murphy Family; and,
- **Sunday, October 5th @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Marian Grey, 3rd anniversary*, requested by her family.



Sanctuary Lamp

For
Maura Kostelni,
birthday blessings
requested by her 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: \$ 7,378.90

Faith Direct weekly giving: \$ 4,072.08

Total: \$11,450.98

Catholic Elementary School \$ 3,733.32

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

September

- Sat, 27th—Feed the Hungry
- Sat, 27th-Mon, 29th—Street Sandwich Weekend
- Sat, 27th —Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 28th—Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.
- Sun, 28th—Confirmation 1 & 2, 6:00 & 7:15 p.m.
- Mon, 29th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Mon, 29th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 30th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 30th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 30th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.

October

- Wed, 1st—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 1st—Wm's Bible Study, RH, 9:30 a.m.
- Wed, 1st—Wm's Min. Welcome Dinner, RH, 6 p.m.
- Fri, 3rd—Chaplet & Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Fri, 3rd—Parish Trivia Event, RH, 6 p.m.
- Sat, 4th—Confession, Church, 4p.m.
- Sun, 5th—Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.
- Sun, 5th—Mass and Reception
with Archbishop Coyne, 11 a.m.
- Mon, 6th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Mon, 6th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 7th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 7th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 7th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 8th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 8th—Wm's Bible Study, RH, 9:30 a.m.
- Wed, 8th—Wm's Bible Study, RH, 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs, 9th—Bereavement, Rooney-A, 10 a.m.

We are looking for two additional "teams" to help with our monthly Coffee & Donuts. Training is available. If we have three teams it is just a four-times-a-year commitment. Please contact the office if you are interested, 860-658-1642. Thank you!

O CIA & Becoming Catholic

Beginning on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m., our parish will initiate the preparation of those who might wish to investigate becoming a Roman Catholic through the Sacramental Rites of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 5, 2026.

O CIA is the order—the process of learning and of entering into the Catholic faith—either by Baptism, if one is unbaptized, or through First Holy Communion and Confirmation, if one is already baptized in the Catholic Church or in one of the denominational Christian churches, e.g., Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Congregational or others. *Baptisms with blessed holy water and the words, “I baptize you (name) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen,” is a valid baptism.*

Our O CIA classes and discussions meet on Tuesday nights, at 7 p.m., and enable the candidate to learn about the sacramental life of the Catholic Church, her history, her structure and role, and covers introductions to our theology, philosophy, and moral code for living the Christian life to which Christ has called each of us.

If you have ever considered learning about the Catholic faith, if you attend Mass with your Catholic spouse and children, or have considered joining them at the Eucharistic meal, then the O CIA program is a great place to begin. The first meeting on October 14 is a meet-and-greet, a get acquainted and dip-your-toe-in-the-water of Catholicism. Join us in classroom Rooney A, just off Russell Hall, on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m. or stop and ask Fr. Michael after Mass.

Twenty-sixth Sunday: A rich man, a poor man, and destiny.

This Sunday’s gospel has multiple themes about the afterlife (the reality of heaven and hell), charity and social justice, the importance of repentance and faith, the purpose and sufficiency of Scripture and Church teaching, and the reversal of fortunes. Sounds like it has all the parts of a “good read.”

For this weekend, let us focus on the reality of both heaven and hell. This parable vividly portrays the afterlife, with Lazarus in comfort and often portrayed as heaven or a state of blessedness, and the rich man in torment—a representation of hell or the separation from God. This aligns itself with Catholic teaching, the existence of the afterlife, and the consequences of our earthly choices, which play a crucial role in determining one’s destiny.

Free will and moral responsibility: Catholics hold that God has given us free will, the ability to choose between good and evil. Our moral choices reflect our love and intention for God and neighbor, and in choosing to live according to the law of God (moral righteousness), His Commandments. Rejecting God’s Commandments and His Love will lead toward separation from Him.

Heaven, also called The Beatific Vision: A state of perfect happiness and union with God, officially called the Beatific Vision, where the soul experiences the fullness of divine love and joy. Joy here is not an enthusiastic happiness, but rather is a state of perfect being. Catholics believe that souls that die in a state of grace, having freely accepted God’s mercy and lived virtuously, enter into heaven.

