

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



Saint Catherine

Roman Catholic Church of Siena

The First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

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:

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 Music Ministry

Mrs. Susan Zybert
860 217 0600 or susanzybert@comcast.net

Director of Youth Ministry

Ms. Maria Galeota, 860 658 1642 or
mgaleotaym@stcyouthministry.org

Building and Grounds Committee

Mr. John Lipari, Chairman

Sacristan

Mr. Michael Grappone, 860 658 1642

Parish Council President

Mrs. Kathleen Mangiafico, 860 869 8468

Finance Council Chairman

Mr. Edward Caputo, 860 478 8017

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, 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;
- Sunday, February 22nd @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *Margaret Egan*, requested by Fr. Whyte;
- Monday, February 23rd @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *William Colangelo, birthday remembrance*, requested by his family;
- Monday, February 23rd @ 9:00 a.m. *Rosary*;
- Monday, February 23rd @ 6:30 p.m. *Adoration*;
- Tuesday, February 24th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Nancy O'Connell, birthday remembrance*, requested by Fr. Whyte;
- Tuesday, February 24th @ 9:00 a.m. *Adoration*;
- Wednesday, February 25th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Mary Macedonio*, requested by Judy & Mike Manza;
- Friday, February 27th @ 8:30 a.m. Mass for *Paul Soucy*, requested by Lisa & Peter Sheary;
- Saturday, February 28th @ 5:00 p.m. Mass for *Grade 4 Class Mass; For Jerry Winters, 2nd anniversary*, requested by his family;
- Sunday, March 1st @ 8:00 a.m. Mass for *Billy Dazzo, birthday remembrance*, requested by Eileen Keller; and,
- Sunday, March 1st @ 11:00 a.m. Mass for *Cynthia Foristel*, requested by Steve & Lisa Cerchia.

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 in next week's bulletin.

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.



Please call the office, 658-1642, if you contribute through regular church envelopes and would like a year-end tax statement.

Upcoming Parish Meetings & Events

February

- Sat, 21st-Mon, 23rd—YM Mission Trip Silent Auction Closes at 10 a.m. on Monday, the 23rd.
- Sat, 21st—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sun, 22nd—*Faith Formation, HJMS, 9:30 a.m.*
- Sun, 22nd—Children's Liturgy of the Word, RH, 11 am
- Sun, 22nd—Confirmation 1 & 2/RH, 6 p.m., 7:15 p.m.
- Mon, 23rd—Rosary, Church, 9 a.m.
- Mon, 23rd—*Mass at McLean Home, 11 a.m.*
- Mon, 23rd—Confession, Church, 6 p.m.
- Mon, 23rd—Adoration, Church, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 24th—Adoration, Church, 9 a.m.
- Tues, 24th—OCIA, Rooney-A, 6 p.m.
- Tues, 24th—Children's Choir, MR, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, 24th—Building & Grounds, Rooney-B, 7 p.m.
- Tues, 24th—Adult Choir, Church, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed, 25th—Rosary, 9 a.m.
- Thurs, 26th—Lenten Bible Study, RH, 9:30 a.m.
- Thurs, 26th—Lenten Bible Study, RH, 7 p.m.
- Fri, 27th—Stations of the Cross, Church, 9 a.m.
- Fri, 27th—Stations of the Cross, Church, 7 p.m.
- Sat, 28th—St. Augustine Talk, RH, 9 a.m.
- Sat, 28th—NEW EM Training, Church, 9 a.m., NEW Lector Training, 11 a.m.
- Sat, 28th—Confession, Church, 4 p.m.
- Sat, 28th—Grade 4 Class Mass, 5 p.m.

Sanctuary Lamp

For
Hugo Vincent Kostelni,
birthday blessings,
requested by his family.



**LENTEN MERCY PROJECT WEEK 2
FEB, 28TH & MARCH 1ST
LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR**

First Sunday of Lent 2026

Lenten Regulations:

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.

In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church (Rome), the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59.

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards are to observe the particular law of their own *sui iuris* Church.

A Reflection on Lenten Fasting: If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

What is Lent (February 14-April 2, 2026)? Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, death to sin and evil, and begin new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. We are called to contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition by reading up on the Church's teachings in the Catechism. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446). In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.

(Source: USCCB.org)

The Temptation of Jesus, Matthew 4:1-11

Lent provides us all with the opportunity to travel with Jesus in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Today, Matthew (4:1-11) presents us with a profound moment in Jesus' life: His forty days of fasting in the desert and His confrontation with temptation by Satan. Jesus encounters every temptation by Satan with the Word of God: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." His unwavering faith and obedience to God is meant to serve as a model for our lives, and Lent provides a good opportunity to begin that journey.

