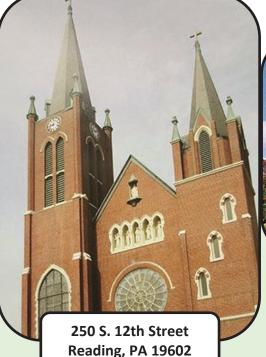
Saint Mary's

Saint Catharine of Siena Parish



4975 Boyertown Pike
Reading, PA 19606

ST. MARY'S REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 3:30 p.m. Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday, 2:45 -3:15 p.m. in the Church. Otherwise, by appointment only

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Brian M. Miller, M.A., Pastor Rev. Matthew J. Kuna, Parochial Vicar Deacon Craig Fry Deacon John Stapleton Deacon Gregory Schneider Mrs. Marcella Kraycik, Principal

Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. T. Smith, Pastor Emeritus

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC Direct Line: (800) 791-9209

Direct Line: (800) 791-9209
Office of Safe Environment: Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W, M.S.
Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
610-871-5200 ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

ST. CATHARINE'S REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - Chapel Saturday: 4:30 p.m. - Church Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 - Church Daily: Monday - Friday - 7:15 a.m. - Chapel 8:20 a.m. School Mass (Friday)

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday - 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. in the Church

otherwise, by appointment only.

PARISH CENTER: 2427 Perkiomen Avenue Phone: 610-779-4005, FAX: 610-779-0859 Parish Website: www.scsreading.org

Parish Email: saintcatharineofreading@gmail.com

ST. CATHARINE'S SCHOOL: 2330 Perkiomen Avenue Phone: 610-779-5810 • www.scsreading.org

PREP OFFICE: 2330 Perkiomen Avenue

Phone: 610-779-8535

PRE-SCHOOL:

Phone: 610-779-5810

Please mail all your correspondence to the Parish Center, 2427 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, PA 19606

St. Catharine of Siena Parish Mission Statement We, the people of St. Catharine of Siena Parish, as brothers and sisters in Christ guided by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and inspired by the works of our patron saint proclaim a desire to grow in our Roman Catholic faith through holiness and a willingness to serve the members of our parish family and community.

Saint Mary's News

Saturday, December 9th - 3:30 p.m. - Catherine Pieja-Cirulli Sunday, December 10th - 10:30 a.m. - Giuseppina DiMaria Saturday, December 16th - 3:30 p.m. - Muffy Reinecke Sunday, December 17th - 10:30 a.m. - Helena Wlazewska

ENVELOPES can be found today on the altar rail for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. Each plant is \$12.00.



We will be decorating St. Mary's Church for Christmas on December 11th beginning at 9:00 am We look forward to your help.

St. Mary's Website will no longer active. All information for St. Mary's will be available on our Parish Website. A special thank you to Carl Gethmann for all his countless hours and dedication to the website.

The Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotion holds a special place in the spiritual life of Saint Catharine's & St. Mary's. It is an opportunity to gather as a community before the Blessed Sacrament and to pray before the Lord in solemn adoration. It gives us time to deepen our appreciation of the importance of the mystery of the Eucharist in our lives.

Forty Hours Celebration

January 7,8, & 9th

All at the Church, including daily Mass for Monday and Tuesday. Come meet the newly ordained priests for 2024.

Sunday January 7th

Location: Church

Adoration 12:30 to 6:00pm

Anointing of the Sick and Benediction 6:00pm

Preacher at Benediction: Deacon JV

Monday January 8th Location: Church

Daily Mass 7:15am

Adoration 7:45am to 6pm

Evening Prayer and Benediction 6:00pm Preacher at Benediction: Deacon Keaton Eidle

Tuesday January 9th

Location: Church Daily Mass 7:15am

Adoration 7:45am to 6pm

Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction

7:00pm

Preacher at Benediction: Deacon Aaron

Scheidel



Advent and Christmas 2023

Advent Confessions

Regular Schedule

Saturdays

2:45pm-3:15 pm St. Mary's

3:30pm-4:15 pm Church

Mondays

7:00 pm-8:00 pm Chapel (Dec. 18th at Church)

Additional Confessions for Advent Sundays

6:45 am-7:15 am Church 8:45 am-9:15 am Church

9:45 am-10:15 am St. Mary's

10:45 am-11:15 am Church

Advent Penance Service - Monday December 18th 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Church