Hell or the State of Definitive Separation: Hell is understood in Catholic theology as a state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and His Blessedness. It is the consequence of dying in mortal sin and without repentance. Mortal sin involves grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent—a serious rejection of God’s love.

Purgatory and a Merciful Preparation: Catholic teaching speaks to purgatory, a temporary state of purification for souls who die in God’s grace but still need to be purified from venial sin or temporal punishment. After this purification, souls enter heaven.

The Role of Grace: God’s grace is essential for salvation. We must cooperate with grace through good works, prayer, and repentance, ultimately salvation is a gift from God. Earthly choices reflect how we respond to God’s grace. Free will...are we open to it?

Continued on page 4

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

- **Faith Formation Classes have begun! Online registration is now closed.** Please see Helen Treacy (helentreacyff@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns. It's going to be a great year!!
- **We are still in need of some volunteers to be hall monitors and aides in the classrooms.** Please consider giving your time to volunteer for these important roles in Faith Formation! We would greatly appreciate any time you could give. Contact Helen Treacy if you are interested or need more information, helentreacyff@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT Dates:

September 28th: ALL classes will meet ~ K-8 , Confirmation I & II

October 5th: K-8 classes meet, NO Confirmation classes

October 12th: NO Classes ~ Columbus Day

October 5th @ 11 AM Mass all families will get the opportunity to celebrate with Archbishop Coyne and enjoy a reception after Mass in Russell Hall.

Fr. Whyte continued...

Judgment: Here we have two forms of judgment, first is particular judgment, where at death, each soul undergoes judgment and our destiny is decided. At the end of time, the final or general judgment will confirm the eternal state of all souls.

So in the end—no pun intended—Catholic teaching highlights that our earthly choices—how we live, love, repent, and respond to God's grace have eternal significance. The parable we hear this Sunday from Luke illustrates this Truth by showing the stark consequences of selfishness and neglect of the poor versus a life of humility and charity. Something to “ponder.”

Join Archbishop Coyne for Mass

A gentle reminder that Archbishop Coyne will be here at St. Catherine of Siena Church next **Sunday, October 5th at the 11 a.m. Mass** to celebrate the Eucharistic meal and to meet-and-greet everyone in Russell Hall afterwards. Kindly join us for Mass and then a reception in Russell Hall.

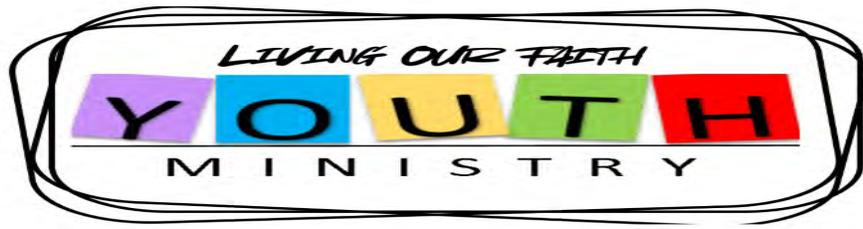
Mental Health Benefits of Praying the Rosary

Professor Lluís Oviedo and colleagues recently published a study in the *Journal of Religion and Health* that found that the ancient Catholic practice of praying the rosary offers a positive moderate correlation with reducing depression, increasing empathy, and lowering religious struggles. The research also suggests that praying the rosary “can contribute to social integration and is often associated with community and communion in the present sample.”

Researchers from Italy, Poland and Spain surveyed 361 practicing Catholics who were involved in Catholic movements and devotional groups to assess the impact of praying the rosary on well-being and mental health. They found that participants who prayed the rosary reported higher levels of well-being, increased empathy, and significantly lower levels of religious struggle or spiritual anxiety, which research has shown can be benefits of other meditation techniques.

Researchers also found that 62.6 of participants held graduate degrees or master's degrees, challenging the assumption that traditional Catholic devotions appeal mainly to the less educated. Further, “Attitudes toward this devotion are not influenced by age, gender, or level of education; this is a prayer form that unites people over such distinctions.”

Source: The CARA Report, Vol. 5; “Is the Rosary Still Relevant? Exploring Its Impact on Mental Health and Well-Being: A Multinational Study,” By Lluís Oviedo, et al, appears in the *Journal of Religion and Health*, published online February 2025. For further information, contact Professor Oviedo at loviedo@antonianun.eu.



