

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



Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 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, November 29th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Donald Zele, 14th anniversary*, requested by the Hammond Family;
- Sunday, November 30th @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Larry Rose, 3rd anniversary*, requested by his family;
- Sunday, November 30th @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *Dan Reilley, birthday remembrance*, requested by Steve & Lisa Cerchia;
- Monday, December 1st @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Astra Cerchia, 21st anniversary*, requested by her family;
- Monday, December 1st @ 9:00 a.m. *Rosary*;
- Tuesday, December 2nd @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Fr. Sal Rosa*, requested by the Ryan Family;
- Tuesday, December 2nd @ 9:00 a.m. *NO Adoration due to Priest Convocation*;
- Wednesday, December 3rd @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Peter Platek*, requested by the Ryan Family;
- Wednesday, December 3rd @ 9:00 a.m. *Rosary*;
- Friday, December 5th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Paul Jagla & Marge Capone, birthday remembrance*, requested by their family;
- Friday, December 5th @ 9:00 a.m. *Chaplet/Rosary*;
- Saturday, December 6th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Walter Hampton, 4th anniversary*, requested by his family;
- Sunday, December 7th @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Jeanna Winiarski, 16th anniversary*, requested by her family; and,
- Sunday, December 7th @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *George & Jeanne Couture, 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*

Financial information will be available in the December 7th bulletin due to the holiday schedule.

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

November

- Sat, 29th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 30th—*NO Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.*
- Sun, 30th—Advent Wreath Making, RH, 12 Noon

December

- Mon, 1st—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m
- Mon, 1st—NO Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 1st—Boston Mission Trip Mtg., RH, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 2nd—NO Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 2nd—OCIA, Rooney-A, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 2nd—Children’s Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 2nd—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 3rd—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Wed, 3rd—Advent Bible Study, RH, 9:30 a.m.
- Wed, 3rd—JR. High Cook & Bake, RH, 6:00 p.m
- Wed, 3rd—Advent Bible Study, CHURCH, 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs, 4th—Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 4 p.m.
- Fri, 5th—Chaplet & Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 6th—Christmas Pageant, 4 p.m. (No confession)
- Sun, 7th—*Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.*
- Sun, 7th—Children’s Lit. of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 7th—Living Your Faith, Rooney-A, 12:15 p.m.
- Sun, 7th—Homebound Communion, 12:30 p.m.
- Sun, 7th—Confirmation, RH, 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Sanctuary Lamp

For

*Special Intention
for healing.*



Senior Continental Breakfast-come and enjoy a delicious holiday continental breakfast with friends on Tuesday December 9th following Mass at 9:00 a.m. Jump in after breakfast for an easy service project if interested, help make someone’s day brighter. Please use the sign up genius link to register:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4CAAEE2FA3F58-60399800-continental>

Questions, call Diane Whittemore @ 850-913-0241.

Advent 2025

Advent is a significant liturgical season in the Catholic Church that prepares the faithful for the celebration of Christmas and the anticipation of Christ's Second Coming.

Overview of Advent:

Advent marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year (Happy New Year!) and last for four weeks, starting on the Sunday closest to November 30th and ending on Christmas Eve, December 24th. The term "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival," signifying the anticipation of Christ's birth and His eventual return.

Purpose and Significance:

Advent serves a dual purpose: Preparation for the birth of Christ, It is a time to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ, reflecting on the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament and their fulfillment in Christ.

Call to Conversion: Advent is also a season of introspection and renewal, encouraging the faithful to acknowledge their shortcomings and open themselves to God's grace through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Traditions and Practices:

Liturgical Color: The primary color for Advent is purple, symbolizing penance and preparation. On the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, rose is used to signify joy.

Advent Wreath:

A traditional Advent wreath consists of four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple, and one is rose, symbolizing hope, peace, joy and love. The progressive lighting of the candles reflects the growing anticipation of Christ's coming.

