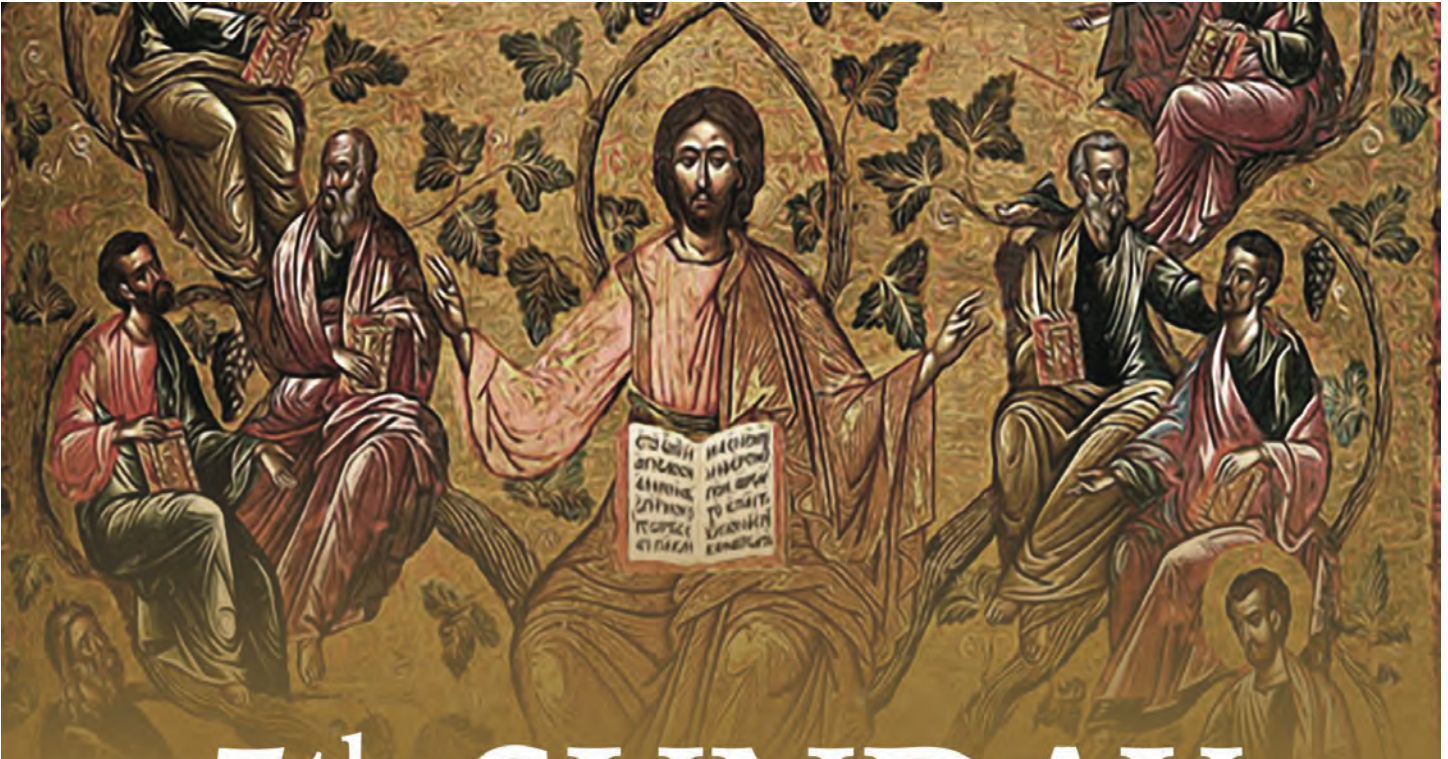


ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH

Roman Catholic Diocese of Trenton



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” - Jn 15:5

May 2, 2021

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Sunday–9:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
frontoffice@sienachurch.org

Pastor

Rev. Angelito I. Anarcon
pastor@sienachurch.org

Weekend Assistants

Rev. Alfred Burke
Msgr. Richard Liddy

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Sunday–Thursday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Kay Hetherington, CRE
cre@sienachurch.org

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.

