



St. Catherine of Siena

31 Asbury Road, Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727

December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent

Parish Office
(732)938-5375
Fax (732)938-3260

Religious Education Office
(732)938-6229

Email:
frontoffice@sienachurch.org

Website:
www.sienachurch.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Friday:
8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Religious Education Office Hours
Monday
8:30 AM to 7:15 PM
Wednesday:
8:30 AM to 5:45 PM

Diocese of Trenton
Most Reverend
David M. O'Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton

Pastor
Rev. Angelito I. Anarcon

Weekend Assistant
Rev. Alfred Burke

Deacon
Deacon Daniel Sakowski

Parish Office Secretary
Carol Morton

Director of Religious Education
Kyle Galante

Religious Education Secretary
Janice Deakyne

Sacristan
Francine Gagliano

Music Director
Alice Kovach

Parish Trustees
Robert Mercado & June Hankel

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00, 10:00, 11:30 AM

Weekday Masses @ Chapel: 9:00 AM
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Miraculous Medal Novena:
Monday, following 9:00 AM Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
1st Friday, following 9:00 AM Mass to 11:00 AM

Baptisms:
2nd Sundays of the month 12:30 PM *Church*

Baptism Classes:
Last Mondays of the month 7:30 PM *Classroom 10*

Children's Liturgy of the Word:
2nd/4th Sundays 11:30 AM *Church*

Confessions:
Saturday: 3:30 to 4:00 PM

Holy Day Masses:
9:00 AM & 7:00 PM *Main Church*

Homebound Ministry:
If a homebound family member, friend, or neighbor would like to receive Holy Communion, visits, or calls, contact the Parish Office.

Knights of Columbus
If interested, please contact Mark Dalton, Grand Knight 732-233-0842

Legion of Mary:
Thursdays 10:00 AM *Conference Room*

Men's Prayer Group:
2nd Saturdays 9:00 AM *Chapel*

RCIA:
1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 PM *Classroom 10*

Rosary Altar Society:
Pray Sunday, December 17, 11:00 AM before 11:30 AM Mass *Church*

Society of St. Vincent de Paul:
732-938-3454
2nd Mondays @ 7:00 PM *Parish Hall*

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR DONATION ENVELOPES FROM THE PARISH HALL THIS WEEKEND

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 2, 2017
 4:30 PM Anthony J. Cammarata
 (Niece, Carol Morton & Family)

Sunday, December 3, 2017
 8:00 AM Sharon Storey
 (Storey Family)

10:00 AM Francs Corr
 (Pam & Leon Davison)

11:30 AM Kathleen Alice Fitzgerald
 (Pat & John Brown)

Weekday Masses @ St. Catherine's Chapel

Monday, December 4, 2017
 9:00 AM Eugene O'Leary
 (Giakas Family)

Tuesday, December 5, 2017
 9:00 AM Madeline Petrillo
 (Anna Petrillo & Family)

Thursday, December 7, 2017
 9:00 AM Madeline Petrillo
 (Paul Petrillo & Wife)

Friday, December 8, 2017 @ Main Church
 9:00 AM Dorothy Smith
 (Pete & Pam Maurer)

7:00 PM Kathleen Alice Fitzgerald
 (Anne Hilker & Patty Joyce)



Be watchful! Be alert!
 You do not know when the time
 will come. — *Mark 13:33*

First Reading — Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel — Mark 13:33-37

Annual Catholic Appeal as of November 13, 2017

166	Donors
17%	Participation Percentage
\$44,000	Overall Goal
\$36,809	Amount Pledged
\$34,095	Amount Paid to Date
84%	of Goal Reached

SICK RELATIVES AND FRIENDS:

MaryAnn Aulisi, Julia Barbato, Jean & Mike Burke, Joseph Cocuzza, Kathleen Cottrell, Nancy Drake, Bob Fort, Angie Gorda, Marlene Gravatt, Lori Jones, Edward Kress, Barbara Lipari, Lauren MacArthur, Teresa Magyar, Margie McCullam, Amber Painter, Esther Peraza, Jeanette Picciani, David Piccolo, Barbara Sansevere, Marie Selvaggi, Nancy Soper, Ilona Supczynski, Sharon Watson-Pereira

Sunday Collection
Week of: 11/19/17

Weekly First Collection	\$6,367.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$1,447.00

Sunday Collection
Week of: 11/26/17

Weekly First Collection	\$6,238.00
Energy & Fuel	\$1,403.00

Next Weekend's Collection
Week of: 12/10/17

Weekly First Collection & Religious Retirement



The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 8 in honor of the Immaculate Conception



through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcomed to the Church:

Julien Michael Silva

We ask God's blessings on these children and their families every day of their lives!

