

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- 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 **Thomas West, Sr.**, requested by Carolyn & Steve Gorecki.
- Sunday, January 8th, 5:00PM, Mass for **Esther & John McGuire**, requested by Jack & Teddi McGuire.
- Monday, January 9th, @ 8:30AM, Anniversary Mass for **Margaret Geraci**, requested by Bob & Theresa Bellacosa.
- Tuesday, January 10th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Thomas 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**.
- Saturday, January 14th, @ 5:00PM, 3rd Anniversary Mass for **Becky Bowley**, requested by the Wiacek Family.
- Sunday, January 15th, @ 8:00AM, Anniversary Mass for **Alonzo (Lonnie) Lester**, requested by Dee Lester.
- Sunday, January 15th, @ 11:00AM, Mass for **Jeanne Suminski**, requested by the Jahne Family.
- Sunday, January 15th, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Russell Webber**, requested by the McAlindin & Flaherty Families.

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.



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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Tuesday, January 3rd, 7PM - **RCIA** - Rectory
- 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

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.

Offertory Collection for 12/25/11

Weekly Collection:	\$ 33,157.06*
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 6,498.06
Envelopes	\$26,659.00



* Includes Weekly Collection & Christmas Collection

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS Refurbishment & Repair - 1/8

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



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**



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
The next distribution date will be on Saturday, January 21st, from 10-11:30AM.



**SAVE A BABY'S LIFE PLEDGE DRIVE
ST. GERARD'S CENTER FOR LIFE
JANUARY 14 & 15, 2012**



There will be a Save a Baby's Life Pledge Drive for St. Gerard's Center for Life the weekend of January 14-15, 2012. St. Gerard's Center for Life is a Catholic Pregnancy Resource Center located on 22 Maple Avenue, Hartford,

CT dedicated to assisting women make life-affirming decisions (i.e. keep their baby or place their child for adoption). Since the inception of the program several years ago, St. Gerard's has served over 3,500 mothers and families-in-need and through God's grace saved over 400 babies lives (which otherwise would have died from abortion). To continue our life and soul saving ministry, we are requesting that you pick up a bottle or an envelope and fill it with **checks (i.e. payable to St. Gerard's Center for Life), cash or coins.** The envelopes and/or bottles will need to be **returned to the church by the weekend of January 28/29, 2012 (there will be boxes near the church entrance where you can place the filled bottles).** You can also make an online donation by visiting our website at www.stgerardcenter.org. All proceeds will benefit St. Gerard's Center for Life. Thank you for supporting our center and continuing our efforts to protect and save the unborn and their mothers!

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 joyous New Year!**

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

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



"FEED THE HUNGRY" YOUTH GROUP



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

Christmastide...luckily there are Twelve Days of Christmas so that I can mail out my Christmas cards and thank-you notes without being late! But enough about me... these twelve days are also meant to illustrate that the Christmas season—and the Spirit of Christmas—do not unravel with the stroke of midnight on December 25th. Rather, the meaning and purpose of Christmas—the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into our lives—continues: for every Sunday, there is a Monday; and for every Good Friday, there is an Easter...the fact that Christ was born into humanity and changed the meaning of life is meant to have an impact on our everyday living. The Spirit of Christmas must be in our hearts on June 23rd and on September 7th and on March 6th just as it is on December 25th. Nothing changes for God, His ways are eternal. Our Christian lives lived-out also must remain constant, or at least our attempts to live them out must remain constant. As we look upon the crèche during the Christmas season and even after we put it away for the year, let us remember the vision of the Neapolitan crèche—that Christ was born into a hectic world, that He entered into our lives—enters into our everyday lives—in and amongst the rush of work, family life, community life—*Christ is there!* And we see the invisible God made visible in the ways we live out our daily lives: in how we infuse the everyday world with the Spirit of Christ...in charitable acts, in words of kindness, in helping hands, in the love to our families and in our commitments to our responsibilities—even when it is difficult—we see Christ living among us. I want to thank each and every one of you who make Christ “appear” in our midst by the kindnesses and the prayers you offer to friends, neighbors and strangers alike!

Our 2011-2012 Advent & Christmas Giving Tree Ministry. As we enter our last weekend of the Advent & Christmas Giving Tree season I want to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks for all who participated so far this year—and remind those who have not that there is still time to “join the party” (the trees and envelopes will remain up until January 8—The Epiphany). Once the project ends and totals for each beneficiary are tallied, we will announce the amounts raised. While this has been a difficult few years economically, I do appreciate what appears to be a very generous giving trend.

Our two beneficiaries this year are Pantry Partners of Saint Catherine of Siena—aimed at providing food boxes each month all year long to Simsbury residents in need. This charity really provides a great service and ministry to our neighbors. The other beneficiary, the Knights of Malta Mobile House of Care, provides primary medical services—diagnostics, medicine, treatment plans, and follow-up care as well as connection services to doctors and medical treatment facilities offering specialty care. The Malta Mobile House of Care provides medical services to the poor, working poor and to families struggling to make ends

meet who cannot afford health care insurance. From the inner city of Hartford to the suburban neighborhoods—no individuals are refused medical care and more than 19,000 people have received treatment so far. It is amazing, and thanks to the generosity of so many individual Catholics it is amazingly wonderful. Thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts thus far.

Little Christmas...and the Feast of the Epiphany. We are, as a parish, also helping our neighbors at Sacred Heart Parish in Hartford with presents for children who celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 8. On the large wooden Cross in the atrium hangs a wreath with name tags hung from its greenery. On those tags are the names and ages of individual children who are in need of a toy or gift. If you have—or would still like to—take a child’s name and purchase a toy or gift for them then bring the wrapped and tagged presents back to the Church by Monday, January 2nd. Volunteers will then collect the presents and bring them to Sacred Heart Parish for their celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. Thank you too to all who helped to make this joyous time of the year a little happier for the children of Sacred Heart Parish.

January 1, 2012—The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God.

In today’s second reading Saint Paul in his Epistle to the Galatians notes that “God sent His son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those born under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons (editor’s note: and daughters).” As proof that we are adopted children of God, He taught us to say “Our Father” and so if we are children of God and no longer slaves, then we are also heirs to the Father and His glory.

Today, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, let us recognize that in sending His only Son God has sanctified the human race—and thus in making Mary the Holy Mother of God—and our spiritual Mother too—we are part of that sanctification of the human race. God did not only sanctify Mary and Joseph, or Moses and Sarah or John and James...He did not sanctify only the ancients but every generation in all ages, thus He sanctifies you and me, each and every one of His creation. Thus, with God on our side and with God—Emmanuel—with us, we have nothing to fear and everything to hope for. We have the gift of eternal life: better than anything found under the tree or in a stocking hung by the fire, we have God who loves us and adores us, God who desires us and desires that we should want Him. May we have both the wisdom and the courage of the woman we celebrate today—may we recognize and trust in Him who was, is and will always be.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy and blessed New Year!

-Fr. Michael

**End of Bulletin
Information on this page is not printed**

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