

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Sunday, October 2nd, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Tommy Tanski**, requested by the Wednesday Night Small Christian Community.
- Sunday, October 2nd, @ 11:00AM, Mass for **Margaret Finneran**, requested by Julia & Myles McCabe.
- Sunday, October 2nd, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Teresa Hegarty**, requested by the Newman Family.
- Monday, October 3rd, @ 8:30AM, Month's Mind Mass for **John Gavin**, requested by Anne Millham.
- Saturday, October 8th, @ 5:00PM, Anniversary Mass for **James Dillon**, requested by Helen Dillon.
- Sunday, October 8th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **John F. Keane**, requested by Fr. Whyte.
- Sunday, October 9th, @ 11:00AM, Anniversary Mass for **Jack Carenza**, requested by the Carenza Family.
- Sunday, October 9th, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Jim Frulla**, requested by the Frulla Family.
- Tuesday, October 11th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Janice W. Moran**, requested by the Buda Family.
- Wednesday, October 12th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Ethel & John Zekas**, requested by Barb & Dick Hopkins.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Tuesday, October 4th, 7PM - **Social Justice Committee** -Library
- Tuesday, October 11th, 7PM - **Finance Council** - Rectory
- Tuesday, October 11th, 6:30PM - **Women's Club Pot Luck**

WEDDING BANNS

Bann III - Marianna Mahoney & Jonathan Stellato



PARENTS!!! YOUTH MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for parents who would be willing to help out at the **SCAVENGER HUNT on October 16th, from 6-7:30PM**. Please email Judy Pluta at JudyPlutaYM@gmail.com if you can help or have any questions.

Offertory Collection for 9/25/11

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Collection: | \$ 9,755.45 |
| Loose Cash/Checks | \$ 1,420.45 |
| Envelopes | \$ 8,335.00 |
| Budgeted for Week: | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Overage: | \$ 755.45 |
| Cathedralicum* | - \$ 536.55 |
| School Tax* | - \$ 536.55 |
| HOPES Collection | \$ 2,260.00 |



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

**UPCOMING COLLECTION:
REFURBISHMENT & REPAIR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2011**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



CONFIRMATION II Class meets tonight, Sunday, October 2nd, at 6:15PM for the Steve Angrisano performance. Please go to your class for attendance first. Class will end at the usual time of 8PM. *Mrs. Hanshaw's class will not meet at Henry James this morning.*

GRADE 2 PARENTS: The First Reconciliation Parent Meeting is today, October 2nd, at 9:30AM in the cafeteria. This meeting is mandatory for one parent but both are welcome to attend.

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES on Sunday, October 9th, due to the Columbus Day holiday weekend. All classes will resume on Sunday, October 16th.

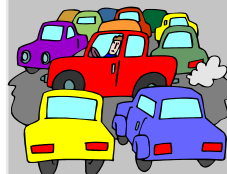
"FEED THE HUNGRY" YOUTH GROUP

The group served lunch at St. Elizabeth House on Saturday, 9/24, for 155 people. This month's youth volunteers included Brenna Sullivan, Liz O'Hara, Stephanie Sickinger, Zoe Wollert, and Mikayla Sheary. Chaperones included Karen Sickinger and Lisa Sheary.



NEXT SHELTER VISIT- 10/22 - contact **Mrs. Sheary** at lisasheary@remax.net if you can help.

SCRIP TIP...



Haven't Tried Scrip Yet? Well, what are you waiting for? Purchase Scrip cards after Mass or for use at your frequently shopped stores and you will be contributing a percentage that your store has agreed to give back to St. Catherine to **help fund our parish parking lot campaign**. If you buy a \$100 Stop & Shop Scrip Card, Stop & Shop gives back \$5.00 to the Parish—at no cost to you. Are you a big Lands End Shopper? A \$100 Scrip card will provide St. Catherine with \$16.00—at no cost to you! Its all in the numbers: the more people who buy our Scrip Cards the more "free" money our parish receives. Any questions on how the program works, visit us in the Atrium after Mass and don't forget your check books!

Buy Scrip cards on-line at www.shopwithscrip.com, use the Saint Catherine enrollment code **7A65C56C279L1**. Or stop by the Scrip desk after Mass 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! October 8th/9th cards will be on sale after the 5:00PM Vigil & the 8:00AM and 11:00AM Sunday Masses.

Thanks for your support!!!

FROM FATHER MICHAEL...

“**Staying the Course...**” It is not just an old political campaign slogan from the late President Ronald Reagan’s re-election campaign, it is a phrase that pops into my head—often—when I, as a Catholic priest, am asked by Catholics and non-Catholics alike about “changing or updating Church teachings” on any given issue. Whether in the Confessional or just in a conversation around our town, well-meaning folks frequently will ask why the Church can’t change its outlook on the death penalty or cloning or the definition of marriage, or even on the definition of life itself. I am the first to admit that many of the Church’s teachings are difficult to carry out—we also must realize that the questions being asked are also difficult one—and more often than not, many folks’ understanding of what the Church is teaching comes not from the Church but from the secular and often times ignorant media or from finagled presentations in movies or on television. It is rare that the Catechism of the Catholic Church is ever sourced in one of these conversations.

