

St. Catherine of Siena

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



MAY 17, 2026 VOL. 25 | THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Contact Us!

Phone: (908) 735-4024
Website: www.scoschurch.org

Church and Parish Office
2 White Bridge Road
Pittstown, NJ 08867

Our Staff

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: denniswebster2@gmail.com

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

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM
and 11:00 AM

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday 8:00 AM

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM
or by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday: 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
(Later by appointment)

"A Roman Catholic Parish of Prayer and Friendship"

Welcome!

St. Catherine of Siena Church | Pittstown, NJ

PARISH REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY

It is necessary for every family or individual to be a registered and active member of our parish for **3 months** in order for us to testify to your ability to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. Registration is required to qualify for Religious Education and the reception of the Sacraments. Please contact the office or our website for a registration form. Completed registration forms **MUST** be handed to the Pastor during a weekend Mass. Emailed or mailed registrations forms will not be accepted.

SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism

For registered and active parishioners (weekly attendance at Mass) by arrangement with the office. Preparation classes are held at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. Please call to register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday at 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM or by appointment.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples are required to make arrangements **one year** prior to the date of marriage. **One party must be a registered and active member of this parish.**

Sacrament 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.

Stewardship

In-Pew Collection

The collection for May 10th was \$4,565.00 for the regular collection.

Online Donations

Online giving for May 10th was \$3,375.00.



Pastor's Letter

First Eucharist

On Saturday, May 9th & 16th, thirty of our children received their first Holy Communion. They received Jesus Christ our Savior for the first time. There is no doubt that the encounter with Jesus in First Holy Communion is an unforgettable moment, a day to be remembered as one of life's most beautiful. It is a day of great family celebration.

This was a special day and a happy day for their parents too. They saw their children taking a new step in faith. It is through their parents, more than anyone else that these children have come to know about God. And it is on their parents that they will continue to depend for many years yet, to help them grow in their response to God's love in their lives. No matter how excellent the teacher, or what the parish does, unless the children sense their parents' faith, they will not absorb faith. The faith of their parents will be their strength through life. Teachers and priests cannot alone plant faith in the heart of somebody's children if parents do not.

This was also a time of great rejoicing for relations, friends, and people of the parish. They have in various ways helped to lead these children to this special day. And they too have a responsibility for the future growth of their faith.

Today I particularly wish to thank Mrs. Sandra Kopka, the Director of our Religious Education Program and the teachers who trained these children so that they can receive Holy Communion: Mrs. Kathryn Sniscak and Mrs. Liz Strauss catechists, and Anna and Erich Strauss and Sam Peterson, assistants to the catechists.

Thank you to the Rosarians and Prayer Shawl Ministry for their gifts and prayers. May God reward you for your talent and time.

But the special congratulations go to all who made their First Communion. I hope you will always treasure this beautiful gift that Jesus gave you, and that through time you will realize that you are to become more and more like Jesus every day.

God Bless,
Fr. Chester Zalubski, Pastor

Masses & Intentions

May 17, 2026 | The Ascension of the Lord

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 16

4:30 PM † Joseph & Mary Sax
r/o The Dawson Family

Sunday, May 17

8:00 AM † Jose Matos
r/o The Koretzky/Matos Families

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

11:00 AM † Peter & Sylvia Signorello
r/o The Bussell Family

Monday, May 18

8:00 AM † Ann Preston
r/o The Preston Family

Tuesday, May 19

8:00 AM † Fr. Leon Kropievnecki, OFM
r/o Joe O'Grodnick

Wednesday, May 20

8:00 AM † Ann Preston
r/o David Neibart

Thursday, May 21

8:00 AM † Eva Lakowitz
r/o Anthony & Jennifer Natalizio

Friday, May 22

8:00 AM † Salvatore Gallo
r/o Donna & Colin Blanchard

Saturday, May 23

4:30 PM † John & Catherine Raymonds
r/o St. Catherine's Parish

Sunday, May 24

8:00 AM † Patricia Friedman
r/o The Stanislawczyk Family

9:30 AM † Smith-Young Families
r/o Dennis & Kathie Webster

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

Weekly Readings & Observances

Sunday, May 17

Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-2
The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World
Communications Day

