

# St. Catherine of Siena Church

A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH of PRAYER and FRIENDSHIP

## Church and Parish Office

2 White Bridge Road  
Pittstown, NJ 08867

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 245  
Pittstown, NJ 08867

## Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM  
(Later by appointment)  
Phone: (908) 735-4024  
Fax: (908) 735-0355  
Website: [www.scoschurch.org](http://www.scoschurch.org)  
Email: [office@scoschurch.org](mailto:office@scoschurch.org)

## PASTOR

**Rev. Chester Zalubski**  
Email: [frchester@scoschurch.org](mailto:frchester@scoschurch.org)

## Weekend Assistant

**Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski, DD**  
Bishop Emeritus

## Permanent Deacons

**Deacon Michael A. Meyer, D.Min.**  
Email: [deaconmike@scoschurch.org](mailto:deaconmike@scoschurch.org)  
**Deacon Dennis K. Webster**  
Email: [deacondennis@scoschurch.org](mailto:deacondennis@scoschurch.org)

## Religious Education Director

**Sandra Kopka**  
(908) 735-5086  
Email: [religioused@scoschurch.org](mailto:religioused@scoschurch.org)

## Music Director

**Pat Prakopcyk**  
(908) 782-7043  
Email: [musicdirector@scoschurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@scoschurch.org)

## Office Manager

**Jennifer Perna**  
(908) 735-4024  
Email: [jperna@scoschurch.org](mailto:jperna@scoschurch.org)

## Office Assistant

**Tee Andersen**  
(908) 735-4024  
Email: [tandersen@scoschurch.org](mailto:tandersen@scoschurch.org)

## Youth Ministry Director

**Dawn Salerno**  
(908) 477-0105  
Email: [dsalerno@scoschurch.org](mailto:dsalerno@scoschurch.org)



December 17, 2023 Vol. 03

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday Evening:** 4:30 PM  
**Sunday:** 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:00 AM  
**Daily:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 8:00 AM  
Wednesday 7:00 PM

## **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**First Friday:** 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

**Saturday:** 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM  
**Wednesday:** 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM or by appointment

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

For registered and practicing parishioners (weekly attendance at Mass) by arrangement with Father Chester. Preparation classes are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month. Please call to register.

## **SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Engaged parishioners are requested to make arrangements with Father Chester at least one year in advance.

## **CARE OF THE SICK**

Please notify the Parish Office for a visit for a homebound or ill individual. Call for a prayer intention to be included in the bulletin and/or weekly intentions. Please notify us when someone is hospitalized.

## **PARISH MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION**

Every family should be registered properly. Registration is necessary to qualify for the Religious Education Program and the reception of the Sacraments.

Certificates of eligibility for sponsorship for Baptism or Confirmation will be given only to active (weekly Mass attendance) registered parishioners.

# ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, PITTSTOWN, NJ

## PARISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### Altar Servers

Kelly Wojtal  
(908) 892-4574

### Audio/Visual

Ken Mandoli  
(908) 735-2879

### Auditors

Maggie Marion  
(908) 735-4024

### Building Maintenance

Ray Ferraro  
(908) 623-0345

### Catholic Media

Denise Botto  
(908) 996-6760

### Coffee Fellowship

Teri Saccal  
(908) 229-9355

### Decorating Committee

Donna Cahill  
(908) 730-9384

### Events Hospitality

Margaret Rocca  
(908) 996-3226

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

John-Joseph Bober  
(908) 713-9707

### Family Mass

Sandra Kopka  
religioused@scoschurch.org

### Family Promise

Mary Jo Haggerty  
(908) 892-3513

### Finance Council

Mike Wojtal  
(908) 310-7488

### Food Pantry

Patty Battipaglia  
(908) 735-6020

### Knights of Columbus

Ed Schilke  
(973) 886-3884

### Monthly Eucharistic Adoration

Mary Kauza (908) 735-4582  
Jane Ricketts (908) 782-6216

### Parish Gardener

George Mehaffey  
(908) 581-2521

### Parish Pastoral Council

Denise Botto  
(908) 996-6760

### Parish Picnic

Debbie Fass  
(973) 222-8100

### Prayer Shawl

Donna Mustillo  
(908) 237-0211

### Graphic Materials

Helen Nardone  
(908) 391-0857

### Readers

Robert Preston  
(908) 510-2712

### Right to Life Representative

Robert Keeling  
(908) 812-1071

### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Deacon Mike Meyer  
deaconmike@scoschurch.org

