

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
Email: deaconmike@scoschurch.org

Deacon Dennis K. Webster
Email: deacondennis@scoschurch.org

Religious Education Director

Sandra Kopka
(908) 735-4024
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



March 9, 2025 Vol. 15

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
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

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

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

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, MARCH 8TH

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

3:30 PM — 4:00 PM RECONCILIATION

4:30 PM MASS

SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM MASS

8:30 AM — 10:15 AM 2ND & 4TH GRADE FAITH FORMATION

9:30 AM MASS

11:00 AM MASS/MARRIAGE BLESSING

12:00 PM EMHC VIDEO PRESENTATION ON THE EUCHARIST BY BISHOP BARRON

5:00 PM YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

MONDAY, MARCH 10TH

8:00 AM MASS

6:30 PM — 8:30 PM SPIRITUALITY MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH

8:00 AM MASS

12:30 PM — 2:00 PM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

7:00 PM KNIGHTS' BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH

12:00 PM ROSARY SOCIETY BOOK CLUB

7:00 PM MASS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM — 11:30 AM SUNDAY SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH

8:00 AM MASS

6:00 PM — 7:30 PM KID'S CLUB (PARISH CENTER)

6:00 PM COMPLIMENTARY SOUP & FELLOWSHIP

7:00 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS/ RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

10:00 AM — 12:00 PM ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

3:30 PM — 4:00 PM RECONCILIATION

4:30 PM MASS

5:30 PM K OF C ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM MASS

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

9:30 AM MASS

11:00 AM MASS

12:00 PM ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL

5:00 PM YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

MARCH 9, 2025 — 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Readings for the week of March 9, 2025

- Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
- Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25: 31-46
- Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11: 29-32
- Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12
- Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
- Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/ Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

Observances for the week of March 9, 2025

- Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins
- Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

(C)LP

2025 Lenten Obligations



1. Fast and abstinence on Good Friday (April 18).
2. The other Fridays of Lent (March 21, 28; April 4 and 11) are days of abstinence.
3. Fasting in the Roman Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal with two smaller meals, which together do not equal the size of your full meal. The obligation of fasting applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
4. Abstinence in the Roman Catholic tradition means to abstain from eating meat (beef, chicken, pork, turkey, etc.). The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

February 7, 2025

From the Friendship Center New Beginnings, in Flemington

To all our dear friends at St Catherines,

On behalf of our ministry, I extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering financial support. Your generosity enables us to continue providing vital assistance to mothers and families within our community.

Recently, we've witnessed remarkable transformations in the lives of several families we serve. One particularly inspiring example involves a couple who participated in our recent marriage seminar. Prior to the seminar, their marriage faced significant challenges, stemming from unresolved conflict and communication difficulties. However, through consistent application of the tools and strategies learned in the seminar and subsequent monthly support sessions, this couple has made significant progress. They have cultivated improved communication skills, strengthened their bond, and are experiencing a renewed sense of intimacy and connection, and are celebrating together the recent birth of their child. This positive outcome is a powerful testament to the impact of our programs.

40% of today's young adults meet on-line, according to a recent report from Stanford University, so it is even more important that we continue to challenge and train young people in how to have a Christ-centered marriage. You will see in this month's newsletter our invitation to a marriage seminar celebrating Valentine's month. It will be held at Friendship Center on Sunday, February 23rd from 7:00 to 8:30pm. We invite couples to bless their relationship with this marriage enrichment evening. We thank God that the good news is that the majority of children in our nation are raised by their own married parents. We have actually seen an uptick in this number. PTL!

Your contributions are instrumental in facilitating these positive changes and fostering stronger, healthier families. We are profoundly grateful for your partnership in this vital work and look forward to continuing to serve our community with your support. Thank you again for your compassion and generosity.

Together in His service,

Yari Gonzalez

Yari Gonzalez
Hispanic Counselor

**SAVE THE DATE
For Our Parish Picnic
Sunday, September 21st**



Committee members are needed in order for this to be a success. Watch for future bulletin announcements for meeting dates.

