

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY *of Advent*



December 17, 2023

Welcome



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

31 ASBURY ROAD ▪ FARMINGDALE, NJ ▪ 07727



frontoffice@sienachurch.org



732-938-5375



www.sienachurch.org

CONNECT WITH US

CLERGY

Rev. Angelito I. Anarcon Pastor

E: pastor@sienachurch.org

Deacon Daniel Sakowski

E: deacondan@sienachurch.org

PARISH STAFF

Laura Randazzo Pastor's Associate

E: passociate@sienachurch.org

Janet Amato Office Assistant

E: officeassistant@sienachurch.org

Charles Clarke Music Director

E: frontoffice@sienachurch.org

OFFICE HOURS

MON—THURS

9:00 AM — 2:00 PM

SUNDAY

9:00 AM — 12:45 PM

*The Church is open during
Parish Office hours
for prayer.*

WORSHIP WITH US

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY 4:30 PM

SUNDAY 8:00 AM
10:00 AM
11:30 AM

Holy Days of Obligation

9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

31 Asbury Rd., Farmingdale, NJ



WEEKDAY MASS

St. Catherine's Chapel

1 West Main Street Farmingdale

MONDAY 9:00 AM

TUESDAY 9:00 AM

THURSDAY 9:00 AM

FRIDAY 9:00 AM

DEVOTIONS

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday's immediately following
Weekday 9 AM Mass at Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of the Month
immediately following Weekday
9 AM Mass at Chapel

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY 3:30—4:00 PM

Church

Other days by Appointment



A Message from our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

For three consecutive days John keeps (December 17, 18, and 19), the parents are invited to celebrate Christ with their young boys and girls, the students in our Religious Education Program. Our dedicated volunteers are sharing their precious time and excellent talents to develop our young children and teach the season of Advent with participation through reflections, scripture, and song.

A big word of thanks to all who made this possible for our Religious Education Program with joyful anticipation and expectation of the Feast of the Birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Let's continue our Advent celebrations as we come for the exposition, adoration, and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and evening prayers tonight at 6 PM. It's great to be prepared, and with joyful expectation, we wait eagerly for Jesus on Christmas Day.

Today's Gospel begins with the absence of the light: John the Baptist is a witness to speak for the light, but he is not the light in person. John is the rugged figure whose task is described by the evangelists as laying low mountains and hills, shaping a path through the wasteland. He is God's sculptor, giving shape and form to an indeterminate mass of people, insisting always on the essential place of the light. When he faces critical opposition, he points away from himself to his work on preparing for the one to come.



He must make way for the light, create a space for the light to shine through. And when people see the light, his own task is finished.

Like John, we are asked to make way for the light. None of us is the light: our role is to let the light through the chunks of solid darkness that litter our human landscape. That appears a mountainous task besides which our own abilities and commitment look so small. Who are we to complete such darkness?

Advent calls on us to make what contribution we can. To look first at ourselves and work quietly on the darkness that hides within us like the selfishness, unforgiveness, and the lack of love that keep the light of good news from so many people. On the larger social issues like justice and peace which require the witness of a caring community, we are challenged by the Gospel to work together. Amen.

May God bless you,—Father Angelito

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

Psalm:

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

Second Reading:

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

Gospel:

"I baptize with water;
but there is one among you whom you do not
recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
(Jn 1:23)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

Observances for the week of December 17, 2023

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Thursday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve



Saint of the week

Blessed Maria Franziska Schervier was a German Catholic nun who devoted her life to serving the poor and the sick. She founded the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen and began chapters in the United States where she and her sisters also founded a number of hospitals.