### Rosary Society

Yasmin Hernandez-Manno  
(973) 229-4368

### Sacristan

Margaret Rocca  
(908) 996-3668

### Sanctuary Guild

Kathy Mathews  
(908) 735-9511

### SCRIP Program

Robin Potempa  
(908) 310-4273

### Social Concerns

Doreen Opeikun  
(908) 507-6752

### Stewardship

Lori Young  
(908) 713-1997

### Ushers

Rich Kopf  
(908) 797-4607

### Veterans Military Apostolate

Parish Office  
(908) 735-4024

### Website

Ed Schilke  
(908) 713-4914

### Wedding Coordinator

Ellen McCarthy  
(908) 735-2028

### Welcome

Carol Rocha  
(908) 996-7612

### Youth Choir

Lisa Sforza  
youthmusic@scoschurch.org

## Weekly Schedule

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

2:30 PM — 4:00 PM RCIA SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE & HEALING

3:30 PM — 4:00 PM RECONCILIATION

4:30 PM MASS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

8:00 AM — 9:00 AM 2ND GRADE FAITH FORMATION

8:00 AM MASS

8:30 AM — 10:15 AM 3RD & 4TH GRADE FAITH FORMATION

9:30 AM MASS

11:00 AM MASS

12:00 PM CHRISTMAS DAY CHOIR REHEARSAL

6:00 PM — 7:00 PM PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION AND ADORATION

6:00 PM — 7:30 PM YOUTH GROUP

7:00 PM — 7:45 PM YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

8:00 AM MASS

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

8:00 AM MASS

12:30 PM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

3:30 PM STEWARDSHIP MEETING

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

6:00 PM — 7:30 PM 7TH & 8TH GRADE FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

6:30 PM — 7:00 PM 7TH & 8TH GRADE ADVENT RECONCILIATION **STUDENTS ONLY**

7:00 PM MASS

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM — 11:30 AM BIBLE STUDY

7:00 PM BAPTISMAL PREP CLASS

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

8:00 AM MASS

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

3:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

3:30 PM — 4:00 PM RECONCILIATION

4:30 PM MASS — BISHOP CHECCHIO

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH — CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00 AM MASS

9:30 AM MASS

11:00 AM MASS

3:30 PM PAGEANT

4:00 PM MASS

6:00 PM MASS

MIDNIGHT MASS

## DECEMBER 17, 2023 — 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25  
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25  
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38  
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45  
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56  
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66  
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

### Observances for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest  
Next Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve  
(C)LPi

### Parish Advent Reconciliation and Adoration December 17th from 6:00 — 7:00 PM

Join us on Sunday, December 17th  
from 6:00 — 7:00 PM for Reconciliation and  
spend time with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration.

### Holy Day Mass Schedule

#### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th:

3:30 PM	Children's Pageant
4:00 PM	Children's Mass
6:00 PM	Mass
Midnight	Mass

#### Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th:

8:00 AM	Mass
10:00 AM	Mass



### The "Oplatki" or "Christmas Wafer"

is available and located in the Narthex for  
\$1.00 Donation



### The 2023 Catholic Calendars are here!

Please take 1 or 2 for your family.  
They will be available all month in the Narthex.

### EMAIL SCAMS

Once again, we have been made aware that scammers are using Father Chester's name and fake email address asking our parishioners for money, Amazon cards, or gift cards.

### PLEASE DO NOT REPLY!

Father Chester would **NEVER** email you asking for money or gift cards. He would call you or speak to you directly.

