

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Sunday, July 24th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Margaret Finneran**, requested by the O'Bryan Family.
- Sunday, July 24th, @ 10:00AM, Mass for **Martin Hollis**, requested by the Gorecki Family.
- Saturday, July 30th, @ 5:00PM, 1st Anniversary Mass for **Gerald Boudreau**, requested by the Catholic Transcript.
- Sunday, July 31st, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Jean Gormley**, requested by Richard & Mary Lou Gallagher.
- Sunday, July 31st, @ 10:00AM, Mass for **Martin Hollis**, requested by the Prayer Shawl Ministry.
- Saturday, August 6th, @ 5:00PM, Special Intention, 12th Wedding Anniversary Mass for **Cari & Ken Donaldson**.
- Sunday, August 7th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Vivian Shramek**, requested by Sue & Bob Hensley.
- Sunday, August 7th, @ 10:00AM, Mass for **Tommy Tanski**, requested by the Amenta Family.
- Sunday, August 14th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Jim Frulla**, requested by the Frulla Family.
- Sunday, August 14th, @ 10:00AM, Mass for **Martin Hollis**, requested by the Wall Family.
- Monday, August 15th, @ 8:30AM, 1st Anniversary Mass for **Andy Potoczny**, requested by the Potoczny Family.

Please call the office @ 658-1642 for Mass Intentions. If you would like to bring up the gifts in the offertory procession, please let the usher know when you arrive at church. Mass Intentions remind us of our Christian duty to pray for our dearly departed.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

ATTENTION PARENTS: ALL FORMS, DOCUMENTS AND LETTERS ARE NOW ON THE WEBSITE available in PDF format for your convenience. Simply go to our website www.stcatherine.info and you'll be connected to our site, click on "Ministry" and the drop down under Religious Education.



RE-REGISTRATIONS - registration forms are on the website, or email Kathidre@aol.com to receive a form via email. All re-registration forms must include the \$50.00 late fee as the books have been ordered and the contract mailed to the Board of Education. **NEW STUDENT REGISTRATIONS** - registrations for New Students to our Religious Education Program can be found in the vestibule and atrium of the church. Please attach a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate if you were baptized at a parish other than Saint Catherine of Siena.



CATECHISTS NEEDED!! We presently have openings in Grade 1, 2, 4 and 8. For more info & details please contact Kathi Bonner, DRE, @ Kathidre@aol.com or call 860/658-4737.



SCRIP TIP



Did you know that many of our local merchants offer a larger rebate back to Saint Catherine of Siena? Andy's Deep-water Seafood, and New England Pasta Company all offer rebates from 7.5% to 10%!! So when planning your meals or a cookout with friends you can support our local merchants and help Saint Catherine of Siena all at the same time!

Remember, when purchasing cards on-line, please use the Saint Catherine of Siena enrollment code number 7A65C56C279L1, stop by the scrip desk to order or look in the atrium for order forms. Fill one out and drop it off at the parish office with your check, we'll be happy to process your order!

CARDS ON SALE - for the weekend of July 30/31, cards will be on sale after the 8:00AM and 10:00AM Masses on Sunday.



LAZARUS COMMITTEE...



Are you a woodworking hobbyist or an accomplished woodworker? We are looking for someone who can build a tri-fold screen (or two) to be used for small receptions. Nothing fancy, just something we can use to create a more intimate space within the larger space of Russell Hall. Please contact **Mary Ellen Henry** @ 860/408-9019.



Who has had the single-most influence on your faith life? A parent? A priest? A friend or family member?

Why not make a gift to the parish Legacy Fund in honor of his or her name. Memorial gifts are a wonderful opportunity for you to remember a loved one in a very meaningful way, and help support the eternal work of Saint Catherine of Siena.

Offertory Collection - July 17, 2011



Regular Collection	\$ 8,980.81
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 1,183.81
Envelopes	\$ 7,797.00
Budgeted for Week:	\$ 9,000.00
Shortage:	- \$ 19.19
Cathedradicum*	- \$ 493.94
School Tax*	- \$ 493.94

Thank you for your generous support!

* 5.5% of Collection paid to the Archdiocese.

FROM FATHER MICHAEL...

This 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time has us listening to three more parables about the Kingdom of Heaven: both parables see two men sell *everything they have* in order to possess one thing—the Kingdom of God. Hence, the common theme in these two parables is totality: selling everything one possesses in order to “buy” or acquire something that they deem of the utmost value—eternal life with God.

The third “parable du jour,” of the net full of good and bad fish, brings us back to the discussion of the Last Judgment and is reminiscent of last weekend’s parable of the wheat and the weeds. At the final judgment, Christ tells us that He will separate the good from the bad, sending the bad to live in eternal punishment while the good will feast on the Divine Presence for all eternity. So Jesus ends his teaching in today’s gospel with praise for those who “understand Him, and who, like good stewards, can understand the things of old, and yet be open to the new things happening in their midst.”

