

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Saturday, January 21st, @ 5:00PM, 1st Anniversary Mass for **Dick Hammond**, requested by Donna Hammond.
- Sunday, January 22nd, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Greg Thomas**, requested by Carolyn & Steve Gorecki.
- Sunday, January 22nd, @ 11:00AM, Mass for **Rita Cross**, requested by Tina & Jim Yablonski.
- Sunday, January 22nd, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Joseph McManus**, requested by Barb & Dick Hopkins.
- Monday, January 23rd, @ 8:30AM, 8th Anniversary Mass for **Tom Duffy**, requested by Mom, Dad & PJ.
- Tuesday, January 24th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Tommy Tanski**, requested by Fay Shea.
- Saturday, January 28th, @ 5:00PM, Birthday Remembrance for **Martin Hollis**, requested by Terri Hollis.
- Sunday, January 29th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Tom West, Sr.**, requested by Gloria Rose.
- Sunday, January 29th, @ 11:00AM, Mass for **Donald Zele**, requested by the Hammond Family.
- Sunday, January 29th, @ 5:00PM, **Grade 5 Mass**.
- Monday, January 30th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Evelyn White & Jim Richardson**, requested by Ellie Hankard.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

**CONFIRMATION II** - Parent Meeting for Confirmation II Candidates is Sunday, January 29th, following the 5PM Mass in the back of the Church. It is mandatory that one parent attend, but both are welcome!

**GRADE 8 MASS** - the Grade 8 Mass will be on Sunday, January 29th, at 5PM. All 8th graders are expected to attend. Please arrive at the church no later than 4:30PM to rehearse and remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the Simsbury Food Pantry.



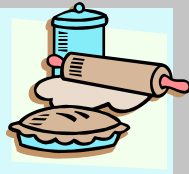
**ATTENTION PARENTS:** each child enrolled in our Religious Education classes was assigned a student text workbook in September (Grades 7 & 8 use booklets provided weekly by their catechist). Please be sure your child arrives each Sunday morning with his/her book. If your child has lost their book, please contact the Religious Education office immediately so another book can be ordered at cost to you. Each child must have a book each and every week.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, Jan. 23rd, 7PM - **Communications Mtg.** - Library
- Tuesday, Jan. 24th, 7PM - **Men's Club** - Russell Hall
- Monday, Jan. 30th, 7PM - **Buildings & Grounds** - Library
- Tuesday, Feb. 7th, 6PM - **Community Life** - Library
- Tuesday, Feb. 14th, 7PM - **Finance Council** - Rectory
- Monday, Feb. 20th, 7PM - **Prayer Shawl Mtg.** - Library

## CALLING ALL BAKERS!

If you enjoy baking on a cold winter day, the Youth Ministry Mission Trip Team would appreciate any baked goods you may want to contribute to their bake sale next Saturday & Sunday, January 28th & 29th! Many thanks!



## Offertory Collection for 1/15/12

<b>Weekly Collection:</b>	<b>\$ 9,544.65</b>
<i>Loose Cash/Checks</i>	\$ 1,444.65
<i>Envelopes</i>	\$ 8,100.00
<b>Budgeted for Week:</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>
<b>Overage:</b>	<b>\$ 544.65</b>
<b>Cathedralicum*</b>	- \$ 524.95
<b>School Tax*</b>	- \$ 524.95
<b>Refurbishment &amp; Repair</b>	<b>\$ 4,686.75 (cumulative)</b>



\* Parish Taxes (5.5%) paid to the Archdiocese for services to the parish.

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS  
Catholic High School—1/22

## SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA ANNUAL MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT

Loved ones need your encouragement and support to go on Retreat. A weekend dedicated to rest, spiritual refreshment, friendship and peace is what we all need to live in the world today. Encourage a loved one to go on Retreat to revive their body, mind and spirit with the men of Saint Catherine of Siena at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday evening, February 10th, and continues through noon on Sunday, February 12, 2012. This year's retreat theme is *The Courage to Hope*. The retreat includes conferences, workshops, prayer services, beautiful music and delicious food. This is also a great opportunity to get to know other men of the parish in a relaxing setting. Volunteers will be available after all the weekend Masses in January to provide additional info, registration details and to answer any questions you may have.



The Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center has an excellent website [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org). The website contains a wealth of information about their retreat programs, special events and facilities. You can also register for the weekend retreat online. Check out the section for Weekend Retreats and make sure you sign up for Saint Catherine of Siena's weekend: February 10-12, 2012. Financial support is available to those who would like to attend but may need financial assistance. Please contact **Jim Peters** at 860/651-3143 or **Lou Daniels** at 860/693-4017 for more information.

