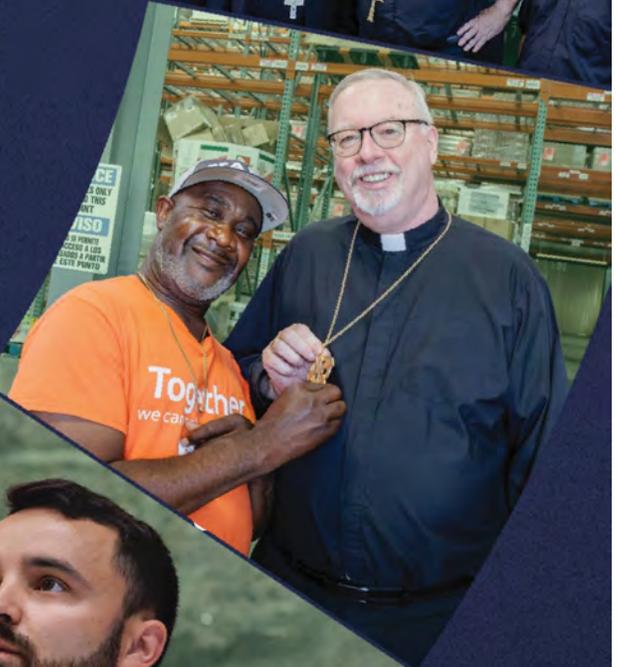


2026
Archbishop's Annual Appeal

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Kickoff Weekend:
February 14 - 15, 2026

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**WEEKLY MASS
INTENTIONS**



- Saturday, February 14th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Jim Neagle, 30th anniversary*, requested by his family;
 - Sunday, February 15th @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *James Salerno, 10th anniversary*, requested by his family;
 - Sunday, February 15th @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *Sheila DeDominicis*, requested by Chris & Tom Tanski;
 - Monday, February 16th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Jane Wendell, birthday remembrance*,
 - Monday, February 16th @ 9:00 a.m. *Rosary*;
 - Monday, February 16th @ 6:30 p.m. *Adoration*;
 - Tuesday, February 17th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Greg Kurzendoerfer*, requested by the O'Bryan Family;
 - Tuesday, February 17th @ 9:00 a.m. *Adoration*;
- +++++
- ASH WEDNESDAY, February 18th**
7 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Ashes;
8:30 a.m. Mass with Ashes for
Special Intention for a parishioner's treatment;
12 noon Liturgy of the Word with Ashes;
3 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with Ashes
6:00 p.m. Mass for Ashes for *Julie Haylon*;
- +++++
- Friday, February 20th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Leola & Albert Sheary, Jr.*, requested by their family;
 - Friday, February 20th @ 9:00 a.m. *Stations of the Cross*;
 - Friday, February 20th @ 7:00 p.m. *Teen Stations of the Cross*;
 - Saturday, February 21st @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Paul Gatch, 1st anniversary*, requested by his family;
 - Sunday, February 22nd @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Joan Nasuta, 16th anniversary*, requested by Debbie Nasuta & Rob Schermerhorn; and,
 - Sunday, February 22nd @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for Margaret Egan requested by Fr. Whyte.

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:	\$	5,801.25
Faith Direct /Parish Soft:	\$	4,072.08
Total:	\$	9,8373.33
Repair & Refurbishment:	\$	2,418.00
Various	\$	235.00

For those who are interested in online giving, you may use this link:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/FD-1077> or the QR code. If you are currently receiving church envelopes please call the office so that we may discontinue them. Thank you.



Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

February

- Sat, 14th—Service Project, 9 a.m.—11 noon.
- Sat, 14th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 15th—*NO Faith Formation*, No CLW
- Mon, 16th—Prayer Shawl, Rooney-A, 3:00 p.m.
- Mon, 16th—No Confession, No Adoration (Holiday)
- Tues, 17th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 17th—No Children's Choir, No Adult Choir
- Tues, 17th—Prayer Shawl, Rooney-A, 6:30 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 18th

7:00 a.m., 12 Noon, 3 p.m.
Liturgy of the Word with ashes;
Rosary, 9 a.m.
Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Soup & Bread to follow in Russell Hall. Sign up:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/o/10C0945A4AD22A7F94-47560461-lenten>

- Thurs, 19th—Forward with Joy, Rooney-A, 10 a.m.
- Fri, 20th—Rehearsal for Teen Stations, Church, 6 p.m.
- Fri, 20th—Teen Stations of the Cross, Church, 7 p.m.
- Fri, 20th—Youth Ministry, RH, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat, 21st—St. Augustine Talk, RH, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 21st—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sat, 21st-Mon, 23rd—Mission Trip Silent Auction

Sanctuary Lamp

For

Elden S. Doe, Sr., Anna Ford Kirby & Carol Hay, birthday remembrances, requested by their family.



Coming Soon: The Creed & Its Catholic Meaning

On March 3rd at 7 pm there will be a discussion of the Nicene Creed (and the Apostle's Creed) in the Church. I will provide the historical context, the overall meaning, the reasons for the Creed, and then a line-by-line explanation.

This is part of the Forward with Faith program funded by the generosity of parishioners like you!

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach (15:15-20), which is our first reading today is brief yet powerfully clear and to the point: "If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before you are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses will be given him." *We hear in this the great gift of free will, which stems from God's Divine Love, for nothing forced is love; and all that God asks from us is love. From this love we see that all that is laid before us by God requires a choice on our part: to be good or evil, to choose the Commandments or not, to trust in God or not. And, we see a truth that is not always recognizable in today's world, that choices have consequences. What we do, say and are – will have an end result one day.*

The Psalm this weekend, **Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord** leads us into the second reading this weekend, **1 Corinthians (2:6-10)** that tells us that the Truth of Christ is one that is absolute, without change and without degrees of truth; and we are called to live by His Wisdom His Wisdom is more valuable than human knowledge, which requires applying this knowledge in making good decisions in alignment with moral and spiritual principles, not just human intelligence. We need not concern ourselves with "opinions" but rather with absolute, unchanging Truth. Pay no heed to the "rulers" of this age: the politicians, movie stars, athletes or influencers. Rather, listen to the Word made flesh: Absolute Truth. For His Wisdom is meant for one thing and one thing only: Our excellence.

This Sunday's Gospel, **Matthew (5:17-37)** is a passage from the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus teaches about the fulfillment of the law and the Prophets, and offers a deeper, more spiritual understanding of God's Commandments.

Matthew 5: 17-20, Jesus fulfills the law in the opening statement, His purpose for coming is to fulfill or enlighten us with the law and its benefits, not to destroy the law. The law remains important; Jesus will fulfill its ultimate purpose. Catholics are called to understand this as perfecting the old covenant, fulfilling its prophesies and moral teachings (remember we believe the Old Testament is not destroyed with the New Testament, it is fulfilled.) And, the righteous required is not an external covering—the rituals or the observances, i.e., the way we bow or genuflect but rather it is an internal transformation—a change of heart and a way of living. **Matthew 5:21-26** is a teaching on anger where Jesus extends the commandment "You shall not kill" to include anger and insult. The Catholic Church teaches that anger can be sinful if it leads to hatred or harm. Reconciliation is emphasized; believers should seek peace with others before offering gifts to God. **Matthew 5: 27-30** is a teaching on adultery where He extends the commandment "You shall not commit adultery" to include lustful thoughts. The Church teaches about the importance of the purity of heart and chastity. Radical steps (metaphorically "cutting off" parts) emphasizes the seriousness of avoiding sin. **Matthew 5: 31-32** teaching on divorce notes that Jesus says divorce is not permitted except for marital unfaithfulness. The Catholic Church holds that marriage is a lifelong covenant and does not recognize divorce; annulments may be granted if the marriage was invalid from the start (meaning that, for example, if you knew your spouse could not be faithful but you think that "once he or she marries me my love for them will change him or her) that is not a valid marriage. **Matthew 5: 33-37** is a teaching on oaths, where Jesus says do not swear oaths but let one's "yes" be yes and one's "no" be no (be what you say). The Catholic Church values truthfulness and integrity without the need for swearing oaths lightly.