How can we discern what is “good” from the past and blend it into what is proper in our own times? For this we turn to today’s first reading, 1 Kings, where Solomon, David’s son, is favored by The Lord. Solomon has been anointed King and has married well, to the Pharaoh’s daughter, and his nation is now at peace. Things seem very good and so Solomon begins the building of the Temple for the praise and glory of God. Scripture tells us that God bids Solomon to ask Him for *anything* he wants. Rather than seek something of a personal benefit, Solomon asks for Wisdom for his people. You know the rest of the story... God is pleased with Solomon’s request, and the Wisdom of Solomon has become a proverb.

Wisdom is the greatest blessing from God. It enables one to know God and to know His ways, thus living a life that is pleasing to God and ultimately bringing one into the presence of God eternally. We come to the Wisdom of God by knowing His word. In sacred scripture we come to know how God hopes we will live our lives, and in knowing God’s word we can come to understand what God desires us to be: what is good of old and what is of benefit in our midst. We come to recognize truth—in all generations—and truth that is absolute (what is true in year one is true today. Truth does not change according to the desires of the times). The more we grow in God’s Word and Wisdom the more we will understand what we are called to be: God’s image and likeness.

In deciding what is good from of old, we need to understand from whence it came. Just as one cannot judge the past with current knowledge, one cannot understand the ways of the ancients without knowing their lives. Our Catholic Faith is full of ancient traditions and rituals. When one considers these things just “pageantry” or “a show,” then one can consider them obsolete and useless... a thing of the past. But if one comes to understand the reason for something and sees its significance and meaning, then one can come to understand the intrinsic and intergenerational value of things. And when one is talking about “truth,” e.g., the sanctity of human life or the value of a family comprised of a mother, a father, and children, then one understands that truths hold firm from age to age, even when the idea of what is convenient changes. At the same time, one who is full of Wisdom can come to see that while truth does not change, people and the variables of life can be open to discernment and assimilation. Here we need to understand this in terms

of the Old and the New Testaments. The Old Testament finds its fulfillment in the New—Jesus. Old and New are of powerful value and we should not see the old as being replaced with the new but rather fulfilled in it.

In our second reading for this weekend, from Romans, we have to an understanding of the all-knowing, all-seeing Wisdom of God, who knows all things from the beginning, chose us, called us, and destined us for glory. So with this knowledge, we have nothing to fear—“we know that all things work for good for those who love God.” (Romans 8:28).

Holy Communion... in the last few weeks I have had a number of interesting conversations on the topic of Holy Communion at the Catholic Mass and its relationship to “communion” in services at other Christian faiths. Many good people have actually told me that they have attended services at other churches and have taken communion because “it is the same.” I have also heard others say that “I feel uncomfortable while at another faith’s service and I don’t go up for communion.” This is of concern, to say the least. Our Roman Catholic Faith teaches that our Holy Communion is the real presence of Christ—“body, blood, soul and divinity” in the Eucharistic meal, the consecrated bread and wine. We do not believe, nor do we as Church teach, that our Holy Communion, when validly consecrated at Mass by an ordained member of the clergy in good standing and with faculties from the bishop, is just a “sign or symbol”, but rather is actually the body and blood of Christ **because Christ Himself told us this; He held this to be the absolute truth, and because we are an Apostolic Church which has an unbroken tradition—given to us by Christ—and handed on to us by His successors, the apostles and their heirs, our bishops.** Our church, and thus our sacraments, where founded by Christ and handed over to His successors to be maintained *in fidelity*, so as to be at the service of His people, the body of Christ.

We give great reverence to this sacrament, which we consider to be the source and the summit of our faith, by the way we treat it. Thus, it is not *exclusive* to offer this sacrament only to those who believe in this truth and are in union with the Church of Rome. If a non-Catholic attends our Mass and does not receive Communion, that act of sitting back at Holy Communion is actually a sign of respect to our faith and to those who hold this sacred bread to be the actual body of Christ. Likewise, a Catholic in attendance at another faith’s service, e.g., at a funeral or wedding, who at that faith’s communion refrains from receiving also shows respect for that faith’s traditions. Respect at times is acknowledging a difference with dignity and grace; not participating is not an automatic “we think less of you” or “we are better than you” but rather a recognition and respect for differences. Unfortunately, our politically correct world calls everything and everyone to “sameness” as though equality means there are no differences. It does not.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS GREAT CAUSE!

