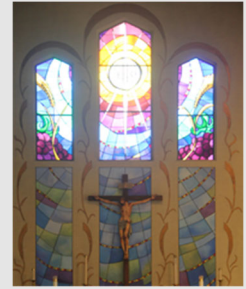


St. Catherine of Siena Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Trenton

31 Asbury Road • Farmingdale • New Jersey 07727 • www.sienachurch.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9 am—2 pm • Sun: 9 am—12:45 pm



PARISH INFORMATION

PASTOR

Rev. Angelito I. Anarcon

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

Rev. Alfred Burke

DEACON

Daniel Sakowski

WEEKEND MASS

SCHEDULE

Saturday—4:30 p.m.

Sunday

8 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 11:30 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday

3:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

HOLY DAY MASSES

MAIN CHURCH

9 a.m. / 7 p.m.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

CHAPEL

One West Main Street

WEEKDAY MASS

SCHEDULE

Monday—9 a.m.

Tuesday—9 a.m.

Thursday—9 a.m.

Friday—9 a.m.

**T
H
I
R
D**

Sunday

of

Advent

The desert and the
parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with
abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.

Isaiah 35:1-2

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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (c) 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

December 15, 2019

PARISH OFFICE: 732-938-5375 • OFFICE OF REL. ED: 732-938-6229 • PARISH FAX: 732-938-3260

WE PRAY... CELEBRATE... REMEMBER



Through the Sacrament of *Baptism*,
we welcome to the Church:

Tessa Marie Vanderspiegel

*We ask God's blessings on this
child and her family
every day of their lives!*



Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 24, 2019—Church
4:00 p.m. • 6:00 p.m. • 10:00 p.m.

*The Choir will sing at the 4:00 p.m. Mass
The Children's Choir will sing at the 6:00 p.m. Mass*

Christmas Day Mass

Wednesday, December 25, 2019—Church
8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m. • 11:30 a.m.

The Choir will sing at the 10:00 a.m. Mass

New Year's Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 31, 2019—Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1, 2020—Church
9:00 a.m. *Holy Day of Obligation

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY · DECEMBER 14

4:30 PM

Marie Rottkamp • The Family
Gene Ravally • Leon & Pam Davison

SUNDAY · DECEMBER 15

8:00 AM

Eustace Nedd • Nigel & Jacqueline Storey

10:00 AM

Robert Russamano • Loving Cousin
Milagros Rodriguez • Kulick Family

11:30AM

Cheryl Callari • Callari Family
Jose B. Martinez Sr. • Roy & Terri Murray

MONDAY · DECEMBER 16

9:00 AM

Jose P. Torres • Betty & Luis Cartagena

TUESDAY · DECEMBER 17

9:00 AM

Phillip Galle • Pondaco Family

THURSDAY · DECEMBER 19

9:00 AM

Julia Pondaco • Pondaco Family

FRIDAY · DECEMBER 20

9:00 AM

Frank Sardone • Sardone Family

The Sanctuary Light will burn in loving memory of
Marie Rottkamp at the request of the Rottkamp Family.

Please Pray for the Sick and All Those Who Have Asked for Our Prayers

MaryAnn Aulisi, Peter Bennett, Hugh Blair, Victoria Bott, Frank Bracco, Mike Burke, William Clemens, Keith Dice, Nancy Drake, Bob Ebhar, Cyril Elias, Sharon Foster, Cheri Gargiulo, Marlene Gravatt, Norma Jean Hall, John Hart, Lori Jones, Ann Johnston, John Keegan, Laurie Krawowski, Charlie "Butch" Lavin, Barbara Lipari, Lauren MacArthur, Teresa Magyar, Margie McCullam, Linda Moore, McKenna Murray, John O'Leary, Amber Painter, Jeanette Picciani, David Piccolo, Mary Rossiello, Barbara Sansevere, Nancy Soper, Ilona Supczynski, Melissa Tortorello, Giuseppe Turriciano, Isabel Wallace, Phyllis Weissblum.