Monday, May 18

Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33
St. John I, Pope and Martyr

Tuesday, May 19

Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday, May 20

Acts 20:28-38/ Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19
St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Thursday, May 21

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26
St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Friday, May 22

Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19
St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

Saturday, May 23

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

Sunday, May 24

Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2,
24 and 35, 27-28, 29b-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 or, for the **Extended**
Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn
7:37-39 (see Lectionary for Mass Supplement, 62) **Day:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps
104:1 and 24, 29-30, 31 and 34/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23
Pentecost Sunday

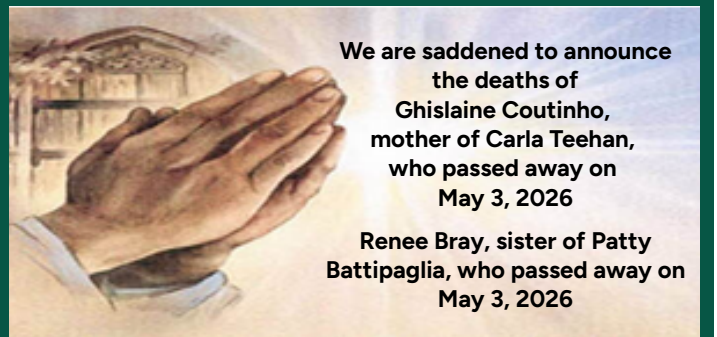


We are happy to welcome our recently
Baptized at St. Catherine of Siena

Leonardo Antonio Natale
May 2, 2026

Pray For Our Parishioners

- Our 2nd grade students who will be receiving the Eucharist for the first time
- Ernie Difazio
- Jeff Coletti
- Mercia Spinks
- Joe Prakopcyk



We are saddened to announce
the deaths of
Ghislain Coutinho,
mother of Carla Teehan,
who passed away on
May 3, 2026

Renee Bray, sister of Patty
Battipaglia, who passed away on
May 3, 2026

Ministries & Organizations

St. Catherine of Siena Church | Pittstown, NJ



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

religiously@scoschurch.org

Family Promise

Mary Jo Haggerty (908) 892-3513

Finance Council

Jim Young (971) 501-3361

Food Pantry

Robin Potempa (908) 310-4273

Graphic Materials

Helen Nardone (908) 391-0857

Kids Club

Debbie Fass

kidsclub@scoschurch.org

Knights of Columbus

Gregory Mayer (201) 788-1412

Lectors

Robert Preston (908) 510-2712

Little Sprouts

Cara Bruzzi (631) 707-2201

Monthly Eucharistic Adoration

Mary Kauza (908) 735-4582

Jane Ricketts (908) 782-6216

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Deacon Mike Meyer
deaconmike@scoschurch.org

Parish Groundskeeping

George Mehaffey (908) 581-2521

Pete Walter (908) 328-4528

Parish Pastoral Council

Parish Office (908) 735-4024

Parish Picnic

Debbie Fass (973) 222-8100

Prayer Shawl

Donna Mustillo (908) 237-0211

Right to Life Representative

Robert Keeling (908) 812-1071

Rosary Society

Peggy York (609) 865-4996

Sacristan

Margaret Rocca (908) 996-3668

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

St Catherine's Council 15217 Knights of Columbus



Chuck Specht
Memorial
Scholarship Program



2026 "Good Samaritan" Scholarship Application

An applicant must meet the following criteria:

- High school senior entering their freshman year of a college, university, or trade school in the United States.
- 8th grade student graduating in the spring of 2026
- Must be an active member of St. Catherine's Parish in Pittstown, NJ
- Attend the St. Catherine's Knights of Columbus awards ceremony on June 23 to accept the award for pictures with family
- Submit a minimum of 500-typed word essay by Sunday, June 7, 2026, to Greg Mayer, Worthy Grand Knight on one of the following topics:

1. What "Right to Life" means to me?
2. Why is "Religious Freedom" important?
3. Write about any of the 4 Pillars of the Knights of Columbus: "Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism."