### PLEASE DO NOT REPLY...IT'S A SCAM

### Youth Group Corner Upcoming Events



#### Dec. 17th from 6 — 7:30 PM

Christmas Celebration-White Elephant \$15 budget/Bible Bingo/DJ Matt/Gingerbread Nativities & Houses.

#### Jan 7th from 6 — 7:30 PM

Speaker Wayne Isbitski

Topic: Discipleship. Discussion: Is Jesus relevant in today's world? Our online lives are a constant distraction; texting, email, TikTok, Facebook, and scores of websites demanding our attention. If Jesus was still here on Earth today would he be on social media?

#### Jan 21st from 6 — 7:30 PM

Weekly Youth Meeting Plan WWE Jesus vs Satan.

**We are always happy to accept dinner donations for youth group meetings! (Pizza/Subs/Salads/Tacos)**

### Family Advent Wreath Lighting



Our sign-up sheet for the Family Advent Wreath Lighting is located in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider signing up.

Lighting of the wreath takes place at the beginning of each weekend Mass. We ask that you arrive approximately 10 minutes prior to your Mass.

## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Parish Center Campaign Corner Parish Center Donation Recognition Opportunities:

With Township approval of our building plans, our attention is now focused on fund raising. To date, 174 Parishioners have pledged **\$609,987** against our goal of **\$900,000**.

#### Thank You For Your Generosity!

We would like to acknowledge our donors for their generous gifts by offering permanent memorial plaques affixed on various building elements with your name or that of a family loved one memorialized.

Major gift levels will be \$10,000, \$15,000, \$20,000 & \$25,000, and above for specific rooms in the building.

There are additional gift levels ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 for windows, doorways, equipment, and furnishings.

Finally, a memorial paver garden with personalized paving stones in different sizes will be available for donation levels from \$250 up to \$1,000.

All donors, regardless of gift level, will have their name affixed to a plaque displayed in the lobby of the building. Any donors who have already provided gifts at these levels will have first right of refusal for recognition opportunities.

There will be more information available on our website and in Fellowship Hall. Please contact the Parish Office or fill out a pledge card, which is available at the entrances of the Church or in the Parish Office.

God bless you for your support of our Parish,  
Father Chester

#### Campaign Report To Date:

Active Parishioners:	484
Pledges Received:	174
Campaign Goal:	\$900,000
Amount Pledged:	\$609,987
Amount Collected:	\$490,746

Please contact Wayne Isbitski for questions at [wisbit@yahoo.com](mailto:wisbit@yahoo.com) or (908) 642-5031

Please send all donations to the office or drop in collection basket.

#### OFFICE HOURS December 25th — January 1st

Dec. 25th — Closed  
Dec. 26th — Closed  
Dec. 27th — 9:30 — Noon  
Dec. 28th — 9:30 — Noon  
Dec. 29th — Closed  
Jan. 1st — Closed

#### Rosary for Life – January 19, 2024

Come Pray a Rosary for Life (in solidarity with those at the March for Life in Washington, DC and across the country). Bishop Checchio is scheduled to attend! Friday, January 19, 2024 at 1:00 PM on Main Street in Woodbridge. Park and meet in the St. James Parish parking lot at 12:45 PM (369 Amboy Ave, Woodbridge, NJ) There is a 12:10 PM daily Mass at St. James for those who wish to attend. For more information, contact [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-1543.

#### New Bible Study at St. Catherine's

Are you looking to have a better understanding and connection to the Sunday Mass Readings? If so, join us as we gather to discuss and share these weekly passages.

Join us weekly on **Thursday at 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM** in Fellowship Hall.

For questions, please contact Teri Saccal at [tasacal@outlook.com](mailto:tasacal@outlook.com) or Lucia Sciancalepore at [lucia.sciancalepore3@gmail.com](mailto:lucia.sciancalepore3@gmail.com).

#### Ministry Information Weekend

*"As Each One Has Received A Gift, Use it to Serve One Another as Good Stewards of God's Varied Grace."*

Please consider joining a ministry to help add spiritual vitality to our faith community. Ministry leaders will be available to discuss opportunities to serve a Ministry following Mass the weekend of January 27th — 28th.