OUR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday is quite exciting for the children of the parish community! After the 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses, we have Breakfast with Santa! Sponsored by our Knights of Columbus Council, this is a very special event for the young boys and girls. They have an opportunity, not only to have a picture taken together with Santa Claus, but we also offer a lot of food for brunch. In addition, we would like to welcome the new faces as we see some of our recently registered parishioners. Welcome to our parish family! We are so glad and pleased to have you.

Today at the 11:30 a.m. Mass, the Religious Education classes of Grades 1 and 2 are going to be with us as we celebrate together in prayer, singing, listening to the Word of God and Holy Communion. It is a wonderful and learning opportunity for our children to be with Jesus as we offer ourselves, being grateful to the Lord Jesus in the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Tomorrow, December 16th at 6:30 p.m., our parish community in collaboration with St. Veronica's parish, are invited to the Christmas Carol Festival. There will be a lot of activities, like a Christmas carols sing-along, tree lighting, faith-sharing and more. Weather permitting, the event will be done outside on the Church's grounds, and if there is inclement weather, it will be in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited to come and join us to celebrate Christmas as one family of God.

Tuesday, December 17th starting at 7 p.m., is our Simbang-Gabi celebration in the parish. This is a Novena-Mass brought to us by the people from the Philippines to start off our preparation for the coming of the Lord on Christmas. All our parishioners, family and friends are invited to attend. There will be confessions before the Mass. After the Eucharistic Liturgy, there will be fellowship, and food being served in the Parish Hall. It will be an enjoyable delight, so come and join us.

An interesting story was told about a once-famous abbey that had fallen on hard times. Once, it housed a thriving and vibrant community. Visitors flocked to learn from wise monks, to share with them in prayer, and to return home refreshed from having experienced something of monastic life. But now the monks had become older. Their numbers dwindled. Visitor numbers declined dramatically. Even from a distance, people could see that the building was becoming dilapidated and the grounds did not seem to be well kept. The monastery no longer has attraction to the people.

The abbot thought and prayed about what he could do to restore the dying community. He paid a visit to the nearby abbey and received some words of advice from the abbot there. He spoke of his community's decline and told him the entire story. His host listened attentively, and then said: "Your problem is this. The Messiah is among you, and he goes unnoticed." Puzzled, the abbot returned home and told this to his brothers. Whenever a brother thought, "Here comes Brother so-and-so; I can't stand him!" He then wondered, "But what if he is the Messiah?" Unwittingly, they started to treat each other with respect and kindness... just in case, this was the Messiah. The result was that visitors started to return to the abbey and vocations increased. All because each person in the community treated everyone as if that person was the Messiah.

During the 3rd Sunday of Advent each year, John the Baptist is featured in the Gospel. We encounter John in prison, near the end of his life. He heard of the things that Jesus had done and said. John knows his life is likely to end very soon on the command of Herod. So he wants to make sure he has not been mistaken in identifying Jesus as the awaited one. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?"

Jesus answers that to see the signs of God requires noticing what is all around. In the monastery that was slowly dying, the brothers had to start looking for signs of the Messiah's presence. Jesus tells John's disciples to tell their master what they had seen and heard, the signs of the messianic age; "the blind see..., the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor."

An interesting question arises. How well do we recognize the signs that the kingdom of God is among us today? The answer must be the same as it was in Jesus' time: "the blind see..., the deaf hear..., the Good News is proclaimed to the poor." Few of us have the power to do these things literally, but we do have the power to do so in a spiritual sense. So many people are voiceless in today's world, but we can help their voices be heard. Our own lives proclaim the good news when we are concerned with others' well-being. We may not be able to heal people who have leprosy, but we can ensure that no one in our presence is made to feel excluded. Just as Jesus' work for the kingdom enhanced the lives of others, so should ours. We should be the sign that God lives among us today. Amen.