By way of applicability—how to put what we believe into practice—we first must recognize that temptation is not sin. Rather, it is an opportunity to grow stronger in faith through reliance on God's Word and Grace. When we feel hungry—physically or emotionally or spiritually—we can always turn to Scripture and prayer for nourishment as Jesus did. Lent is indeed a time to deepen our relationship with God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, to resist the allure of easy fixes and worldly power, and to Trust in God's providence. This way, we can, like Christ, emerge from our own deserts renewed and ready to live out His plan. *Using many different forms of prayer in the Catholic Church (Blessing and Adoration; Petition; Intercessory; Thanksgiving; and, Praise) as well as meditative, centering, and more—the Catholic faith provides many ways to connect with God and deepen our personal relationships with Him. And, that is His desire.*

Faith Formation News

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



IMPORTANT dates:

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

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

March 1st: Grades K- 8 Classes

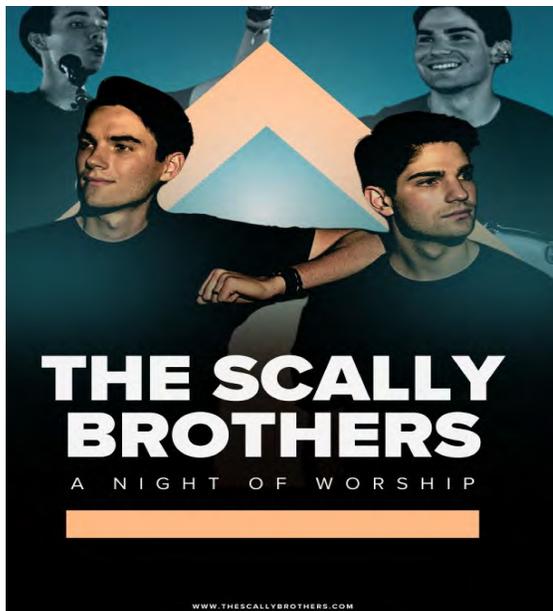
March 1st: Confirmation I, II (MANDATORY) Retreat @ 1-7PM (8th Grade students are welcome)
(Concert begins at 7:30 PM for all students and Parish in Russell Hall)

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

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

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

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



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. and 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.



Summer Camp - Vacation Bible School

Grades: K-5

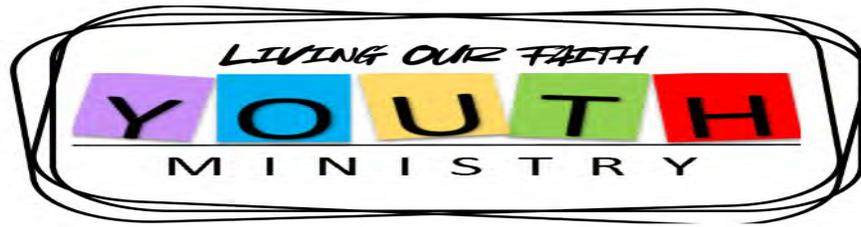
Dates: June 22-26

Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$65/person



Location: Saint Catherine of Siena Church,
267 Stratton Brook Road, West Simsbury, CT 06092



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

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.**

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

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.

<https://bit.ly/3ZYBWlu> to sign up and for more detailed instructions.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATE Join us March 2nd, 6-8 p.m. in Russell Hall at St. Catherine of Siena for a **Cook and Bake**. Let's cook for local families in need. We will also work on a small service project. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**. We provide the recipes, the ingredients and the step-by-step instructions. **YOU MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND** this program. **PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND WELCOME.**

SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY March 25th—MAKE YOUR OWN PIZZA NIGHT, while we make **Easter Baskets** for children that are living in shelters. We will meet at St. Catherine of Siena in Russell Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.! Gluten free crust is available. Join us for an evening of faith, fun friendship. **WHAT TO BRING:** Please bring items to help stuff the baskets. We will provide the basket and grass, sign up to come.

Lenten Bible Study: Why We're Catholic: Our Reasons for Faith, Hope, and Love

Looking to deepen your understanding of the Catholic faith this Lent? Join us for a four-week Bible study based on *Why We're Catholic* by Trent Horn. Together we'll explore what the Church teaches, why it matters, and how it helps us grow as disciples of Jesus Christ—grounded in faith, strengthened by hope, and lived out in love.

**Thursday: February 26th, then Wednesdays: March 4th, 11th, 18th;
9:30 AM or 7:00 PM in Russell Hall.**

All are welcome—whether you are new to the faith, returning to the Church, or simply seeking to understand better what we believe and why. **Facilitators:** Fr. Whyte & Lou Daniels, Th.M.

The Spirituality and Wisdom of St. Augustine

Please join us on **Saturday, February 28th, 9 a.m.** in Russell Hall for a discussion on how to follow the teachings and wisdom of Saint Augustine which can help us to draw closer to God.
Presenter: Mike Manza

NOURISH WITH *Hope*

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.



Need something to do in March? Help others!

St. Catherine of Siena provides dinner once a month to residents at the **St. Elizabeth House** in Hartford.

Consider signing up to make a food donation or donating your time!

Next date is March 8, 2026!

Contact Nancy Kostal with questions~ 860-655-5033

For more information or to sign up, follow the link or scan the QR code!



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044BAFAE2BA3F85-62313897-saint#/>

Pantry Partners– March 21st