Thank You St. Catherine's Parishioners:

The Knights of Columbus and Rosary Altar Society would like to say "Thank You" to all St. Catherine's Parishioners for your generous donation of winter coats, mittens, scarves and hats to the "Share the Warmth" campaign. We are pleased to inform you that over 100 coats and over 50 mittens, scarves and hats have been collected so far. All our donations were graciously received by Joshua House in Farmingdale. Thank you for your kind and abundant support.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all the parishioners along with the Religious Education program for their support of our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Through your generosity we were able to provide overflowing Thanksgiving Baskets to our neediest clients. We hope your holidays are as wonderful as you have made them for others through your kindness.



Saint Catherine of Siena's Christmas Breakfast with Santa: Please come join us on December 17, 2017 from 11:00AM – 2:00PM for our parish

"Breakfast with Santa." Hosted by The Knights of Columbus, the event will be held in the Parish Hall. There will be plenty of food, and Santa Claus will be joining us for the kids. All are welcome. Please bring any extra or unwanted coats, mittens, scarves and hats supporting the "Share the Warmth" campaign benefiting Joshua House in Farmingdale.

Dear Parishioners,

Today let us welcome with joy and excitement our third and fourth grade students from our Religious Education Program. Together with their respective parents and teachers they are going to join us at the celebration of this Sunday's Liturgy at 11:30.

Last Tuesday, November 28, we started our Advent Series and we are going to continue this amazing spiritual event until December 12. If we are looking for significant and meaningful days of preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus, then this series is meant for you. Come and join us.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent.

A woman stands at the end of a pier, her eyes scanning the horizon as she waits for her husband's ship to come home. A father climbs a hill to the lookout, exercising his hope that his younger son will come home soon. Young parents wait with growing expectation for the birth of their first child. An old man sits in a nursing home, still waiting for the day when his family will visit him. All of the above mentioned, waited, and their waiting tests the quality of their hope. They are powerless to bring about what they hope for; all they can do is to wait. There's no other option.

Experience has taught us that waiting is part of life, and there is no life without it. All of us waited to be born, waited to be nourished, waited to be loved. We learn soon enough that the fullness of life is not available to us like instant coffee. There is always more to life and to people than we can ever manage to absorb at any one time. Hence, we have to wait.

Advent comes from the Latin word *advenire*, which simply means arrival or coming. The season is a time of intense preparation for Jesus' coming. We first understand this coming as his birth in Bethlehem, which calls for a joyous celebration. Since it is a spiritual event, Christ demands of us spiritual preparation that includes prayer and self-discipline.

Advent is the time when we are reminded that we have to wait for God. We cannot grasp God, we cannot possess God, we cannot see God, we can only wait for God to let himself be known. When we wait for God we confess our own incompleteness, we acknowledge that there is always more to God than what we know, we proclaim our hope in a God we can never have. When we wait for God, our waiting is a prayer and in our prayers we testify to our own poverty and to his greatness.

The question now is how do we prepare for the Lord's coming? We are asked to respond to God's words and practice discipline. Let us not waste this precious time of preparation by engaging in activities that distract us from our heavenly plans. It is the proper time to return to God and manifest in our lives how God is in full control of our existence and that we can say NO to the world that entices us away from God.

This Advent let us focus and concentrate upon building our capability and strong desire to love by reflecting on the Word of God, by mortification and ascetism, by coming to Mass daily and receiving the sacraments, as we reiterate our invitation to be present at the Advent Series, which we have started in the parish.

Lord God, as we await your coming we know that our lives are in your hands. We ask you to hold us gently but firmly. And in your manifold wisdom remold us to be the people that you would expect us to be. Amen.

