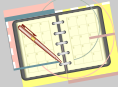


WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



- Saturday, September 17th, @ 5:00PM, Birthday Remembrance for **Joann Kiniry**, requested by Kelly Meuser.
- Sunday, September 18th, @ 8:00AM, Mass for **Lucille Robillard**, requested by Carolyn Gorecki.
- Sunday, September 18th, @ 11:00AM, Mass for **Tommy Tanski**, requested by the Cody Family.
- Sunday, September 18th, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Russell Sniffen**, requested by Lisa & Steve Cerchia.
- Monday, September 19th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Anna Zelno**, requested by Marie & Charles Ludlow.
- Saturday, September 24th, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Jennie Yablonski**, requested by the Cordani Family.
- Sunday, September 25th, 8:00AM, Mass for **Sophie & Arthur Winters**, requested by Barb & Dick Hopkins.
- Sunday, September 25th, @ 11:00AM, 4th Anniversary Mass for **Gloria Farina**, requested by the Duford Family.
- 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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS



Monday, 9/19 - 7PM - **Prayer Shawl Mtg.** - Library
 Tuesday, 9/20 - 6:45PM - **Parish Council** - R.H.

WEDDING BANNS

Bann III - John Marquis & Karina Garcia
 Bann I - Marianna Mahoney & Jonathan Stellato

Offertory Collection for 9/11/11

Weekly Collection:	\$ 12,310.57
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 1,667.20
Envelopes	\$ 10,643.37
Budgeted for Week:	\$ <u>9,000.00</u>
Overage:	\$ 3,310.57
Cathradicum*	- \$ 677.08
School Tax*	- \$ 677.08
Refurbishment & Repair:	\$ 5,255.00



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

UPCOMING COLLECTION
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2011

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

REGISTRATIONS - All Religious Education registrations were due in June. Please check the Religious education page on our website if you are not sure if you have registered your children. **Late registrations will be accepted before September 18th, but must be accompanied by the \$50.00 late fee. If your children are not returning, please contact Kathi Bonner @ 860/658-4737 asap.**



CLASS START DATES - Religious Education Classes begin for Kindergarten - Grade 10 on Sunday, September 18th. **Registrations will not be accepted at Henry James on that day.** Letters with details on the **first day parent meeting** were emailed over the summer and can also be found on the Religious Education page on our website. Class Lists will also be available on our website in early September.

CLASS LISTS - class lists are available for you to view on the parish website www.stcatherine.info

CONFIRMATION II - The **Confirmation I & II schedule** was already emailed to all parents but may also be found on the Religious Education page of our website.



CONFIRMATION II ALERT- the October 2nd Confirmation II evening classes will begin at 6:15PM and end at 8pm here at church. This is a special gathering with the Youth Group for a performance by Steve Angrisano, a nationally know musician and youth minister. The morning class (Mr. Bonner's group) will also attend this evening class rather than in the morning at Henry James. **Please mark your calendars for this fun and memorable evening!**

SCRIP TIP...



Double the benefit for Saint Catherine! Purchase a Stop & Shop gift card and earn points to discount your gas prices. Purchase a Shell gift card to use at the pump when redeeming those points! Two gift cards and double the benefit for our parking lot fund!

Remember, when you want to purchase scrip cards on-line at www.shopwithscrip.com, use the Saint Catherine enrollment code **7A65C56C279L1**. If you prefer not to purchase on-line, stop by the scrip desk or look in the Atrium for scrip order forms. Fill one out and drop it off at the office with your check, we'll be happy to process your order! **For the weekend of September 24th/25th cards will be on sale after the 5:00PM Saturday Vigil and at the 8:00AM & 11:00AM Masses on Sunday.**

FROM FATHER MICHAEL...

Life isn't fair! If I had one dollar for every time I said that to myself, out loud or silently, I would be able to help pay off the state's bloated debt. Well, maybe not so true, after all, life isn't *that* unfair.

But that favorite phrase of many folks does have some truth to it. In fact, life most certainly can be unfair to some but our own personally interpretation of "fairness" is what seems to give so many "legs" to that phrase. Today's Gospel reiterates our idea of human fairness and calls us now to consider how we see fairness in light of God's view—or employment—of fairness.

So... **Life isn't fair!** I prayed for a winning lottery ticket and I "lost" again. He just won't answer my prayers! Week after week I buy tickets and I lose. I should have gotten that promotion, not that "brown-nosing this-and-that who got tapped for the job. Why is my child sick??? Why did my marriage fall apart? Why, O why won't God hear me?!?!? *Just where is that rose garden?*

In today's Gospel of Matthew we hear the parable of the landowner who decides to be generous and pay all of his workers the same daily wage, whether they worked from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. or from 4 p.m. till 5 p.m. It is the landowner of the vineyard who is being magnificently generous and fair beyond all human understanding. And in the face of this generosity and maximus fairness, the workers begin to rumble. "Who does he think he is? I worked all day—in the heat and the grueling sun—and you—you lazy, good-for-nothing-bum worked only one hour, and now you received the same payment as I have?! Where is the fairness? Where is the justice?"

