

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Saturday, November 19th, @ 5:00PM, Birthday Remembrance for **JoAnne Buehler**, requested by her Family.
- Sunday, November 20th, @ 8:00AM, 2nd Anniversary Mass for **Nancy Tribou**, requested by her Family.
- Sunday, November 20th, @ 11:00AM, **White Mass**.
- Sunday, November 20th, @ 5:00PM, 11th Anniversary Mass for **Kevin Brimmer**, requested by the Brimmer Family.
- Tuesday, November 22nd @ 8:30AM, Birthday Remembrance for **Tom West, Jr.** and **Tom West, Sr.**, requested by Mom & Wife, Betty.
- Wednesday, November 23rd, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Victor Bellacosa & The Glory of God**, requested by Theresa & Bob Bellacosa.
- Saturday, November 26th, @ 5:00PM, Birthday Remembrance for **Richard Millham**, requested by Anne Millham.
- Sunday, November 27th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **John & Elizabeth Gaiser**, requested by Barb & Ben Nascimbeni.
- Sunday, November 27th, @ 11:00AM, Mass for **Martin Hollis**, requested by Terri Hollis.
- Sunday, November 27th, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Rita Cross**, requested by Sue & George Paul.
- Tuesday, November 29th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Frank Doran**, requested by Vincent Kennedy.
- Wednesday, November 30th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Kathleen Cosgrove Hannon**, requested by the Nagle Family.
- Friday, December 2nd, @ 8:30AM, 4th Anniversary Mass for **Tom West, Jr.** and **Tom West, Sr.**, requested by Mom & Wife, Betty.



## WEDDING BANNS

*Bann III - Molly Daniels & Patrick Tebecio*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Monday, Nov. 21st, 7PM - **Communications Mtg.** - Library
- Tuesday, Nov. 22nd, 7:30PM - **Men's Club SCC** - Library
- Wednesday, Nov. 23rd, 9:15AM - **Advent Bible Study** - Library
- Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 6:45PM - **Parish Council** - Russell Hall
- Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 7:30PM - **Men's Club SCC** - Library

## Offertory Collection for 11/13/11

<b>Weekly Collection:</b>	<b>\$15,988.75</b>
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 1,534.75
Envelopes	\$14,454.00
<b>Budgeted for Week:</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>
<b>Overage:</b>	<b>\$ 6,988.75</b>
<b>Cathedralicum*</b>	<b>- \$ 879.38</b>
<b>School Tax*</b>	<b>- \$ 879.38</b>
<b>All Saints Day Collection:</b>	<b>\$ 519.00</b>
<b>Refurbishment/Repair:</b>	<b>\$ 5,618.90</b>



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

## UPCOMING COLLECTION

**CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT—11/20/11**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

**CONFIRMATION I & II** will meet on Sunday, Dec. 4th.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION** is Sunday, November 20th, at 3PM in the church. All 2nd graders should be at the church no later than 2:45PM.

**SPORTS SUNDAY!** - our next Sports Sunday is today, November 20th, and we will celebrate college football. All students and catechists are welcome to come to Religious Education in your favorite college football attire. We celebrate rivalries in a fun and respectful way.



**THANK YOU** to our Grade 4 catechists, Mr. Hall, Mrs. DeFelice, Miss Casey, Miss Lauren, and Miss Buda for their work in preparing our 4th graders for their Mass last Sunday. Congratulations to our 4th graders for their prayerful participation in this Mass.



**GRADE 3** - The Christmas Pageant rehearsals are underway, but already we are behind because of the storm cancellations. Please make sure your child does not miss class for the next few Sundays unless ill, so that they are able to rehearse for our lovely **Christmas Pageant on Saturday, December 17th, at 11AM.**

## Praying for All Souls

You will find ALL SOULS envelopes in the vestibule and atrium. Take one, fill out the names of your loved ones who have died, and place them in the collection basket. I keep them and will pray the breviary all month for them. During Masses on Fridays in November we will celebrate morning prayer in the context of Mass for the names of your dearly departed. Let us keep this tradition alive and keep our family and friends' noble souls in our prayers. This is the



## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY



Kathi Bonner, our director of Religious Education, will offer a Advent Bible Study program on Wednesday mornings for 5 weeks beginning on 11/23 in the library. Registration forms are on the table in the atrium.



## FROM FATHER MICHAEL...

*Can you believe it!? Christmas decorations! Jingle Bells! Man-made cheer* being pumped through every mall store and elevator—Christmas stuffed in between the 75% off Halloween candy and the yet-to-be-sold Thanksgiving turkeys. It should make any good Catholic want to break out into an old fashion rage about the overly and far-too-early commercialization of Christmas—the birth of our Lord and Savior—the “reason for the Season.” Each year we move at warp speed to get to Christmas, often times making *that Day* a huge let down. Before you know it, the dinner is history and the gifts are piled up in anticipation of the other “Great Day of the Return.” How did we get here? *Where did Advent go? What are we really preparing for?*

