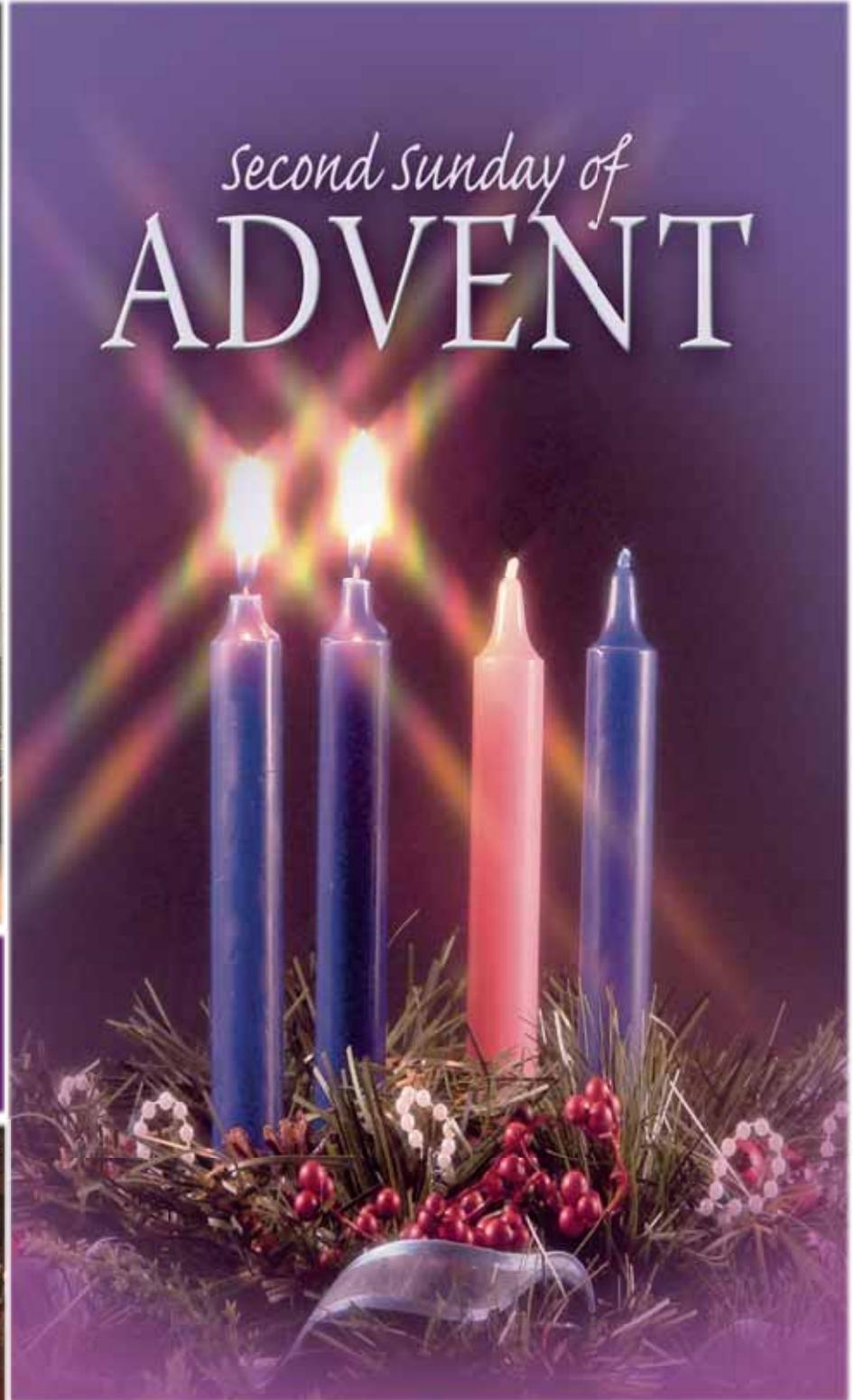
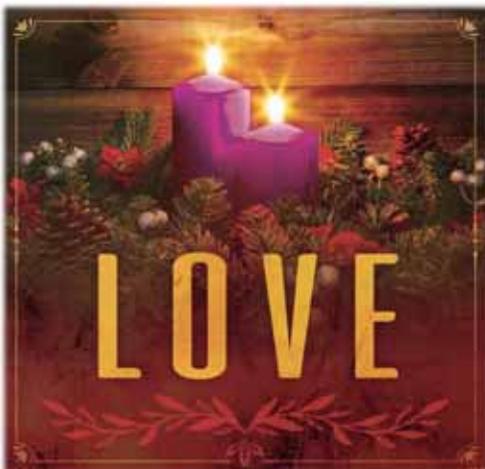


ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH

Roman Catholic Diocese of Trenton



December 6, 2020



31 ASBURY ROAD FARMINGDALE, NJ 07727
(732) 938-5375 www.sienachurch.org

CONNECT WITH US

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH OFFICE

31 Asbury Road
Farmingdale, New Jersey 07727
732-938-5375 Fax: 732-938-3260
www.sienachurch.org
frontoffice@sienachurch.org

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Sunday—9:00 a.m.—12:45 p.m.

Rev. Angelito I. Anarcon, Pastor
pastor@sienachurch.org

Weekend Assistant
Rev. Alfred Burke

Deacon
Daniel Sakowski
deacondan@sienachurch.org

Pastor's Associate
Laura Randazzo
passociate@sienachurch.org

Parish Bookkeeper
Rowell Reyes
billing@sienachurch.org

Music Director
Doris Ramme
frontoffice@sienachurch.org

Religious Education Office
732-938-6229

Office Hours:
Monday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Kay Hetherington, CRE
cre@sienachurch.org

Janet Amato, Rel. Ed Secretary
ccdnews@sienachurch.org

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND

Saturday/Sunday Vigil—4:30 p.m.

Sunday

8:00 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 11:30 a.m.

***8:00 a.m. Mass effective September 13, 2020**

CONFESSION TIMES

By Appointment

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

CHURCH 31 Asbury Road

9:00 a.m. / 7:00 p.m.

Unless otherwise announced

WEEKDAY

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA Church
31 Asbury Road

Monday—9:00 a.m.

Tuesday—9:00 a.m.

Thursday—9:00 a.m.

Friday—9:00 a.m.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH

31 Asbury Road Farmingdale

**First Friday of the Month immediately
following the 9:00 a.m. Mass**

*Temporarily Suspended due to COVID-19
until further notice.*

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHAPEL
One West Main Street Farmingdale

**Monday immediately following the
9:00 a.m. Mass**

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Due to the unfortunate surge of the COVID-19, our Bishop continues to extend the dispensation for not attending Sunday Mass liturgies, especially to those with an underlying condition. This dispensation is in effect until further notice. Also, meetings and gatherings of parish ministries in the parish complex are not allowed following the directives coming from the Diocese. However, the parish Mass schedule has returned to its usual time. In this regard, we would like to appeal to our parishioners to be actively involved in our Mass Ministries, most particularly with the Readers Ministry. It is a great privilege and an incredible honor to be reading the Word of God in the celebration of the Eucharist. Currently, we are looking for readers on Sunday Mass at 10 O'clock. Anyone interested, kindly reach out to us in the parish, either by email or by calling the parish office. We would appreciate your quick response to this request. I really appreciate any help you can provide.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

We Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, and it is a holy day of obligation. Still, due to the pandemic, we are dispensed from not attending Mass. The feast centers on the belief that Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary, was conceived without sin. Pope Pius IX issued an apostolic constitution known as the *Ineffabilis Deus* on December 8, 1854. This document clarified the importance of the Immaculate Conception in the Church. This day honors the conception of Mary in her mother's womb without the original sin. By her Immaculate Conception, she was conceived in the fullness of grace, in the state of the closest possible union with God because of her future role as the Mother of God. Mary, as the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of our nation, Immaculate Mary is full of grace. She is not only Christ's disciple, who, with the help of grace, has overcome the chains of sin, but she is the noble resting place of the Holy Trinity according to St. Thomas Aquinas. The Immaculate, full of grace, will always be Mother and Queen for that select part of the Church that we hope one day to join, that will joyfully sing before the Almighty God. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent

