

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS



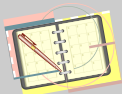
- Saturday, September 3rd, @ 5:00PM, Birthday Remembrance for **Bill Harrington**, requested by Pat Harrington.
- Sunday, September 4th, @ 10:00AM, Mass for **Tommy Tanski**, requested by Fran Sethre.
- Sunday, September 11th, @ 5:00PM, Mass for **Jim Frulla**, requested by the Frulla Family.
- Wednesday, September 14th, @ 8:30AM, 1st Anniversary Mass for **Victor Dowling**, requested by Mary Dowling.
- Friday, September 16th, @ 8:30AM, Mass for **Margaret Finneran**, requested by Friends at St. Mary's School.
- 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.

MUSICIANS AND SINGERS WANTED!



We are a band/ministry of all ages from teens to seniors looking to get bigger and better. Singers and musicians are wanted (especially percussion or bass players) for the start of our new year in September. We typically play twice per month at the Sunday evening Mass and this year we will extend our ministry to some outside venues. It's fun and rewarding and a wonderful way to serve! Please contact **Erin Leavitt-Smith** at 860/658-2998 or **Lou Daniels** at 860/916-3577.

UPCOMING MEETINGS



Tuesday, 9/6 - 6:30PM - **Virtus Training** - R.H.
 Tuesday, 9/13 - 7PM - **Men's Club** - Russell Hall
 Monday, 9/19 - 7PM - **Prayer Shawl Mtg.** - Library
 Tuesday, 9/20 - 6:45PM - **Parish Council** - R.H.

Offertory Collection for August 28, 2011

Weekly Collection:	\$ 3,991.00
<i>Loose Cash/Checks</i>	\$ 516.00
<i>Envelopes</i>	\$ 3,475.00
Budgeted for Week:	\$ 9,000.00
Shortage:	\$ 5,009.00
Cathedralicum*	- \$ 219.50
School Tax*	- \$ 219.50



UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION SEPTEMBER 11TH REFURBISHMENT & REPAIR

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

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

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. 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.

CONFIRMATION I - The **Confirmation I (9th Graders) Enrollment Mass is scheduled for the Saturday, September 10th, 5PM Vigil.** All 9th graders registered for Confirmation class **must attend this Mass.** The mandatory parent meeting will follow Mass in the back of the church. Please watch your email for a follow-up letter with more details. The **Confirmation I & II schedule** was already emailed to all parents but may also be found on the Religious Education page of our website.



SCRIP TIP...



Looking to make a "fresh change". If so, Saint Catherine's scrip program has the card for you! We now carry \$25 Whole Foods Market cards. In addition, if you purchase a card through the scrip program, you can reload the card on-line for any amount between \$25 and \$400. If you are not familiar with Whole Foods Market, they are the world's leader in natural and organic foods. Stop by the scrip table after Mass and pick up your Whole Foods Market cards. It's the most natural way to go organic and green!

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 10th/11th cards will be on sale after the 8:00AM & 11:00AM Masses on Sunday.**

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY



The 2011-2012 Youth Ministry KICK-OFF is Sunday evening, September 11th, from 6:00-7:45PM. Come check it out: FEED THE HUNGRY CAR WASH on September 24th, STEVE AN-GRISANO – LIVE IN CONCERT here on October 2nd, SCAVENGER HUNT on October 16th, S.O.S. HAITI PROJECT this fall and much more. *If you are in grades 9-12, come to the kick-off and get involved in service and fun while making new friends!*

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

Join our NEW Junior High Youth Ministry Program – new this fall.



Parents and teens in 7th and 8th grade, you are invited to a JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY informational meeting on Sunday morning, September 11th, in Russell Hall immediately following the 11:00AM Mass. Please join us for a brief meeting explaining our expanding youth ministry program for junior high students. Interested teens may register to receive the junior high youth ministry newsletter following this meeting. Come join the fun! Bring a friend!! Check it out.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED!



School supplies are needed to help children of Hartford. Please donate the following items: backpacks, calculators, notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, 3 ring binders, loose leaf paper, markers, crayons, erasers, and glue. Place items in boxes in the vestibule/atrium.

**Supporting Family Life Education
Help children be all that they can be!**

**ATTENTION: CATECHISTS, LECTORS,
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
VIRTUS TRAINING SESSION**

A Virtus Training Session has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 6th, at 6:30PM in Russell Hall. All Catechists, Extraordinary Ministers and Lectors must attend one Virtus Training as mandated by the Archdiocesan "Protecting God's Children" initiative. If you have gone to a Virtus training before, you do not need to attend this session. To sign up, please contact Kathi Bonner @ Kathidre@aol.com or Linda Butler in the parish office at 860/658-1642.

WASH AWAY HUNGER!

Do you want to help the youth of our parish wash away hunger? **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



St. Catherine's Youth Group raises money to feed the hungry each month, all year long. Our youth feed 200 homeless people each month. We are a self-funded program, so every donation makes a difference! Our goal is to raise \$5,000!

How can you help? Buy a ticket for a car wash on Saturday, September 24th, from 1-4pm in the parking lot at St. Mary's School, Hopmeadow Street! **Tickets are \$5 and will be on sale in the atrium on September 10/11 and 17/18.** In addition, please review the flier in today's bulletin for other donation levels and help us wash out hunger.

Please stop by the atrium on September 10/11 & 17/18 to buy a ticket, make a donation or sign up to help at the car wash.

