THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

HE WAS TAKEN UP TO HIGHERANIEN.

LUKE 24:51 -



SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

Welcome to Your Parish

Connect with

St. Catherine of Siena Parish

info@sienachurch.org

732-938-5375

www.sienachurch.org

Office Hours: Sunday 9:00 AM—12:45 PM Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00 PM

CLERGY

Pastor

Rev. Angelito I. Anarcon pastor@sienachurch.org

STAFF

Pastor's Associate, PCL

Laura Randazzo

passociate@sienachurch.org

Music Director

Charles Clarke frontoffice@sienachurch.org

Office Assistant

Janet Amato officeassistant@sienachurch.org

Deacon

Daniel Sakowski

deacondan@sienachurch.org

The Church is open for prayer during office hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Weekend Mass

Saturday

4:30 PM Vigil

Sunday

8:00 AM

10:00 AM | 11:30 AM

Holy Days of Obligation

9:00 AM | 7:00 PM unless otherwise announced

Confession

Saturday

3:30 PM—4:00 PM other days by appointment

Weekday Mass

9:00 AM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,



Weekday Mass is at 31 Asbury Road Until Further Notice.

Friday

Our Pastor's Sunday Message

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Dear Friends in Christ,

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF JESUS

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of our Lord. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus took His disciples to Bethany near Jerusalem, adjoining the Mount of Olives, and as He was blessing them, He ascended into heaven. Hence, the Ascension of Jesus marks the end of Jesus' earthly life and at the same time it marks the beginning of His heavenly life, and the pledge of His Second Coming.

Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives and as He was blessing them, He parted from them. It was a farewell tender of Jesus to his disciples. He had been with them for three long years, and now, having accomplished the purpose for which He had come, He, now, had to depart from them.

The Ascension completes a cycle in the earthly life of Jesus. The Incarnation and the Ascension meet at a point. From heaven he came to take the human form and back to heaven he went when he ascended. The Incarnation is the coming down of God from heaven and the Ascension is the going up of God to heaven. What the Incarnation began, the Ascension completed: the earthly life of Jesus.

The Resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus must be viewed not as two separate and parallel events in the life of Jesus, but as one. The Resurrection must be viewed as the beginning of the line and the Ascension as the end. The Resurrection is the beginning, and the Ascension is the natural completion of the Resurrection of Christ. William Barclay rightly said, "It was unthinkable that the appearances of Jesus should grow fewer and fewer until finally they petered out. That would have effectively wrecked the faith of men. There had to come a day of dividing when the Jesus of earth finally became the Christ of heaven." What began with the Resurrection of Jesus could have no other conclusion than the Ascension. The Ascension is the culmination of the Resurrection of Jesus. It is the perfect end of the glorification of the earthly life of Jesus.

My dear brethren, the Lord who ascended into heaven has given us a task – to pattern our lives upon His teachings and to complete the task of spreading His name and His message to all the people of the world. May the Lord's Spirit Who abides with us aid us in this great task. Amen.

May God bless you,

Father Angelito

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

They said, "Men of Galilee,
why are you standing
there looking at the sky?
This Jesus who has been
taken up from you into
heaven
will return in the same
way as you have seen him
going into heaven."
(Acts 1:11)

Psalm:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (Ps 47) Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. (Eph 1:17)

Gospel:

As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. (Lk 24:51)



We are Called

To know, love, and serve as Jesus did.

We pray for each other, particularly:



For our newest members in baptism

Giovanni Binetti, Elliana Graziano



For the sick of our community

To request **Anointing** and/or **Homebound**, please call the parish office at 732-938-5375.



Dear Lord,

Thank you for the priests

who have ministered to us through our lives, the ones who baptized us, gave us communion, offered absolution, prayed for us, inspired us, and nurtured our faith.