Stop by for a cup of coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall. Ministry sign-ups will be held following Mass the weekend of January 27th — 28th.

**Not a Parishioner?** Stop by the Weekend of January 27th — 28th and speak with one of our Welcome Committee Members.



*"Marriage is a sacred bond between two imperfect people which is made possible by a perfect God, and held together with limitless love, unshakable faith and undying devotion for one another."*  
- Pope Francis

*Beginning in January 2024, St. Catherine's will be offering a special wedding anniversary blessing to couples during our monthly Marriage Celebration Mass held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at the 11 am Mass.*

Married couples are invited to join us in this celebration of their marriage vocation by sharing your names and wedding date in our "Anniversary Book" located in the Narthex of our Church. Or, you may submit your information to the parish office. Please note on the envelope "Anniversary Blessings".



*Love is patient, love is kind.*

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday: December 16, 2023

4:30 PM The Parishioners of St. Catherine's

### Sunday: December 17, 2023

8:00 AM Catherine & Jerry Santry  
r/o Joan & Jim Flotteron

9:30 AM Romano Family  
r/o Blaese Romano

11:00 AM John W. Raymonds  
r/o St. Catherine's Parish

### Monday: December 18, 2023

8:00 AM Albert Reider  
r/o Ann & Rob Preston

### Tuesday: December 19, 2023

8:00 AM Tammy Shank  
r/o The Strauss Family

### Wednesday: December 20, 2023

7:00 PM Victoria Natalizio  
r/o Anthony & Jennifer Natalizio

### Thursday: December 21, 2023

8:00 AM Robert R Walker  
r/o The Mustillo Family

### Friday: December 22, 2023

8:00 AM Leonardo Limone  
r/o The Clancey Family

### Saturday: December 23, 2023

4:30 PM Chris Luke  
r/o Mahy Churylo

### Sunday: December 24, 2023

8:00 AM The Parishioners of St. Catherine's

9:30 AM Daniel Linehan  
r/o The Bajak Family

11:00 AM The Piotrowski Family  
r/o Dennis & Kathleen Webster

4:00 PM The Parishioners of St. Catherine's

6:00 PM The Parishioners of St. Catherine's

Midnight The Parishioner's of St. Catherine's

## From the Pastor's Desk Parish Penance Service

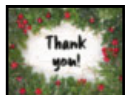
As our Advent journey continues, we are reminded that John the Baptist was that voice crying in the wilderness challenging us to acknowledge our shortcomings, transform our hearts, and repent of our sins. In order to provide an additional opportunity for repentance, we will have an **Advent Penance Service and Adoration this Sunday, December 17th, at 6 PM.**

One of our leading Catholic scholars has stated that "sin clouds the mind in moral confusion and closes the heart to God's love and truth." But in God's light, we see sin for what it really is. When we sin, it does not necessarily mean that we are bad people. It means that we are missing the mark and refusing to listen to God's word and obey His will. As a way to get back on the mark and follow the light of Christ, our Church places a special emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are invited to use this time of Advent as a time to reflect on our choices, failures, and shortcomings, and address them. To this end, we will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation at our Advent Penance Service. Visiting priests will be available to assist us.

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can cleanse ourselves spiritually as we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child. As we know, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is not intended to punish us but rather to get us closer to the Lord who loves us. Pope Francis stated, "If we humbly implore God's grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God's love holds out for us."

Details concerning the Penance Service can be obtained from the Parish bulletin and website as well as from the Parish office. I hope that you will prayerfully consider participating in the Penance Service and avail yourself of this special time of spiritual renewal.

*Fr. Chester*



The collections for December 3rd were \$4,692.00 (121 envelopes) for the regular collection and \$1,067.00 (96 envelopes) for Religious Education. The December 10th & 17th collections will be posted in the December 31st bulletin.



On-Line Giving for December 3rd was \$3,128.00 (111 donors). December 10th & 17th collections will be posted in the December 31st bulletin.

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