May God bless you,

Father Angelito

ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP

**Weekly Collections & Attendance
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
HELP AND SUPPORT!**

**Weekly First Sunday Collection
Saturday/Sunday, Dec 7/8, 2019**

4:30 PM Mass	\$1,332.00	155 people
8:00 AM Mass	\$1,575.00	116 people
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,655.00	159 people
11:30 AM Mass	\$905.00	147 people
Totals	\$5,467.00	577 people
Online Giving Dec 2—Dec 8	\$2,863.00	92 donors

**Religious Retirement Fund
\$1,456.00**

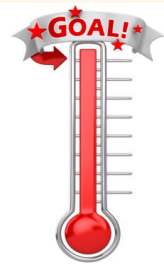


Christmas Office Hours

Monday, December 23 — 9:00 a.m.— **NOON**
 Tuesday, December 24 — **CLOSED**
 Wednesday, December 25 — **CLOSED**
 Thursday, December 26 — **CLOSED**
 Friday, December 27 — **CLOSED**
 Sunday, December 29 — 9:00 a.m.— 12:45 p.m.
 Monday, December 30 — 9:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, December 31 — **CLOSED**
 Wednesday, January 1 — **CLOSED**
 Thursday, January 2 — 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
 Friday, January 3 — **CLOSED**
 Sunday, January 5— 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
 Office of Religious Education is Closed Dec. 18—Jan. 1
 *Religious Education Classes Re-open on Jan 5



Our Parish Goal: \$44,000.00



2019
 As of December 9, 2019
 Pledged Amount: **\$33,544.60**
 Collected: **\$32,709.77**
Percent of Goal Raised 76%
 Donors: 147

 Pledge Balance As of December 9, 2019
\$834.83

2018
 As of December 10, 2018
 Pledged Amount: **\$39,787.00**
 Collected: **\$37,731.70**
Percent of Goal Raised 90%
 Donors: 172

 Pledge Balance As of December 10, 2018
\$2,055.30

The Annual Catholic Appeal is important.

As members of our diocesan family, we are called upon to love and serve all our brothers and sisters—both within our Catholic community & beyond. Your contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal allows our diocese to continue to serve as a resource to the parishes and other organizations in their efforts to provide service, evangelization and outreach to people throughout Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth & Ocean Counties. Our single Act of Faith propels the works of love that build up our Church.

Above you will see the Annual Catholic Appeal comparisons from our parish 2018 vs. 2019 results to date. Unfortunately, we are behind from last year's pace, with 90% of goal at this point last year compared with 76% at present. Your contribution makes a difference!

Please help. Please contribute. Please make a pledge.

Here at St. Catherine of Siena Church, we are always grateful and moved by the level of support you give to our parish. Thank you for this support, and may God continue to bless you and your family. Annual Catholic Appeal pledge cards are available in the Narthex and the Parish Office.

Breakfast
with
Santa



Sponsored by Our Knights of Columbus Council
**Hot Breakfast • Hot Cocoa
& More!**

Sunday, December 15, 2019

After the 10 am and 11:30 am Masses

Parish Hall

All are Welcome!

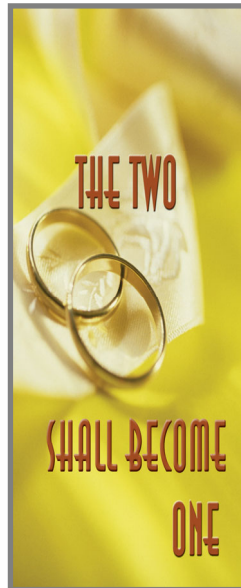
Photography by David Mellone

\$25 Family Portrait

proceeds benefit

St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Congratulations & Best Wishes to ...



Daniel Drew
&
Amanda Alves

who were married at
St. Catherine of Siena Church
on
Sunday, December 15, 2019

We pray that God Bless this
Couple Abundantly.
May Love Live in your
Hearts Forever.

*Prepare for the
Lord's coming*



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St. Catherine of Siena Church
Advent 2019

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 • 7 pm • Church

Advent Benediction and Fellowship

Hosted by the Ministries of Social Concerns,
The Giving Tree, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion &
Walking with Purpose

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 • 7 pm • Church

Advent Benediction and Fellowship

Hosted by the Ministries of Rosary Altar Society,
Legion of Mary, Money Counters & Music Ministry

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 • 7 pm • Church

Advent Benediction and Fellowship

Hosted by the Ministries of Religious Education,
Readers, Altar Servers & RCIA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 • 7 pm • Church

Advent Benediction and Fellowship

Hosted by the Ministries of Hospitality,
Knights of Columbus & Ushers

SACRAMENTAL AND FAITH FORMATION

ANOIDING OF THE SICK: To schedule an anointing, call the Pastor's Office at 732-938-5375 OPT. 7.

