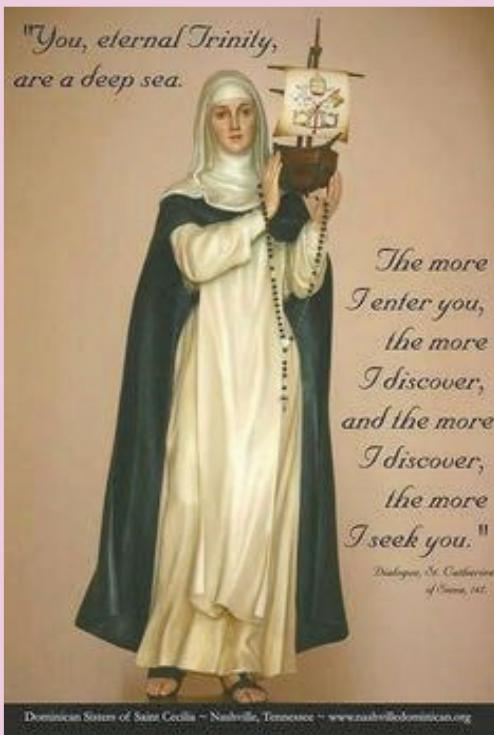


ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH

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J+M+J



“Speak the truth in a million voices. It is silence that kills.”

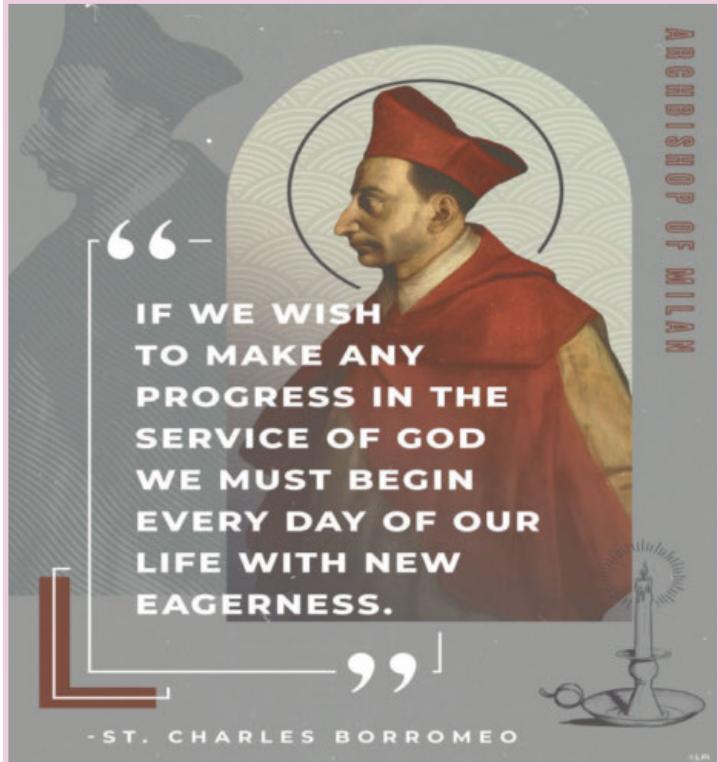
St. Catherine of Siena

“Jesus, help me to simplify my life by learning what you want me to be-and becoming that person.”

-St. Therese of Lisieux

“Take courage, despite the words of those who have no faith.”

-St. Kateri Tekakwitha



The Roman Catholic Community of St. Catherine of Siena, through the celebration of the Eucharist and the Word of God, is committed to experiencing, teaching, and sharing the Faith. Together in prayer and active stewardship, we serve as the voice, the hands and the feet of Christ. If you are new to the parish we would like to meet you, or if you would like to volunteer for a particular liturgical ministry or service, please contact us.

Sacraments

Saturday Mass: Vigil 4:00PM
Sunday Mass: 9:00AM & 11:00AM
Daily Mass: 8:00AM Monday through Thursday
Holy Days: Vigil 6:00PM; Holy Day: 8:00AM & 6:00PM

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:00PM - 3:45PM in the Cry Room

To schedule either a Baptism, Marriage, or to arrange for the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the Parish Office.