Jesus calls us to a deeper, interiorized obedience to God's law, focusing on the heart and intentions; that moral teachings are foundational for Catholic ethics, and a call to holiness and transformation through His Grace; and, the Church encourages confession, reconciliation, and the pursuit of virtue in living out these teachings.

(Source: Attribution from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in sections.)

Continued on page 6.

Faith Formation News

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



IMPORTANT dates:

February 15th: NO CLASSES (Presidents' Day)

February 22nd: Grades K – 8, Confirmation I & II Classes resume

February 28th: Grade 4 Class Mass (5PM Vigil)

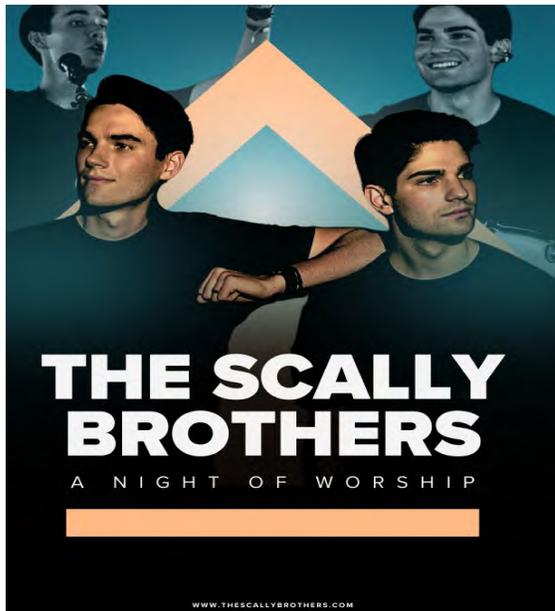
March 1st: Grades K

- 8 Classes

March 1st: Confirmation I, II (MANDATORY) Retreat @ 1-7PM (8th Grade students are welcome)
(Concert begins at 7:30 PM for all students and Parish in Russell Hall)

March 5th: Grade 8 Living Stations of the Cross Rehearsal from 6-8PM

March 6th: Grade 8 Living Stations of the Cross at 7PM



Scally Brothers: Open Invite to Parishioners

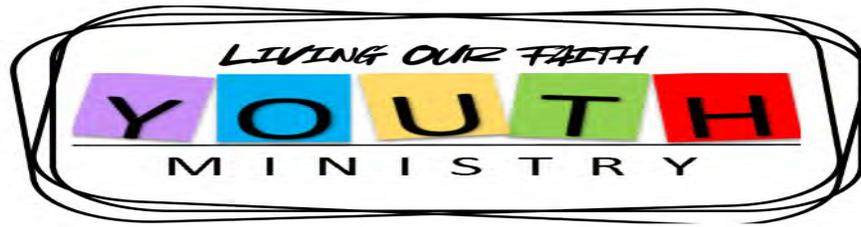
Our Parish will celebrate our Confirmation Retreat on March 1st from 1:00 –7:00 p.m. with guest retreat leader Braden Johnson, illustrating to our Confirmands that Christ is their friend, helper and guide. Joining Braden, the Scally Brothers will lead our teens in praise and worship of God and His Love. After the retreat Mass, our parish will host a concert Sunday night from 7:30-8:30 p.m. This praise and worship concert is open to all. Please join us and bring your family! (Brought to you by the generosity of our parishioners and Forward with Faith.)

LENTEN MERCY PROJECT 2026 – 1st week (Feb 21/22) Gifts of Love

With the arrival of Lent, St Catherine's of Siena will once again partake in the annual Lenten Mercy Project. During this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the St. Catherine's Church Lenten Mercy Project gives us the opportunity to participate by supporting a variety of organizations that embody the Corporal Works of Mercy. Each weekend during Lent, beginning next weekend which will be dedicated to Gifts of Love and continuing through March 28/29, we ask that you consider supporting the identified charity through monetary contributions and/or donation of gift cards (similar to last year, we will not be asking for donations of goods this year, as most charities now prefer cash and gift cards for logistical reasons).

