

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



Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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 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;
- **Sunday, December 21st @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Tony Pereira, 8th anniversary*, requested by his family;
- **Monday, December 22nd @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Margaret Hark, birthday remembrance*, requested by Bill & Maureen Lynch;
- **Monday, December 22nd @ 9:00 a.m.** *Rosary*;
- **Monday, December 22nd @ 6:30 p.m.** *Adoration*;
- **Tuesday, December 23rd @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Bob Belden, 1st anniversary*, requested by his wife;
- **Tuesday, December 23rd @ 9:00 a.m.** *Adoration*;
- **Wednesday, December 24th—No Daily Mass**;

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Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. *For Mary Lou Whyte*;
6:30 p.m. *For Julia McCabe*, requested by the Bailey Family;
(Prelude Concert at 9:30 p.m.)
10:00 p.m. *Pro Populo*;

Thursday, December 25th, Christmas Day
10 a.m. *For Anthony & Lucia Brancato*, requested by their family;

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- **Friday, December 26th @ 8:30 a.m.** Mass for *Lisa Phaneuf, birthday remembrance*, requested by her family;
- **Friday, December 26th @ 9:00 a.m.** *Chaplet/Rosary*;
- **Saturday, December 27th @ 5:00 p.m.** Mass for *Joseph Little, 4th anniversary*, requested by his family;
- **Sunday, December 28th @ 8:00 a.m.** Mass for *Lyn Cunningham, 14th anniversary*, requested by her family; and,
- **Sunday, December 28th @ 11:00 a.m.** Mass for *Nick Rossato*, requested by Linda Kesselman.

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: \$ 5,866.00
 Faith Direct weekly giving: \$ 4,072.08
 Total: \$ 9,938.00

Retired Religious \$ 2,599.33
 Various \$ 85.00

**Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events
December**

- 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—*Mass at McLean Home, 11 a.m.*
- Mon, 22nd—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 22nd—Adoration, Church, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 23rd—Adoration, Church, 9:00 a.m.
- Tues, 23rd—Children’s Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 23rd—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 24th—No Daily Mass

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Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Masses
4:00 p.m. (Children’s Mass)
6:30 p.m.
10:00 p.m. (Midnight Mass)
Prelude Concert at 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 25th, Christmas Day
Mass at 10 a.m.
(Office closed Thursday and Friday)

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- Fri, 26th—Chaplet & Rosary, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 27th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 28th—*NO Faith Formation*
- Mon, 29th—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Mon, 29th—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 29th—Adoration, Church, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 30th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.

Sanctuary Lamp

For
Successful treatments



Father's Christmas Wish List 2025

I truly hope and pray that everyone's Christmas is filled with Love, Hope and Charity; that Christ, *His Presence, is where you find the "magic" of Christmas and not in a gift under the tree, hung in a stocking, or in the driveway or on a mountain top in Jackson Hole or Vail.* I pray for joy in our lives, peace in our world and in our families around our dinner tables, as well as on the roadways, and that there is healing in our bodies, minds, spirit and in our words spoken to all. It's a big wish list, but always worth the time and effort.

So I always have a "Plan B." And, my Plan B wish list is for the following:

- That our younger parishioners, say between grades 4 and 9, will consider being altar servers in our parish; we have so few-first time since I have been a priest here-that many times we cannot have the candles accompany the Cross in the procession at Mass;
- That people will consider and pray on becoming a Eucharistic Minister or a Lector during the Masses . It's all part of the " ... full and active participation in the Mass ... " and it is important to hear different voices during the celebration of the Mass;
- That the many lovely voices I hear singing in the pews will consider stepping up to our choirs; and,
- That more folks will consider becoming an usher to help welcome people to the Mass as well as take-up the collection.

One of the great things about this Wish List is that it isn't an ask for money; it is an ask for time but for the time you are already at Mass. No monthly committee meetings. Just come to Mass and participate in one of the many options open to people, to take ownership of the parish. I hope you will consider picking an "item" from my Christmas Wish List and helping your parish - and pastor - out. Thank you. And, Merry Christmas...kindly make my New Year happy©

Advent Four and Coming Closer to the Mystery of the Incarnation

The Matthean Gospel (1:18-24) invites us to consider the profound mystery of the Incarnation, God becoming man in the person of Jesus Christ - and its impact on our earthly and eternal lives.