A tale told of a young man who discovered a beautiful song that touched his heart and inspired him to sing, first silently and then aloud. Others heard his voice and its words, which almost danced through the air and into their hearts. Before long, they too were singing. Person by person, the music spread throughout the land, promising more freedom and joy ever as the number of singers increased. Some people disliked the song and objected to its message of hope, which seemed to threaten their very existence; hence something must be done to silence it. The leaders dispatched a detachment of soldiers to arrest and imprison the young man who had begun the song's cascade. Yet he continued singing, his voice soaring to the skies beyond the bars of his cell. Other prisoners heard him and joined the chorus.

Enough was enough! The only way to silence the song would be to kill the singer. An armed guard marched him into the courtyard in the central prison and fastened him, still singing, to a pole in the ground. The senior officer gave the order, guns barked and, at last, there was silence, but only for a second, for from every cell in prison, one inmate after another started singing the same song that cost the young man his life. This time, despite the death of a young singer, his song spread throughout the world. It could not be stopped. Obviously, the song was greater than the authorities who had tried to destroy it.

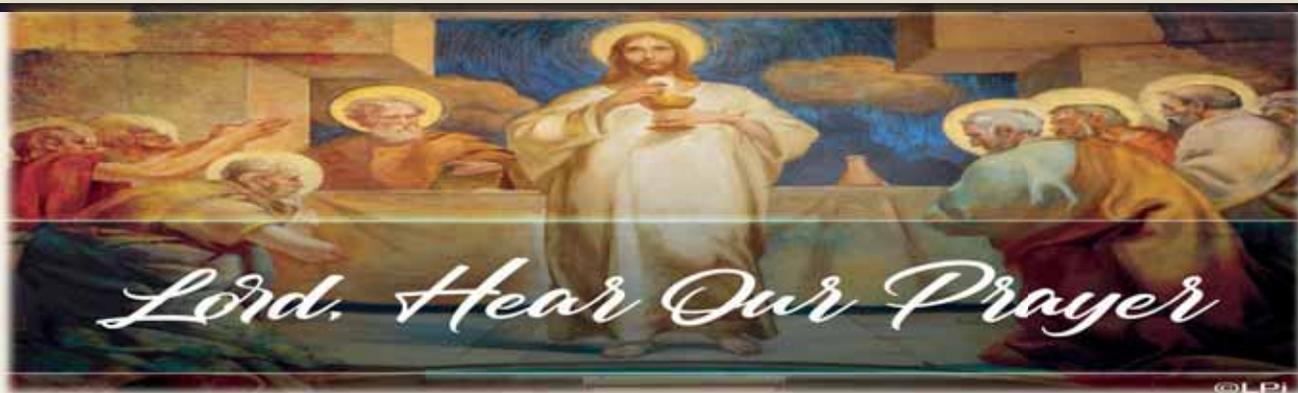
John the Baptist described himself as a voice crying in the wilderness as he called upon the people of his time to prepare the way of the Lord. John gave common-sense suggestions for leading a better life, thereby inspiring many people to follow his ideas. It is something we can recognize and appreciate. Most of us appreciate the feel-good factor after a session of renouncing past shortcomings. How many of us have emerged light-hearted from the sacrament of reconciliation?

It is worth noting that many people thought that John the Baptist was the messiah, the savior of God's people. Mark's gospel makes it clear in John's own words "One Mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie his sandals. In other words, John, the Baptist, was merely the pointer in the right direction. However high he might rise in people's belief and estimation, he recognized his unworthiness even to unfasten the Messiah's sandal strap. That says something about John's humility, which is for us meant to imitate and to follow. Amen.