Devotions

Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet - following the daily Mass
Adoration Thursday 8:30AM to 7:00PM

CCC Study - Wednesdays after the 8:00am Mass

Book Club - Tuesdays after the 8:00am Mass

Parish Office Hours

Mon. through Thurs. 9:00AM - 2:00PM; Closed on Fridays

Rev. Jeffrey Ballou, Pastor
Deacon - Jack Antaya
Faith Formation - Theresa Hulse
Pastoral Minister - Kathy Nemphos
Parish Secretary - Rose Lopez



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat	Dec	14	4:00PM	+Annette Royer by her children
Sun	Dec	15	9:00AM	+Dora Calabrese by her daughter & family
			11:00AM	+Jack Coogan by his children
Mon	Dec	16	8:00AM	+Alexander, +Carlene, & +Charles Kominski by Joe
Tues	Dec	17	8:00AM	Living & +Deceased Parishioners
Wed	Dec	18	8:00AM	+Richard LaFountain by his family
Thurs	Dec	19	8:00AM	+Edward & +Helen McGettrick
Sat	Dec	21	4:00PM	Lori Ann Cope by the family
Sun	Dec	22	9:00AM	Living & +Deceased Parishioners
			11:00AM	+Ezekiel Hooper by Angelina Cava

***REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!***

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.” (Philippians 4:7)

Today is “Gaudete” Sunday, the Sunday to rejoice. This feast day gives Advent its true character. It is indeed primarily a season of joy. It is not, like Lent, primarily a time of penance. There is too much anticipation for that. All-overrideing is the experience of joy.

We are joyful already now because we know that the Lord will come. Our expectation leads to joy and our joy to a desire to give to others. Real joy always wants to share. It belongs to the nature of joy to communicate itself to others and to invite others to take part in the gifts we have received.

Advent is indeed a time of joyful waiting and joyful giving. How much this mood is also part of our whole society. The period before Christmas has that remarkable quality of joy that seems to touch not only Christians but all who live in our society. When you, as a Westerner, live in another society, such as the Japanese society, where Advent and Christmas do not exist as universal events, you realize the lack of this joyful anticipation most painfully.

-Henri J.M. Nouwen
The Genesee Diary

Jesus, help me rejoice knowing that you are always coming more fully into our world.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES for the month of December will be held this Sunday, December 15th, with Session 13. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5th with Session 14 from 9:55am-10:55am in the Parish Center. We wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Fr. Jeffrey, Deacon Jack, Kathy Nemphos, Theresa

Hulse, Religious Education, Director and teachers, Laurie, Rose, Scott, Kelly, Mary, & Debbie, and our Parish Pup, Bailey.

Rejoice this Third Sunday of Advent Jesus is near!



**The Sanctuary Lamp
is donated this week for
For the Retired Priests of the Diocese**

**The Blessed Virgin Mary candle
is lit for
+Beatrice Mecure
by her daughter**



**The St. Joseph candle
is lit for
Todd Hayden**

**Please call the Parish Office to donate
either the Lamp or Candles**

PARISH SUPPORT

*We rely on, and thank you, for your commitment to
Weekly Stewardship*

Weekly Need 7/1/2023-6/30/2025	\$8,600
Sunday Collection 12/8/2024	\$6,138
Special Needs & Maintenance	\$525

**EUCARISTIC ADORATION: JESUS IS HERE!**

What a beautiful way to spend time during this Advent Season! Have you been feeling tired, restless, like something's missing in your life? Maybe your cup is only half full? **DO WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!** Come fill your cup with comfort & joy when you visit with Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration every Thursday from 8:30am until 7:00pm.

“If we celebrate with such solemnity the birth of Jesus, it is to bear witness that every human being [is] somebody unique and unrepeatable...somebody thought of and chosen from eternity, some [one] called and identified by his own name. It is as it was with the first man, Adam. It is as it was with the new Adam, born of the Virgin Mary in the cave at Bethlehem: 'You shall call His name Jesus.'”

-St. John Paul, II, The Great

During Your Holy Hour, please remember to pray for our Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Holy Mother Church, all of our Religious Brothers and Sisters, all the Laity, all those who have fallen away from their Faith, those with no family, during this Holiday Season, the Unborn, and all life from the moment of conception until natural death.

**WOMEN AND MEN RELIGIOUS**

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THE CONVERSION OF ALPHONSE RATISBONNE

One of the most famous conversions happened to Alphonse Ratisbonne, a Jewish atheist, on Jan. 20, 1842. He despised the Church and the Catholic faith, especially since his older brother, Theodor, had converted to Catholicism and become a Catholic priest. On a dare from a Catholic friend, Baron de Bussieres, Ratisbonne began to wear the Miraculous Medal and to recite the *Memorare* prayer to prove the fruitlessness of what he thought were just the ridiculous superstitions of the Catholic religion.

On Jan. 20, Ratisbonne accompanied Baron de Bussieres into a church, what is now the Basilica of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte in Rome, where the Baron had some business to attend to. When the Baron returned to him, he found Ratisbonne weeping and kissing his medal, saying, "I saw her! I saw her!"