CONFESSION TIMES

By Appointment

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

CHURCH 31 Asbury Road Farmingdale
9:00 a.m. / 7:00 p.m.

Unless otherwise announced

WEEKDAY

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA Church
31 Asbury Road Farmingdale
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

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHAPEL
One West Main Street Farmingdale

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

Temporarily Suspended due to COVID-19
until further notice.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The birth of a new baby is a beautiful, fantastic event! Together with their families, the couple prepares for the new life by reading books that would guide and give them important information, visit the doctors, get clothes and baby items together, and tell everyone the big news. Everyone is excited to meet the new bundle of joy.

This is likely how most mothers felt when they learned that a new life is born after carrying the babies in their womb for nine months. It was an incredible experience for them as they believe that the perfection of their womanhood is giving birth to a child, nourishing and nurturing the baby. They say that a mother's duty, task, and responsibility is never done as we know that from facts and experience. The mother's love and care never end, that explains why they always worry and think about their children, so many things like how they are doing with their families, their spouse, their grandchildren, their employment, their relationship with fellow workers, how they manage their lives, etc.

May 9 is Mother's Day, a special day for our beloved mothers. We are going to bless all mothers at all Masses for this particular weekend. Also, we have special envelopes dedicated to our mothers living and deceased. The faithful people of our parish community are praying and offering Mass intentions for our mothers for the whole month of May.

Throughout the whole month of May, we are being reminded of our veneration to the Blessed Mother. To offer her our recognition and honor, we are putting her statue in the sanctuary. During these trying and challenging times, we continue to experience this devastating virus, with many people getting sick and dying, and the result on the economy is distressing. Let us seek the help and intercession of our Mother, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Hope. She may be able to alleviate the suffering of the victims of this deadly disease, and that we will be able to get back to normal in God's time.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today, in the Gospel reading about the vine, Jesus teaches us a new way to live in a relationship with God. He uses the well-known image of the vine. Jesus is the divine vine we are grafted onto. In an agricultural society, people will understand how to get the best of a vine. To share with you a personal experience during my short trip to Bordeaux, France, back in the late '80s, where the famous Bordeaux wine originated from. If the grapes are to develop so that they can be turned into good wine, they need careful management. The sun, the soil, the water, and the energy of the plant have to be directed to the fruit through the proper pruning. The vine cannot be left on its own, or it will simply produce lots of leaves and poor quality grapes. There is a strong connection between root and branch, leaf and fruit, for they share one life. Cut off from that life, and they eventually wither and die.

The same thing applies as Jesus describes for us the relationship which gives us eternal life. We are one with Him and with each other, sharing the one life, his life, and in this way, we can live with him and, like him, produce the fruits of his love. But, Jesus warns us, the vine cannot be left to its own devices. It needs a vinedresser to manage its growth and encourage its fruitfulness. God is such a vinedresser. God knows us and knows what part of us needs to be cut away and what needs encouragement. We are in partnership with God to produce the best version of ourselves, the best fruit, the best wine.

During this trying and unprecedented time, we have to re-assess and re-evaluate our role. In their attempts to end lockdown and get the economy moving, authorities in the government may give the impression that human beings are simply cogs in the vast economic machine. Is this God's plan and vision? We have learned from the pandemic that human life is precious. It is worth putting the world on hold to preserve life. Those who save lives and help keep life safe are as valuable as those who produce wealth. The cleaners, the ones who care, and those who support our supply chains moving, who were once considered less critical, are now recognized for the vital role they play in our daily lives.

Here is the thing, when we look at our world through the lens of our faith, we see just how interconnected we are. We are all created in the image and likeness of God, who is love. We are designed for love, to love, and to be loved, and this love is not limited, not restricted to our nearest and dearest. We belong together. We need each other, just as the various parts of the vine need to be connected to the entire plant. Roots, stems, branches, leaves, and fruit are all bonded in a purposeful unity. Nonetheless, this is just a tiny example of the entire universe, from the great galaxies and planets to the smallest particles of matter. All have their place, and all work together. As human beings in our little tiny fragment of this entire universe, we have been graced by the Lord God with a particular task and responsibility to manifest the overriding force binding all things together. Hence, if Covid 19 pandemic has taught us this lesson, perhaps it will all have been worth our while. Amen.