Call, text, or email me if you are interested in helping at:
Debbie Fass
(973) 222-8100 or at kidsclub@scoschurch.org



St. Catherine's Soup & Stations

6 PM: Join us for complimentary soup and fellowship

7 PM: Pray the Stations of the Cross

All are welcome; please join us.



March 14th — Religious Ed and Youth Ministry

March 21st — The Rosary Society, Monthly Eucharistic Adoration, and Wedding

March 28th — Lectors and Decorating

April 4th — Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist, Prayer Shawl, and Social Concerns

April 11th — Spirituality Committee, Bible Study, and Coffee Fellowship

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



Join Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on March 9th at 12 noon for a video presentation on "The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist"

A presentation by Bishop Robert Barron. Did you know that according to a recent survey, 70% of Catholics do **not** believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? In his keynote talk at the 2020 L.A. Religious Education Congress, Bishop Barron speaks to the theology behind this doctrine, starting with Bible and moving through great councils and theologians through the centuries to Saint Pope Paul VI, and then gives a framework for us to understand it.

The talk in about an hour and fifteen minutes long, and Fr. Chester will be on-hand to answer any questions at the end.



Knights of Columbus Annual Corned Beef, Ham, and Vegetable Dinner

The St. Catherine's Knights of Columbus Annual Corned Beef and Ham Dinner will take place on **Saturday, March 15th beginning at 5:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Tickets are on sale after all Masses.
\$30 per person, includes beer & wine.

The Irish Stepping Dancers are coming back!

40 CANS FOR LENT

During Lent, the Knights of Columbus will be conducting their annual 40 Cans for Lent program.

The goal is for each family to put aside one can of non-perishable food every day of Lent and bring in 7 cans to Mass each weekend starting February 17th.

The Knights will collect and transport your donations to local food pantries within our diocese.

The collection bins will be placed in the Fellowship Hall.

Food contributions from our parishioners have totaled over 21,893 pounds. That's nearly 11 tons of food for the needy!

We thank you for your past participation and we hope you will continue to help our less fortunate neighbors. *Thank you!*



One Can of Food Can Make a Difference

YOU CAN BE AN ALTAR SERVER!



**Altar Serving is a Family Activity ...
We Need your Help at Mass ...
Your reward will be a
special closeness to Jesus ...**

PARENTS:

*Is your son or daughter interested in becoming
an Altar Server?*

**St. Catherine's is having an ALTAR SERVER TRAINING SESSION
SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH from 10 AM to 12 noon
in the Church and Sacristy.**

**The minimum eligibility requirements are that they are in the 3RD
thru 12TH Grade and have received Holy Eucharist and First Penance.**

If you are interested in participating in this rewarding and fun
ministry, please contact Mark Kubian, Altar Server Coordinator
e-mail: mkkubian@gmail.com; or phone: 732-422-6463

Reminder: Kids' Club gathering, March 14th from 6 —7:30 PM.



Snacks, Bible Readings, Games, and Prizes

ALL parish children in grades 3rd thru 7th are invited to attend any gatherings held on the 2nd Friday of each month. Meetings are now in the new parish center gathering hall.

Dates for the next Kids' Clubs are: April 11th and May 9th.

Call, text, email me with any questions.

