

For our homebound and sick parishioners:  
Livestream our 11 a.m. Mass at [stcatherine.info](http://stcatherine.info)



# Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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](mailto: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](mailto:stcathy@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stcatherine.info](http://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](mailto:stcathy@comcast.net)

##### Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Helen Treacy, 860-658-4737,  
[helentreacyff@gmail.com](mailto:helentreacyff@gmail.com)

##### Director of Youth Ministry

Mrs. Manuela Hanshaw, 860 658 1642 or  
[Manuelahanshawym@gmail.com](mailto:Manuelahanshawym@gmail.com)

##### Director of Music Ministry

Mrs. Susan Zybert  
860 217 0600 or [susanzybert@comcast.net](mailto: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, 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;
  - Sunday, December 7th @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *George & Jeanne Couture, anniversary*, requested by their family;
- \*\*\*\*\*
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Holy Day of Obligation*
- Monday, December 8th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Mary Lou Whyte*, requested by Joan & Michael Gould;
  - Monday, December 8th @ 9:00 a.m. *Rosary*;
  - Monday, December 8th @ 6:30 p.m. Mass for *Carol Sorretto, for health and healing* requested by Greg Burke;
- \*\*\*\*\*
- Tuesday, December 9th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Catholic Nurses*;
  - Tuesday, December 9th @ 9:00 a.m. *NO Adoration due to TV Mass taping*;
  - Wednesday, December 10th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Maura Kostelni, baptismal blessings*, requested by her family;
  - Wednesday, December 10th @ 9:00 a.m. *Rosary*;
  - Friday, December 12th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Francis Myron Dymersky*, requested by Peter & Lisa Sheary;
  - Friday, December 12th @ 9:00 a.m. *Chaplet/Rosary*;
  - Saturday, December 13th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Grade 8 Class Mass*;
  - Sunday, December 14th @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Fay Shea*, requested by Marylou Gallagher; and,
  - Sunday, December 14th @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *Anne Nolen, 6th anniversary*, 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:	\$ 5,407.00
Faith Direct weekly giving:	\$ 4,072.08
Total:	\$ 9,479.00
Various	\$ 65.00

This weekend's second collection is for  
Repair & Refurbishment.  
Next weekend's second collection is for  
our Retired Religious.

**Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events  
December**

- 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.
  - Mon, 8th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- \*\*\*\*\*
- Mon, 8th—Immaculate Conception of the BVM  
Holy Day of Obligation Masses,  
8:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
(NO Confession/NO P.M. Adoration)
- \*\*\*\*\*
- Tues, 9th—NO Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
  - Tues, 9th—Senior Breakfast, RH, 9:00 a.m.
  - Tues, 9th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
  - Tues, 9th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
  - Wed, 10th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
  - Wed, 10th—Advent Bible Study, RH, 9:30 a.m.
  - Wed, 10th—Advent Penance Service, 7 p.m.
  - Wed, 10th—Advent Bible Study, RH, 7 p.m.
  - Thurs, 11th—New Day Bereavement, R/A, 10 a.m.
  - Fri, 12th—Chaplet & Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
  - Sat, 13th—Pantry Partners, Vestibule, 9 a.m.
  - Sat, 13th—Children's Christmas Party, RH, 2-4 p.m.
  - Sat, 13th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
  - Sat, 13th—Grade 8 Class Mass, 5 p.m.
  - Sun, 14th—Coffee & Donuts, RH, 9 a.m. & 12 noon
  - Sun, 14th—*Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.*
  - Sun, 14th—Children's Lit. of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
  - Sun, 14th—St. Elizabeth House, prkg lot, 3:30 p.m.
  - Sun, 14th—Sr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.



**Sanctuary Lamp**

For  
*Special Intention for healing.*

## Reception of Holy Communion: Respect

Entering the new liturgical year provides a good opportunity for a “refresher” on both the distribution and the reception Holy Communion. Over the past several months, I have both experienced and heard of from other Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) some concerns viewed during the ritual of Holy Communion. As Catholics we believe Holy Communion to be the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, this stems from our belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the material elements of bread and wine, which comes about through transubstantiation at Mass.

With that in mind, I want to remind us and clarify some of the procedures we as Catholics employ during Holy Communion. For some, when we do something over-and-over again, a ritual or action may lose a little of its “specialness” or in case of the Church, the holiness of an action. Due to our belief in the Real Presence of Christ:

- **The recipient** of Holy Communion approaches the Sacrament with reverence and the “free assent of the will” meaning we believe in the Real Presence.
- **The recipient** should always receive the Eucharist as a gift, never grabbing the Body of Christ or the Cup of Precious Blood out the hand of the minister. Holy Communion is a gift that we receive with gratitude.
- **The recipient** responds to “Body of Christ / Blood of Christ” with “Amen!”, which means I believe, not with “thanks, cool dude or no problem.” *All of which I have heard.*
- **The recipient** comes to Holy Communion in a proper state, meaning that he or she is free from grave or mortal sins, having received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **The recipient** consumes the Body and Blood of Christ in the presence of the Priest/Deacon/ Eucharistic Minister. We do not take it back to the pew or “save it for later.” We might step to the side once we have received it but never walk away with it in hand.
- **The recipient** returns to the pew either joining in with the Communion Hymn, a form of prayer, or we offer a private prayer of thanksgiving. We do not engage with others in conversation; and, we remain in the church until the Mass has ended. We do not consume the Eucharist enroute to the exit door or car. Why? It was once explained to me in a very clear and concise way: *If someone invited you to their home for dinner and after the meal while the hostess was preparing dessert, you wouldn't get up from the table and leave without a goodbye.* Now I am not suggesting that if one is unwell and has an emergency and has to leave, but rather it is about the routine of coming and going at will, that is the issue.