May God bless you,

Father Angelitio

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday · December 5

4:30 PM

† Maryann Cullen *r/b The Infante Family*

Sunday · December 6

8:00 AM

† The Cataffo Family *r/b loving daughter, JoAnn Callari*

10:00 AM

† Joseph Graziano *r/b The Ortega Family*

11:30 AM

† Diane Perini *r/b Kristin & Phillip Natilli*

Monday · December 7

9:00 am

† Edward Martin *r/b Debi Mueller*

Tuesday · DECEMBER 8

9:00 Am

† Edward Martin *r/b John & Anna Williams*

Thursday · DECEMBER 10

9:00 am

† Dorothy Bouquio *r/b Phyllis Hurley*

FRIDAY · DECEMBER 11

9:00 am

† Jean Burke *r/b loving husband, Michael Burke*

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Please pray for the sick, the homebound and those who have asked to remember them in prayer. Continually keep in prayer all those who serve in our Armed Forces and all health care workers. For prayer requests, living intentions and Mass intentions, please call the Parish Office.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

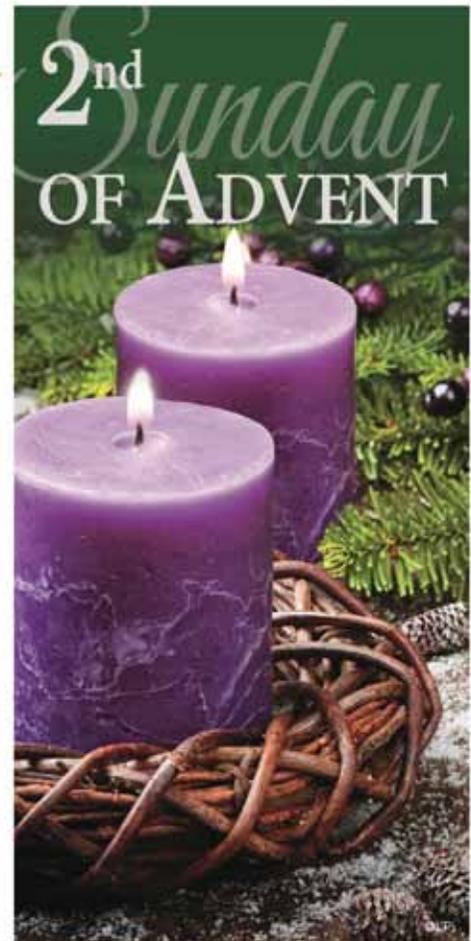
- SUN 12/6** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- MON 12/7** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
- TUE 12/8** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- WED 12/9** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
- THR 12/10** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
- FRI 12/11** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
- SAT 12/12** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/
- SUN 12/13** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Wednesday:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
- Friday:** St. Damasus I, Pope
- Saturday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

Prepare the way of the Lord! The message of John the Baptist becomes the calling of every baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is asked to prepare the way of the Lord. Given the humble means of our lives, how can we do this? It certainly does not require that we stand on street corners announcing God's future coming! We can more readily take up the task of our lifework by clearing our lives of unnecessary, distracting clutter. By creating solid and deep spiritual lives, we can heighten our awareness of God's presence and help people point to and discover God's presence around them. By conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, we can speak volumes to those we meet. Not by preaching actual words, but by living lives that communicate the comfort God wants His people to know. As the world sometimes frantically unfolds around us, we can be people of patience who show others that it's okay to wait for God's gift to come. Conducting our lives in this manner, we will know the peace that comes from doing what we have been asked to do.



Quiet
your
heart.

PRAY

Remember in Your Prayers

ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



Compassionate and Loving Father,
In the face of confusion and concern
impart to us the calm of Your presence.
In You allow us to find hope and healing.
Be with those who serve the sick and
give them Your caring hands.
Be with those who lead and give them
Your spirit of wisdom.
Be with those who have fallen ill and
give them Your comforting heart.
Wrap Your arms around our world
and hold us in Your love.
Allow us at this time of trial to then
serve as instruments of that love
to all we meet.