O Antiphons: During the final days of Advent, the "O Antiphons" are sung, which are ancient prayers that express the longing for the Messiah.

Spiritual Focus: Advent invites the faithful to engage in spiritual practices such as increased prayer, reflection, and participation in the sacramental life of the Church. It encourages a deeper connection to faith and a commitment to acts of charity as a way to prepare for the coming of Christ.

In summary, Advent is a profound season of preparation, reflection, and anticipation that enriches the spiritual journey of Catholics as they prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and look forward to His return. During this Advent, we may also look to other Catholic traditions to grow our faith—from the Advent calendar filled with chocolates to the Jesse Tree decorated with Old Testament items—all of which draws us deeper into Christ, the breath, depth and fullness of our Catholic faith.

Blessed Advent to all!

Source: USCCB Advent 2025

Advent Giving Tree

Our Advent Giving Tree program, supporting our parish's **Neighbors in Need Fund** and the **Knights of Malta House of Care**, will begin **November 29, 2025 and runs until January 11, 2026**. This Ministry supports people in need, medically or financially, thanks to *Parishioners like You!*

All donations are fully tax deductible.

Faith Formation News

Helen Treacy, Faith Formation Director, (860) 658-4737, helentreacyff@gmail.com



IMPORTANT dates:

November 30th: NO Classes ~ Happy Advent!

December 4th: Grade 3 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 4:00–5:30 PM.
in the church.

December 6th: Grade 3 Christmas Pageant @ 4:00 PM
(Students need to arrive @ 2:30 PM)

December 7th: K – 8th grade classes, Confirmation I & II

December 13th: Grade 8 Class Mass (5PM)

See you at Mass!!

An Advent Bible Study begins Wednesdays, December 3rd and continues on the 10th & 17th, 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. Please join us in Russell Hall. All are welcome! No sign up required.

Our Grade 3 Religious Education children will put on our annual Christmas Pageant this year on Saturday, December 6th at 4 p.m. in the church. All parishioners are invited to attend the pageant before the 5 p.m. Mass.

Celebrate the Savior with Santa! Saturday, December 13th, 2pm-4pm

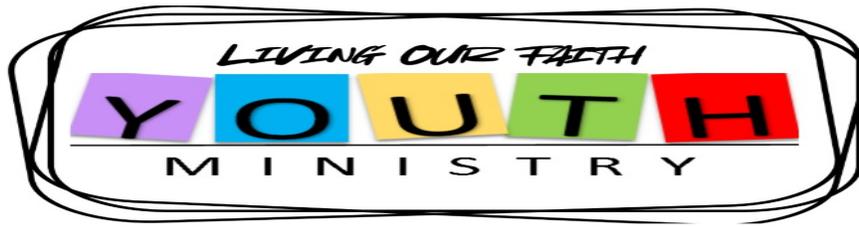
St. Catherine's families are invited to join Santa Claus as we kick off the Advent and Christmas seasons to celebrate the birth of Jesus! We will have cookies and hot cocoa available to you as you write your letter to Santa, listen to a Christmas story, and enjoy a craft. We will have a photographer available to snap a family photo with Santa and you will be given a take home goody bag with reindeer food and slips of paper to write out acts of kindness on to soften Jesus' manger. Throughout Advent, every family can perform acts of kindness which you can write down on the paper (piece of hay) to add to the manger that will be located in the atrium of the church. Instead of a birthday present for Jesus, we ask that you bring a non-perishable item for our food pantry.

RSVP's to the party: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA9AC2CA6FECF8-60647470-celebrate>

Sign-ups to volunteer for the event:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA9AC2CA6FECF8-60641878-celebrate>

Confirmation service hours are available for volunteers.



CALLING ALL YOUTH MINISTRY TEENS

CAN YOU HELP? Teens are needed to help deliver small Christmas gifts to our most senior parishioners this season! The true gift is the visit itself—sharing smiles, joy, and reminding our cherished seniors that they are a beloved and important part of our parish family. These moments of connection bring warmth and gratitude to all involved. To help, please use this link:

<https://bit.ly/3JYeJLS>

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd— COOK AND BAKE— from 6-8 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena in Russell Hall.