Prayer

Almighty, just and merciful God, Blessed Frances Schervier spent her whole life giving back to You all the gifts that You had given her. She cared for the poor and the sick and radiated Your loving presence to all that she met. We beseech You now to glorify your servant, Frances. Give her the honor of sainthood if it is in accordance with Your will.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Prayer Source: http://franciscansisters-en.sfp-poor.org/images/stories/2016/PDF_2016/pr_canoniz_en.pdf)

Mass Intentions

Saturday • December 16

4:30 PM

† **Maryann Cullen**

r/b Loving Aunt & Sisters

Sunday • December 17

8:00 AM

† **Ruth & James Murphy**

r/b Bill & Eileen Murphy

10:00 AM

† **Lucia & Antonio Leotta**

r/b The Ciaravino Family

11:30 AM

† **Glenn Conigliaro**

r/b Loving Wife

Monday • December 18

9:00 AM

† **Connie Gersbeck**

r/b Joseph Gersbeck

Tuesday • December 19

9:00 AM

† **Julia Pondaco**

r/b Dominic Pondaco & Family

Thursday • December 21

9:00 AM

† **Jillian Ludwig**

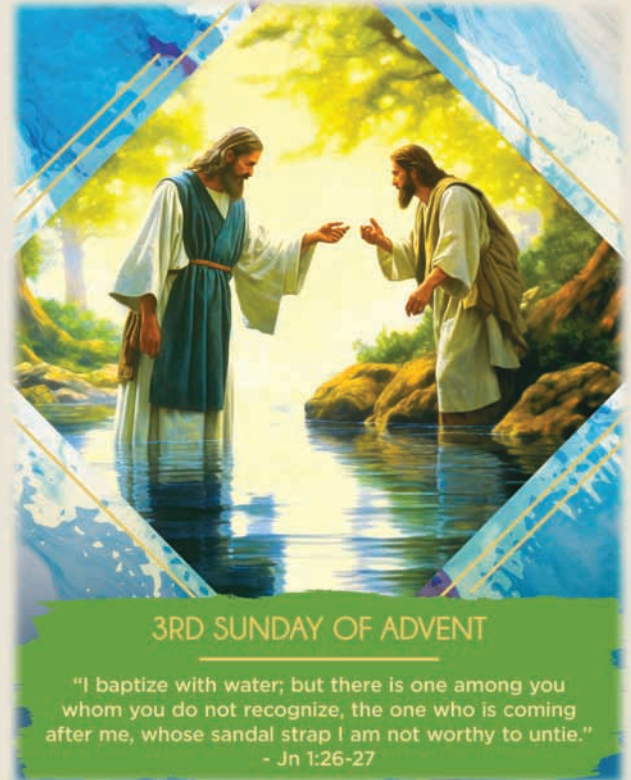
r/b Katie Sonde

Friday • December 22

9:00 AM

† **Anthony Rienzi**

r/b Dillon Groh



Saturday • December 23

4:30 PM

† **Jordan Hayes & Family**

r/b Joseph P. Meagher

Sunday • December 24

8:00 AM

† **Domenica Ciaravino**

r/b The Ciaravino Family

10:00 AM

† **Ida Piccolo**

r/b Donna Ranieri

11:30 AM

† **John Keegan**

r/b Loving Wife, Cathy

We Celebrate the Sacraments

SPONSORSHIP FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

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).

Requirements to Obtain a Sponsor Certificate/Letters of Eligibility

In St. Catherine's Parish and in all Catholic Parishes in the U.S.

- 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.

For sponsor requests from St. Catherine's, you must be registered at St. Catherine of Siena Parish and registered for at least six (6) months prior to the request, showing participation in the life & support of the Church.

*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.***

Anointing of the Sick

Please call 732-938-5375.

Baptism

First-time parents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class prior to scheduling the Baptism.

Godparents are required to provide Sponsor Certificates before a Baptismal date is given.

Please call the Parish Office for information.

Matrimony

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

Ministry to the Homebound

For Homebound requests, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Burial or Memorial Mass

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

Reconciliation

3:30 p.m. Saturday
Other days by appointment.

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.