We ask this in Your Name.
Amen

The Altar Flowers are donated in
Loving Memory of

Maryann Cullen

At the request of June Hankel

ALTAR FLOWERS

We invite our parishioners to donate
flowers in memory of a loved one or
perhaps to mark a special occasion.

You will help us provide beauty for
the Lord's worship and pay a visible
tribute to a special person or
celebrate a special event.

Please call the Parish Office to place
an order.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH



DOORS WILL OPEN
1/2 HOUR BEFORE
THE START OF EACH
SCHEDULED MASS

MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

2 PM

4 PM

6 PM

8 PM

Additional Overflow Mass at
2 PM & 4 PM in the
Parish Hall

Christmas Day

8 AM

10 AM

11:30 AM

Additional Overflow Mass at
10 AM & 11:30 AM in the
Parish Hall

For those who are not feeling well, those with underlying health conditions or in a high-risk category, one should stay home and avoid any public gathering. We strongly encourage you to watch or participate in Mass remotely. **VISIT OUR PARISH YOUTUBE CHANNEL AT www.sienachurch.org for our recorded Mass on Christmas Eve.**

For those who choose to attend Mass in person, for everyone's protection, please be aware of the following:

- Please wear a face mask at all times in the Church
- Please enter through the front door and use the hand sanitizer
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times
- Bring your own hand sanitizer that can be used before receiving Holy Communion.
- No public gatherings, or greetings (handshakes, hugs, etc.) at Church entrance and Church property.

A full listing of the directives issued by Bishop O'Connell and St. Catherine of Siena Parish Re-Opening Protocols can be viewed at our website, www.sienachurch.org.

Should you have any questions, please call the parish office at 732-938-5375.

Thank you for your understanding.



St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Warmly Welcomes the Following
New Parishioners:

The DiLascio Family
Adriano & Tracey
Ethan, Adrian

With Warmth and Prayers,
We Welcome You into
Our Family of Faith.

BAPTISM

With Joyful Hearts,
We Welcome Our Newly Baptized.

Liana Denise Russo
John Francis Keegan IV

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



CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO LEARN MORE



ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2020

St. Catherine of Siena Parish
ACA Status

As of November 30, 2020

GOAL	\$38,000
Raised	\$43,129.30
Collected	\$42,059.08
Pledge Balance	\$1,070.22

Thank You

100% of Goal

We are blessed that St. Catherine of Siena Parish reached and exceeded our 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal goal of \$38,000! Thank you to our parishioners who generously contributed.

We ask you to please continue to donate and send in your pledges. Keep in mind, funds collected in excess of the parish goal we earn a 50% rebate check which directly benefits our parish.

Thank you for your generosity.

Dear Friends in Christ,

THE LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU—Numbers 6:24

As your pastor, let us take a moment and reflect on all God's blessings and graces. I extend to you a heartfelt thank you to those who have continued their financial support of the parish by mailing in your envelopes, and those who have reached out to us to sign up for online giving. Our parish is truly blessed with generous, caring and faithful members.

May God's peace and grace be with you always,
Father Angelito

Thank You!

Worship at
St Catherine of Siena Church



ADVENT BENEDICTION SERVICE

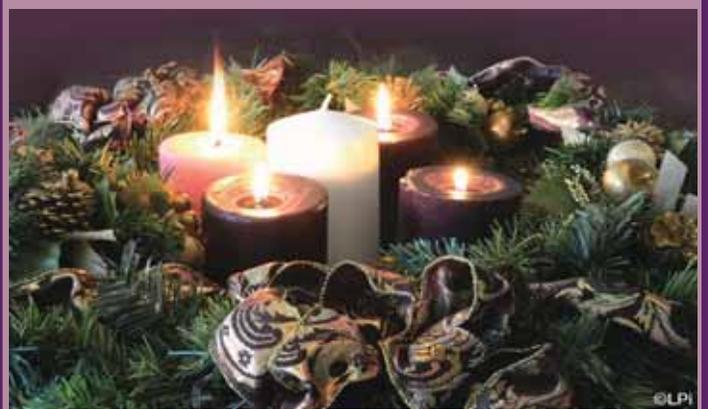
November 29 December 6
December 13 December 20

**Advent Service Begins at
6 PM**



Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
DECEMBER 8, 2020
9 AM MASS



What is the story behind the Advent wreath?

