



## 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: <a href="mailto:www.scoschurch.org">www.scoschurch.org</a> Email: office@scoschurch.org

#### **PASTOR**

Rev. Chester Zalubski

Email: frchester@scoschurch.org

#### Weekend Assistant

Fr. Jerome Borski

#### **Permanent Deacons**

Deacon Michael A. Meyer, D.Min. Email: deaconmike@scoschurch.org

Deacon Dennis K. Webster

Email: deacondennis@scoschurch.org

#### **Religious Education Director**

Sandra Kopka (908) 735-5086

Èmail: stcscre@gmail.com

#### **Music Director**

Pat Prakopcyk (908) 782-7043

Email: stcatmusic@gmail.com

#### Office Manager

Jennifer Perna

(908) 735-4024

Èmail: jperna@scoschurch.org

#### **Office Assistant**

Tee Andersen

(908) 735-4024

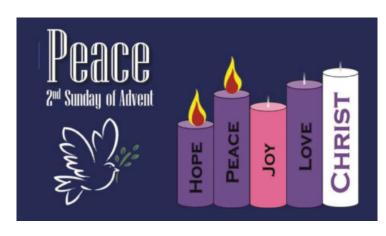
Email: tandersen@scoschurch.org

#### **Youth Ministry Director**

Dawn Salerno

(908) 477-0105

Email: dsalerno@scoschurch.org



**December 8, 2024** 

Vol. 02

#### **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 Wednesday 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** 

Mark Kubian (732) 297-9425

Audio/Visual

Ken Mandoli (908) 735-2879

**Auditors** 

Maggie Marion (908) 735-4024

**Bible Study** 

Teri Saccal (908) 229-9355 Lucia Sciancalepore (201) 970-5072

Building Maintenance

David Perna (908) 296-5120

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

Kids Club

**Debbie Fass** kidsclub@scoschurch.org

**Knights of Columbus** 

Ken Mandoli (908) 507-1554

**Monthly Eucharistic** 

<u>Adoration</u>

(908) 735-4582 Mary Kauza Jané 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

<u>Lectors</u> 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** 

Yasmine Hernandez-Manno (973) 229-4368

<u>Sacristan</u>

Margaret Rocca (908) 996-3668

Sanctuary Guild

Kathy Mathews (908) 735-9511

**SCRIP Program** 

Robin Potempa (908) 310-4273

**Spirituality Committee** 

Mark Salerno (908) 477-5039

**Social Concerns** 

Doreen Opeikun (908) 507-6752

Stewardship

Lori Young (908) 246-6690

<u>Ushers</u>

Rich Kopf (908) 797-4607

**Veterans Military Apostolate** 

Mark Kubian (732) 297-9425

**Website** 

Ed Schilke (908) 886-3884

Wedding Coordinator

Ellen McCarthy (908) 240-0583

Welcome

Carol Rocha (908) 996-7612

Youth Choir

Lisa Sforza — Nancy Coletti youthmusic@scoschurch.org

#### Weekly Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM RECONCILIATION

4:30 PM MASS/BLESSING OF THE ROSARY

> SOCIETY MEMBERS & ALL PARISHIONER ROSARY BEADS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM

2ND & 4TH GRADE FAITH 10:15 AM

**FORMATION** 

9:30 AM MASS

MARRIAGE BLESSING/ 11:00 AM

ST. NICHOLAS FAMILY MASS

5:30 PM — 7:00 PM YOUTH GROUP

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH** 

OFFICE CLOSED —THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:00 AM MASS 7:00 PM **MASS** 

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH** 

8:00 AM MASS

12:30 PM — 2:00 PM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 7:00 PM KNIGHTS' BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

6:30 PM — 7:00 PM **RECONCILIATION — STUDENTS** 

ONLY

7:00 PM MASS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM — 11:30 AM BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

8:00 AM **MASS** 

6:00 PM — 7:30 PM KIDS CLUB

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH** 

3:30 PM — 4:00 PM RECONCILIATION

4:30 PM **MASS** 

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH** 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

> 8:00 AM MASS

8:30 AM — 10:15 AM 3RD & 5TH GRADE FAITH

**FORMATION** 

9:30 AM **MASS** 11:00 AM **MASS** 

5:00 PM — 7:00 PM ADVENT PARISH RETREAT,

**ADORATION & RECONCILIATION** 

#### DECEMBER 8, 2024 — 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### Readings for the week of December 8, 2024

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:

4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:

3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/

Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt

11:28-30

Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt

13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,

18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/ls 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/

Lk 3:10-18

#### Observances for the week of December 8, 2024

Sunday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Tuesday: Our Lady of Loreto
Wednesday: St. Damasus I, Pope
Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Friday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Saturday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of

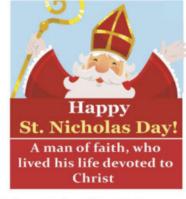
the Church

Next Sunday: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

(C)LPi

## CELEBRATE WITH US!

Sunday
December 8<sup>th</sup>
11:00 AM
Family Mass



We are expecting a special guest to be with us during Mass and all will have an opportunity to take photos with him and the children after Mass.