Father Miller's Bible Study Dates:

Tuesday, December 12th 6:30 pm Church Thursday, December 21st 6:30 pm Church

Christmas Season

Obligation to attend one of these:

4th Sunday Advent

Saturday December 23rd

3:30 pm St. Mary's

4:30 pm Church

Sunday December 24th**

7:30 am Church

9:30 am Church

There will be no 10:30 am St. Mary or 11:30 am Church

Christmas Eve

Obligation to attend one of these as well:

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 pm Church

7:00 pm Church

9:00 pm St. Mary's

10:30 pm Church

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25th

8:00 am Church 9:00 am St. Mary's

10:00 am - Church

Daily Mass from December 26th to December 29th 9:00 am Chapel

December, 30th-31st

Regular Sunday Schedule

January 1st - **Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year** 9:00 am Chapel

<u>Is 40:1-5, 9-11:</u> Make ready the way for the Messiah. Make known the Good News, for God is near.

<u>2 Pt 3:8-14</u>: There is no counting of time with God. He does not want anyone to perish. We await a new heaven and earth, relying on the justice of God.

Mk 1:1-8: John the Baptist announced the coming of Jesus. John called for repentance and promised that the Messiah would baptize in the Holy Spirit.

<u>Today's Message</u>: As we await new heavens and a new earth, let us make clear the way of the Lord by being servants of justice, truth, and peace.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

NEW PARISHIONERS' BRUNCH – following the 11:30 a.m. Mass ADVENT REFLECTION FOR MEN – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Social Hall **MONDAY. DECEMBER 11**

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – following the 7:15 Mass until 8:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Chapel

GUITAR GROUP PRACTICE – 7:00 p.m. – Church CUB SCOUTS MEETING – 6:30 p.m. – Social Hall LIFE AFTER LOSS - 7:00 p.m. – Parish Center

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

FR. MILLER'S BIBLE STUDY - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 PREP – 6:30-8:30 p.m. - School

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

PRAY THE ROSARY - 6:45 a.m. - Chapel

RCIA - 6:00-7:30 p.m. - Parish Center

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

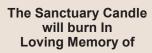
AHG - 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Social Hall

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

PRAY THE ROSARY – 7:30 a.m. – Chapel ULTREYA – Knights' Room – 10:00 a.m.

OPERATION MILK & COOKIES DROP OFF - 2:00-7:00 p.m. - Social Hall

For the week of December 10th



St. Catharine's Church - Nancy Marlin

St. Catharine's Chapel - Grace Wargo

St. Mary's - Helen Konkolus

POPE'S PRAYER FOR December: For persons with disabilities We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:00 Gloria Stoudt 4:30 Kevin McQuaite SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 7:30 Minnie Trabosh 9:30 Patricia Capilo

11:30 Kenton J. Rand (10th Anniversary)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:15 Deceased Members of the Rickert, Verbosh, Platko

Families

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:15 Carl & Marie Heine WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:15 Anna Marie McIntyre (1st Anniversary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
7:15 Paul Einfeldt
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:15 Jeffrey Kolb (5th Anniversary)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00 Betty Mesisca (1st Anniversary)

4:30 Marguerite A. Arthur (30th Anniversary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 7:30 Jesse & Mary Arnold

9:30 Edward Burns 11:30 Steve Bibbo

Scripture Readings For the Week of December 10, 2023 Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Monday

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is 40-25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