The workers who agreed to a fair and just daily wage for their work are now upset as they feel they have been "taken" and should receive a much higher wage for the full days' work. But they worked for what they agreed was a fair, daily wage. Why be mad? Why not rejoice in the other's good fortune? *Why?* Because we are human and our understanding and definition of fairness is awfully one sided, tainted, if you will, by our own personal definitions of what is "fair." It does seem unfair that those who did so much less should receive the same amount as the ones who did "all the work." In order to get a good grasp on this we need to look at this form of generosity and fairness through the lens of today's first reading, Isaiah 55:6-9, which highlights this generosity and fairness as one of the many mysteries of God—in particular the mystery of His forgiveness. And we all will agree that we truly hope and pray that our God's forgiveness is as broad and generous, as far reaching as possible when we meet Him on the last day.

We all know that the vineyard workers illustrate the work of the Lord and His workers. The Johnnycomelatelies—the five O'clock workers—are those who hear the call late, but who respond to that call. The wages God gives are his love and forgiveness, which are not in proportion to what we have done, but are given solely from the love and generosity of our Father. As human beings we think, especially as disciples, that those of us who are cradle-Catholics and believers, long-term imitators of Christ, should get "better blessings or even more blessings" and sometimes we might even wonder "how is it fair that I do the 'right things' all my life and some "end of life" Catholic or believer now is going to get the same 'reward' as I do?" God is fair and just. He is the source and summit of all forgiveness and blessings. While it certainly makes sense to believe and act as Christ wants us to all our life long, our God is joyful when His children

hear His call and respond—no matter how long it takes. And we are called to rejoice in that "they finally got it" no matter how it takes for someone to believe and trust in God. It does not make our work or our "wages" any less beneficial to us. It only increases the glory which is now given to our Father.

Let us all rejoice in God's generosity and mercy. Let us all be the recipient of His generosity and mercy. God is sempiternal, not bound by time or space, nor are His ways defined by our understandings. For His mercy and forgiveness goes beyond ours and are given to all. In the end, the final, real end, that bountiful generosity is a very good thing for all of us. We are not called to bring God into our ways and understanding but rather are called to live our lives in His mysteries. Thanks be to God! **Life isn't fair, but our God is...and it is His forgiveness that we find so hard to emulate.**

Around the parish: I want to give special thanks to **Barbara Hopkins and all the ladies** who have once again taken care of all the flowers around the church grounds and the Mary Garden. These ladies give so much of their time and talent to see to it that the parish ALWAYS looks beautiful and that the flowers are watered and the weeds are taken up so that these sacred grounds remain a welcoming and inviting place for all who belong or visit here. I greatly appreciate all their work. And a thank you goes out to Mary Ellen Henry and the members of the Lazarus Committee for all the baked goods and their hosting of the reception for the family of Colette Ostapko's funeral on Thursday. I had so many comments from those who attended the funeral Mass that our parish is very welcoming and warm. The **Lazarus Committee** went beyond the call to make our guests feel welcome and to see to it that a difficult day was made so very peaceful. And a quick word of thanks to all our returning and new **catechists** who are giving so much time to make sure we have the best religious education program around. More than 50 individuals make up our team of teachers and professionals making sure that our children have an effective and mutually beneficial experience in learning about their faith. I appreciate all that they do. I mentioned this to our DRE, Kathi Bonner, but want our catechists and our entire parish to know that many of our new families—who are coming from other area parishes—note that our religious education program is a solid program and is actually a draw for many families coming to our parish. This is because of a great DRE and a large number of dedicated, enthusiastic and committed men and women catechists. Thank you to all who serve.

*Peace,
Father Michael*

PARENTS!!!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for parents who would be willing to help out with the WASH AWAY HUNGER car wash on **Saturday, September 24th, from 1-4pm** in the St. Mary's parking lot AND at the STEVE ANGRISANO CONCERT (junior & senior high parents) on **October 2nd, from 6:30-8pm**. Even a small shift of an hour will help us wash away hunger one car at a time. Dads welcome! Please email Judy Pluta at JudyPlutaYM@gmail.com if you can help or have any questions.



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

Church: St. Catherine of Siena

City: West Simsbury, Connecticut

Account # 04-0523

Run #

Routing Code: O

Phone: 860.658.1642

Fax: 888.297.3134

Contact: Linda Butler

This pdf has the corrected page 3. thank you.