Saint Mary's

Saint Catharine of Siena Parish





ST. MARY'S REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 3:30 p.m. Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday, 2:45 -3:15 p.m. in the Church. Otherwise, by appointment only

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Brian M. Miller, M.A., Pastor Rev. Van-Vien (JV) Nguyen, Parochial Vicar Deacon John Stapleton Deacon Gregory Schneider Mrs. Marcella Kraycik, Principal Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. T. Smith, Pastor Emeritus

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC

Direct Line: (800) 791-9209

Office of Safe Environment: Pamela J. Russo,

M.S.W, M.S.

Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services

P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538 610-871-5200 ext. 2204 prusso@allentowndiocese.org ST. CATHARINE'S REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. Saturday: 4:30 p.m. Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Daily: Monday - Friday - 7:15 a.m.

Sacraments Reconciliation: Saturday - 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. - in the Church otherwise, by appointment only.

PARISH CENTER: 4975 Boyertown Pike

Phone: 610-779-4005

Parish Website: www.scsreading.org

Parish Email: saintcatharineofreading@gmail.com

ST. CATHARINE'S SCHOOL: 2330 Perkiomen Avenue Phone: 610-779-5810 • www.scsreading.org

PREP OFFICE: 2330 Perkiomen Avenue

Phone: 610-779-8535

PRE-SCHOOL:

Phone: 610-779-5810

Please mail all your correspondence to the Parish Center, 4975 Boyertown Pike, Reading, PA 19606

St. Catharine of Siena Parish Mission Statement We, the people of St. Catharine of Siena Parish, as brothers and sisters in Christ guided by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and inspired by the works of our patron saint proclaim a desire to grow in our Roman Catholic faith through holiness and a willingness to serve the members of our parish family and community.

Saint Mary's News

Saturday, December 21st - 3:30 p.m. - John & Sophia Samolewicz

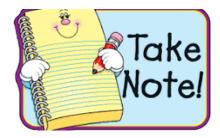
Sunday, December 22nd - 10:30 a.m. - Helena Wlazewska (11th Anniversary)

Tuesday, December 24th - 9:00 p.m. - Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Wednesday, December 25th - 9:00 a.m. - Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Saturday, December 28th - 3:30 p.m. - Alan Budgeon Sunday, December 29th - 10:30 a.m. - Joseph Bender

The Polish American TV Show - Tom Gajewski interviews people from the Polish American Community on BCTV about topics of interest, events and activities every month. The program airs on Comcast Ch 15 and Service Electric Ch 19 as follows: First Tuesday of every month - 7:30 pm - First Wednesday after First Tuesday - 7:30 pm - First Friday after First Tuesday - 1:30 pm - First Monday after First Tuesday - 10:30 am - Second Tuesday - 3:30 pm. Your feedback and/or ideas for future programs is welcome- Call Tom 610 -698-8731.



Please note: On Monday, December 23rd Adoration will be closed from 10-12 noon because of a funeral.

Also there will be no Adoration or confessions on Monday, December 30th.

All contributions for 2024 must be received by December 31, 2024 to be included on your statement. Thank you for your generosity during the past year. If contributions are received after December 31st they will be applied to your 2025 statement.

The Parish Center will be closing at noon on December 24th and we will reopen Thursday, January 2nd.



Christmas is a special time for us to give thanks to God for His many blessings to St. Catharine of Siena. As parishioners, you help promote the Gospel with the witness and good example of your lives, and for this, we are grateful in more ways than can be expressed in a letter.

Christmas reminds us to thank you for everything that <u>you</u> teach us about who Jesus Christ is in your lives. We appreciate your good example, your prayers, and your affirming support of our priestly lives. May God bless you for being so generous and cooperative in so many ways to make our parish family the growing community of faith which reflects the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We greet especially our parishioners who are sick, handicapped, or elderly and not able to join us at the table of the Lord each weekend. Thank you for your beautiful example of loyalty to your Catholic Faith and to our Parish Family of which you are a special part.