Ratisbonne later recounted what happened in his diary:

I had only been in the church a moment when I was suddenly seized with an indescribable agitation of mind. I looked up and found that the rest of the building had disappeared. One single chapel seemed to have gathered all the light and concentrated it in itself. In the midst of this radiance, I saw someone standing on the altar, a lofty shining figure, all majesty and sweetness, the Virgin Mary just as She looks on this medal. Some irresistible force drew me towards Her. She motioned to me to kneel down and when I did so, she seemed to approve. Though She never said a word, I understood Her perfectly.

This encounter with Mary so profoundly affected Ratisbonne that he converted to Catholicism and was ordained a priest in 1847. He later moved to the Holy Land with his brother Theodor and founded a congregation of sisters - the Congregation of Our Lady of Sion - to pray for the conversion of the Jews.

An image of Mary as She appeared to Ratisbonne was painted a few months after the apparition and then hung above the altar in church where Ratisbonne saw Her.

To be continued next week...

JOIN BOY SCOUT TROOP 303'S BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

On Sunday, December 22nd from 10:00am-12:30pm in our Parish Center. We will be serving Pancakes, sausage, eggs, orange juice, coffee, tea & hot chocolate. Adults \$10.00 and \$5.00 for kids, all our CCD students are free. Enjoy having your picture taken with Santa Clause.! Santa will have surprise treats for all the children! Look forward to seeing you there! Tickets will be available at the door, \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for kids.



LESSONS AND CAROLS If you are looking for a relaxing and peace-filled way to end the Christmas Season, please join us on the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 5th at 4:00 pm (in church) for "Lessons and Carols". This beautiful hour-long program starts in darkness and as each "lesson" is read and a "carol" is sung, the darkness becomes illuminated. You will also have the chance to lift your voice in song!! Afterward, there will be a reception in the Parish Center. A great time for fellowship and goodies! We hope to see you there!



ENRICHING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH THROUGH THE CATECHISM

PHILIPPIANS 4: 4-7

"Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus."

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH Just as Jesus prays to the Father and gives thanks before receiving His gifts, so He teaches us *filial boldness*: "Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will." Such is the power of prayer and of faith that does not doubt: "all things are possible to him who believes" (CCC 2610).

Although St. Paul was imprisoned by the Romans when he wrote this letter to the Philippians, he used a tone of confidence in his call to seek and depend upon God in all circumstances, whether fortunate or unfortunate. He apprises us of our need for complete reliance on Christ. Worry denies trust in our Creator and can do nothing to change an outcome. The source of our strength in times of distress is drawn from prayers and complete confidence in the Lord, who can accomplish good in all things if we surrender our circumstance to Him for resolution.

FROM PRAYER TO PRACTICE: PUTTING WORRY ASIDE THROUGH PRAYER!

The Surrender Novena given to Servant of God Father Dolindo Ruotolo is an excellent resource when situations present that we cannot control. Take comfort in the prayer: O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

Each new day brings brand new graces and blessing from God. In the words of St. Paul: "Rejoice in the Lord always...Rejoice!"



Once again we will return to a favorite of yesteryear of donating either new or gently used winter gear (coats, hats, scarfs, mittens/gloves, etc.) for men, women, and kids of all ages. These winter gear donations will be donated to The Survival Center in Indian Orchard and Between Bridges Ministry, which provide spiritual and physical aid to the homeless community in outdoor settings.

Since 2013, Between Bridges continues to meet the needs of Springfield, and serve the homeless that live on the streets or under the bridges in downtown Springfield. They are in most need of Men's Winter Coats and blankets. The collection bins will be in the vestibule/lobby of the church through the month of December. Thank you very much for your generosity in this Season of joy, giving, and caring for those in need to keep warm during these winter months ahead! Thanks for engaging in this corporal work of Mercy as we do this for one of our least brothers and sisters, we do it for Jesus!

Fr. Jeffrey



"One day, we too will celebrate our last Christmas on earth. And each one is "a preparation for the day when Christ will come again."

We invite you to join us in preparing ourselves and others for Jesus' Second Coming, which we are Living in the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

Mrs. Mary Frances Musk, OP

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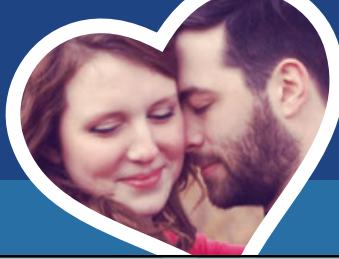
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