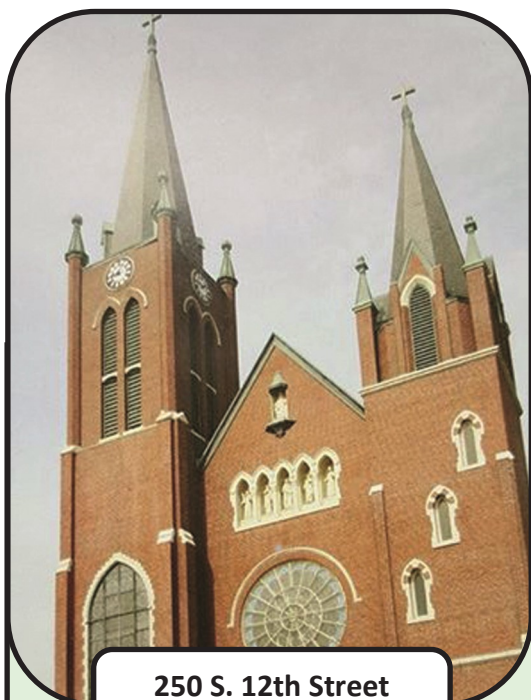


Saint Mary's

Saint Catharine of Siena Parish



250 S. 12th Street
Reading, PA 19602

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
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



4975 Boyertown Pike
Reading, PA 19606

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Mary's News

Saturday, December 16th - 3:30 p.m. - Muffy Reinecke
Sunday, December 17th - 10:30 a.m. - Helena Wlazewska
Saturday, December 23rd - 3:30 p.m. - Frances Obritz

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



Polish Carols will be sung beginning at 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve.



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:

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 **

******No incense will be used on Christmas morning including St. Mary's******

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

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11: Isiah has been sent to proclaim glad tidings to those in need. He rejoices in the Lord who will prove that He is the God of justice and peace.

1 Thes 5:16-24: Paul admonishes that Christians should rejoice. He prays that the Christ-bearer will be free from any semblance of evil, but rather will grow in holiness.

Jn 1:6-8 19-28: John the Baptist is the forerunner of Jesus. He gives witness to Jesus by his preaching.

Today's Message: John witnesses to the one who is to come, one far mightier than he, one who will proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As we await His coming again in glory, let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

OPERATION MILK & COOKIES DROP OFF – 8:00 a.m.-
3:00 p.m. - Social Hall

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – following the 7:15 Mass
until 6:30 p.m.**

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE – 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Church
(**Eucharistic Adoration resumes at 6:30 p.m. at Church**)

GUITAR GROUP PRACTICE – 7:00 p.m. – Church

CUB SCOUTS MEETING – 6:30 p.m. – Social Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

PREP – 6:30 p.m. - School

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

PRAY THE ROSARY – 6:45 a.m. – Chapel

RCIA – 6:00-7:30 p.m. – Parish Center

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING – 7:00 p.m. – Social
Hall

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

PRAY THE ROSARY – 7:30 a.m. – Chapel

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:15 Anthony Calvaresi

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:15 Evan Eckel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:15 Kathleen Wentling

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:15 Deceased Members of the Wright & Didyoung Families

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:15 Diana Greisser

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 Gloria Stoudt

4:30 Thomas "Butch" Mathews

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

9:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

7:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

10:30 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 17, 2023

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, 19-28

Monday

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

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.**



For the week of December 17th

The Sanctuary Candle
will burn in
Loving Memory of

St. Catharine's Church - Paul Trievel

St. Catharine's Chapel - Jack Staub

St. Mary's - Poor Souls in Purgatory

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/18	Rev. Msgr. Victor F. Finelli
Tuesday 12/19	Rev. Robert T. Finlan
Wednesday 12/20	Rev. Jaya K. Francis, M.S.C.
Thursday 12/21	Rev. Vincent Freeh, M.S.C.
Friday 12/22	Rev. John A. Frink
Saturday 12/23	Rev. Kevin P. Gallagher

Catholic Trivia - Question: What is the liturgical name for the 3rd Sunday in Advent?

- A. Gaudete
- B. Laetare
- C. Candlemas
- D. Rose Sunday

Answer on page 6

Christmas Decoration of Chapel - Helpers needed to decorate the Chapel on Saturday, December 23 after the 8AM Mass. We are usually finished within an hour. Thank you!

Parish Nurse News - You or someone you know may have acute (sudden) or chronic (long-time) pain. Pain is real. Some evidence-based behavioral therapies may help! Ask your provider about Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and other similar therapies to find out more! (P.Frysh, WebMD, Dec.7,2023).

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.



St. Catharine of Siena Council14880 To join:
<https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html>

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.

March 3, 2024: Speaker Scott Hoh will discuss Estate Planning. Coffee, tea, water, and cake will be served.

Trips

April 18–21: Parade of Nations and Virginia International Tattoo - \$770 per person double occupancy (The Virginia International 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.



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, Dr. Elizabeth Edmunds, 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, Virginia Rivera, 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: Frank Marabella**, (husband of Cristine Marabella); **Edward M. Wentzel**, (son of Edward Wentzel & brother of Terri Mueller); **Sharon Michalski** (mother of John Michalski); **Helen Krafczek** & 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.

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.

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.

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.



Knights of Columbus®

Please join the Knights of Columbus 14880 as we celebrate the Christmas Season with our Christmas Holy Hour on December 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Church. Vivat Jesus

Catholic Trivia ANSWER: A. On Gaudete Sunday, we light the pink or rose colored candle in our Advent wreaths. Gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. The Catholic Church uses the color rose to indicate a joyful feast day or holiday. Gaudete Sunday’s counterpart in Lent is Laetare Sunday. For both, a Priest will usually wear rose colored vestments.

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

The Siena 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

Enjoy Our Special Content For Thanksgiving

- Reflect on how to practice gratitude with our 'Gather' playlist, featuring priests, artists, and writers.
- Pray to bless your table and family with our Thanksgiving Prayers.
- Rest as you listen to beautiful Catholic hymns by CASSIA & MYRRH.



Scan to download the Tabella App for free.

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

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

Here is another way to stay in touch with your parish. The 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.