In the modern world of the “almighty dollar” and the need to be politically correct, it might seem nearly impossible to separate oneself from the cultural celebration of Christmas—fighting the crowds in the malls (and getting aggravated—and I do—that the Dreidle, with a religious meaning, can be displayed at West Farms Mall but the crèche is somehow offensive), over stressed house parties, Christmas songs before the turkey, television specials galore, the lighting of the national “holiday” tree and more. Maybe rather than fight the early advance of Christmas we should learn how to better prepare for Christmas so that its true meaning enters into our own celebrations. Here are some suggestions to help you to focus on Advent within your family home:

- Families with young children can use an **Advent Calendar** where the children can open a new window each day, focusing on the scriptural meaning of the day, and to learn more about preparing for Christ in our lives. Many Advent calendars come with a booklet explaining the meaning of the sacred texts;
- **Advent Wreaths**—kits offered by our parish or purchased online or in many book stores and other venues—enable families to build their own symbol of Advent, place it on the dining room or kitchen table, and to remind themselves each day of what the Lord is doing for them—blessing them—by saying the evening meal prayer as they light the candle;
- One can purchase the *Magnificat Advent Companion*—online at Amazon.com or other sites—which will provide step-by-step descriptions of the days of Advent and the meaning of the holy season and how we can apply it to our daily activities of life;
- Other ways to gradually prepare for the Lord’s birth are to **slowly decorate for Christmas**. Perhaps one can use **purple bows on door wreaths** for the first three weeks of Advent, changing them to red bows in the last week of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. Decorate a small **Jesse tree with Old Testament-related decorations (an apple, a lion, Noah’s Ark, etc)**;
- Waiting until December 18<sup>th</sup> the traditional day in which the Advent stories shift to the events leading up to the birth of Christ, to hang lights on outside trees or putting up the outdoor lawn decorations. And maybe the Christmas tree in our home could go up the week before Christmas rather than right after Thanksgiving Day?

And most certainly when displaying the **Crèche**, either inside or outside, just put out the stable and animals—keeping the Holy Family and the Three Kings out of sight until the day of Christmas or Christmas Eve.

Advent is a season of preparation—and what we are preparing for is the birth of God made man—His coming into humanity so that we and our destiny will be changed for ever. This is something that should require some reflection and

preparation—time to consider what it truly means for our own, personal lives and our family. It is not a time to rush, to be aggravated, to just “get it over with,” or to be confused as to the real meaning of the Season. It is Holy. It is God. And He did this for you and me.

### **Advent Giving Program:**

**The Knights of Malta and Pantry Partners of Saint Catherine of Siena** will round off our *Advent Giving Program* this year and help to make 2012 a happier, healthier, and more well-fed year both for our Simsbury neighbors who are hungry and struggling in this economy and for the poor of Hartford who go without vital medical care.

**You** are the answer for neighbors needing food and mothers and babies needing neonatal care and the elderly getting their high blood pressure medication. **It can be that simple! And you can make the difference!** On December 4 at the 11 a.m. Mass the **Malta Mobile House of Care** will visit St. Catherine of Siena Parish so that we can see, in an interactive way, just how the vehicle works and what your support will mean for those in need. You will see where your donation goes and what good it avails for those who have no doctors, no medicine, and no help at all. Then, **Pantry Partners of St. Catherine** will also have signage to illustrate how your generous support helps our very own neighbors in need. While it is hard to believe that there are many families and senior citizens who struggle in our community, families who cannot find full time work and seniors who have worked hard all their lives yet their pensions have been raided or investments wiped out and now must turn to others for help. It is a hard thing to do, I am sure—and even more difficult to do in the season that is supposed to be full of joy and hope, a time of family—that must hurt. We can help. We can soften the heartache. During the weeks of Advent, **from November 27 until December 24**, our parish will be asking our parishioners to **prayerfully consider** what each one of us can do to help these two ministries. While times are more difficult than ever for everyone, we are all blessed and can hopefully do something. I know we just have to think about it and look deep into our hearts. The power of numbers is impressive—the more who come forward to help, the more help we can provide.

**For some folks the idea of the Catholic Church asking for money seems ever-present and a source of complaints. I do not apologize for that! In fact, I think it is a badge of honor.** Our Church is the largest single entity of good works and charity in the entire United States of America, after government. No one provides for the needs of the homeless, the care of the sick and the elderly, the education of immigrants and reformed prisoners; who else provides hospital care in all cities—Hartford, Boston, Albany, Pittsburg and others—not just the major cities like Manhattan or Los Angeles? It is the Catholic Church! And after all the food, shelter, education, hospital and medical care, the Church then goes one step further, she provides untold amounts of pastoral care through her priests in the sacramental life of the church and by many well-trained lay volunteers in ministries healing lives after abortions, in bereavement from the loss of a child or spouse, and much, much more. It is amazing. It is amazingly Catholic. It is you—who make up the Body of Christ on earth, the Catholic Church. Thank you for all that you do in the name of Christ and His Church.

**PEACE,  
FATHER MICHAEL**

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Church: St. Catherine of Siena

City: West Simsbury, Connecticut

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Run #

Routing Code: O

Phone: 860.658.1642

Fax: 888.297.3134

Contact: Linda Butler