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



**Sunday, January 22nd, 6:00-8:00PM —  
Movie Night!** Pizza and movie munchies  
will be served. Plan to stay an extra half  
hour tonight. Got a bean bag chair? Bring it  
or anything comfy!

**Saturday, January 28th & Sunday, January 29th—  
Mission Trip auction, bake sale and second collec-  
tion after every Mass.** This is required attendance  
for Mission Team 2012. Non-mission team members  
are welcome to help us bake and sell items. Some  
serve by going, others serve by supporting those who  
go!!

**Save the date - Volunteer at McLean Home on  
Sunday, February 12th, from 2-4PM - details to  
follow.**

**LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY**



A Lenten Scripture Study will be offered  
again this year! The **morning class**,  
lead by Kathi Bonner, will be held  
Wednesday's, from 9:15am - 10:30am  
in the library beginning on February 22nd. The  
**evening class**, lead by Tina Yablonski, will be  
held on Monday evening's, from 7:00 - 8:30pm, in  
the library beginning February 27th.

**Registrations forms** will be available the weeks  
of February 4th and 11th.

Tina would like some preliminary feedback from  
you! If you are interested in attending Tina's  
class, and whether or not you are a new or  
returning student, please email her at  
yabo6@comcast.net.

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



**Friday, January 27th, at 6:45PM.** Come 15  
minutes early for MOVIE NIGHT. Pizza and  
movie munchies will be provided. Bring a  
comfy chair and a friend if you wish.



**Saturday, February 4th and Sunday, February 5th -  
Soup-er Bowl Sunday Soup Can  
Collection.** We will be collecting cans of  
soup for area soup kitchens on this weekend.  
Parishioners may put their soup cans in the  
bucket to cast their vote for their favorite team in the Super  
Bowl game that evening. Please email Mrs. Pluta if you  
would like to be a "can counter" at any Mass that weekend.



**SCRIP TIP...**

Did you know that Saint Catherine of Siena  
get a 5% return on all Stop & Shop and Big Y  
*Script* cards? If 100 parish families bought  
one \$100 *Script* card each week, at the end of  
one year, those 100 families would have con-  
tributed **\$26,000** to Saint Catherine of Siena! Can you imagine if  
every family did their grocery shopping with *Script* cards? So  
what are you waiting for? Buy your *Script* cards after most  
Masses in the church atrium or simply order them on-line. Try it  
this week. Let's all do our part.



All of these cards and so many more are available to purchase  
after all Masses, on-line at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://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 of-  
fice with your check, we'll process your order! Any other ques-  
tions, please feel free to call **Mary Chappano** at 860/404-7435.

**NORTHWEST CATHOLIC HONOR ROLL - 1ST QTR.**

Congratulations to the Saint Catherine of  
Siena parishioners who made the First Quar-  
ter Honor Roll at Northwest Catholic High  
School.



We acknowledge these student's dedication  
and commitment to their studies: **Caroline Carew,  
Charlotte Carew, William Carew, Caroline Connal, Lindsay  
Dombrosky, Madeleine Gauthier, Samuel Hug, Sean Kearns,  
Thomas Vignati, Victoria Peluso and Albert Innarelli.**

**YOUTH MINISTRY MISSION TRIP  
SILENT AUCTION, BAKE SALE  
& SPECIAL COLLECTION**



**SUPPORT OUR TEENS** - next weekend, January  
28th/29th, our youth group mission trip team will  
have a silent auction of their own services after every  
Mass in the atrium. Please look over the "auction  
preview sheet" in today's bulletin. The mission team will also be  
hosting a **bake sale** and taking up a **second collection** next week-  
end to help defer the costs of sending a group of 36 on the mis-  
sion trip this year. ***This is our largest group ever!***



Dear Fellow Parishioners of Saint Catherine of Siena,

Father Whyte has often encouraged us all during his homilies to become involved. He also adds that he's not asking "everyone to do everything," he's just asking "everyone to do something." That is exactly what you all did this Christmas Season through our 2011 Advent Giving Tree Project. Your monetary donations raised over \$39,000 for both Pantry Partners of Saint Catherine and the Malta Mobile House of Care, our two beneficiaries this year. *That is truly amazing given our tough economic climate.* Now both organizations will be able to effectively reach out and serve those in need in their communities. This generosity is just one of the many reasons that make me so proud to be a part of this parish family.

