

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



Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

Gaudette Sunday

December 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

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, 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;
- Sunday, December 14th @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *Anne Nolen, 6th anniversary*, requested by her family;
- Monday, December 15th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Anna & Bill Koch, birthday remembrances*, requested by their family;
- Monday, December 15th @ 9:00 a.m. *Rosary*;
- Monday, December 15th @ 6:30 p.m. *Adoration*;
- Tuesday, December 16th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Greg Kurzendoerfer*, requested by Kevin & Mary O'Bryan;
- Tuesday, December 16th @ 9:00 a.m. *Adoration*;
- Wednesday, December 17th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Mary Lou Whyte*, requested by Marghan Pendergast;
- Wednesday, December 17th @ 9:00 a.m. *Rosary*;
- Friday, December 19th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Germaine Bridgman, 7th anniversary*, requested by her husband;
- Friday, December 19th @ 9:00 a.m. *Chaplet/Rosary*;
- Saturday, December 20th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Shirlee Nevin, birthday remembrance*, requested by the Hammond Family;
- Sunday, December 21st @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Bob Belden*, requested by Marylou Gallagher; and,
- Sunday, December 21st @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *Tony Pereira, 8th anniversary*, requested by his family.



Sanctuary Lamp

For
David Fioretti, for health & healing,
requested by the Watson 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: \$ 6,972.83
Faith Direct weekly giving: \$ 4,072.08
Total: \$ 11,044.91

Various \$ 1,555.00

**Make a difference by giving to the
Retirement Fund for Religious,
2nd collection this weekend.**

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

December

- 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.
- 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—Jr. High Youth Ministry, RH, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 15th—Adoration, Church, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 16th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 16th—OCIA, RH, 6 p.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.
- Wed, 17th—Advent Bible Study, RH, 9:30 a.m.
- Wed, 17th—Advent Bible Study, RH, 7 p.m.
- Fri, 19th—Chaplet & Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 20th—Feed the Hungry
- Sat, 20th-Mon, 22nd—Street Sandwich Weekend
- Sat, 20th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 21st—*Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.*
- Sun, 21st—Children's Lit. of the Word, RH, 11 a.m.
- Sun, 21st—Confirmation 1 & 2, 6 p.m./7:15 p.m.
- Mon, 22nd—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Mon, 22nd—Confession, Church, 6 p.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!

Gaudete Sunday

The third Sunday of Advent, known by the name of Gaudete Sunday, which comes to us from the first word of the introit of the Mass that day, *Rejoice!*, is a call for all Catholics to celebrate this Sunday with a special kind of Joy or Rejoicing—a supernatural type of Joy—that leads us to understand and live-out the happiness that God desires for all His children.

Originally in the Church, Advent was called St. Martin's Lent, and was 40-days in length, beginning on November 11th, his feast day. This was well established in the early Church around the fifth century. By the ninth century the Advent Season had been shortened to four weeks, commencing with the last four Sundays before Christmas Day. With the shortened season, Gaudete Sunday may fall anytime between the 11th and 17th of December depending on the year.

The color of the day is Rose, used in both the vestments and the rose colored candle of the Advent Wreath, which as a color signifies rejoicing; and, if there are flowers in the sanctuary which normally are not permitted during Advent but may be had on Gaudete Sunday, they too should be rose colored or a shade thereof.

Rejoice! And the kind of joy that Gaudete Sunday is all about is more a form of Christian joy that is focused in the Lord...to rejoice for all that He has given us, for all that He has done and will do for us, and a rejoicing for the ultimate happiness that God desires for us in eternity. Our great Catholic theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas, described the difference between joy and happiness as follows: "Happiness is the final end of man, eternal contemplation of God, which is an act of the intellect. Joy, however, is itself not a virtue, but is an effect of the virtue of charity ("love"), which full if its object is eternal and the greatest, i.e., God." Thomas Aquinas also notes that Joy admits no sorrow for it is not an act of the sensitive faculties, e.g., enjoying food is a natural joy for Thomas Aquinas, but supernatural joy which is spoken of on Gaudete Sunday and in the Gospels is an act of the intellectual appetite known as the will.

