

# 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 24, 2023 Vol. 04

## **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 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

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH — CHRISTMAS DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM MASS

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

OFFICE CLOSED

8:00 AM MASS

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

OFFICE OPENED 9:30 — 12:30

7:00 PM MASS

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

OFFICE OPENED 9:30 — 12:30

8:00 AM MASS

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

OFFICE CLOSED

8:00 AM MASS

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

3:30 PM — 4:00 PM RECONCILIATION

4:30 PM MASS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST — NEW YEAR'S EVE

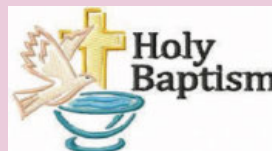
8:00 AM MASS

9:30 AM MASS

11:00 AM MASS

### Bishop Checchio is coming...

Please join us on Saturday, December 23rd as Bishop Checchio will be celebrating at the 4:30 PM Mass.



We are happy to welcome our recently baptized at St. Catherine of Siena:

Mia Leone  
December 9, 2023

**Readings for the week of December 24, 2023**

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 **Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14 **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11 12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 **Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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

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

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

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2: 22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2: 36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**Observances for the week of December 24, 2023**

Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve  
 Monday: The Nativity of the Lord  
 Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr  
 Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
 Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
 Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr  
 Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

(C)LPi

**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



**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday, December 25th Closed  
 Tuesday, December 26th Closed  
 Wednesday, December 27th 9:30 — Noon  
 Thursday, December 28th 9:30 — Noon  
 Friday, December 29th Closed  
 Monday, January 1st Closed

**The 2024 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**

**RETROUVAILLE** consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with four follow-up sessions. The upcoming weekend is **February 2 – 4, 2024**. All inquiries are confidential.

For further information, please contact Rich Colasuonno (732) 236-0671 or Annette Colasuonno (732) 672-0748 or email [3024@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3024@helpourmarriage.org)



*We would like to welcome  
 The Carey Family  
 to St. Catherine of Siena Parish.*

**Youth Group Corner  
 Upcoming Events**



**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)**

## 4TH 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, 179 Parishioners have pledged **\$623,052 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:	179
Campaign Goal:	\$900,000
Amount Pledged:	\$623,052
Amount Collected:	\$506,289

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.

*Are you celebrating your  
Wedding Anniversary in January?*

**JOIN US ON JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>  
AT THE 11:00 AM MASS  
TO RECEIVE A  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY BLESSING.**

All 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 send your names, and wedding date to the parish office in an envelope marked "Anniversary Blessings".



#### PLEASE NOTE:

WE WILL BE OFFERING A MARRIAGE CELEBRATION MASS, 11 AM, ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH THROUGHOUT 2024. SIGN UP IN THE "ANNIVERSARY BOOK" LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

#### 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 following Mass the weekend of **January 27th — 28th** to discuss opportunities to serve in a Ministry.

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.

# Mass Intentions

## 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 Parishioners of St. Catherine's

## Monday: December 25, 2023

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

10:00 AM The Parishioners of St. Catherine's

## Tuesday: December 26, 2023

8:00 AM Antonio & Rosa Rofrano  
r/o The Clancey Family

## Wednesday: December 27, 2023

7:00 PM Robert Rocca  
r/o The Family

## Thursday: December 28, 2023

8:00 AM John Fusco, Sr.  
r/o Ann & Rob Preston

## Friday: December 29, 2023

8:00 AM Paul Gallagher  
r/o The Gallagher Family

## Saturday: December 30, 2023

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

## Sunday: December 31, 2023

8:00 AM Eric Bobal  
r/o Donna & Dominic Mustillo

9:30 AM Andrew Hannalla  
r/o Fr. Chester

11:00 AM Anna Teets  
r/o The Paulmeno Family

## From the Pastor's Desk

### *A Tradition for Your Eve of Christmas*

Many of you took "Oplatki" or "Christmas Wafers." Sharing the Oplatki on Christmas Eve Dinner is a millennia old tradition that began in Poland, Slovakia, and Lithuania.

At the Christmas Eve Meal one of the wafers or, a part of one, are placed on each person's plate. Before the meal, a prayer is said and then beginning with the father and mother of the house, a Sign of Peace is exchanged in the same manner and the wish of a Happy Christmas. Then each person, with wafer in hand, breaks off a part of the wafer from the other person and eats it. This continues until each person has greeted and eaten a part of the wafer of everyone present.

There are usually four wafers in the package: three white and one pink. The white are for the people at the Christmas Eve Dinner. The pink wafer is broken and a small piece is given to each of the animals in the house. On this night the animals are given special due. This is because of an old tradition which holds that since the animals were the first to welcome the Christ Child at His birth, they are given the blessing to talk on Christmas Eve Night.

What Traditions do you hold on this Holy Night for yourself and your family and are they about the reason of this season – the Love of God Made Flesh?

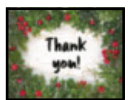
P.S. If you need a Prayer to begin The Christmas Eve Meal ...

Begin with The Sign of the Cross.

**All:** We gather together on this holy night for the sacred and joyful Christmas Eve Vigil. We Celebrate the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The love of God made Flesh.

Through the sharing of these holy wafers we praise God and forgive each other of all wrongs, real or imagined. As Christ loves and forgives us, so we love and forgive one another. Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to this family and all God's People. Amen.

*Fr. Chester*



The collections for December 10th were \$3,526.00 (112 envelopes) and \$1,625.00 (52 envelopes) for the Retired Religious Fund. December 17th collection will be posted in the December 31st bulletin.



On-Line Giving for December 10th was \$2,748.00 ( 107 donors). December 17th collection will be posted in the December 31st bulletin.

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## Immaculate Conception Cemetery & Mausoleum

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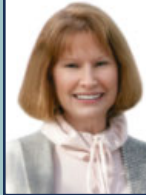
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