A specially decorated area will be set up in Fellowship Hall for photos, so bring your cameras and cell phones.

Hospitality will also be provided in Fellowship Hall as well as goodie bags for all the children.

Calling all 8th Graders who need confirmation service hours.

Volunteer as ushers, readers, offertory helpers,
altar servers (if trained), and hospitality.

Email Sandra: religioused@scoschurch.org

St. Nicholas takes up to the heart of Christmas and honors the Christ Child who selflessly gave the greatest gift of all ... HIMSELF!

## Advent Parish Retreat, Adoration & Reconciliation December 15th from 5:00 – 7:30 PM

Take some time to prepare yourself for Christmas in quiet adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and listen to Jaime Parmese present a spiritually- focused exploration of Charles Dickens's "*A Christmas Carol*." Several priests will be available to hear confessions between 6 and 7 PM, while seasonal treats await downstairs in Fellowship Hall afterwards.

For more information contact Mark Salerno at (908) 477-5039 or Mahy Churylo at (908) 310-2973.



#### The Parish Office Will Be Closed On

Monday, December 9th for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

Masses will be at 8 AM & 7 PM on Monday, December 9th

#### The Winners of the NJ Right to Life Raffle are...

1st Prize 2025 Volvo — Ciro Ascione, Middlesex County

**2nd Prize \$1,000 ShopRite Gift Certificate** Christopher Vittitoe, Middlesex County.

**3rd Prize \$750 ShopRite Gift Certificate** Joy Smith, Ocean County.

4th Prize \$500 ShopRite Gift Certificate

Cornelia Fruncillo, Blue Bell, PA

Thank you to all who participated in the NJRTL Car Raffle Fund Raiser

#### **Rosary Society Advent Giving Tree**



Our Annual Advent Giving Tree will be set-up in the Church Narthex on November 25th through December 16th.

The Rosary Society's Advent Giving Tree will be decorated with Christmas gift tag requests from the:

Friendship Center for New Beginnings Parishioners Who Are in Need Veteran's Haven North Family Promise

Please take a tag from the tree, return the **unwrapped** gift, along with the gift tag, and place it under the tree.... PLEASE DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT! Gift cards should be placed in the basket under the tree. You can donate unscented baby wash, shampoo, or conditioner without taking a gift tag.

This is a wonderful time to share our blessings with others who are in need.

Donate to the Advent Giving Tree Using the Giving Tree SCRIP Order Forms located in a basket under the tree, in the display racks, or on the SCRIP table in Fellowship Hall.

All gift card orders MUST be placed by December 1st to be included in the Giving Tree Collection



### SUPPORT OUR PARISH

THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING....
PURCHASE YOUR GIFT CARDS THRU OUR
SCRIP PROGRAM.

THERE ARE MANY STORES AND EVERY PURCHASE ALSO HELPS ST. CATHERINE'S. Order forms are available in Fellowship Hall. You will find many additional participating stores listed online at:

raiseright.com - enrollment code: 76C4BL57653L2 Questions, call Robin Potempa (908) 310 - 4273

Calling all youthful voices... join our youth choir and help us Ready The Way of The Lord!



Come be a part of our ANGEL CHOIR Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve pageant and Children's Mass (pageant at 3:30 pm - Mass at 4 pm)

For choir details and practice schedule Contact Nancy Coletti at (908)391-5103 or e-mail youthmusic@scoschurch.org



## The 2025 Catholic Calendars are here!

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

Are you celebrating your Wedding Anniversary in December?

Join us on December 8th, at the 11:00 AM Mass to receive a Wedding Anniversary Blessing.

All Sacramentally married couples are invited to join us in this celebration of their marriage vocation. Send your names and wedding date to Tee at <a href="mailto:tandersen@scoschurch.org">tandersen@scoschurch.org</a>

Our December Couples Anniversary Blessing

As these couples received a special blessing, please continue to pray for those united in the Sacrament of Marriage.

Michael & Samantha Darata Robert & Laurie Keeling

Michael & Nicole DiSalvo Evan & Marybeth Madlinger

John & Jeannie Drexinger Frank & Anna Marusiak

Thomas & Mary Evers Edward & Robin Potempa

Joseph & Mary Pat Fleming Eric & Catherine Sutter

Frank & Udnenna Ilonze

### 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.



Thank you...
Anthony & Jennifer Natalizio
for our wonderful
Christmas Tree Light display.