YOUTH MINISTRY 2025-2026

ALL Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join Youth Ministry.

<https://forms.gle/6xwkJira6jdiwpuc8>

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 AND JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

PARISH-WIDE FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD. 6:00-8:30 P.M. THIS EVENT IS NOT ONLY FOR YM BUT FOR FAMILIES AS WELL!

Join us for a fun evening of friendship, competition and great prizes! Youth Ministry is sponsoring this community event but **ALL AGES ARE INVITED to join us - 5-105 years old.** **TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help distribute prizes and to help MC/read questions!

AND you can definitely play too to win some amazing prizes! Appetizers and light refreshments will be served. Sign up as a team (up to 4 team members) or as an individual. Use this link to sign up now: <https://bit.ly/4n0UqvG>

Grand prize winner will receive 4 tickets to a Bruins game at TD Garden—date and time TBD. Use of cell phones during play will not be permitted.

Please be sure to follow us on Instagram at [stcatherine_youthministry](https://www.instagram.com/stcatherine_youthministry)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

CALENDAR CHANGE: No meeting Sunday, October 5th. **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17th—OPEN GYM NIGHT AT ST. THERESE** from 6-8 p.m. Pizza will be served. Awesome events and games too.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND WELCOME. Invite a friend to join us too. Just be sure to register them: <https://bit.ly/46sShBL>

FLASHLIGHT CORN MAZE at Brown's Harvest —SAVE THE DATE: Friday, October 24th. The event is **FREE** to all as Father Michael will cover the cost of the trip. **PARENT VOLUNTEERS needed.** We will meet at St. Catherine of Siena at 6 p.m. for a quick dinner, then head to Brown's Harvest. Our start time has not been determined yet, but we expect it to be around 7:30/7:45 p.m. We plan to return to St. Catherine of Siena by 9:15 p.m. Space is limited, so sign up now using this sign up genius link to attend: <https://bit.ly/3ljdjLe>



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

CALENDAR CHANGE: No meeting Monday, October 6th. Instead, we will meet on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 27th** from 6-8 p.m. in Russell Hall at St. Catherine of Siena. Join us for some real **HALLOWEEN FUN & a service project** that evening. Pizza will be served as a treat. **PARENT VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME AND NEEDED.** Please register to attend, so that we have enough supplies, using this link: <https://bit.ly/4nrKprm>

NOURISH WITH *Hope*

THIS WEEKEND – SANDWICHES STILL NEEDED SEPTEMBER STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

September sandwiches will be collected **THIS** weekend of Saturday, September 27th, 8-9:30 a.m., Sunday, September 28th, 9-6 p.m., and Monday, September 29th, 8-9:30 a.m.

Sandwiches of any kind are needed-sub rolls, bread, pita bread, wraps, filled with deli meats/cheese of any kind, tuna salad, chicken salad, or any kind of protein such as PB&J.

Please **NO CONDIMENTS OR LETTUCE**. If making PB&J, please spread peanut butter on both pieces of bread so that the jelly does not seep through the bread.

Please be sure all sandwiches are individually wrapped (foil, baggies, wax paper or cellophane) and deliver to the kitchen using the outside kitchen entrance (near the garage/shed).

Confirmation service hours available.

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 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>

All women of the parish are invited to join us for an evening of Faith and Fellowship as we launch the new season of our Women's Ministry! Our kick-off dinner will be held on **Tuesday, October 1st at 6:00 PM** and will be catered by **New England Pasta Co.** Bring a favorite dessert to share if you wish. **Registration is required**—don't miss this chance to connect, be nourished, and grow together in Christ! Sign up here: <http://bit.ly/47u44C2>



THIS FRIDAY, OCT 3rd from 6-8:30 p.m. in Russell Hall.

Join us for a fun evening out at our **3-Parishwide Trivia Night** hosted by Youth Ministry for anyone ages 5-105. We will have appetizers, desserts and refreshments, and some amazing prizes too. Fun for all ages! Grand Prize to the overall winner of trivia – 4 tickets to a Bruins Game at TD Gardens – date of game TBD. Play as a team (max of 4) or individual. Use of cellphones will not be allowed during play. **Sign up now using this link:** <https://bit.ly/4n0UqvG> This is for our entire parish!