May they know your goodness and our gratitude! Amen.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 31

4:30 PM Anthony Grosso

r/b Loving Family

Sunday, June 1

8:00 AM John H. Donlon

r/b John & Marion Dubil

10:00 AM Henry Kramer

r/b Meghan & Donnie Rogers

11:30 AM Henry Pavony

r/b Adelaide Sangiorgi

Monday, June 2

9:00 AM Michael Roberts

r/b Terri Murray

Tuesday, June 3

9:00 AM Luigi Nuzzolese

r/b Michael & Phyllis D'Addario

Thursday, June 5

9:00 AM Frank Naudus

r/b Kevin & Ann Marie McCabe

Friday, June 6

9:00 AM Catherine Kenny

r/b Catherine & Dave Runkel & Family





To know, is learning to trust God.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Annulment

The Church encourages divorced and remarried persons to purse annulment. To arrange a confidential discussion, email deacondan@sienachurch.org

Becoming Catholic

Are you an adult interested in becoming Catholic and receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for you! Contact the parish office at 732-938-5375 or email passociate@sienachurch.org.

Bulletin

Please email submission requests by 5:00 PM 14 days before the weekend bulletin date, to bulletin@sienachurch.org

Change of Name/Phone/ Address

Update information to officeassistant@sienachurch.org

Faith Formation | Children

Our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is for children in K through 8th grade. Inquire to, email prep@sienachurch.org or call the parish office at 732-938-5375.

Faith Formation | Teens

Our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) has sacramental preparation and ministry opportunities for teens, grade 9 –12. Inquire to email prep@sienachurch.org. or call the parish office at 732-938-5375.

Sacraments

Baptism

Parish families who wish to have a child baptized should be registered in the parish. First time parents are to take a pre-baptismal class before the sacrament of baptism. Classes are offered monthly. Please call the parish office at 732-938-5375 for further information.

Confirmation/ First Eucharist Children

Preparation is a two– year process for children in our Parish Religious Education Program. (PREP) For those seeking the sacraments, please email prep@sienachurch.org or call the parish office at 732-938-5375.

Confirmation/ First Eucharist Young Adults/Adults

If you've been baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation, we invite you to complete your sacraments of initiation! Contact the parish office at 732-938-5375 or email passociate@sienachurch.org.

Marriage

For parishioners (attending 6 months or more), a minimum of one year preparation is required. It is recommended to contact the parish office before booking venue.

Sacramental Records

To request a sacramental record, i.e., copies of Baptismal Certificates, First Eucharist Certificates, Confirmation Certificates, Marriage Certificates email officeassistant@sienachurch.org.



We warmly welcome all visitors joining us today at St. Catherine of Siena Parish—whether you are here for the first time, visiting family, or simply passing through.

We are blessed by your presence and hope you feel at home in this house of God.

If you are new to the area and would like to learn more about our parish community, or how to register, please contact the parish office at 732-938-5375.

May the peace of Christ be with you during your time with us!

Our Newest Members:

The Torre Family
Michael & Angelic
Mary Ann

Love

To love is to learn how to follow Christ together.

To love is to learn how to follow Christ together.
Love is not just a feeling—it's a daily decision to walk with others in faith, humility, and compassion.
As Christ loved us, we are called to love one another: with patience in difficulty, generosity in need, and mercy in weakness.

When we love as Christ loves, we become instruments of His peace and healing in the world. True Christian love unites us, strengthens the Church, and draws others closer to God.

Let us love not just in words, but in action—serving, forgiving, and building each other up in Christ.

Readings for the week of June 1, 2025

Sunday:

Acts 7:55-60/Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/ Jn 17:20-26 Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53

Monday:

Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/ Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday:

Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/ Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday:

Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday:

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday

Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/ Jn 21:15-19

Saturday:

Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/ Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Reflect and Respond

1st Reading Question

Just before his ascension into heaven, Jesus commissioned the disciples to be witnesses to the world of his life, death and resurrection.

How do you share your faith with friends or neighbors?

2nd Reading Question

Paul offers a prayer for the believers in Ephesus to be given wisdom, knowledge and an enlightened heart.

What are you praying for this week?

Gospel

The disciples were overcome with joy and thanksgiving, praising God for the gift of the resurrected and ascended Jesus. What gift from God brings you joy?