Please join us this evening on this fun evening to help prepare full course dinners for local families. No cooking experience is needed, we provide the ingredients, recipes and step-by-step instructions. **PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND WELCOME!** All are welcome but sign up now as space is limited:

<https://bit.ly/4hHobQ9>

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th—Our CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AND SERVICE PROJECT from 6-8:30 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena in Russell Hall. It's going to be an evening full of fun, laughter, and faith! Join us for our Christmas Party—a joyful evening filled with games, prizes, friends, and a quick service project to share the true spirit of Christmas. Don't miss out on this festive celebration! You won't want to miss this, but you must register for this event.

WHAT TO BRING? An item to help with our service project for the homeless—see the sign up. PARENT VOLUNTEERS WELCOME AND NEEDED! Please use this link to sign up:

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

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

2026—BOSTON MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Come find out all about this amazing opportunity for our teens! **MONDAY, DECEMBER 1st from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Russell Hall at St. Catherine of Siena. NOTE: One parent must accompany a teen to this informational meeting in order to attend the trip.**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th—Our CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION from 6-8:30 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena in Russell Hall. Join us for our Christmas Party—a joyful evening filled with games, prizes, friends and faith, in celebration of the true spirit of Christmas. **WHAT TO BRING? A \$5-10 gift card to Dunkin, Target or CVS.** These will be distributed to the homeless via our service project. Pizza dinner will be served.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS WELCOME AND NEEDED! ALUMNI ALSO INVITED! Just sign up using this link:

<https://bit.ly/3Luwvqp>

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

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YES YOU “CAN” TAKE WHAT YOU NEED/LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN

If you are able to help, please consider donating hot and cold cereal, canned meats (Spam, tuna or chicken), rice, children's snacks, hearty soups/stews, jarred fruit, and any other non-perishable food item. Our pantry is open to all from 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m., but not available during Mass. Thank you for your generosity and support.

***We can only accept NON-PERISHABLE FOODS.
Please do not leave bread.
We are unable to accept expired foods or opened containers.***

NOURISH WITH *Hope*

**St. Elizabeth House
December 14th.**

You may sign-up at:

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/10COF44ADAD2DA64-54522077-
stelizabeth](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COF44ADAD2DA64-54522077-stelizabeth)**

**We are looking for a new leadership
team. Please see Fr. Whyte.**

FEED THE HUNGRY Lunch Service

on Sat, December 20th. Please sign up by Weds, December 17th. Thanks for volunteering, "Your reward in Heaven will be great!"

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 hot dish:** We'll supply the ingredients for you to make a hot dish at home for us to bring to Hartford. Pick up the ingredients on Thursday, 12/18 at Fitzgeralds and drop off the hot meal to Russell Hall kitchen on Saturday, 12/20 between 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. We'll contact you ahead of time with the recipe and more information if you haven't done this before.
3. **Make Cupcakes:** Make 12 cupcakes and drop off on Sat, 12/20 to Russell Hall kitchen between 8:30-9:30 am.
4. **Make sandwiches:** Please see the weekly bulletin "Street Sandwich Ministry" section to sign-up.

Sign Up at <https://bit.ly/FTHLunchDec20>

Questions? Contact Rich Sickinger at 860-558-6940. richsickinger@gmail.com

Pantry Partners—December 20th.

DECEMBER STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

December sandwiches will be collected
Saturday, December 20th,
Sunday, December 21st from 9-6 p.m., and
Monday, December 22nd, from 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). Once they are wrapped, you can load them back into the bread bag and deliver to the kitchen using the outside kitchen entrance (near the garage/shed).

Confirmation service hours available

Please sign up using this link:

<https://bit.ly/47ARpvt>