Blessings,
Debbie Fass
(973) 222-8100 kidsclub@scoschurch.org



*We would like to welcome:
The Bruno Family
The Sabol/Molochnick Family
The Schmidt Family
to St. Catherine of Siena Parish.*

Our March Couples Anniversary Blessing

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

Robert & Jennifer Beylickjian	Thomas & Michele Kosakowski
Donald & Kristy Dangell	Michael & Margaret Marion
Salvatore & Arline DiFazio	Roger & Margaret Tosco
Jason & Stacey Gallagher	Brian & Margret York
Joseph & Aida Jablonski	



DATES TO REMEMBER & RSVP

March 16 — Chick-Fil-A Party* (*tentative*) in our NEW ROOM at the Parish Center

April 13 — 17 — MISSION TRIP to Appalachia
IT IS IMPORTANT TO RSVP! PLEASE . . . with a YES, NO, MAYBE or I NEED MORE INFO
Call, Text, or E-mail Dawn at
(908) 477-0105 • dsalerno@scoschurch.org

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 8, 2025

4:30 PM Ann Preston
r/o The Rosary Society

Sunday, March 9, 2025

8:00 AM Barbara Camel
r/o Mike & Mary Mitariten

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

11:00 AM Thank you to all the Reader Committee Members
r/o St. Catherine's Parish

Monday, March 10, 2025

8:00 AM Herb Takakjian
r/o Paul & Ellen McCarthy

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

8:00 AM Agnes Krapf
r/o St. Catherine's Parish

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

7:00 PM Catherine, Kitty & Michael Pierce, Sr
r/o Mike & Stephanie Pierce

Thursday, March 13, 2025

8:00 AM Glen & Deborah Farbanish
r/o St. Catherine's Parish

Friday, March 14, 2025

8:00 AM Martha Zipay
r/o The Mauro Family

Saturday, March 15, 2025

4:30 PM John Sideravage
r/o Margaret Rocca

Sunday, March 16th, 2025

8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Longeran/
McDonnell Families
r/o Kevin & Donna Cahill

9:30 AM Eriberta Maligaya
r/o The Andersen Family

11:00 AM The Parishioners of St. Catherine's

From the Pastor's Desk First Sunday of Lent

On Ash Wednesday we started the Season of Lent with the imposition of ashes on our heads. It is meant to remind us of our identity and relationship with God. First, it means we belong to God. We are his children. Second, as his children, we have the responsibility to make Jesus' presence felt and experienced in this world. Third, given the identity and relationship that we have with God, as His children, we are constantly called to holiness of life.

Thus, these 40 days of Lent are an opportunity given to us for turning back to God, for conversion. Through the help of the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, hopefully, we will come to acknowledge the ways we have turned away from God in our lives and we will focus on turning our hearts and minds back toward Him.

This Lent, may I suggest the following:

Prayer is the foundation of our spiritual life. Without prayer, no spiritual growth is possible. Prayer is simply talking to God and then quieting ourselves to listen for His response. Lent calls us in a practical way to carve out moments for prayer, to join the community in worship and to enter into the silence where God speaks to our hearts. I invite families to worship and pray together especially by attending Sunday Eucharist.

Fasting is the act of giving up something in order to develop spiritual discipline. One main meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Meatless Fridays, no sweets or chocolates: such are traditional fasting practices. But, fasting goes beyond just food and drink. Consider, instead, taking the time to pray words from the Scripture.

Almsgiving is the culmination of the Lenten disciplines, for through it we open ourselves up to God's grace. Just as fasting is about "giving up," almsgiving is about "giving to." Whereas fasting is about saying no to ourselves, almsgiving is about saying yes to others. Through almsgiving, we conquer the temptation to seek real happiness in our possessions. Almsgiving most directly applies to giving financial and other material support to those in need, but it can also apply to spiritual needs. For instance, what if for each of the next six weeks, you chose a family member, coworker, or even a stranger and went out of your way to show some act of kindness. It can be as simple as helping with chores, or being mindful to saying thank you!

These 40 days of Lent will be filled with struggles and temptation, yet through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we anticipate the rich fruit of God's blessing blossoming in our lives. May this Lent truly be a springtime of grace!

Fr. Chester



The collections for March 2nd were \$3,911.00 (111 envelopes) and \$816.00 (54 envelopes) for our Religious Ed.



On-Line Giving for March 2nd was \$3,830.00 (109 donors).

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