### The ordinary, or extraordinary, minister of Holy Communion should:

- Carefully place the Body of Christ in the hand or on the tongue as well as reverently offering the Cup of Salvation to the communicant.
- Pick up the Body of Christ if it falls to the floor, and consume it immediately or the communicant is free to do likewise.
- If the communicant walks away without consuming, the minister is to politely ask them to consume it in their presence.
- Should not distribute Holy Communion in a casual way, e.g., “Body of Christ or Blood of Christ, Sarah/ John.” One distributes Holy Communion with the words, “**Body of Christ / Blood of Christ**” **only**; no personalization or casualness needed. *If you know someone and use their personal name, and then next in line is unknown to the minister, the use of a personal name can become awkward and divisive.*
- **The priest and/or deacon** are the only one's able to bestow an apostolic blessing upon a communicant or young child not actually receiving Holy Communion. He extends his hands and uses these or similar words: “May God who loves you always bless you +.” An extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, the lay EM simply says in these or similar words, without making the sign of the Cross or touching the person's head, “God Loves you or God be with you.”

*Continued on page 4.*

# Faith Formation News

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



## IMPORTANT dates:

December 4<sup>th</sup>: Grade 3 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (4:00 – 5:30 PM)

December 6<sup>th</sup>: Grade 3 Christmas Pageant @ 4 PM (Students should arrive @ 2:30 PM)

December 7<sup>th</sup>: Grades K – 8, Confirmation Classes I & II classes resume

December 13<sup>th</sup>: Grade 8 Class Mass (5 PM)

December 14<sup>th</sup>: Grades K – 8 Classes ONLY

\*\*\* If you need to pick up your child early, please let Helen Treacy and the teacher know in advance, as it sometimes disturbs the flow of the class.

**See you at Mass!!**

*Fr. Michael continued from page 3...*

## Who May Receive Communion at Mass?

Many people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, question the “rules” around receiving Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. Many denominational Christian churches, those churches who denominated or broke from the Roman Catholic Church, which was founded by Christ and is the original Christian Church, “invite” everyone at their service to a “communion” service. It causes great confusion and leads some people to think that Catholics are selective and unwelcoming. But that is not True. We are the Universal Church, that is what the word “Catholic” means. It was—and is—Christ’s wish that all will be One, one day. But until that happens, based on what we believe—the Real Presence—we are called to guard and protect the Sacrament of the Eucharist and not treat it with *unbelief or with a casualness that is unworthy of Christ Himself*:

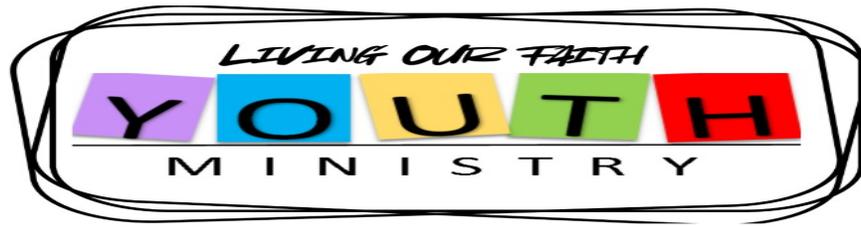
**For practicing Catholics**, the Church teaches that one must be well-disposed to receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ. *Are we free from mortal sin? Have we been forgiven or renewed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and if not, may we receive with the immediate intention of going to the next, first available confession time. Yes!* Is the world perfect? No. Do I believe that everyone receiving every Sunday is “well prepared?” Perhaps not? But that doesn’t mean we give up the Truth we believe to accommodate current culture. If we do, then nothing is True, for Truth is not subject to change, it is or it isn’t Truth.

**For denominational Christians**, whom we welcome and invite to Mass, but we do not admit to the Real Presence at Holy Communion, something they themselves do not hold to be True. The real question then is; why does one wish to participate in something that they do not believe in? Rather, non-Catholics may join the communion line at Mass and receive a blessing from the priest/deacon or God’s Words of Love from an EM. I believe this action and invitation is actually very welcoming.

As Roman Catholics, we are blessed to have this great and gracious gift of Christ, from Christ Himself.

Just some thoughts on the ritual of Holy Communion from a Catholic perspective

**We now offer Adoration on Monday evenings, 6:30 p.m. as well as Tuesday mornings, 9 a.m. following daily Mass beginning December 15th. Please join us.**



## JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

**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>

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

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th—Please join us at 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>

## TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Earn Confirmation Service Hours too! 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 volunteer and help, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3JYeJLS>

## Celebrate the Savior with Santa!

**Saturday, December 13th, 2 p.m.- 4 p.m.**

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.**

**We will have an Advent Penance Service this week on Wednesday, December 10th, 7 p.m. We will have additional priests available to hear confessions.**

# NOURISH WITH *Hope*

**NOTE: DATE CHANGE**

**Pantry Partners—December 13th.**

**St. Elizabeth House**

**December 14th.**

**You may sign-up at:**

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COF44ADAD2DA64-54522077-stelizabeth>**

## **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>**

**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 a.m.
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](mailto:richsickinger@gmail.com)**

## **YES YOU "CAN" TAKE WHAT YOU NEED/LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN**

If you are able to help, please consider donating to our Food pantry: hot and cold cereal, canned meats (Spam, tuna or chicken), bags of 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.*