

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Monday, December 26th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Peter Platek**, requested by Lori & Jeff Ryan.
- Tuesday, December 27th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Rita Cross**, requested by Pantry Partners of St. Catherine.
- Wednesday, December 28th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Lisa Phaneuf**, requested by Julia Donahue.
- Friday, December 30th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Paul Sievers**, requested by Sue & George Paul.
- Friday, January 6th, @ 8:30AM, Anniversary Mass for **Patricia Haughey**, requested by the Carew Family.
- Saturday, January 7th, @ 5:00PM, 60th Wedding Anniversary Mass for **Rose & Dom Marandino**.
- Sunday, January 8th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Tom West, Sr.**, requested by Carolyn & Steve Gorecki.
- Sunday, January 8th, 5:00PM, Mass for **Esther & John McGuire**, requested by Jack & Teddi McGuire.
- Tuesday, January 10th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Tom West, Sr.**, requested by Mike & Kathy Reilley.
- Wednesday, January 11th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Colette Ostapko**, requested by Phil Ostapko.
- Friday, January 13th, @ 8:30AM, Mass in Memory of **Don Paine**.

EPIPHANY PARTY

The Epiphany Party at Sacred Heart Church in Hartford will be on Saturday, January 7, 2012.



Volunteers are needed for that day to help with loading gifts and going to Hartford. Also needed are volunteers to help make sandwiches and bring juice for lunch. If you are interested in helping, please call **Sheila Prats** at 203/592-8737.

Please return the gifts (with tag attached) to the church by Sunday, January 1st. *Thank you for your generosity.*



WEDDING BANNS

Bann III - Elizabeth Mikkelson & Mark Lockwood

Offertory Collection for 12/18/11

Weekly Collection:	\$12,319.77
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 1,857.77
Envelopes	\$10,462.00
Budgeted for Week:	\$ 9,000.00
Overage:	\$ 3,319.77
Cathradicum*	- \$ 677.58
School Tax*	- \$ 677.58
Additional Retired Religious:	\$ 665.00 (total \$7,028.22)



*Parish Taxes (5.5%) Paid to the Archdiocese for services to the Parish

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Christmas - 12/25
Refurbishment & Repair - 1/8

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

CLASS INFORMATION - classes do not meet again until Epiphany Sunday, January 8th.

CONFIRMATION I & II will meet again on Sunday, January 8th. The Saint assignments will be given out at this class.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - Congratulations to our 3rd Grade Religious Education Students for putting on a beautiful and prayerful Christmas Pageant. Our Angels, Shepherds, Announcers, Townspeople, Merchants, Kings and Soldiers along with Mary and Joseph did a lovely job telling the story of The Nativity of Jesus. Thank you to all the parents who helped prepare the children and who brought delicious treats and drinks for the reception afterward. A very special thank you to our Grade 3 Catechists: Mrs. Maryanne Doran, Mrs. Kim Phillips, Miss Caroline Carew, Miss Maggie Gauthier, Mr. Kevin Doran, Mr. Dan Sparks, Mr. Christopher Morrison and our wonderful musician, Mrs. Kris Boswell.

The **CONFIRMATION DATE** has been set by the Chancery! Our Confirmation date is Saturday, April 14, 2012, at 11AM here at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish. Mandatory rehearsal will be on Thursday, April 12th, at 4:15PM in the church. More details will be given out at the parent meeting on Sunday, January 29th, at 6PM in the back of the church. At least one parent must attend, but both are welcome.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 10th, 6PM - **Community Life** - Library
 Tuesday, January 10th, 7PM - **Finance Council** - Rectory
 Tuesday, January 10th, 7PM - **Communications** - Music Room
 Tuesday, January 17th, 6:45PM - **Parish Council** - Russell Hall
 Thursday, January 19th, 7PM - **Women's Club** - Russell Hall

TOWN OF SIMSBURY HOLIDAY COLLECTION DRIVE DECEMBER 15TH - 31ST



Deputy First Selectman John K. Hampton is once again sponsoring the Town of Simsbury Holiday Collection Drive for the State Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill. The Veterans' Home currently provides care and shelter for approximately 500 veterans, nine of whom are women. These include veterans who are homeless, needy or disabled and require long-term medical care.

This campaign needs **NEW tagged** clothing, personal items, and accessories. Clothing needs: casual pants and jeans, shirts and sweaters, lounge pants, underwear and socks. Shaving kits, shampoo, deodorant, lip balm, combs and brushes are needed. Other popular items are games, craft kits, CDs/DVDs, as well as stamps, photo albums, flashlights or batteries.

Collection boxes are located at Eno Memorial Hall, Simsbury Police Dept., and Simsbury Library. For additional info contact Mr. Hampton @ 860/803-4072 or jhampton@simsbury-ct.gov.

**SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA
SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY**



MERRY CHRISTMAS! Have a blessed and restful Christmas with your family.



Youth Group meets again on **Sunday, January 22nd, 6PM - MOVIE NIGHT!** The full 2012 Winter youth ministry calendar will be available after Christmas and New Year's.

**SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA
JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY**



MERRY CHRISTMAS! Enjoy a peaceful and restful Christmas with your family. **Jr. High Youth Ministry meets again on FRIDAY, January 20th, at 6:45PM for MOVIE night.** (Note the change of day for the movie). Plan to stay until 8PM. The full 2012 Winter Youth Ministry calendar will be available in January.

Pantry Partners of St. Catherine

A very **Merry Christmas** to all who volunteered last Saturday for you truly are blessings to the ministry, to the recipients, to the parish at large. A **special THANK YOU** to those who have so generously donated funds now and throughout the year. Also, a **grand THANK YOU** to all who helped with our last distribution of 2011: the newest (and youthful) volunteers Sophia, and sister Rachael (and dad Tim) from St. Mary's, Duncan, Jack (Fran Sethre's grandson) and to our most dependable expert Matt. Plus, a **"Couldn't Do It Without You" THANK YOU** to Ed and Mary B., Corrine H., Sue P., Charles and Sheila Rae V., Maureen P., Charlie P., Gene and Carol M., Andy A., Linda B., Julia M., Ann R., Carrie and Mark G., Karen W., Mary Lou G., Terri H., Dolores G., Tom V., Joni M., Mike G., Louise D., and our baker extraordinaire, Mrs. Wendell. We are also grateful for those volunteers who have assisted this past year as their schedules permitted. On behalf of those who benefit from the generosity of St. Catherine's parishioners, "You gals (and guys) just don't know how much the food boxes mean to us. Thank you and Thank the Lord." Amen!



**MEN'S CLUB MOHEGAN SUN CASINO TRIP
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012**

Bus leaves Saint Catherine of Siena at 4PM and the casino at 11PM. \$30/per person includes buffet and \$10 bet tickets. Sign up in the atrium or call **Bob Nevins @ 860/408-1438.**



NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS
Saturday, December 31st - **5:00PM Vigil**

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES
Sunday, January 1st - **8AM, 11AM & 5PM**

SCRIP TIP...

TAKE A BREAK!



The holiday season is a busy time, so now take time for yourself and your family and shop on ScripNow! for one of the great available restaurant choices. It's an easy way to keep earning rebates for St. Catherine of Siena while you take some time to get out of the kitchen!

When you need a break, use ScripNow! to dine at **Cheesecake Factory, Chili's, Macaroni Grill, Bertucci's, T.G.I. Friday's, Outback Steak House and more.** You'll be able to relax, recharge, and earn rebates all at once! And there's no better time to take a break then after the rush of the Holiday Season!

Order ScripNow! for dining on your ShopWithScrip account. If you pay with the PrestoPay electronic payment method, your ScripNow! certificate will be available within minutes. With just a few clicks, you can download and print your ScripNow! certificate and head to your favorite restaurant. It couldn't be easier!

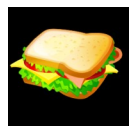
All of these cards and so many more are available to purchase after all Masses, on-line at www.shopwithscrip.com using the Saint Catherine enrollment code **7A65C56C279L1** or look in the atrium for Scrip order forms. Fill it out and drop it off at the office with your check, we'll process your order! Any other questions, please feel free to call **Mary Chappano** at 860/404-7435.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

On behalf of Father Whyte and the Scrip team, thank you all for your support of the program in 2011 and we'll see you again the weekend of January 8th/9th. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and joyous New Year!

"FEED THE HUNGRY" YOUTH GROUP

The Feed the Hungry Youth Group served lunch at St. Elizabeth House on Saturday, 12/17. *The candy was a wonderful treat!*



This month's youth volunteers included **Brenna Sullivan, Joe Mortimer, Adam Polkingham, Nick Peluso, Christian Conley, Mike Johnson, Kelsey Dombrosky, Liz O'Hara, and Mikayla Sheary.** Chaperones included **Dolores Grenier, Mary Mortimer, and Lisa Sheary.**

The next visit will be **Saturday, January 21st.** Contact Mrs. Sheary at lisasheary@remax.net if you are available to help.

FROM FATHER MICHAEL...

A Heartfelt Christmas Note of Thanks.

This week I received a handwritten note from Mrs. Laurie Parmentier, mother of Marine Sgt. Liam Dwyer, in thanksgiving for all the prayers of our parish for her son and for his recovery from life-threatening injuries he received in battle in Afghanistan. This note shows the importance and power of prayer—as well as the power of gratitude and selflessness. It is a nice Christmas message.