This supernatural joy then, is the understanding and the desire of the happiness to contemplate God for all eternity, and to know of God's love and desire for us to be One with Him in heaven, by our free assent of the will—our will—to choose Him in this world and work or prepare for His Second Coming at the end of time; accomplished in-and-through our knowledge of His teachings and our Catholic actions—good works—in the world around us. Rejoice! Christ is near, both His birth on Christmas Day and also in His Second Coming. Rejoice! For Hope is Alive!

This Gaudete Sunday we shall here again from John the Baptist in the Gospel of Matthew. Like last weekend, it is a dramatic presentation with John now in prison and wondering if this Jesus is the One whom all are anticipating or is there another? This is a moment of uncertainty or doubt in the mind of the greatest prophet. Yet he does not use doubt to run away, but rather uses doubt to investigate and grow the faith. This is when doubt can lead to faith because we do not use doubt as a "crutch," but rather as a springboard to investigate and grow our relationship with Christ. So, perhaps this special Gaudete Sunday Joy is to recognize that God is so good, that His Love can use our doubt—doubt in God, doubt in our bishops or priests, doubt in the teachings of the Church—for the purpose of drawing us ever-closer. If John the Baptist can have doubt, and still be the greatest prophet—perhaps my doubt too can become a good to deepen and broaden my faith. Let that Hope bring Joy alive in us all.

St. Elizabeth House Monthly Meal Needs Help

We have long supported St. Elizabeth House in Hartford, a food shelter where we provide a hot meal once-per-month. Leila Bruno has long been our leader, but as she is moving away she will no longer be available to do so. So we need new leadership, which I have announced at Masses and have written of in the bulletin.

Today I am asking: Instead of one leader, doing this ministry monthly, I would like 4 leaders to organize the ministry, which is comprised of: populating the sign-up genius each month. The volunteers make the food and some help serve it. If we have four (4) leaders, that means each person has responsibility to do it 3 times per year, rather than monthly. *More hands make lite work!*

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kathleen Mangiafico at mangiaficok@gmail.com. This will either begin in the New Year or we will have to end this parish ministry. Thank you.

Faith Formation News

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



Congratulations to the 3rd Grade Classes!
What a WONDERFUL pageant they performed!!

IMPORTANT dates:

December 13 th: Grade 8 Class Mass @ 5 PM (8th Grade students to arrive at 4:30 PM)

December 14 th: Grades K–8 Classes ONLY

December 21st : Grades K-8 Classes, Confirmation I & II

December 28th: NO CLASSES

See you at Mass!!

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:

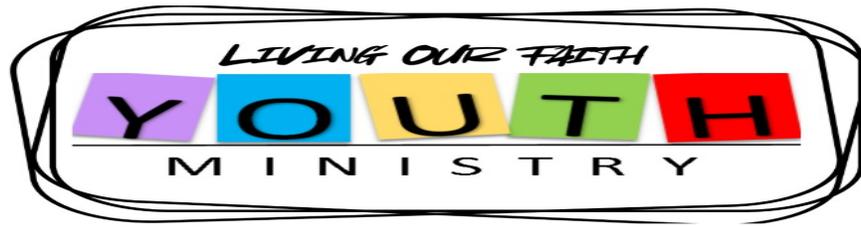
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA9AC2CA6FECF8-60647470-celebrate>

Sign-ups to volunteer for the event:

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

Confirmation service hours are available for volunteers.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Come and make merry with yarn, needles and crochet hooks at our next meeting on Monday, December 15th at 3:00th and Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m.! Any questions or to request a prayer shawl, contact Kathy Oaks at ktoaks@gmail.com or 860-614-2773.



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

THIS 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>

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>

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

THIS 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](https://www.instagram.com/stcatherine_youthministry)

Our Advent Bible Study concludes on Wednesday, December 17th, 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. Please join us in Russell Hall. All are welcome! No sign up required.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH

MASSSES AT 4:00 P.M., (Children's Mass), 6:30 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. ("Midnight" Mass)
Prelude Concert at 9:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25TH

MASS AT 10:00 a.m.

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)

NOTE: DATE CHANGE

Pantry Partners—December 13th.

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.*

**We are looking for additional
volunteers in order to continue this
ministry in 2026.**

**Please contact Kathleen Mangiafico,
mangiaficok@gmail.com.**

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

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>