Please consider gift cards from grocery stores, Walmart, Target, etc. The six charities will be listed in the bulletin and on the parish website. Donation boxes will be in the atrium and vestibule for both monetary and gift card contributions. Note that you may make monetary contributions through Faith Direct.

Our extraordinary St Catherine's community has supported these fine organizations for many years through this project, and we hope in this Lenten season you will once again participate in this tradition of helping those in need.



ALL YOUTH MINISTRY

TEEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS-

FATHER MICHAEL INVITES ALL TEENS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 from 6-9 PM at St. Catherine of Siena—TEEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS, FOLLOWED BY GAME NIGHT AND DESSERT BAR. Father Michael invites **ALL** teens to participate in the Teen Stations of the Cross. Teens are asked to hold a candle, hold the cross, read a station, hand out programs, or just attend. **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING**, join us in Russell Hall for an amazing selection of desserts, games and prizes. **Earn Confirmation Service Hours.** Sign up here—>> <http://bit.ly/4tv9IDf>



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATE TEEN READER- One teen reader is needed for each of the three Masses to explain the Mission Trip, Silent Auction and bake sale to our parishioners, while asking for support on **Saturday evening Mass, February 21st at 5:00 PM and at both Sunday morning Masses, 8:30 and 11:00 AM** on February 22nd. This is one of the REQUIREMENTS if you want to go on the Boston Mission Trip!

SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY MARCH 8th -BOSTON MISSION TRIP PRE-TRIP MEETING at 9:30 a.m. in **Russell Hall.** We will meet for breakfast and to cover some important information, then attend Mass at 11 a.m. and receive Father's blessing at that time. **If you are attending this trip, this meeting is required, including for chaperones.**

2026 - BOSTON MISSION TRIP TEAM - Our **Silent Auction and Bake Sale** weekend is scheduled for **Saturday, February 21st and Sunday, February 22nd.** If you are attending the Boston Mission Trip, please plan to help at one or more Masses at St. Catherine of Siena. Please plan to arrive 30 minutes before Mass and to stay 30 minutes after Mass, and wear your YM T-shirt. Please use this link: <https://bit.ly/3ZYBWlu> to sign up and for more detailed instructions.

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

Youth Ministry Boston Mission Trip Hoodies for the Homeless

From March 12th to March 15th, a group of youth ministry teens will be traveling to Boston for our annual Mission Trip to help with a variety of service projects at various worksites such as a church, shelter, food bank or non-profit agency. The purpose of these projects is not simply to perform tasks, but to provide a unique opportunity to visit unfamiliar neighborhoods and experience what it means to serve others. **Beginning February 21th through February 28th,** we are collecting **HOODIES** for the homeless, sizes **medium - XXXXL.** Thank you for your support of our Youth Ministry Mission Trip. Collections boxes are located in both the Atrium and the Vestibule.

LENTEN SOUP AND BREAD—To begin our Lenten journey as a community, Father Michael is inviting all in our parish to gather together for a simple soup and bread meal after the 6 p.m. Mass on **Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 18th.** Please click on the link below if you are able to attend or bring a soup, bread or beverage to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/o/10C0945A4AD22A7F94-47560461-lenten>

Fr. Michael continued...

Change of Date: Training for Lectors & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The New dates for our training session for both Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors will take place on February 28th, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. respectively. If you are interested in becoming a lay minister at the Mass in one of these roles, contact Fr. Michael (658 1642) for more details or come to one of the training sessions. Thank you!

NOURISH WITH *Hope*

Pantry Partners

SCPP provides fresh vegetables and protein to families in need. The food is purchased from Big Y in Simsbury, a wonderful ministry partner.

The next distribution date is February 21st.

FEBRUARY STREET SANDWICH MINISTRY

February sandwiches will be collected
Saturday, February 21st,

Sunday, February 22nd from 9-6 p.m.,
and Monday, February 23rd, 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 use this link to sign up to help:

<https://bit.ly/3O78FCk>

FEED THE HUNGRY Lunch Service on Sat., February 21st. Please sign up by Weds., February 18th. *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 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, 2/19 at Fitzgeralds and drop off the hot meal to Russell Hall kitchen on Saturday, 2/21 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, 2/21 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/FTHLunchFeb21>

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