To those of you who lost loved ones this past year, we want you to know that you are in our prayers and thoughts especially at this time. Our deceased watch over and support us from their heavenly home. May the compassion and healing of our Savior Lord strengthen your family at these holiday times when we feel our losses.

In all our Masses throughout the Christmas Season, we will ask the blessings of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, upon all of you and your families. Again, thank you so much for everything you do for your parish and your priests.

With our love and gratitude,

Rev. Father Brian Miller, Rev. Father JV Nguyen, Deacon John Stapleton & Deacon Greg Schneider Mi 5:1-4a: Micah speaks of the glory of Bethlehem, a lone town among the people of Judah. From Bethlehem shall come forth the promised one who shall stand firm and strong in the Lord.

<u>Heb 10:5-10</u>: Jesus said the sacrifices, sin offerings and holocausts did not delight the Lord. But he has come to do the will of God- to establish a second covenant.

<u>Lk 1:39-45</u>: Mary went to visit Elizabeth who was also blessed by the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth greeted Mary: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

<u>Today's Message</u>: From Bethlehem shall come one who will rule Israel. Born of Mary, the servant of the Lord, he will protect and save us, offering Himself once and for all in doing the Father's will.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

CHOIR REHEARSAL – 10:00 a.m. – Meeting Room

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – following the 7:15 a.m. Mass until 8:00 p.m. * **Adoration will be closed from**

10:00 a.m. until noon (funeral)*

CONFESSIONS - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

PRAY THE ROSARY – 6:45 a.m.

PATRIOTIC ROSARY – 6:00 p.m. – Church

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

AHG - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Social Hall

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY. DECEMBER 28

PRAY THE ROSARY – 7:30 a.m.

SUNDAY. DECEMBER 29

CHOIR REHEARSAL - 10:00 a.m. - Meeting Room

<u>CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI):</u> available at the parish office throughout the week. The wafers are broken and shared on Christmas Eve at the family meal.



For the week of December 22nd
The Sanctuary Candle
will burn In
Loving Memory of

St. Catharine's Church - Genevieve & Michael Fura

St. Mary's - Genevieve & Michael Fura

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 The Kohalmi & Horvath Families

4:30 Steven Bibbo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 Grace Turnbach (1st Anniversary)

9:30 Frank Ferko

11:30 Carmen Romero (12th Anniversary)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 7:15 William Hartranft

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
7:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
10:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish 10:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 Linda & Patrick Martz FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00 Rita DiCerchio **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28** 8:00 Lorraine V. Quinn 4:30 The O'Malley Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
7:30 Salvatore Corso (11th Anniversary)
9:30 Sean J. Wertman (10th Anniversary)

11:30 Martin Eisenhower

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 22, 2024

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4, 5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday

The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-

25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11 -14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 *Mass during the Day:* Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-

6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday

Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday

Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Saturday

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5 -2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/23 Rev. Richard Clement Tuesday 12/24 Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Coll Rev. Remy Coly, M.S.C. Wednesday 12/25 Thursday 12/26 Rev. Edward B. Connolly Rev. James M. Connolly Friday 12/27 Saturday 12/28 Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Covle

Parish Nurse News - Exercise, socializing, and creative activities such as singing, dancing, and being in a chorus benefit our brains! Enjoy creative activities during this joyous Christmas season, sing to music, and dance when with others or home alone! (Dr. Alissa Butts, Mayo Clinic CONNECT)

Gethsemane's Annual Mass of Remembrance commemorating all of those interred or entombed in both Gethsemane and St

Mary's Cemeteries in 2024, will be held on Sunday January 19, 2025. Mass will be held in the Chapel of the Resurrection at 3pm.

Kennedy House. Want to volunteer and help those struggling? It is St. Catharine's turn to run the Kennedy House in Reading. We would love to have you come and help out either Saturday. January 18th and or Sunday, January 19th or both days! Times are from 9:30-2 each day. Please call, text, or email if you can help - Sara Miller 484-459-0270 or sk1699@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there.