BAPTISM: We celebrate Baptism on the second Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM or during the 11:30 AM Mass. Prior to scheduling the baptism of your child, sponsor certificates, donation, and attendance at a **Baptism Preparation Class** is required. Classes are held in Classroom 10 on the **4th Sunday of the month**. To sign up, please fill out the registration form on our website for the date you wish to attend. Godparents/sponsors are also encouraged to attend. **Baptism Arrangements must be made in advance by contacting the Parish Office.**

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

MATRIMONY: Couples planning a marriage must contact the Parish Office to begin marriage preparation at least one year before the anticipated wedding date.

RCIA: The process by which adults become Catholic and/or receive the Sacraments is called Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. RCIA meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATES: In order to obtain a sponsor certificate at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, the following is required: **Registration in the parish for at least 6 months prior to the request; received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, & Confirmation; if married, married in the Catholic Church; be at least 16 years of age; attending Mass faithfully participating in the life of the Church, receiving the Eucharist and leading a life according to the teachings of the Church.** Please stop by the Parish Office to request a sponsor certificate. All certificates are approved by the Pastor.

OBTAIN A MASS CARD: We welcome all who would like to request their special intentions or deceased loved ones be prayed for at weekday or weekend Mass. Please call or stop by the Parish Office.

PRAYER LIST: Please call the Parish Office to request a name be added or removed to our prayer list.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: We welcome all on Mondays after the 9 am Mass in our Chapel.

LOW GLUTEN HOST: An extremely low-gluten (37 micrograms) host is available for those in need. Please notify the Priest or the Deacon prior to the beginning of the Mass you are attending.

The Monmouth County Simbang Gabi Community
Welcomes

SIMBANG GABI *Advent Novena of Masses at* ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH



December 17, 2019

7:30 PM Mass

7 PM Confession & Rosary

Reception Immediately

Following Mass—Parish Hall



"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." John 1:14

Simbang Gabi is a tradition held by Filipino Catholics to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Also known as *Misa de Gallo* ("Mass of the Rooster"), the tradition began in the 1600s in the Philippines where church bells would start ringing as early as 3:00 a.m. during the last nine days of Advent leading up to Christmas. The bells and the loud crowing of the roosters awakened the townspeople for 4:00 a.m. or 5:00 a.m. Mass and allowed farmers and fishermen and their families to go to Mass before they worked in the fields or when they came back from the seas in the early hours of the morning. The Filipino Catholics brought the tradition to the United States. And since the cold December weather would not allow them to celebrate at dawn, the celebration was held at night. Thus, the devotion became known as Simbang Gabi, which literally means "Night Mass."

The *Monmouth County Simbang Gabi Community* invites **all** to the 9 consecutive nights of the Simbang Gabi. Each of the 9 Night Masses is held in a different church within Monmouth County. All Masses will be celebrated in English. All 9 nightly Masses will start at 7:30 p.m. and are preceded by Confession and Rosary at 7:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Sat., December 14 at Saint Ann Church, Keansburg
Sun., December 15 at Holy Innocents Church, Neptune
Mon., December 16 at Saint Benedict Church, Holmdel
Wed., December 18 at St. Clements Church, Matawan
Thurs., December 19 at Church of Saint Anselm, Tinton Falls
Fri., December 20 at St. Joseph's Church, Keyport
Sat., December 21 at Holy Family Church, Union Beach
**Sun., December 22 at Church of St. Dorothea, Eatontown
***On 12/22 only—Confession & Rosary at 4:30 pm
Holy Mass at 5:00 pm*



This is Christmas
A Christmas Carol Festival

December 16
6:30 pm

Parish Hall
31 Asbury Road
Farmingdale

For more info,
call 732-938-5375

All are Welcome

Christmas Carols
A visit from
St. Nicholas
Tree Lighting
Christmas Cookies