Our passage today focuses on Joseph, a righteous man, chosen by God to be the earthly father of His Son, Jesus, and Joseph's faithful response to God. Mary is found to be with Child through the Holy Spirit, a situation that could have brought shame and scandal. But, Joseph we are told is a just man, and he chose to act with mercy and compassion. At first, he planned to divorce Mary quietly to spare her public disgrace. But an angel of God appears to Joseph and warns him of how Mary's pregnancy came about-from the power of God through His Holy Spirit.

Joseph's response to this divine message is one of faithfulness, he is immediate and obedient: he takes Mary as his wife and names the child Jesus, fulfilling the Prophecy that Emmanuel -God with us-would come to save His people from their sins. And this is the impact on us-even today. God loves us. Saves us. And wants us to be with Him for all eternity.

So the message on this Fourth Sunday of Advent is: (1) **Trust in God's Plan**, like Joseph when we are faced with hardship or uncertainty, Trust in the Word and Plan of God. Pray and listen to Him. He shall answer you. (2) **Courage and obedience**: Joseph's courage to act according to God's instruction invites us to be courageous in living out our faith, even when family, friends or the culture says "No!" Living our faith is countercultural, and obedience to God brings life and fulfillment. (3) **Joseph named God's Son Jesus**. There is a lot in a name, Jesus means God saves. Now salvation and hope have come to us and the world, and as we prepare to welcome Jesus at Christmastime, let us open our hearts to the Lord and the Grace that He offers. (4) **God with us**. The gift of Jesus reminds us that God is not a distant Creator, but rather that He is intimately involved in our lives. God is the heart of our faith and the source of our Joy. Remember, He wants to hear from us, to answer us, because He desires to be with us. That's you and me. Merry Christmas!

Faith Formation News

Helen Treacy, Faith Formation Director

(860) 658-4737

helentreacyff@gmail.com



IMPORTANT dates:

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

December 28th: NO CLASSES

January 4th: Grades K-8 Classes, Confirmation I & II

January 11th: Grades K-8 Classes ONLY

***** Weather Closings *****

In case of inclement weather, please look to WFSB Hartford/New Haven with up-to-date information on classes and cancellations.

See you at Mass!!

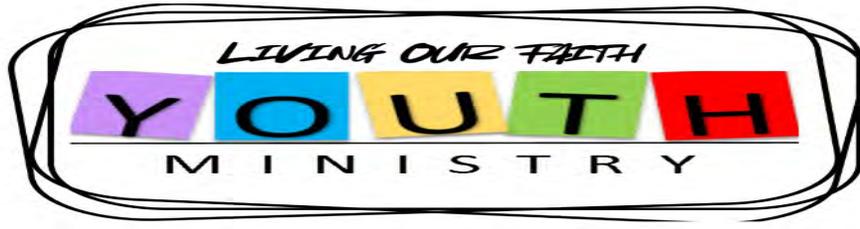
We are looking for two additional “teams” to help with our monthly Coffee & Donuts.

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!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

McLean Home is looking for volunteers to work in the Gift Shop. If interested please contact Colleen Casavant, 860-658-9626/860-519-2730. Thank you.



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 12—OPEN GYM NIGHT at St. Mary's from 6-8 p.m. Join us for some fun and unexpected activities! Be prepared for anything. Light refreshments will be served.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND WELCOME.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 11—OPEN GYM NIGHT at St. Mary's from 6-8 p.m. Join us for some fun and unexpected activities! Be prepared for anything. Pizza and dessert will be served.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND WELCOME.

Wishing you and your families and blessed and Merry Christmas.

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



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH

Masses 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*

DECEMBER STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

December sandwiches will be collected **THIS WEEKEND**, 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>

FEED THE HUNGRY Lunch Service

on Sat., December 20th. 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

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.