On behalf of all who worked on this project, Thank You from the bottom of my heart for supporting this project so enthusiastically. May God bless you with a happy and healthy 2012!

**Karen Carew**  
**Chair, Advent Giving Tree Project**

### **FROM FATHER MICHAEL...**

"**The Call.**" Woe that it were always that easy—as easy as today's first reading and Gospel makes it appear. In the Gospel, Simon and Andrew and James and John just "dropped everything and followed Jesus." Jesus calls, they follow. Jonah, from this abbreviated first reading, heard the call and "made ready and went to Nineveh, according to the Lord's bidding." It is not that easy—at least not for most of us.

And it wasn't for Jonah either. In the whole story of Jonah we know, according to historians, that "Jonah was living an unremarkable and presumably happy life...Jonah's first reaction was to resist the Lord's call and to run away. It was only after a series of adventures, culminating in the episode with the great fish, that the reluctant prophet accepted his calling and took God's message to Nineveh."

Jonah seemed to have the idea that he knew what was best for his happy life and so at first retreated from God's call to become the great prophet who would preach conversion to the pagan inhabitants of Nineveh. Like Jonah, many of us work hard to tune-out the call of discipleship. We think it is easier to go about our merry lives at our own speed and by our own direction.

For me it was not until the age of 34 that I would give the "calling" a chance to germinate and grow into a comfortable feeling. Even though I thought about priesthood since I was a little boy, when future opportunities presented themselves for real consideration and action, I always opted for another route: college, graduate school, work...and then finally a retreat to consider priesthood which turned into a year of investigations on my part—meeting with the vocation office and other priests—until finally entering the seminary for a seven year academic and formation program. Stubborn?

For others, the route to discipleship—which means much more than priesthood, diaconate or entering into religious life—might not take as long but still can find the road filled with pot-holes, speed bumps or wrong turns. Maybe God is calling someone to be a mother or father but the idea of a career or a human-created time table becomes the roadblock. Discipleship might call someone to mentor a child, care for an elderly family member, or be a counselor to a friend in trouble. Perhaps discipleship is a call to be a catechist on Sunday mornings, become a youth minister and impact the lives of our youth and the future life of the Church, or take on the leadership of a church ministry that reaches out to others and draws them closer to Christ. Discipleship and God's great plan have many parts and calls for all kinds of "actors." Auditions are always being held but more often than not we simply won't answer the "casting call." We may think we are too busy with life, the kids or work; or maybe we feel unworthy of serving God because of how we used to be. Never! God knows the clay from which he has formed us and He knows that we can do anything with His grace and that He never calls anyone to something they cannot accomplish with Him at their side. Perhaps alone we may fail but with God "nothing is impossible" even if things do not work out as we had planned them.

Many times the inability or refusal to answer God's call to discipleship comes not from being too busy or feeling unworthy but rather from a fear of change in our lives. Sometimes our plans are "set in stone" and we are so determined to make them come to fruition that we cannot see the hand of God at work when our hopes, our desires—our plans—don't work out. Maybe when our lives seem to be in an upheaval it might be time to take a new look to see if God is at work moving us in another direction?

In today's second reading from 1 Corinthians, St. Paul is very clear in calling us to "set our eyes on God." Paul expected the second coming to be immediate and called his contemporaries not to become caught up in everyday life at the expense of turning to God. If we are so busy with the daily activities of life that we cannot take time to know God and what He asks of us then we miss the big picture—the meaning of our existence. The busyness of life will only help to block the call from God.

The word "repentance" is not a popular word in our modern vocabulary but the root, "repent," means to "change one's mind." Repentance means to look at the direction of our lives and see if that direction is leading us to God and Godly things or in a different direction. We must all be open minded to change and to a new heading...one that is formed out of truth and calls us to Godly ways. We come to that understanding by spending time with God: in prayer, in study, in peace and silence, and in action so that we may come to know Him and what He asks of us. Let that be our New Year resolution.

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I just want to echo the words and sentiments noted by Karen Carew at the top of this column regarding your collective "answer" to this year's Advent Giving Tree Project. Wow!!!

Your caring and thoughtfulness and extreme generosity are so very powerful in the face of countless hardships and everyday struggles for so many people in our area and in the Greater Hartford region. It is heartwarming to see such Christian charity. And that is what it is—Christian charity—Christian grace—God's grace at work in and through your lives.

Thank you.

**End of Bulletin**  
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