“Dear Father Michael,

My papa, Frank Bevilacqua (our parishioner), has told me about what you and the parishioners of Saint Catherine of Siena do for my son, Marine Sgt. Liam Dwyer. I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate all of your support. I know that prayers are said for him every Sunday, that you have pictures of him posted on the board in the hall entrance and that you inquire about him every time you see Frank.

Liam is making great progress, but still has a very long road ahead of him. He was just discharged from the hospital after a 12-day stay for surgery to close up his colostomy. He still faces major reconstructive surgeries on both his right leg and arm. Right from the start the doctors told us they would be working on the right arm for about two (2) years.

He chooses to work out at physical therapy for 7-8 hours a day. He has been up and walking on his new prosthesis. I have yet to see him get down about anything or feel sorry for himself. He makes a point to visit new arrivals to offer support and inspiration.

The medical care he receives is amazing. The support we receive from the Marine Liaison is fantastic. But it is the prayers, well wishes and support from family, friends and total strangers that mean the most to us.

Thank you and all the members of your parish.

Most sincerely, Laurie Parmentier and Sgt. Liam Dwyer

Christmastime Message:

As your pastor, I want to take a few lines to note my thanks for all of you who make up this One Body of Christ—Saint Catherine of Siena Parish. I want to begin by letting you know how blessed I feel to be a part of your Catholic community and for this short time I have been here with you all—and learning from you about what it means to be active, caring, and effective Catholic Christians in a very hectic world.

As I have said from time-to-time, I am amazed by all that you accomplish here in the parish as you work simultaneously to fulfill fulltime jobs, care for homes, raise active and good families, and volunteer and work hard to create a caring and effective community here in Simsbury. We are blessed in more ways than one can count—and that comes from God as well as your collective “Yes” to His call to be His disciples. I am amazed because I know you are going in twenty different directions, answering multiple calls to help, and you do it with great calm and charity. As a single individual with no “family” duties, I am awed by all that gets accomplished in a 24-hour day, seven days a week—by you. And I want you to know how grateful I am that you remain committed to the Church and our parish—to God—giving Him the priority He deserves.

As a growing and very active parish, I recognize the demands that “one more ministry or project” places on us all, and keeping that in mind I will do my best to be careful with the

direction in which our parish heads in the New Year. I will be very aware of both the needs as they present themselves and of the resources that are available and pray that they dovetail well together for the benefit of those in need, without taxing too much the Spirit that drives our giving parish.

Again, I am grateful for the people that you are—generous, kind, compassionate, doing, and made in Christ’s Image. I pray that this Christmas Season and the New Year are full of God’s choicest blessings for you and your families and that His radiant face shine upon you now and in the New Year.

Peace,

-Fr. Michael

The Nativity of Christ.

“Not far from the Colosseum in Rome, and perched on the edge of what remains of the Imperial Forum, stands the Church of Ss. Cosmas and Damian. This ancient building was originally a pagan temple and was converted into a church in the sixth century. For both tourists and pilgrims, it’s a magnet. They come to gaze at the stunning mosaic of Christ flanked by the saints which adorns the ceiling behind the altar. But the church also houses another attraction. Near the entrance is a beautifully carved crib, originally from Naples and dating back to the eighteenth century.

Neapolitan cribs are not so much stables as hillsides. The one at Ss. Cosmas and Damian fills a whole room. Whereas many modern cribs focus solely on the Holy Family, the shepherds and the kings, Neapolitan cribs show life in all its variety, its busyness and its ordinariness. Often, an entire village is displayed complete with streets, houses and shops. There are knife-grinders, shoemakers, blacksmiths and butchers. People are eating and drinking, chatting and shopping. Then, somewhere amongst all of this, almost hidden, there is the simplicity of the nativity scene. You have to look carefully to find it, but there in the midst of the world’s activity a mother and father watch over a newborn child. Onto the stage of humanity has stepped the Prince of peace, the mighty God, the Word made flesh, our savior.”

As St. Luke’s Gospel tells us—the birth of the savior has changed everything. His birth has sanctified human life by becoming one of us—joining humanity and sharing His divinity with us—a great intersection, if you will, of the heavens and the earth. His birth is also a sign then that we have nothing to fear, that God is with us, Emmanuel, now and forever. Trust in Him. Hope in Him. Believe in Him. And act in and through Him. All will be well.

As we all reflect on the nativity scene of Bethlehem, let us also see Christ born in our midst, Christ living amongst us in the busyness and ordinariness of human life, so that we are not blinded to the presence of Christ in our midst. Let us see Christ Among Us...Let us also Be Christ Among Us.

Merry Christmas!



End of Bulletin
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