**BEN NASCIMBENI, JR. MEMORIAL
GOLF CLASSIC**



A golf tournament will be held on Friday, August 19th, 2011 at Simsbury Farms with proceeds to benefit Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Donation: \$150/per golfer, \$50/cookout only. Contact Ben Nascimbene @ 860/658-9327 or bbnascimbene@sbcglobal.net

ST. ELIZABETH HOUSE



Members of our church community will be preparing and serving dinners to the residents on Sunday, July 31st. If you would like to help by providing part of the meal or join us in serving it, please sign up in the atrium. Donated items should be at church by 3:45PM on Sunday, July 31st. We will leave Saint Catherine of Siena by 4PM and return by 6:15PM. Please call **Bill or Pat Walsh @ 658-2606** with any questions.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED!



School supplies are needed to help children of Hartford. Please donate the following items for Family Life Ministry to distribute to the children: backpacks, calculators, notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, 3 ring binders, loose leaf paper, markers, crayons, erasers, and glue. All items can be placed in the boxes in the vestibule and atrium.

Help children be all that they can be!

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

Angel Food Ministry volunteers want to recognize those who donated in Memory of Martin Hollis. Through the generosity of 26 donors, \$1,568.00 was received which is enough to provide 43 families in the month of July. We are most appreciative of Martin's friends and family for their recognition of this important ministry.



It cost between \$1,600 and \$1,800 each month to be able to give some assistance to individuals in need in our community. At present, we are able to sustain our mission through the summer only. Please consider using an envelope found in the atrium and vestibule for a donation. Please make the check out to St. Catherine of Siena, AFM on the line item. Distribution Day is 7/30 at 12:00 Noon.

SUMMER VACATIONS



If you are spending the summer elsewhere, please keep your Saint Catherine of Siena community in your prayers - the Masses continue and the many, many ministries and programs work equally as hard during the summer months to meet the needs of those who require our assistance.

You may continue to send your contribution envelopes while on vacation, to the parish office, P.O. Box 184, West Simsbury, CT 06092 *Thank-you!*

FROM OUR SEMINARIAN...

My Experiences at Migration and Refugee Services—Part Two

I first became familiar with Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) about five years ago when an influx of refugees from Myanmar, the Karen community who had suffered persecution in their homeland and had lived in refugee camps in Thailand, were resettled in Hartford. Many became part of my parish community, the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. MRS, a group of parishioners, and a dedicated priest from Burma worked to meet the personal and spiritual needs of the Karen. I have witnessed their adaptation to American life and their participation in our parish as altar servers, children's choir members, and ushers. I am also the proud godfather of nine Karen refugees. Thus, this summer I went to Catholic Charities with great respect for all that MRS does, and now that I have been working there, I have gained new insight into their many services. I have been working in two areas. First, I have been assisting in English classes. Every week we do not know how many students will attend a class, so we must be creative in meeting the diverse needs of many students (perhaps forty or more). I might work on basic pronunciation one week and vocabulary the next. I have become adept in mime, rocking an imaginary baby in my arms or putting on an invisible jacket. A rainy Friday resulted in a class on clothing and weather; a permission slip requesting contact information led to a lesson on family relationships. The office also integrates some basic job skills into the lessons—perhaps setting a table, making a bed, or wrapping boxes and presents. The focus is on the skills and on necessary vocabulary.

In the classroom, it is heartening to see the students help one another. It is also heartening to see their joy. An ESL instructor commented that the students have so little happiness in their lives, so each lesson must bring them some joy. For example, each student went away with the small gift he or she wrapped. Several even asked for the empty sample boxes simply because they were so pretty. An elderly woman from Nepal was enchanted with a framed drawing of a cherub sitting at a pond, the most sentimental of images and something I could not imagine common in her own culture, and she asked me to tell her the name of each object in the drawing—cherub, wings, roses, pond. In addition to her wrapped present, she went home with this picture, clutching it to herself as a grandmother might clutch a child (and as I, just half an hour earlier, held an imaginary baby in my arms).

These ESL lessons have become lessons in culture, for them and for me. For example, in their culture a common gift would be food (and not boxes of Harry and David pears or Godiva Chocolates) rather than the expensive items we often give. Their notions of family relationships are also different than ours, so that while I am teaching them vocabulary I am also teaching them about American ideas of "family" and learning about their culture's views of family. I have also been sitting in on meetings with clients for the many immigration services offered by Migration and Refugee Services. I have learned so much about the challenges of migrants and refugees, their dreams of reuniting with their families, their struggles to secure green cards and become citizens. I will bring all of this back with me, God willing, as a parish priest someday.

The work of Catholic Charities is informed by the love of Christ. Many of the clients are not Catholic, but the work of all of us there is infused by Catholic social teaching. When I first met with Judith Gough, the Director of MRS, she emphasized that, while many of the clients are not Catholic, the Office's work is grounded in the teaching of Christ. Over the past weeks, I have learned about the lives of those people I had often passed on Market Street. They have become part of my life.

James Gentile

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Run #

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