Staying the Course can also be translated into “being faithful” (not to human law but) to God’s law. Today’s Gospel from Matthew and the metaphor used is a great example of why “fidelity” is important. Allow this thought for just a moment:

Vines are considered sturdy plants which are usually found in moderate or mild or warm temperatures—think of Italy, the Middle East, even sunny California--, but they can and do thrive in less clement regions—such as New England. Just travel about Connecticut and see signs for vineyards in some of the most “unexpected” places. There are two types of vines, ones that grow wild and bring about fruit of the same nature—wild, bitter, and often not very useful. Then there are cultivated vines which produce more abundant fruit and are used for wine or dried for items such as raisins. The cultivated vines are many times used by the ancient people as a metaphor for the reign of God—they have been cared for and now can produce great results—delicious wines or dried and beneficial fruits. Today’s gospel metaphor describes “a cultivated vineyard that must be tended and protected. In order that its life force be put to the best possible advantage, it needs to be watered and pruned and protected from whatever might hamper its growth. What is also necessary is protection from predators and from those who might rob the owner of its produce. This metaphor notes that while the vines might be hardy, they are also vulnerable. So is the reign of God. It must be tended and protected from whatever might endanger it so that it can produce abundant and delectable fruit.” (1)

We are the cultivated vines of God. He has called us into being, a part of His plan of recreation (regeneration) and salvation. He has baptized us, Confirmed us in His Holy Spirit, nourishes us with His Body and Blood, abundantly forgives our sins, heals our souls, brings us together for the purpose of His plan of family, and selects and maintains us to confer the sacraments—we are cultivated in and by Him. When Jesus came among us as human he taught us the law of God—love, compassion, forgiveness, fidelity. He then created and handed over to His apostles His Church to continue His teachings—not by mere human being alone—but by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate and Paraclete. He will not abandon us. We are now His disciples called to continue this cultivation and protection of His vineyard for the production of the most delectable and beneficial fruit.

Who are the predators? First and foremost, the Evil One and all his accomplices. But we do not slip out of the reign of

God by accident. We deliberately reject it—freely.

Let us re-read the first reading today to ponder that thought. Look at the rebellious vineyard. God was not remiss. The predators come in many forms and temptations and often are helped out along the way by new definitions or silence at the dinner table or in discussions with our children as to why some things are sacred, everlasting. Predators come in neighbors, friends and even relatives who let things slide or buy into the idea that this or that thought, while often times very inconvenient, is simply just old fashion, outdated. Evil is clever. It is not a funny little creature in a red suit. It is a crack in the armor of eternal life that is allowed to widen and deepen right before our eyes—and sometimes not only by our actions but by our inaction or silence.

Those conversations I mentioned at the beginning of this article are not infrequent. Predators are at work all the time. The answers are not always easy to put into daily practices of life. I know that too. But faithfulness is the antidote. Faith in a good and loving God with a strong mixture of trying to do what is right and righteous, even though we may fail. Getting up when that happens, seeking His forgiveness and grace...and being welcomed back with the open, loving and strong arms of Christ. It is our life’s work, in more ways than one.

Peace,
Fr. Michael

Pantry Partners of St. Catherine



New name, same ministry: feed our neighbors in need. Soon new displays and envelopes will be in the vestibule and atrium of the Church for your support of **Pantry Partners of St. Catherine of Siena**, replacing Angel Food Ministry. Working with Andy’s Market right here in town, we will supply local residents who need some short term assistance with their monthly food budget. Your support makes all the difference in the world—right here in Simsbury. Please join us in this vital ministry. We are happy to receive your financial contributions of any amount (make checks payable to St. Catherine of Siena and mark the *memo line* with “**Pantry Partners.**” We are also looking for strong volunteers to help with collecting the food boxes and distribution at St. Catherine. For more info please contact **Louise D’Agosto** at afm.lpd2010@gmail.com

Thanks to Andy’s Market for his generosity in making this ministry local and possible!

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING—Any child in Grade 5-8 who would like to be trained to become an Altar Server may sign up in the atrium of the church or at Henry James Memorial School during Religious Education Classes. **Training will be Tuesday, October 11th - Friday, October 14th, from 4-5PM in the church.** All children must complete at least two (though three are highly recommended) training sessions in order to go on the schedule. Any present Altar Server who would like a refresher may also attend any one or more sessions. Please call **Kathi Bonner** @ 860/658-4737 with any questions.



End of Bulletin
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Run #

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