Our Council #15217 will be awarding 4 scholarships:

- **Two High School Seniors** (1 boy and 1 girl) graduating from the class of 2026 will each be awarded \$500
- **Two 8th Grade Students** (1 boy and 1 girl) in the class of 2026 will each be awarded \$100

Submit a pdf copy of all essays to:
Greg Mayer, Worthy Grand Knight
15217.kofc@gmail.com

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- Feel good and expiration free
- Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
- Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit nybc.org/eligibility

Sunday, May 31st
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
St. Catherine of Siena RC Church
2 White Bridge Rd. Pittstown, NJ

To make an appointment please scan QR code
Appointments preferred walk ins welcomed
<https://tinyurl.com/5a2n24r2>

800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org

Events Calendar

May 17, 2026 | The Ascension of the Lord

Saturday, May 16

10:00 AM First Holy Communion
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Reconciliation
4:30 PM Mass

Sunday, May 17

8:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Mass
11:00 AM Mass

Monday, May 18

8:00 AM Mass

Tuesday, May 19

8:00 AM Mass
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl (FH)
3:30 PM Stewardship Meeting (FH)
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Evening Bible Study (FH)

Wednesday, May 20

8:00 AM Mass
7:00 PM Baptismal Prep Class (FH)

Thursday, May 21

8:00 AM Mass
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Sunday Scripture Discussion (MT)

Friday, May 22

8:00 AM Mass

Saturday, May 23

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Reconciliation
4:30 PM Mass

Sunday, May 24

8:00 AM Mass
9:30 AM Mass
11:00 AM Mass

Diocese of Metuchen & Office of Evangelization

Formation Event for Police Officers

Saturday, June 13th
8:00 AM to 12:45 PM
St. Neumann Pastoral Center,
Piscataway, NJ
Priest, Deacons, and Police Chaplains are Welcome



PRAYERS FOR A NEW BISHOP

O Lord, Shepherd of Shepherds, we turn to You seeking Your grace, that we in the Diocese of Metuchen may be given a bishop who is a shepherd after Your heart and will guide us, Your flock, to be a faithful flock and fruitful field in union with You now and for eternity. Amen. (From the Diocese of Jefferson City.)

For our diocese as we await the appointment of a new Bishop.
Let us pray to the Lord.

Congratulations to the following children who received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion on May 16, 2026:

Joseph Addona
Brandon Barratt
Brooklyn Barratt
Luciana Birrento
Mark Czaplicki
Antoni Dec
Stella Guido
Mackenzie Hornung



Abigail Kucharski
Jackson Meinbresse
Parker Meinbresse
Sophia Ochs
Lorenzo Oliveira
Genevieve Pikna
Rose Plumer
Evelina Svard

Marriage Encounter

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to enrich your marriage, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held **July 17 – 19**. Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco). Visit us at: www.wwme.org for more information.

National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima 109th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima

Come join us on the 13th of each month from May to October to commemorate Mary's apparitions.

10:30 AM Confessions

12:00 PM Rosary/Procession with the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

12:30 PM Speaker

1:15 PM Holy Mass followed by Eucharistic Procession, Benediction, Blessing of Religious Articles, Fatima Farewell, Enrollment in the Brown Scapularary!



Saturday, June 13th Speaker: Rev. Msgr. Roger J. Landry

Monday, July 13th Speaker: Very Rev. Joshua S. Caswell, SJC
Celebrant: His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

Thursday, August 13th Speaker: Br. Pius Marie Gagne, CFR
Celebrant: Very Rev. Jonathan S. Toborowsky

Sunday, September 13th Speaker: Special Guest Speaker
Celebrant: Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano

Tuesday, 13th Speaker: Special Guest Speaker Celebrant: His Eminence Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan

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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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