Also, if you are unable to help but would be willing to donate food or other supplies we would need, please contact me as well. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848ACA823A4FA7-53411942-kennedy

On Monday, December 23rd, from 6:00-7:00, Angelorum will present an hour of Christmas music at the Cathedral. We hope it will bring peace and joy in this most beautiful season. We will sing from the loft, and confessions will be heard during this hour. Come and spend an hour with Jesus and listen to the music that sings of His birth and His LOVE.

Bonded Date Night for Couples Practicing NFP

If you are a couple practicing NFP, you know both the joys and struggles that come with living out this lifestyle. Join the NFP Task Force and other married couples for an evening of community and discussion with those who understand what it's like to live out this counter-cultural teaching. Event takes place at Building 24 Kitchen and Bar, 1115 Bern Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610, on March 6th from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Contact the NFP Task Force allentown.nfp@gmail.co with questions. RSVP at allentowndiocese.flock.



Patriotic Rosarv

Thursday's 5:45 PM (Advent Time) Church



Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, December 24th 4:00 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 pm St. Mary's 10:30 pm

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25th 8:00 am 9:00 am St. Mary's

10:00 am

Daily Mass from December 26th to December 27th 9:00 am

December 28th—29th **Regular Sunday Mass Schedule**

Solemnity of Mary - Holy Day of Obligation December 31st - 4:00 p.m. January 1st 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: First Lt. David J. Wentling, IV, Second Lt. Nicholas A. Wentling, Cpts. Juliana & Sean Coleman, Petty Officer Matthew J. Dobroskey, Jr., Cpl. Bruce Bogertey, SPC, Alex Heintz, Captain Chelsea Pellicano, LTJG Nicholas Tomczyk, Captain Steffan Lis, MD, SPC, Dylan Einfalt, Airman 1st Class Kevin Hodgson, Sgt. Madison Straka, First Lt. Devon Schoonover, Sgt. Mackenzie Adame, Staff Sgt. Brian Perrotto, Captain Anthony Bennett, Tom Bristol, Danny Bristol, Commander Daniel M. Simon, Staff Sgt. Michael Porcaro, Staff Sgt. Zak Ribble, TSgt. Timothy Hinsey, Thomas Bristol, Col. Patrick Sullivan, Second Lt. Joshua Kline, Captain Kevin Madary, Sgt. First Class Andrew Spies, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Brizek, Warrant Officer Gregory Van Horn, Major Jeffrey Van Horn, Zachary Deissler, Amy & Gregory Boland, Lt. Col. Adam Sawyer, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Sola, Lt. Cdr. Mathew Stuber, Sgt. Nathan Essig. Please contact the Parish Office with your prayer requests or email them to dsitler@comcast.net .

Are you interested in helping to develop, promote and carry out activities at St Catharine's which are Christ centered, family focused, with an eye on the eternal, that will enhance parish life? Contact Deanna Stratton (strattonmd@aol.com) or Lisa lanni (llianni@verizon.net) to learn more.

Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

a time to be born... Recently Baptized: Dominick & Luka Garcia

Please pray for our sick & soldiers in harm's way: Karin Acuna, Joseph Albert, Richard Abelt, Carl Andrzjewski, Anthony Antonucci, Elizabeth Ashton, Baby Lanzo, Mike Bailey, Joe Barker, Melody Bechtel, Gene Bellus, Dolores Bertoti, Irene Bezak, Joseph Bezak, Jason Beshore, JoAnne Biscanti, Jodi Bixler, Susan Bolognese, Jim Boris, Michele Boucher, Joanne Bowman, Katie Briggs, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Paul Brooke, Renee Brzostek, Connie Burkhart, Maria Bunch, Marvin Bush, Pauline Cappel, Therese (Brenner) Cooney, Richard Cunnius, Larry Curtin, Cyril Danko, Tamara Danko, Alivia Devlin, Jennifer & Thomas Devlin, George Dietrich, Roseanne Dougherty, Andy Dykie, Gina Ebright, Dr. Elizabeth Edmunds, Charles Elchlepp, Marian Ertel, Joe & Theresa Essig, Robert Flipping , Jocelyn Franek, Abby Franey, Chris Fry, Geraldine Gamby, Michael Gantert, Todd Gladfelter, Theresa Grabowski, Loretta Greely, Clara Hartline, Ruth Ann Hass, Al Heck, William F. Hedl, Wayne & Mary Hedrick, Robyn Hefferan, John Heft, Theresa Heltzinger, Patricia Herber, Curtis S. Hill, Jesse Hill, Roger Hilton, Michael Hivner, Chuck Holt, Margaret Iuso, Michael Jurasinski, Katelynn Solecki Kajunski, Nikki Lyn Kells, Krissy Kelly, Maryanne Kenton, Lynn Keys, Cindy Kohl, Rev. David Kohut, OFM, John Kompa, Jackie Kopicki, Deb Kothgasser, Rosemarie Kovacs, Dorothy Kulak, Walter LaSota, Darryl Larish, William Lawson, Pat & Fred Lenich, Melanie Lintz, Jane Lubas, Joan Lubas, Aleigha Manderbach, Angela Marroccoli, Rocco Martinozzi, Greg & Kevin Masters, Daniel Matz, Cindy McConnell, Peggy McConnell, Mary Rita McFadden, Tim McNeil, Katherine Miceli, Lannie Milillo, William Nelson, Jerome Nigh, Maddie Nordhoy, Angela Biscanti Ondik, Peggy Pacharis, Frank Pingitore, Donald Pisker, David Plumley, Chuck Rackie, Lorraine Ransom, Nada Rathkey, Phyliss Rathman, Rich Readinger, Peggy Reid, Virginia Rivera, Aneliese & Raven Robinson, David Samsel, Barbara Santoro, Anne Schaeffer, Barbara Schock, Edward Senkowski, Bob Shardin, Earl Sheetz, Gabbie Sierra, Joan Skoczen, Tyler Skoczen, Anne Smith, Harry Snyder, Louise Souders, Barbara Spatz, Andy Strangarity, Earl Suchomelly, Thomas Sword, Sean Tipping, Kimberly Trigstead, Antoinette (Honey) Tutlane, Richard Uliasz, Janet Ustaszewski, Rex Voelker, Chad Vogel, John Vogel, Alexandra Wachowicz, Dave Walter, Mark Walter, Pam Weber, Lyn Weidenhammer, Bill Wertz, Frank White, Ann Marie Zawislak, Mary Ann Zerkowski, Dan Zielinski, John Ziemba, Mollie Ziemba, Mary Ann Zimmerman A Time to die: Geraldine DeHart & all victims of war, and the 4,100 daily abortions. Ecclesiastes 3:11

To have someone from your family enrolled on our prayer list, please call the Parish Center. Parishioners who are sick or hospitalized, in a rehabilitation facility or at home wishing to receive the Holy Eucharist may call the Parish at 610-779- 4005.

Pick 3 Lottery Ca\$h Calendar Fundraiser

Help St. Catharine of Siena School and win big! Each \$20 calendar offers **59 chances to win** with daily cash prizes. Match your number to the PA Evening Pick 3 Lottery and win the amount listed for that date! Proceeds will go directly to the school.

How to Get Your Calendar:

- Fill out the order form available at the church
- Visit or call the school office (Mon-Fri, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM; (610) 779-5810).
- Contact a SAB member or email scsschoolboard@gmail.com
 Payment accepted via cash, check, or Venmo. Must be 18+ to play. Act fast—calendars are limited! Thank you for supporting our school community!

DID YOU KNOW? - Through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Pennsylvania Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC), businesses and individuals can lower their tax bills by donating to private schools, scholarship organizations, pre-K programs, and other educational enrichment initiatives. The bulk of the tax credits — \$110 million per year — are reserved for donors that give to scholarship organizations, which provide financial aid to children attending K-12 private schools. The program also sets aside a small amount of tax credits for donors that give to pre-k scholarship funds. At Saint Catharine of Siena School, our EITC and OSTC program plays an essential role in the school's financial strategy as well as the fulfillment of our mission. Saint Catharine of Siena School is seeking donors to participate in the EITC/OSTC program to alleviate the burden of financial aid on our operating budget AND to give as many children access to a Catholic, Saint Catharine of Siena education as possible. If you are interested in learning more about this tax credit scholarship program, please contact Mrs. Stephanie Conlon, SCS Advancement Director @ 610-779-5810.