May God bless you,

Father Angelito

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples,
but they were all afraid of him,
not believing that he was a disciple. (Acts 9:26)

PSALM:

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.
(Ps 22) Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:

And his commandment is this:
we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as he commanded us.
(1 Jn 3:23)

GOSPEL:

"I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,
because without me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:5)

For Mass Intentions, Mass Cards
and all Prayer Requests, please
call the Parish Office.



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Luke tells us how the conversion of Saul (Paul) and the acceptance by the disciples of him helped facilitate peace in the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. What do you think is needed to bring about peace in our Church today?

SECOND READING

John teaches his community that believing in Jesus and loving one another is the heart of God's commandment. How would you assess yourself in following this two-fold command?

GOSPEL READING

Using the metaphor of a vine and branches, Jesus urges his disciples to "remain in me" in order to bear good fruit and thereby glorify God. What would be some examples of "good fruit" that you have produced?

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday · May 1

4:30 PM

† **Cy Elias**

r/b John & Anna Williams

Sunday · May 2

8:00 AM

† **George Casazza**

r/b Adelaide Sangiorgi

10:00 AM

† **Arnold Carpenter**

r/b Tom & Sarah Butala

11:30 AM

† **Florence & Eugene Croddick**

r/b Ed & Maggie Lempka

Monday · May 3

9:00 AM

† **Doniong Abantao**

r/b Marie, Adrian & Alex Reyes

Tuesday · May 4

9:00 AM

† **Roy Murray**

r/b wife, Terri & family

Thursday · May 6

9:00 AM

† **Dory Edwards**

r/b Richard Ferris

Friday · May 7

9:00 AM

† **For all our Faithful Departed**



Deacon Dan will be undergoing surgery on May 6th and will be recovering at home until the end of May.

Please keep him and his family in your prayers. Thank you.

Mother's Day
Mass Remembrance

The names marked on the back of the Mother's Day Mass Remembrance Envelope dated May 9th, will be prayed for during the Month of May.

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us."

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2, 2021

- SUN 5/02** Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/
Jn 15:1-8
- MON 5/03** 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14
- TUE 5/04** Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a
- WED 5/05** Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8
- THR 5/06** Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11
- FRI 5/07** Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17
- SAT 5/08** Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
- SUN 5/09** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/
1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2, 2021

- Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter
- Monday:** Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles
- Wednesday:** Cinco de Mayo
- Thursday:** National Day of Prayer
- Next Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Anyone familiar with gardening knows that proper and timely pruning is essential. The health of the plant depends upon it. An unpruned tree can quickly produce suckers that zap many of the essential nutrients from its body. Pruning requires patience and vision. Studies reveal that plants often respond defensively to being pruned, displaying reactions that are similar to hurt or discomfort. Pruning is not easy but necessary. A hard lesson for us to learn is that we also need to be pruned. We become far healthier when we allow God to stretch, refine, and form us into the best version of ourselves. The fruit that then comes from our vines will be more abundant, nutritious, and robust. Left to our own devices we can easily find ourselves running amuck and spiraling out of control. Without a proper vision and trust in the Master Pruner, we will never find the contentment we desperately desire. Nor will the work of the Gospel stand a chance of succeeding.



Sts. PHILLIP
& JAMES

A P O S T L E S

*Prayer
is the bridge
between panic
and peace.*



NJ BISHOPS TRANSFER
FEAST OF THE ASCENSION
CELEBRATION DATE



May 6, 2021

USCCB

Let us pray...

God of Abraham, Isaac, Moses,

we cry out to you for wisdom and compassion.

You led the early Jews out of slavery, to freedom.

You led the disciples of Jesus after the crucifixion to courageously preach the Gospel.

Today, we seek your wisdom to preach the good news in our country.