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace does not falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we are roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

IMPORTANT UPDATES



St. Catherine of Siena Parish CHRISTMAS PROJECT JOY

SEND CHRISTMAS CHEER TO HELP
OUR LOCAL CHILDREN IN NEED

November 14–December 5

Due to the pandemic, we will not host our annual Giving Tree Collection of Gifts in the traditional way of gift tags this year as we want everyone to be safe and healthy this Christmas season!

Even though COVID-19 restrictions will modify our methods, the goal remains the same:

TO PROVIDE HELP TO THE LESS FORTUNATE THIS CHRISTMAS.

Many of our **community schools and local organizations** we support are asking for Gift Card donations as they have been hit hard financially due to the pandemic.

Although it is not as fun as shopping for new toys, clothes, and other items, we are asking you to donate with Gift Cards in small denominations or donate generously by check or online, to our parish **Good Samaritan Ministry**. The ministry will then use the funds to purchase the Gift Cards as some might not feel comfortable purchasing directly from the store.

WAYS TO DONATE

Purchase Gift Cards in small denominations

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$25

TARGET WALMART

TJ MAXX MARSHALLS

AMAZON

Michael's

RETURN GIFT CARDS TO THE COLLECTION
BASKET IN THE **NARTHEX** OR TO THE
PARISH OFFICE LABELED **PROJECT JOY**.

OR

Donate online at www.sienachurch.org
for direct link.

Make a donation to the parish
Good Samaritan Ministry.

Checks payable to the **Good Samaritan Ministry**,
Memo *Project Joy*

We appreciate
your support and
prayers!

RETURN GIFT
CARDS
NO LATER THAN
DEC. 5



SIMBANG GABI IN MONMOUTH COUNTY; BEGINS DECEMBER 15

Simbang Gabi is the Filipino custom of offering a nightly Mass each day for nine nights prior to Christmas Day to help the faithful prepare themselves for the festive, yet solemn, celebration of the birth of our Lord. The novena of Masses signifies the nine months our Lord was in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and our mother, too. This special novena is recognized by the

universal Church as an authentic devotion to our Blessed Mother and has been prayed every year in the Philippines since the 1600s. In the Diocese of Trenton which covers four counties, every county has formed an organizing committee to ensure that all the faithful throughout the Diocese are given an opportunity to pray this novena.

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Simbang Gabi in Monmouth County is ***not*** cancelled but will be very different this year from the way it had been celebrated in the previous years. **All nine Masses are open to the public and will be celebrated in one host parish—St. Benedict Catholic Church in Holmdel**—which can seat up to 170 people, following social distancing guidelines. No seat reservations are required. Those who choose to stay home can watch the livestreamed Simbang Gabi Mass on St. Benedict's YouTube channel.

All Masses will be in English and will start at **7:00 p.m. from December 15 to December 23**, except Saturday, Dec. 19, to allow some time for the sanitizing of the space inside St. Benedict's church building after their usual 5 o'clock Saturday evening Mass. The Simbang Gabi Mass on Saturday, Dec. 19, will start at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to every Mass, the Rosary will be recited in the church and, if weather permits, the Sacrament of Confession will be celebrated outside the Adoration Chapel. ***No fellowship meal will take place after the Mass.***



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- Jim Simonelli

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St. Catharines Mausoleum named after the Holmdel Church, formally the Mission Church of St. Gabriel's
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To them, she's the queen who will save them all.

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