God bless us,

Father Angelito

AN ADVENT EXPERIENCE

St. Catherine of Siena Church

7 PM PARISH HALL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

Join us for a 3-week, video based study on formed.org to create an Advent to remember for our parish family. Meditate on the reason for the season with **ANIMA**— a visually stunning and thought provoking series of videos with accompanying discussion guides.



WEEK TWO

Explore the Person of Jesus, who emptied Himself to become human.



WEEK THREE

Explore how we are called to be the light of the world.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ust at barbaraust411@gmail.com

St. Catherine of Siena



Join us for...
Simbang Gabi

Tuesday December 19th

On the final night of Simbang Gabi, there will be a grand Christmas celebration in the Reception Hall of St. Dorothea for refreshments. Please join us 30 minutes before every Mass for the Holy Rosary. **For more information, please contact Laura Randazzo at pastoralcouncil@sienachurch.org**

St. Catherine of Siena Church will be hosting one of the nine *Simbang Gabi* (Advent Night Masses) on **Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7:30 PM, with a recitation of the Rosary at 7:00 PM. Fellowship and food will follow in our Parish Hall.** *Simbang Gabi* or “Mass of the Rooster,” is a tradition held by the Filipinos to prepare for the birth of Jesus. This tradition began in the mid-1600s in the Philippines where church bells would start ringing as early as 3:00 AM, awakening people for 4:00 AM Mass, to allow farmers to attend Mass before going off to work in the fields in the early morning hours. The Monmouth County Simbang Gabi Community invites all to the 9-day Simbang Gabi in the following churches:

Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.	St. Joseph, Keyport
Dec. 16	7:30 p.m.	St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Deal
Dec. 17	7:30 p.m.	St. Clement Church, Matawan
Dec. 18	7:30 p.m.	St. James Church, Red Bank
Dec. 19	7:30 p.m.	St. Catherine of Siena Church, Farmingdale
Dec. 20	7:30 p.m.	St. Benedict Church, Holmdel
Dec. 21	7:30 p.m.	St. Michael's Church, Long Branch
Dec. 22	7:30 p.m.	Holy Innocents Church, Neptune
Dec. 23	7:30 p.m.	St. Dorothea Church, Eatontown



The Rosary Altar Society will hold their Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 6, beginning at 6:00 pm at Huddy's in Colts Neck. We invite all parishioners to join the Society as we pray the Rosary on Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 am before the 11:30 am Mass at the Church.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will meet Sunday, December 10th at the 11:30 am Mass. All children in grades K-4 (ages 5 -10) are invited to participate. Young children are given the opportunity to listen to a children's version of Sunday's readings and Gospel stories at their own level of understanding and participate in activities that bring the readings to life. Each Sunday's Liturgy of the Word is enriched and modified to make it important and relevant to the lives and experiences of young children. To sign up for this month's sessions, please email clow@sienachurch.org.



By the end of October, over 100 parishioners had registered on formed.org and averaged about 8 visits per registration. The short Opening the Word videos for each week continue to be very popular although parishioners are viewing, listening to, and downloading a wide variety of offerings from the site. Not registered yet? Go to formed.org and use parish code QCVKRC to register (or click on the graphic or the links to FORMED on the church website at sienachurch.org and the parish code will be entered automatically for you).

"Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL REQUESTS MUST BE RETURNED BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, in order for them to be included in the Christmas bulletin. Any requests between 12/15 and 12/22 will be included in the December 31 bulletin, due to deadlines. Anyone wishing to make a donation for Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and drop it off or mail it to the Parish Office at 31 Asbury Rd., Farmingdale, NJ 07727. Parishioners can also use the Christmas flower envelope provided in their envelope mailing.

OFFERED FOR: _____

REQUESTED BY: _____

OFFERING: _____ (Suggested Offering: \$10)



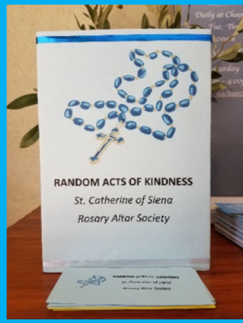
Join us for an **Advent Series for our Parish Family**. We will meet at 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Hall on Tuesdays, December 5 and 12. Together we will grow as a parish family as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas.