The ServSafe® Food Safety Advantage

The SCS Knights of Columbus will be hosting a ServSafe Food Certification course at the St. Catharine's Social Hall on January 18th, 2025. The course will be administered by a certified ServSafe Instructor. The certification program consists of a morning session (starting at 9:00 AM) and concludes with the completion of a certification test that afternoon. Each participant will receive the required book, certified instruction for the day, and the certification test. The cost is \$100 per participant and must be paid in advance to the Knights of Columbus Council 14880. This covers the cost of the book and the certification test fee. To ensure timely receipt of information material to be ordered for the course, registration with the SCS Knights must occur by end of day 12/31/24. For questions/registration, contact Tom Trainer at ThomasA.Trainer@gmail.com or phone 484-333-4312. The ServSafe® program is developed by the National Restaurant Association with the help of foodservice industry experts. Years of experience and inside knowledge of the foodservice industry are at the core of the course, exam and materials provided. The food safety experts prepare you to handle food sanitation risks because they have direct experience with it. The **ServSafe®** materials help define food safety best practices because they involve specialists from regulatory agencies, academia, and the foodservice industry to create those practices. ServSafe® materials reflect the latest science, research and the FDA Food Code.

If your SCS Church organization serves food at any events/ fundraisers, consider having a representative take the course and obtain certification to ensure healthy and safe food preparation practices are understood and administered at your events.



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Millions of Monicas – Praying With Confidence For Our Children

Many of us have children who are struggling to embrace their Catholic faith or have left the church entirely. Like St. Monica, as mothers we persevere in prayer for their joyful return to full unity with the Catholic Church. We are not a support group or a self-help group. No sensitive information is shared. We believe that by coming together monthly, uniting our hearts and voices praying together, we can bring strength and joy to each other. We want to encounter God through prayer for ourselves and our children.

Join with other mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church.

We will have three separate meetings held on different days and times with the hope that if one meeting is not convenient, there is another for you. We will meet on the first Wednesday of each month (with the exception of 1/1/25 that will be held on 1/8/25 only) from 7p - 8p. We'll have another on the second Saturday of the month from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. We will also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 9a - 10a. All meetings will be held in the Church.

For more information please visit www.millionsofmonicas.com.



Father Miller & Father JV with Santa during the Knights Breakfast with Santa!

50 Plus News

Please call, Acting President Bev Gallo for any 50 Plus Club inquiries. Her phone number is 610-763-7058. You can see us on Facebook for additional information.

Meetings

January 8, 2025: Pat White will review the trips for 2025. Refreshments will be served.

February 5, 2025: Matthew Dudds will sing songs and tell stories for Valentine's Day. Refreshments will be served.

Please call Pat White at 610-582-1437 or Bev Bard at 610-763-5654. For trip information.

Please call Maria Bunch at 610-914-7005 with the names of members who are sick or who have died.

We always welcome new members and encourage guests to join us at any of our meetings. Our meetings are held at 1:00 PM on the first Wednesday of most months at St Catharine Social Hall. There will be no meetings during the special events months of April, August, and December.

Thank you to the 35 men and 130 women who came to the Advent Reflection Men's and Women's events held 12/7 in the morning and evening respectively. Each featured a delicious shared meal, amazing guest speaker reflection, Adoration and opportunity for Confessions. We sincerely thank you for your participation, hope the events have brought forth much fruit in your lives and hope to see you at future events for our parish family. Stay involved and invite others to join you.

Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception - The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., will be on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Diocesan Pilgrimage tradition to Mary's House is typically held every four years. More information will be forthcoming for individuals, parishes, and schools. Email pilgrimage@aorcall.610-921-2729, ext. 2205.