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

Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19

We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: Petty Officer Matthew J. Dobroskey, Jr., Cpl. Bruce Bogertey, SPC, Alex Heintz, Captain Chelsea Pellicano, Airman Ethan Kosmoski, LTJG Nicholas Tomczyk, Captain Steffan Lis, MD, SPC, Dylan Einfalt, Airman 1st Class Kevin Hodgson, Sgt. Madison Straka, First Lt. Devon Schoonover, Sgt. Mackenzie Adame, Lance Corporal Connor A. Soja, Staff Sgt. Brian Perrotto, Captain Anthony Bennett, Tom Bristol, Danny Bristol, Commander Daniel M. Simon, Staff Sgt. Michael Porcaro, Staff Sgt. Zak Ribble, Staff Sgt. Timothy Hinsey, Thomas Bristol, Col. Patrick Sullivan, Second Lt. Joshua Kline, Captain Kevin Madary, Sgt. First Class Andrew Spies, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Brizek, Warrant Officer Gregory Van Horn, Major Jeffrey Van Horn, Zachary Deissler, Amy & Gregory Boland, Lt. Col. Adam Sawyer, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Sola, Lt. Cdr. Mathew Stuber, Sgt. Nathan Essig. Please contact the Parish Office with your prayer requests or email them to dsitler@comcast.net.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/11 Tuesday 12/12 Wednesday 12/13 Thursday 12/14 Friday 12/15 Saturday 12/16 Rev. Bruno Dongo, A.J. Rev. Anthony M. Drouncheck Rev. Ladislaus J. Dudek Rev. Giuseppe C. Esposito Rev. Edward J. Essig Rev. Bernard J. Ezaki

Catholic Trivia - Question: To which Saint did Our Lady of Guadalupe appear?

- A. St. Junipero Serra
- B. St. Juan Diego Cuanhtlatoatzin
- C. St. Maria Guadalupe Garcia Zavala
- D. St. Miguel Pro

Answer on page 6

New Catholic App that's free for you and for our parish.

Here is another way to stay in touch with your parish. The v app is called Tabella. It contains prayers, novenas. podcasts, and faith formation which includes Fr. Mike Schmitz's year of the Bible and year of the catechism series. Another important feature is the community page for each parish. One has been set up for St. Catharine's. In this community section you will be updated with the daily parish liturgies and



events. The bulletin will be posted there every week along with weather cancellations, reminders of holy days of obligations, confession times, and reminders about the events happening in the parish. See one of our youth group members in the back of the Church to help you with installing the app on your phone or mobile devices.

50 Plus News

Please call, President, Kathleen Zagar, for any 50+ club inquiries. Her phone number is 610-698-3289. You can see us on Facebook for additional information.

Meetings -

January 3, 2024- Pat White will present the 2024 trips. Coffee, tea, water, and cake will be served.

February 7, 2024: Pastor Timothy Cramen will sing and play the guitar. Cake, coffee, tea, and water will be served.

Trips

April Parade of Nations and 18–21: Virginia International Tattoo - \$770 per person double Virginia International occupancy (The **Tattoo** incorporates groups from around the world, including acrobats, choral groups, and precision military drill teams.) Please call Pat White at 610-582-1437 or Bev Bard at 610-763-5654 for trip information. Trip reservations/ down payment deposits are currently being taken by Pat White, \$200 per person. Check should be made payable to St Catharine's 50+ club.

Please call Maria Bunch at 610-914-7005 with the name of members who are sick or have died. We always welcome new members and encourage guests to join us at any of our meetings. Our meetings are held at 1:00 PM on the first Wednesday of most months at Saint Catharine's Social Hall. There will be no meetings during the special events' months of April, August, and December.

<u>Parish Nurse News</u>-You and your family will enjoy the warmth and joy of the holiday season when you feel well! Get enough sleep to refresh body and brain. Eat fruits and vegetables for vitamins and fiber. Hydrate! Sweeten water with cucumbers, lemons, or limes. Rest when you are tired. And, very important, smile often!

RETROUVAILLE: Rediscover The Love In Your Marriage - Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 16 - 18, 2024 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Retirement Fund for Religious - Say thank you to the senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who devoted their lives to serving others. The Diocesan Collection date for the Retirement Fund will be this weekend.

Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

a time to be born... Recently Baptized:

Please pray for our sick: Karin Acuna, Anthony Antonucci, Tara Arnold, Elizabeth Ashton, Baby Lanzo, Mike Bailey, Maura Barrasso, Melody Bechtel, Gene Bellus, Dolores Bertoti, Jason Beshore, Jodi Bixler, Michele Boucher, Joanne Bowman, Katie Briggs, Bruce Brandfon, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Paul Brooke, Renee Brzostek, Connie Burkhart, Marvin Bush, Pauline Cappel, Richard Cunnius, Larry Curtin, Cyril Danko, Tamara Danko, George Dietrich, Janet Dodge, Roseanne Dougherty, Andy Dykie, Gina Ebright, Martin Eisenhower, Charles Elchlepp, Joe Essig, Robert Flipping , Chris Fry, Geraldine Gamby, Michael Gantert, Todd Gladfelter, Theresa Grabowski, David J. Gulati II, Doris Harner, Al Heck, Mary & Wayne Hedrick, Robyn Hefferan, Carol Heft, Theresa Heltzinger, Patricia Herber, Curtis S. Hill, Jesse Hill, Roger Hilton, James Hett, Michael Hivner, Carolyn Hoffman, Chuck Holt, Margaret Iuso, Katelynn Solecki Kajunski, Nikki Lyn Kells, Judith M. Koch, Rev. David Kohut, OFM, John Kompa, Deb Kothgasser, Rosemarie Kovacs, Doug Kroener, Dorothy Kulak, Walter LaSota, Darryl Larish, William Lawson, Pat Lenich, Alma Lonergan, Del Long, Jane Lubas, Joan Lubas, Rosemary Ludwig, Aleigha Manderbach, Maryann Marino, Angela Marroccoli, Greg & Kevin Masters, Daniel Matz, Cindy McConnell, Peggy McConnell, Mary Rita McFadden, Tim McNeil, Katherine Miceli, Lannie Milillo, Cynthia Mitchell, Robert Moyer, Jerome Nigh, Maddie Nordhoy, Angela Biscanti Ondik, Peggy Pacharis, Frank Pingitore, Donald Pisker, Michael Poserina, Chuck Rackie, Lorraine Ransom, Nada Rathkey, Rich Readinger, Peggy Reid, Aneliese & Raven Robinson, David Samsel, Barbara Santoro, Anne Schaeffer, Earl Sheetz, Carolyn Schott, Gabbie Sierra, Vincent Skimski, Joan Skoczen, Tyler Skoczen, Mary Jane Skowron, Louise Souders, Barbara Spatz, Andy Strangarity, Earl Suchomelly, Kimberly Trigstead, Jeff Trojanowski, Maureen Truckly, Rex Voelker, Chad Vogel, Alan Wachowicz, Alexandra Wachowicz, Dave Walter, Mark Walter, Pam Weber, Frank White, Noel Yapsuga, Susan Yapsuga, Kathleen Zagar, Ann Marie Zawislak, Dan Zielinski, John Ziemba, Mollie Ziemba, Mary Ann Zimmerman A Time to die: Nicholas Feola & all victims of war, and the 4,100 daily abortions. Ecclesiastes 3:11

To have someone from your family enrolled on our prayer list, please call the Parish Center. Parishioners who are sick or hospitalized, in a rehabilitation facility or at home wishing to receive the Holy Eucharist may call the Parish at 610-779-4005.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Do you have a relative, friend, neighbor or colleague who has been away from Church for a while? Please let them know that the door is always open and a seat is always available at our Church. All are always welcome at the Parish.



All members of the parish are invited to attend an Advent Penance Service on Monday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. It is a wonderful opportunity to

reflect on the blessings of the holiday season and spiritually prepare for the new year. Multiple priests will be available for Confession.

Christmas Wish List Envelopes will be available this weekend. They will be in the Gathering Areas of Saint Catharine's & St. Mary's.

A sincere "Thank You" to all of our loyal sponsors, who year after year, continue to support our parish bulletin. Please say "Thanks" to all our sponsors for their generous support and mention their ad when doing business with them.

Advent Prayers

Advent is a relatively short liturgical season, so perhaps it's fitting that short, simple prayers are all we need to feel God's calming presence in our lives amid the many distractions. Consider these brief Catholic prayers this Advent season:

Lord, send down Your Spirit to guide me during Advent this year. May the Holy Spirit help me journey closer to You and lift me up when I feel down and led me when I feel lost. I may stumble at times, but I know my ultimate journey is to draw closer to You and build Your kingdom here on earth–a kingdom that Jesus's birth, life and death helped secure. Amen.

I pray for focus today, dear God, because during Advent, my mind and attention tend to wander. There are so many distractions, many of them well-meaning. But nothing gives my heart rest like resting in You. I pray that keep You at the focus of my day today, because I know the peace that only You offer. Amen.