As we begin this season of Advent, evangelization parish efforts to reach out to those Catholics whose connection with the Church has become weak or has been broken are underway. Parishioners are urged to support this evangelization initiative with their prayers and by inviting inactive relatives, friends, and neighbors back to the Faith. All those who are away are lovingly invited to come to their family in faith, to find healing, answers, love and support. This Holy season of Christmas promises to be an exciting time for evangelization and our parish will be offering a Christmas Festival, called "This is Christmas" on Friday, December 15th at 7 pm in our Parish Hall. Please join us as we welcome returnees and new parishioners with enthusiasm, love, and joy.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, along with our sister parishes of St. Veronica and St. William the Abbot, will be presenting a Christmas Festival, **"This is Christmas," on Friday, December 15, at 7pm** in our Parish Hall. This is a special event that shares the gift of music in a warm community setting, stirring the heart and drawing us into the true meaning of Christmas. This community-wide event will include choir performances, a tree lighting ceremony, a cookie and cider reception, and St. Nicholas as our special guest. We invite you along with your friends and family to be a part of this joyful celebration. Space is limited so to reserve a seat or for any questions, please RSVP to christmasfestival@sienachurch.org.

Christmas Around the World will be held on Saturday, December 9th, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at St. William the Abbot. This is a free event for all ages. Experience different foods, traditions and customs of how Christmas is celebrated in countries across the globe.

The Rosary Altar Society will continue the Random Acts of Kindness project until May



when we will offer up all of these kind acts to Mary in conjunction with the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Look for the small box on the table in the narthex, write your random act of kindness on one of the little cards by the box, and drop the card into the box. We encourage all parishioners to join the Society as

we pray the Rosary on Sunday, December 17, at 11:00 am before the 11:30 am Mass.

December 3, 2017 - 1st Sunday of Advent – Year B



Sharing the Gospel

When you are invited to a big party, you get prepared. You take a bath. You wear your finest outfit and shoes. You take a gift to the host. God has invited you to his heavenly party. Get prepared for it. You want to be ready. You are God's gift. Give your soul a bath in God's waters of forgiveness.

Prayer

Lord, prepare me for heaven's party.

Family Prayer

I pray to be ready when Jesus calls me into heaven.



Are you interested in getting together with a group of women to explore your faith? Would you like to see how Scripture applies to your everyday life?

If so, we invite you to consider joining Walking with Purpose at St. Catherine of Siena.

Opening Your Heart, our 22-week foundational Bible study is designed for women new to Walking with Purpose as well as those with more Bible study experience. Purchase the Opening Your Heart study guide at

<https://wwpstore.com/collections/study-guides>.

Weekly group sessions began on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 in our Parish Hall at 10 a.m. The 22-week 2018 evening program is now forming. For registration and program information, please e-mail wwp@sienachurch.org or visit the parish website, sienachurch.org.

CHOIR NEWS



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Cantors and Choir members needed in our Music Ministry here at St. Catherine Parish. If you love to take part of our ministry of giving to the Glory of God through music please come and join us! Planning ahead for special liturgies, possible concert series, and preparing for the Advent and Christmas season, contact our Music Director Alice at akovach9@aol.com to sign up and begin a journey of learning and growing with your Parish. The choir will meet on Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the Church.

 Read the Gospel and Color



LIKE A CHILD

One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure, with a heart as innocent as a child's.

—St. Nicholas

Calling All Catholic Men: The Knights of Columbus are welcoming all men over the age of 18 to become members of the St. Catherine of Siena council here at our church. Devoted to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, with over 1.8 million members world-wide, the Knights of Columbus strives to be a positive Catholic presence in both our parish and community. If you wish to join email Mark Dalton, Grand Knight @ mmdd18@optonline.net or call him at 732-233-0842.

Have you ever heard the initials RCIA? They stand for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, The Roman Catholic official collection of Rites for bringing adults into the Church. Here at St. Catherine of Siena, together as a team, we prepare individuals to be received into the church. We meet the first and third Tuesday of the month in the evening. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning about becoming a Catholic, or a Catholic, who may not yet have received Sacraments, or to learn more about the RCIA process, email RCIA@sienachurch.org.

St. Catherine's Funeral Ministry is in need of volunteers to assist families in planning and making arrangements for the Funeral Mass and Wake Service of a deceased loved one. Members of the ministry should be compassionate, good at details, understanding and have a flexible schedule. It is a ministry where one can be of much needed assistance to families who are going through a difficult time. If you are interested in joining, call Terri at 732-462-7452.