Grant wisdom and faith to our elected leaders, the people we choose to lead our country, to make choices that are based upon your teaching.

Where laws are made that go against your will, give us courage to change policy,

not based upon our comfort, but upon principles taught in Scripture.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, our brother and Christ, who lives and reign with you, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The celebration of the Solemn Feast of the **Ascension** of the Lord has been transferred by the bishops of New Jersey from Thursday, May 13, to Sunday, May 16, 2021, for this year only.

The **Ascension** of the Lord occurred 40 days after Easter, when Jesus, in the sight of his Apostles, ascended bodily into heaven to sit at the right hand of his father.

The **Ascension** is narrated in Mark 16:19 and in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, which has a detailed account of Jesus' farewell to his apostles.



Requirements to Obtain a Sponsor Certificate/ Letters of Eligibility

The godparents, together with the parents, must be willing to help the baptized grow in love for Christ and neighbor. By word and example, the godparents will encourage the candidate to live the Christian life and fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it (cf. Code of Canon Law, c. 872-874).

- A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, & Confirmation and if married, married in the Catholic Church.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
- A sponsor attends Mass faithfully participating in the life and support of the Church, receiving the Eucharist, and leading a life according to the teachings of the Church.

A sponsor must be registered at St. Catherine of Siena Parish and registered for at least six (6) months prior to the request.

Note, if he/she received all his/her sacraments here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish years ago but now lives elsewhere, he/she is not a member of this parish. Rather, he/she is a member of the parish in whose territory he/she resides. This is where the sponsor certificate must be obtained.

Low Gluten Host

An extremely low-gluten host (37 micrograms) is available for those in need. Please notify the Priest prior to the beginning of Mass.

WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick

Please call 732-938-5375.

Baptism

Parents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Course prior to the Baptism.

Baptisms are celebrated on the second Sunday of the Month.

Please call the Parish Office for detailed information.

Ministry to the Homebound

Please call the Parish Office at 732-938-5375.

Matrimony

Engaged Couples should contact our parish at least one year in advance of the proposed date of marriage and before making other arrangements.

Rite of Christian Burial or Memorial Mass

Please call the Parish Office at 732-938-5375.

Reconciliation

In a time of COVID-19, please contact the Parish Office at 732-938-5375 for an appointment.



St. Catherine of Siena Parish
Warmly Welcomes the Following
New Parishioners:

Matthew & Jennifer Freih

**The Safranek Family
Matthew, Emily and Brynn**

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

**The Parish is where the
mission of Christ continues!**

St. Catherine's parish is a vibrant, community of faith. A parishioner is one who is committed through participation in the life of the Parish Community with participation in our ministries and with presence and support with attendance at Mass and also through the regular use of offertory envelopes or support through online giving.

If you are new to the area and have questions regarding Parish Registration, please call the Parish Office.



The first step for Infant Baptisms at St. Catherine of Siena Parish is our Baptism Preparation Class.

Upcoming sessions for new parents:

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

For more detailed information and to register, visit our Parish Website, www.sienachurch.org.





DIOCESE of
TRENTON

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THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL—IN ACTION

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

CLERGY ADMINISTRATION—VOCATIONS

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- Special Events and Programs

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- Catholic School Programs • Tuition Assistance
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For further information please contact
Laura Randazzo at 732-938-5375.

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PARISH SUPPORT

Online Giving is a web-based offertory solution that allows parishioners and visitors the opportunity to make donations, payments and pledges electronically from any location at any time.

Parishioners or visitors who wish to provide financial support of the parish, can leave their offertory envelopes at the collection bin in the Narthex of the church or they can be mailed in directly to the parish office.

Your continued support of the parish is always gratefully appreciated.

thank you

GLP

"I can do things you cannot;
you can do things I cannot;
but **TOGETHER**
we can do great things."

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



2021 Annual Catholic Appeal

DIOCESE of TRENTON

Your help is needed.
Please give what you can.



ACA PARISH UPDATE

GOAL \$40,000

As of April 26, 2021

Raised: \$35,054.99

Collected: \$31,415.99

88 % of Goal!

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