

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
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
Email: stcscre@gmail.com

Music Director

Pat Prakopcyk
(908) 782-7043
Email: stcatmusic@gmail.com

Office Manager

Jennifer Perna
(908) 735-4024
Email: 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 15, 2024 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 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 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

Lectors

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

Sacristan

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

Ushers

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 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

GIVING TREE COMES DOWN

8:00 AM MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

8:00 AM MASS
12:30 PM — 2:00 PM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
3:30 PM STEWARDSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

6:00 PM — 7:30 PM 6TH & 8TH GRADE FAITH FORMATION CLASSES
6:30 PM — 7:00 PM RECONCILIATION — STUDENTS ONLY
7:00 PM BAPTISMAL PREP CLASS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

8:00 AM MASS
10:00 AM — 11:30 AM BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

8:00 AM MASS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

9:00 AM — 10:30 AM PAGEANT PLAY DRESS REHEARSAL
3:30 PM — 4:00 PM RECONCILIATION
4:30 PM MASS


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM MASS
8:30 AM — 10:15 AM 2ND & 4TH GRADE FAITH FORMATION
9:30 AM MASS
11:00 AM MASS

OFFICE HOURS

December 23rd — January 1st



Dec. 23rd — 9:30 — Noon	Dec. 27th — Closed
Dec. 24th — Closed	Dec. 30th — 9:30 — Noon
Dec. 25th — Closed	Dec. 31st — Closed
Dec. 26th — Closed	Jan. 1st — Closed

DECEMBER 15, 2024 — 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings for the week of December 15, 2024

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
 Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
 Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
 Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
 Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Observances for the week of December 15, 2024

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
 Saturday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

(CLPI)

**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.

Holy Day Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th:

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

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th:

8:00 AM Mass
 10:00 AM Mass



Don't Forget To Sign Up For Our
MARRIAGE BLESSING MASS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH
at the 11:00 am MASS



All married couples are invited to join us in this celebration of their marriage vocation. Send us your name and wedding date to Tee at: tandersen@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.

Come Pray a
ROSARY
for
LIFE

with Bishop James F. Checchio

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025
 AT 1:00 PM**

MAIN STREET, WOODBRIDGE, NJ

IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

You are asked to 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, please contact amarshall@diometuchen.org



SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

Social Concerns group visits and provide support such as food shopping, general errands to the sick, homebound, new moms and people in nursing homes. We also provide meals at a time of need.

**If you have some time to offer,
 please contact:
 Doreen Opeikun (908) 507 - 6752**



Homeschool parents are cordially invited to the inaugural meeting of our diocesan

HOMESCHOOL MINISTRY

**January 14, 2025
 6:30PM - 8:30PM
 St. Theodore RC Church
 855 Route 57
 Port Murray, NJ**

Fr. Gilbert Starcher
 Coordinator of Homeschool Ministry

- Ministry Vision
- Events/Activities
- Free Resource for Homeschool parents: Franciscan.at.Home

Scan To Register:



For more information: gstarcher@diometuchen.com



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Join Our Families with Young Children Email List



As Father Chester says, "Our families are our future." We know that raising little ones can be both a joy and a challenge, and we want to support our families in their faith journey. The spirituality committee will be offering a variety of events to help you connect with other families in the same season of life. Whether it's a family-friendly coffee and bagel meet up after mass, or a group parent dinner to discuss faith topics, there is something for everyone. Sign up for all Families with Young Children event updates using this QR code:



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



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



Clothing Drop-Off Bins

Clothing bins are located in the church parking lot. Your clothing donations will be shipped throughout the US, Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America.

For the use of our Parish site, we will receive a monthly payment of \$100 for each bin. As we help others by donating clothing, we also help our Parish gain funds towards the maintenance of our church.

Thank you to all who use our bins!



Join us, as Bishop Checchio opens the 2025 Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Metuchen at the **5:00 PM Mass at St. Francis Cathedral on Saturday, December 28, 2024, the Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.**

Note: This is the cathedral parish's Saturday Vigil Mass, and anyone is invited to attend (there are neither tickets nor reserved seating). The Rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year has some additions (it will resemble the Solemn Entrance of Palm Sunday) so it will be a longer Mass. The Cathedral also Livestreams this Mass, for those who may want to watch.

*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



Rosary Society Advent Giving Tree November 25th — December 16th

Last weekend for the Giving Tree

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.

Be careful of email and text scams alleging to come from Fr. Chester! Fr. Chester would NEVER email or text you asking for money, gift cards, or to just reply to his text. He would call you or speak to you directly.

If you are unsure, call the office!

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

I need a favor from you, please text me back as soon as you get this message.

There is something I need you to do for me, I am going into a meeting now with limited phone calls, so please just reply my text

Rev. Chester Zalubski

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	



Youth Group Corner Upcoming Events

Dec. 15th 6:00 — 8:00 PM — TBD

Dec. TBD — Country Arch Concert

Jan. TBD — St Timothy Awards, Metuchen, NJ

Jan. 5th 6:00 — 7:30 PM — Devil vs Satan Take 2

Jan. 19th 9:30 AM — Family Mass/Roller Skating, Frenchtown Rink

Feb. 29th TBD — Retreat — Kearny, NJ

Mass Intentions

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

Monday: December 16, 2024

8:00 AM Eleanor Peterson
r/o Bernie & Larry Remaly

Tuesday: December 17, 2024

8:00 AM Michelle Stranko
r/o Dan Dawson

Wednesday: December 18, 2024

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

Thursday: December 19, 2024

8:00 AM "Baby" Carter Halvorsen
r/o Dawn & Mark Salerno

Friday: December 20, 2024

8:00 AM Alma Jackson
r/o Marlene & Jim Langreder

Saturday: December 21, 2024

4:30 PM Robert R. Rocca
r/o The Family

Sunday: December 22, 2024

8:00 AM Ann Preston
r/o Bernie & Larry Remaly
9:30 AM The Parishioners of St. Catherine's
11:00 AM John Raymonds
r/o St. Catherine's Parish

From the Pastor's Desk

Advent Parish Penance Service

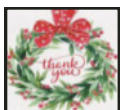
As our Advent journey continues, we are reminded that John the Baptist was that voice crying in the wilderness challenging us to acknowledge our shortcomings, transform our hearts, and repent of our sins. In order to provide an additional opportunity for repentance, we will have an **Advent Retreat, Penance Service, and Adoration this Sunday, December 15th, starting at 5:00 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 Advent Penance Service and avail yourself of this special time of spiritual renewal.

Fr. Chester



The December 15th collections will be posted in the December 22nd bulletin.



On-Line Giving for December 15th will be posted in the December 22nd bulletin.

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We deeply value your family's beliefs and will help you plan a meaningful service that reflects you and your loved one's life and commitment to faith. Call or visit us, in-person or online, for free, no-obligation information on preplanning.

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