St. Catherine's is in need of additional Ushers to help at all masses. Anyone over age 12 can sign up and for those receiving Confirmation, can get service hours. Call 732-492-6861 or email scottrubinson@gmail.com.

Seeking fellow parishioners to participate and join in the pro life cause. Call 732-580-1387.

Food donations to the church are distributed to the needy by the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry and by Joshua House. Thank you for your generosity.

“**Legion of Mary Pilgrim Statue**” is available to visit homes in our Parish Community. If interested, call 732-616-3127 or email pheathers7@yahoo.com.

Help support our Food Drive. The Knights of Columbus are teaming up with the St. Vincent de Paul Society to collect canned and boxed food for our local community. Your food donations will help our local needy all year long. See the donation crate in the church's narthex.

Important Parish Information

Parish Registration ... WELCOME to the Saint Catherine of Siena Parish Family. In order to serve you better, we ask that you please take a few moments to register, to be recognized as a practicing member of the Parish. To register and receive offertory envelopes for your tax deductible donations or to inquire about our various ministries please call 732-938-5375 or email us at frontoffice@sienachurch.org. For address or other changes, including a change in Parish, please call the Parish Office. We look forward to meeting you and seeing you at our services. Thank you and God Bless.

Young Adults ... who are still living at home with their parents, who have graduated from college, and/or who are employed full-time, should register with the Parish under their own name.

Weddings ... Please call the Parish Office *one year in advance of desired wedding date, BEFORE completing any other arrangements (reception hall, etc.).*

Baptisms ... The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 2nd Sundays at 12:30 P.M. or can be celebrated during Sunday Mass. Arrangements must be made in advance. Prior to scheduling the baptism of your child, sponsor letters, donation, and attendance at a Baptism Preparation Class is mandatory for parents. Godparents/sponsors are also encouraged to attend. Classes are held in Classroom 10 at 7:30 P.M. on the last Monday of each month. To sign up you must fill out the registration form on our website for the date you wish to attend or email deacondan@sienachurch.org.

Recommendation for Sponsorship ... In order to be a godparent/sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, a person must have received all their Sacraments through Confirmation; be at least 16 years of age; if married, be married in the Catholic Church; attend Mass faithfully (*showing attendance through the use of your church envelopes or the welcome envelopes located in the narthex*); be a registered, actively participating parishioner for a minimum of six (6) months. Please stop by the Parish Office to fill out a form to be recommended for sponsorship. All requests will be seen by the Pastor and you will be notified when your form is ready.

St Catherine's Online! ... www.sienachurch.org. Check out our website for all the latest Parish info, including Parish Policies, Church Bulletin, Religious Education Calendars, Closings and Delays, Minister Schedules, and more.

Altar Flowers ... can be offered in memory of a deceased loved one or for any special intention (except during Lent & Advent). Offering: \$50/basket. To arrange for Altar Flowers, please call the Office @ 732-938-5375.

Prayers for the Sick ... A list of prayers for those who are ill appears in the bulletin weekly. To have a family member included on this list, please call the Office @ 732-938-5375.

Parishioners with Celiac Sprue ... An extremely low-gluten (37 micrograms) host is available for those in need. *Please notify the Celebrant or the Deacon prior to the beginning of the Mass you are attending.* Look on our website under “Sacraments.”

Bulletin Submissions ... Because of the deadline assigned to us by the bulletin company, all information **must be submitted to the Parish Office 2 weeks in advance.** Articles given later will be included in the bulletin for the following week.

Electronic Giving ... www.parishpay.com or call 866-PARISH-1

Remember Us in Your Will ... A simple charitable bequest can provide very meaningful support for St. Catherine of Siena Church. An up-to-date will can protect your loved ones and your dreams; let you, not the state, determine how your assets will be distributed; help you leave a legacy through charitable gifts; help you minimize estate taxes; and assure those charities you value will continue.

St. Vincent de Paul Society ... has a website, donatetosvdp.org. There is a link to make donations directly to SVDP using PayPal. A link for Amazon Smile makes your Amazon.com purchases a donation. For use of church envelopes, please make checks out to *Society of St. Vincent de Paul*.