Altar Flowers for Church & Chapel

Please call the Parish Office to order. Flower orders are not permitted during Lent.

Worship & Meditation



Saint Catherine of Siena Church

Worship with Us

Christmas Schedule

DECEMBER 24 • CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00 PM • 6:00 PM • 10:00 PM

Overflow Mass • 4:00 PM • Parish Hall

DECEMBER 25 • CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8:00 AM • 10:00 AM • 11:30 AM

ST. CATHERINE'S CHAPEL WEEKDAY MASS • 9:00 AM

DEC 26 • DEC 28 • DEC 29 • JAN 2 • JAN 4 • JAN 5

The Feast of the Holy Family DECEMBER 30 • 4:30 PM MASS

DECEMBER 31

8:00 AM • 10:00 AM • 11:30 AM

JANUARY 1

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 AM Mass at Church

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. This means every Catholic is **obliged to attend Mass twice** between Saturday afternoon, 12/23 and Monday morning, 12/25, once for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and once for the Christmas obligation.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Saturday, December 23 at 4:30 PM

Sunday, December 24 at 8:00, 10:00 & 11:30 AM

The Solemnity of Mary on January 1 is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. We will have our 9:00 AM Mass in the Church, not at the Chapel.

Our Parish Family



ADVENT

Evening Prayer Exposition
Adoration & Benediction

6:00 PM

Sunday, December 17

Come and prepare your heart for the Lord.

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will close for
Christmas at Noon on
Thursday, December 21, 2023.

It will remain closed through
January 1, 2024 and will reopen on
January 2, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

If there is an **urgent** need for assistance from
a priest or from the parish staff, please call
the parish office main number,
(732) 938-5375 and leave a voicemail for
the call to be returned.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Angel Tree of Giving

Help us provide Christmas Joy to children and
seniors in our Church and local community.

Pick a Gift Tag off the tree and help
someone in need.

How to Return:

- * Bring with the **GIFT TAG attached**, your
Gift Card and **UNWRAPPED** item to the
Narthex.
- * **VERY IMPORTANT: Return Gift Cards &
Items by the Due Date on your tag.** Return
Dates are **DEC. 3, DEC. 11 or DEC. 18.**
PLEASE FOLLOW THE TAG YOU SELECT.

Monetary donations are accepted. Please send in to
the Parish Office in a labeled envelope or donate
online by scanning the QR Code:
Thank you for your generosity.



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

Dave & Maria Lombardi

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

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



Children's Liturgy of the Word



Sunday Morning
at the 11:30 AM
Mass
Ages 4—8



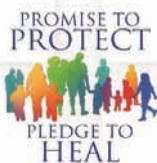
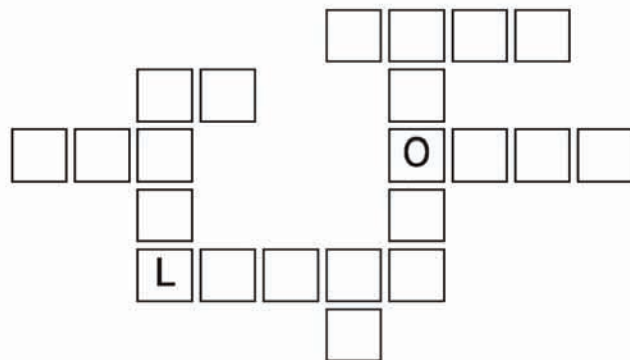
Children are called forward after the opening prayer, and follow our CLOW Leader to the gathering room to hear the Gospel at their own level. They return for Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Just sign-in with the CLOW Leader before the start of Mass.

Sharing the Gospel

People noticed John the Baptist. He loved God, and he used words honestly. He really wanted to help people change and grow closer to God. He stood out as someone really different and special. People came from all around to hear him and learn about him. When people asked him questions, he pointed them to Jesus.

He came only to tell about the light.



THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON is committed to the initiative outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines regarding the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

A Season to Remember Begins at Saint Leo the Great Religious Store

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10:00am—6:00pm



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Upcoming Events

On Friday Jan. 19, 2024, the faithful of the Diocese of Trenton will come together in prayer and solidarity to proclaim the sanctity of all human life! All are invited to an 11 a.m. **Mass for Life** celebrated by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., in St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold. No registration is needed for the Mass, seating is first come first served. Mass will be livestreamed on [Youtube.com/trentondiocese](https://www.youtube.com/trentondiocese)

The Mass will be followed by a **Lunch & Seminar** in the Co-Cathedral's Dentici Hall. A panel of local expert speakers will offer practical, actionable, ideas and resources to take back to parishes where they can be immediately applied to build a culture of life in a spirit of inter-ministry collaboration and radical solidarity with vulnerable pregnant women and families. Advanced registration to attend the **Lunch & Seminar** is required by Jan. 10, 2024. Full details for the day's events, including a registration link for the **Lunch & Seminar** can be found here: dioceseoftrenton.org/standing-together-for-life. Questions, contact Belem Perez 609-403-7133 bperez@dioceseoftrenton.org

2023 Monmouth County



Simbang Gabi



6:30 p.m. Rosary, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration | 7:00 p.m. Mass

Tuesday, December 12, at Saint James, Red Bank

Wednesday, December 13, at Saint Ann, Keansburg

Thursday, December 14, at Saint Catherine, Farmingdale

Friday, December 15, at Holy Innocents, Neptune

Saturday, December 16, at Holy Family, Union Beach

Sunday, December 17, at Saint Dorothea, Eatontown

Monday, December 18, at Saint Benedict, Holmdel

Tuesday, December 19, at Saint Clement, Matawan

Wednesday, December 20, at Saint Mary, Middletown



Inherited by the Filipinos from the Spaniards, the Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) is a Catholic devotion of offering a Mass each night for nine consecutive days in joyful anticipation of Christmas Day. All are welcome to this festive Novena of Masses.

Parish Support

Weekly Sunday Collection

Saturday/Sunday, December 9-10, 2023

4:30 PM Mass	\$1,004.00	108 People
8:00 AM Mass	\$1,083.00	109 People
10:00 AM Mass	\$1,842.00	138 People
11:30 AM Mass	\$1,044.00	148 People
Online Giving	\$3,558.00	
Total	\$8,531.00	

Second Collection

Immaculate Conception	\$1,518.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$880.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Our women and men religious offer gratitude.

A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them."

Thank you for giving to the **Retirement Fund for Religious last week**. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious.

To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

Thank You for Your Generosity.

ONLINE GIVING

Sign up for online giving through WESHARE.



VISIT: www.sienachurch.org

ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2023

DIOCESE of TRENTON



We are the

BODY of CHRIST

2023 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Parish Goal: \$40,000

EYES OF CHRIST

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

\$1,750,000

- Families, Youth & Young Adult Ministries
- Catholic Social Services (Mount Carmel Guild)
- Pastoral Care (Prison Ministry, Respect Life, Grief)
- Outreach to the Poor and Vulnerable

FEET OF CHRIST

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

\$2,250,000

- Finding and Forming Priests (Vocations Recruitment & Seminary Preparation)
- Retired Priest Care
- Preparation of Deacons
- Support of Religious Women and Men

HANDS OF CHRIST

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

\$2,500,000

- Evangelization and Communications Outreach
- Religious Education for Children and Rite of Election of Adults
- Catholic School Programs
- Professional Development for Educators

Total ACA Goal is **\$6.5 Million**

Your gift supports essential programs and ministries.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Parish Update

As of December 11, 2023

Pledged: \$43,391.00 **108% of Goal**

Paid: \$43,159.00 **108% of Goal**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Any parish rebate received, the proceeds will benefit our Parish Religious Education Program. Donate today.

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