Heavenly Father, heal my heart during this season of Advent. Help me to love more fully. To forgive more generously. To wait more patiently for Christmas, embracing each day and hour knowing the joy that awaits. In Your name I pray. Amen.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Due to the Holidays, all information for the bulletin must be received in our office as follows: December 24th, 31st and January 7th by Friday, December 15th by Information for the bulletin can be emailed to dsitler@comcast.net.

SURVIVING DIVORCE

A confidential program offering hope and healing after divorce January 8, 2024 to March 25, 2024, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Presented at Church of Saint Benedict, 2020 Chestnut Hill Road, Mohnton, 19540, Please contact Joe Boylan, 610-781-6415. joeboylan17@gmail.com or Secretary@churchofsaintbenedict.org

NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME! If you have been regularly worshipping with us and have not yet joined our parish, we warmly invite you to see either Father Miller or Fr. Kuna after Mass and they will be happy to register you as a member of St. Catharine of Siena. All are welcome to join our parish community.

The Sienna Stitchers will be displaying handmade articles for sale at the Church. All proceeds will go to the Saint Vincent De Paul Society.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI): available at the parish office throughout the week. The wafers are broken and shared on Christmas Eve at the family meal.

Clare of Assisi House is in the need of the following items: Paper Products Napkins, Tissues, Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue, Cleaning Supplies, Toilet Cleaner, Scrubbing Bubbles, Windex, Dish Soap), Hygiene Products Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Lotion, Body Wash, Toothpaste. If you are able to help please drop off at the Parish Center

It's that time of year again!

The annual Operation Milk and Cookies drive we be held once again this holiday season. We ask if you could help us spread Christmas cheer to those less fortunate in

community. If you are interested in participating in the drive we ask that you either bake or buy a batch of cookies to donate to our drive so we can deliver them to places such as Mary's Shelter, Opportunity House, Hope and Rescue Mission, and many more! The cookie drop off dates will be: December 16th from 2pm-7pm & December 17th from 8am-3pm at St. Catharine of Siena Social Hall. If you are participating we ask that vou affraney@gmail.com or rachfraney@gmail.com and let us know how many cookies you are planning on donating.

Catholic Trivia ANSWER: B. - Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill, the site of a former Aztec Temple near Mexico City and asked him to build a Temple there. When the local Bishop did not believe his account and asked for proof, Juan Diego went back at Our Lady's request to find flowers. surprisingly found roses on the cold summit in December, wrapped them in his tilma, and carried them back to the Bishop. Not only was the Bishop astonished by the roses but also by the image of Our Lady now on the tilma. She asked to be known as "Santa Maria, de Guadalupe." Our Lady of Guadalupe did not appear again, for her mission was complete. The temple was built and remains there today, in what is now a suburb of Mexico City. Juan Diego's tilma, woven from cactus fibers, with a shelf-life of just 30 years at best, remains miraculously preserved.



Invest in DID YOU KNOW? - Through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Pennsylvania Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC), businesses and individuals can lower their tax bills by donating to private schools, scholarship organizations, pre-K programs, and other educational enrichment initiatives. The bulk of the

tax credits — \$110 million per year — are reserved for donors that give to scholarship organizations, which provide financial aid to children attending K-12 private schools. The program also sets aside a small amount of tax credits for donors that give to pre-k scholarship funds. At Saint Catharine of Siena School, our EITC and OSTC program plays an essential role in the school's financial strategy as well as the fulfillment of our mission. Saint Catharine of Siena School is seeking donors to participate in the EITC/OSTC program to alleviate the burden of financial aid on our operating budget AND to give as many children access to a Catholic, Saint Catharine of Siena education as possible. If you are interested in learning more about this tax credit scholarship program, please contact Mrs. Stephanie Conlon, SCS Advancement Director @ 610-779-5810.



SCS is looking for a few unusual, strange, and educational items to increase curiosity and a love of learning through wonder, awe, and discovery! Please call the office 610-779-5810 to arrange a drop off if willing to share. SCS would love to incorporate nature items into discovery such as:

- Bird nests (please put in a ziploc bag or clear salad container) If you know which species built which nest, please feel free to identify, bird feeders and bird houses
- Clean animal bones such as jaws, skulls, etc. (identify, please if you can)
- Snake skins or Empty hives, wasp nests, etc
- Unusual shells, ocean specimens, or beach treasures
- Any interesting artifact of nature that can be observed and researched in wonder and awe