# The "Oplatki" or "Christmas Wafer" is available and located in the Narthex for \$1.00 Donation

St. Catherine's

"Family
Favorites"

COOKBOOK!



### Has arrived .....

Stop by Fellowship Hall after all masses to pick up your book orders.

Thanks to everyone for submitting your favorite recipes.

You helped make this a great cookbook that's filled with enough recipes for an entire year!

If you missed ordering a cookbook, we have extra copies for you! Come to Fellowship Hall and purchase a cookbook of your own. Only \$25 each.

All proceeds from this book will benefit the parish center building fund.



#### Youth Group Corner Upcoming Events

Dec. 8th 11 AM Mass — St Nicholas Family Mass

Dec. 8th 6:00 — 8:30 PM — Christmas Party

Dec. 15th 6:00 — 8:00 PM — TBD

Dec. TBD — Country Arch Concert

## Mass Intentions

Saturday: December 7, 2024

4:30 PM Jeremiah Santry

r/o Donna & Kevin Cahill

Sunday: December 8, 2024

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

9:30 AM Rick Webster

r/o The Kopf Family

11:00 AM Ann Preston

r/o Mary Kay Preston & Family

Monday: December 9, 2024

8:00 AM Mary Errico

r/o The Baker Family

7:00 PM Mary F. Evers

r/o The Strauss Family

Tuesday: December 10, 2024

8:00 AM Jonathan Thomas Birthday Blessings r/o Mom & Dad

Wednesday: December 11, 2024

7:00 PM James Kemper

r/o Sue Kemper

Thursday: December 12, 2024

8:00 AM Donna Ritchie

r/o The Wunder Family

Friday: December 13, 2024

8:00 AM Ryan Kollehoffer

r/o Michele Madison & Family

Saturday: December 14, 2024

4:30 PM The Deceased Members of the Flotteron

Family

r/o Donna & Kevin Cahill

Sunday: December 15, 2024

8:00 AM Dorothy Kashkonis

r/o Robin & Ed Potempa

9:30 AM The Parishioners of St. Catherine's

11:00 AM Rick Webster

r/o Pat & Patrick Dziubek

## From the Pastor's Desk Immaculate Conception

This week, on Monday, December 9th, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Not only is this a great feast of our Lady in its own right, but it is under the title of her Immaculate Conception that the United States is dedicated to our Lady as our patroness - it is our national feast day.

Here are 7 things you need to know about the teaching and the way we celebrate it.

1. Who does the Immaculate Conception refer to?

There's a popular idea that it refers to Jesus' conception by the Virgin Mary. It doesn't. Instead, it refers to the special way in which the Virgin Mary herself was conceived. This conception was not virginal. (That is, she had a human father as well as a human mother). But it was special and unique in another way.

2. What is the Immaculate Conception?

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception, proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854 says:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

3. Does this mean Mary never sinned?

Yes. Because of the way redemption was applied to Mary at the moment of her conception, she not only was protected from contracting original sin but also personal sin.

4. Does this mean Mary didn't need Jesus to die on the Cross for her?

No. Mary was immaculately conceived by a singular **grace** of God and **by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ**, dying on the Cross for us.

5. How does this make Mary a parallel of Eve?

Adam and Eve were both created immaculate--without original sin or its stain. They fell from grace, and through them mankind was bound to sin.

Christ and Mary were also conceived immaculate. They remained faithful, and through them mankind was redeemed from sin. Christ is thus the New Adam, and Mary the New Eve.

6. Was it necessary for God to make Mary immaculate at her conception so that she could be Jesus' mother?

No. The Church only speaks of the Immaculate Conception as something that was "fitting," something that made Mary a "fit habitation" (i.e., suitable dwelling) for the Son of God, not something that was *necessary*.

7. How do we celebrate the Immaculate Conception today? In the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, December 9th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. In the United States and in a number of other countries, it is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Fr. Chester



The collections for November 24th were \$3,513.00 (101 envelopes) for the regular collection and \$1,121.00 (45 envelopes) for Works of Mercy Campaign. The collections for December 1st were \$4,098.00 (97 envelopes) and \$986.00 (46 envelopes) for Religious Ed. The December 8th collections will be posted in the December 22nd bulletin



On-Line Giving for November 24th was \$3,627.00 (107 donors). The On-line Giving for December 1st was \$3,439.00 (115 donors). The collections for December 8th will be posted in the December 22nd bulletin.

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RYAN CHRISTOPHER WINFIELD Director, NJ Lic. No. 4888

ROBERT FISHER BOGART Director, NJ Lic. No. 4274

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