**THIS IS OUR ONLY FUNDRAISER ALL YEAR!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Angel Food Ministry News

Did you know that September is Hunger Action Month?! For a day, a week, or a month, spend only \$4/day on food and drink; the average SNAP benefit. How long can you last? (The SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program - is a federal program devoted to effectively ending hunger; formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, it reaches over 200,000 people in Connecticut.) One goal is to make members of our church community more aware that hunger is in our neighborhood and together we are making a real impact. We are helping to end hunger through the Angel Food Ministry. With your financial help and volunteering at Distribution Day, the St. Catherine's community is the Lord in action.

The September menu items are available at the Angel Food Ministry display boxes. Please consider purchasing a box for your own family or making a contribution towards the purchase for someone in need. As always, thank you for your prayers and support.

SEPTEMBER—JUNE MASS SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, September 11th, Sunday Masses will be at 8AM, 11AM & 5PM. The Saturday Vigil remains at 5PM.



FROM FATHER MICHAEL...



For many Americans—the independent spirit that brought about our great nation can seem contrary to the message of God this weekend. Nationally, we were founded on “rugged individualism” and people were held accountable for their actions or inactions. Some pundits would say that today, we the people have “softened” a bit on that aspect evidenced by the large desire of many to have “someone else” take responsibility for their actions. One example, there is a fairly large number of middle-aged (my generation) people who easily accept the idea that financially comfortable senior citizens should “shield” their assets from the government when making end-of-life decisions regarding long-term care. The idea is that the government, through Medicare/Medicaid or other public programs, will pay their expenses so “junior” won’t lose his inheritance. Rather, the federal and state governments (that is, the taxpayers) will pick up the tab. A few months ago I found myself at the CVS pharmacy counter collecting a few prescriptions. When the cashier rang up the co-pays at \$80, a well dressed lady standing next to me said, “Father, that is horrible you have to pay that much.” I noted that the total bill was nearly \$700 and that I got a good deal. There is a feeling among too many that we, as individuals, have no role to play in our own needs. At some point in that logic, buying a car will be a collective responsibility.

That, for many, is a warped understanding of the “needs”.

In a reading from Genesis 4:9, Cain asked God, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” God answers with a resounding “yes.” And so we are since the law that God has given to all of us is a law of relationship, which comes from the sum of the commandments “love of God is love of neighbor.”

We are responsible for each other and we are also responsible for our own actions. Christ, in all of His teachings, reminds us of our personal actions and inactions. There is a cost to everything.

We are our brother’s and sister’s keeper in the sense of having concern for all. Our actions, on every level, impact others. Our decisions should take that into account. Whether we are talking about the speed at which we travel on the roads and the decision to text or talk at the same time; the decision to hold the peoples’ trust in our jobs and then how we treat that sacred trust in our decision making; the words we use in correcting a child or co-worker in private or public; the personal relationships we take on in the context of our vows and marital status; to the idea of how much of the world’s resources I deserve in comparison to others on the same planet. Being our brother’s and sister’s keeper has many shades and color, none of which, however, are meant to wipe away the idea of personal responsibility when it can be part of the equation (when we talk about individuals who are unable, through no fault of their own, to meet their daily human needs), we are called to be their keeper at an extraordinary level of compassion.

In the first reading today from the prophet Ezekiel the prophet is warned to be a watchman to warn the people when danger is approaching. This task is so important to God that to be silent is sinful. The person who does wrong will be punished, but so will the one who knows and says nothing. Love of neighbor is placed in a new light. Truly loving words are not always easy to say or hear. But we are called to speak them to others. To correct

when there is error in faith or misinformation about God’s will. Live and let live is not a commandment but rather a limiting idea of the word “live.” For life here on earth is but a piece of the gift of eternal living. Saint Paul in the second reading today summarizes the commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself” and then makes it even more approachable by saying “love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10).

In the Gospel today we hear what many have called Jesus’ “Tough Love” homily. And His words are not easy to hear or say, but spoken and heard they must be. However, we also need to see in this gospel the great respect Jesus gives to the brother who has done wrong. First, he is spoken to in private—giving him a great sign of respect, then he is spoken to in a small group, and only if need be to the whole community—the Church—where there is power to forgive and to bind sins. This indeed is a tough love homily by Jesus to all. And it calls us all to the dual nature of responsibility. We are indeed responsible for our own actions and inactions and we are called to be a source of strength and a source of Truth (Christ’s Truths) for others. We are indeed our brother’s and sister’s keepers.

In our parish community we are blessed with people who understand this duality of roles. People are hardworking and compassionate. People hold themselves and others up to standards that lift the human spirit and recognize the dignity of all. You are a compassionate community. Reaching out to neighbors in so many different ways. From feeding some 79 families last month through our Angel Food Ministry Program to caring for our own in the Comitas Ministry. From offering help to neighbors in the clean-up of Tropical Storm Irene, to calling the rectory and asking for prayers for others who are suffering an illness or hardship, and for those who have died. You support our youth to be more involved in those around them and they respond in magnificent ways—this week a group of young men and women met with our Youth Minister Judy Pluta and began a leadership team to help expand our Youth Ministry even more. In compassionate and caring ways, individually and collectively, you are your brother’s and sister’s keepers, you are the community to which Christ has called us.

Peace and a happy, safe and enjoyable Labor Day Weekend to all.

- *Father Michael*

SAVE THE DATE ... Saturday, November 5th, for the ***Progressive Dinner***. If you can help out or need additional info, please call **Andrea McDonald @ 860/651-4364**.



MEN’S CLUB MEETING **Tuesday, September 13th, 7PM**

We invite you to join the men of the parish for their first meeting of the year. Bring your ideas and energy and meet fellow parishioners and join in our great activities.

Pizza and libations provided.

**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