Live the Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

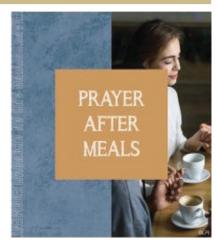
As Christ ascends to heaven, he asks the Apostles to embrace hope, to again put their trust in his promise.

This week, can we be like the Apostles? Can we embrace the hope of what is promised?

Devotions, Explained

Just as praying before a meal, praying after a meal is meant to inspire in Christians an attitude of thanksgiving and an acknowledgment of our dependence on God.

Though it is a less common practice in the modern world, early Church fathers like Tertullian and St. Jerome extolled the importance of praying after a meal, and the Christian poet Prudentius composed hymns for before and after meals ("ante cibum" and "post cibum").



There are no "official" prayers for after a meal, but the most common one said by Catholics is this: "We give thee thanks, almighty God, for all your benefits, who lives and reigns forever and ever. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace." It is a benediction which recalls our perpetual fellowship with the entire Body of Christ, including those who have passed from this life.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. You are witnesses of these things." - LK 24:46, 28



To serve is to live like Jesus—with love, humility, and purpose.



SERVE

To serve is to live like Jesus—with love, humility, and purpose.

At the heart and soul of our parish is the call from Jesus: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We believe the best way to live this out is by forming community and sharing our faith together—this is the heart of ministry.

If you're looking for a way to grow in faith and serve others, we invite you to get involved in parish life.

Whether it's through liturgy, faith formation, outreach, or hospitality—there's a place for you here.

VOLUNTEER AND SHARE YOUR GIFTS

Looking for a meaningful way to get involved at St. Catherine of Siena Parish? We are currently seeking volunteers to help with:

Parish Events & Hospitality

Mass Ministries (ushers, lectors, & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion)

Music Ministry (cantors, choir)

Office Help (weekday assistance, phone support, data entry, organizing supplies)

Teach Students the Faith

We're seeking adult teachers to support our Parish Religious Education Program

Whether you have an hour a week or can help occasionally, your time and talents make a difference!

To learn more or sign up, please contact the parish office.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another..."— 1 Peter 4:10

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 29 PARISH SUMMER PICNIC. HELP US PLAN THE PICNIC—Volunteer today!

Godparent For the Sacrament of Baptism | Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation

To Serve as a Godparent

To serve as a godparent is more than an honor—it is a sacred calling. A godparent supports the faith journey of a child by example, prayer, and ongoing spiritual encouragement. Chosen not just for closeness, but for character and commitment to the Catholic faith, a godparent walks alongside the child and their family, helping to nurture a life rooted in Christ.

To Serve as a Confirmation Sponsor

To serve as a Confirmation sponsor is a meaningful role in the life of a young Catholic. A sponsor stands as a witness to the faith, guiding the candidate through prayer, encouragement, and example. Chosen for their active Catholic life, sponsors help the candidate grow in their relationship with Christ and take their place as a fully initiated member of the Church. It is a commitment of presence, prayer, and ongoing spiritual support.

Eligibility

According to Canon Law, godparents & sponsors must:

Be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church

Be at least 16 yrs of age

Received the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, & Confirmation

Not be bound by canonical penalties

Not be the father or mother of the one being baptized

Letter of Good Standing

Before we can issue "a letter of good standing" from the Office of the Pastor, we ask that you be an active, registered parishioner for a minimum of six (6) months. An active member:

Attends Mass on a regular basis & is registered, showing regular participation with the life, mission and support of St. Catherine of Siena Parish.

Note, if he/she received all his/her sacraments here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish years ago <u>but now lives elsewhere</u>, <u>he/she is not a member of this parish</u>.

Rather, he/she is a member of the parish in whose territory he/she resides.

This is where the sponsor certificate must be obtained.



To grow in Christ is to become who we are meant to be.

FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



DISCOVERING THE MASS IN THE BIBLE

10 Week Summer Study Tuesday, June 10

10:00 AM PARISH HALL

"Lamb of God... Bread of Life... Do This in Memory of Me."
These powerful phrases echo through every mass—but do we truly know their meaning?

Together, we will explore how every part of the Mass is rooted in Scripture — from the Old Testament to the Last Supper.

Join us for coffee & snacks in this low pressure environment.

All are welcome.

Come deepen your love for the Eucharist — the source and summit of our faith.



Welcoming God's Word into Our Hearts

Join us each week as we gather to reflect on the **Sunday Mass readings**, share faith-filled conversation, and grow in friendship & understanding.

This is a time to listen deeply, ask questions, and allow Scripture to speak into our lives — together.

STARTING SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Sundays after the 8 AM Mass Paris h Hall Light refreshments and warm fellowship provided.

For more info email: Laura Randazzo passociate@sienachurch.org

The more you study the faith and encounter God in prayer, the more your trust in Him grows.

Make time each day to nurture your relationship with God, and consider joining others in reading Scripture and growing together in faith.



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PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Forming hearts, growing faith, following Christ.

New! Mommy & Me Program A Faith-Filled Start for Our Littlest Disciples



St. Catherine of Siena Parish is excited to launch our new Mommy & Me Program—a special opportunity for mothers (or caregivers) and young children (ages infant to 4) to gather in faith, friendship, and fun!

Join us for songs, stories, crafts, simple prayers, and playtime in a welcoming, faith-based environment.

When: Thursday, June 12—10: AM Where: Parish Center Activity Room Cost: Free! All are welcome.

Come connect with other families and help plant seeds of faith in your little one's heart!

For more information or to register, contact Laura Randazzo at email: passociate@sienachurch.org.



Children's Liturgy of the Word



CALLING ALL CHILDREN AGES 4-8 Join Miss Kitty & Miss Megan

Sundays during the 10:00 AM Mass & 11:30 AM Mass.

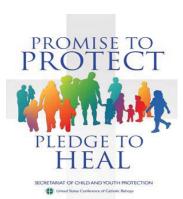
This special time allows children to hear God's Word in a way they can understand and reflect on through prayer, discussion, and age-appropriate activities. They return to their families before the Liturgy of the Eucharist. No registration required—just come and join us! Help your child grow in faith, one Sunday at a time.

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@dioceseoftrento n.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.



STEWARDSHIP

What shall I return to the Lord for all He has given me?

Offertory Update

May 24 | 25, 2025

4:30 PM \$1,488.00 8:00 AM \$1,561.00 10:00 AM \$1,238.00 11:30 AM \$1,099.00 Online Giving \$1,847.00

Weekend Total: \$7,233.00

Good Samaritan Ministry \$1,978.00

Parish Offertory

Support the ongoing, operational needs at St. Catherine's, including the care of people, programs and facilities.

Your offertory gifts enable us to celebrate our Masses each week, provide pastoral care, and maintain our sacred spaces.

Thanks to your support our parish can continue our mission to know, love, serve and grow and Jesus did.



2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Would You Like to Receive Offertory Envelopes?

If you are a registered parishioner and would like to begin receiving **offertory envelopes**, please contact the parish office. Using envelopes is a helpful way to support the parish regularly and to receive a record of your contributions for tax purposes.

Not yet registered? We'd be happy to welcome you! Stop by the parish office to register.

Also, did you know you can:



St. Catherine of Siena Parish Online Giving An easier way to support us!

CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR ONLINE GIVING WITH WESHARF

To enroll, go to www.sienachurch.org, click on our e-Giving link .

This will bring you to our PARISH GIVING page. From there, you will be able to set up a one time or recurring donation!



PARISH UPDATE as of May 23, 2025

Goal: \$38,000.00

Pledged: \$55,473.85 146% of Goal Paid: \$50,148.85 132% of Goal

We are thrilled to announce that our parish has exceeded our 2025 ACA Goal! Thank you to all who have donated. If you haven't made your gift, please do so. Your gift directly helps our parish benefit as funds are applied to Parish Formation Programs.

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