

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.

Saint Mary's News

Saturday, December 23rd - 3:30 p.m. - Frances Obritz

Saturday, December 30th - 3:30 p.m. - Barry Mohn

Sunday, December 31st— 10:30 a.m. - Faye Landis

SCHOLARSHIPS - On Sunday, May 19, 2024, the Polish-American Board of Education of Berks County will be awarding \$25,000 in scholarships to Berks County high school seniors of Polish-American descent. Deadline for submitting the application form for this scholarship is Saturday April 20, 2024. In conjunction with the PABEBC scholarship awards program, the Polish-American Heritage Association of Berks County is awarding a \$2,500 project scholarship to a Berks County high school student of Polish-American descent. For this scholarship the student is required to submit a project on Polish history, culture, and/or traditions. Projects are due on Saturday, March 30, 2024.

Applicants for the scholarships can obtain application forms and guidelines in the office of the Guidance Counselor in all Berks County high schools. They are also available in the Polish-American Cultural Center in the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, 201 Washington St., Reading, and they can be downloaded from the PABEBC website at www.pabeberks.org, or by contacting Sandy Lubas Hummel, Scholarship Chair for both organizations, at 610-207-7065. Any questions? Telephone Sandy Lubas Hummel.



Christmas is a special time for us to give thanks to God for His many blessings to St. Catharine of Siena. As parishioners, you help promote the Gospel with the witness and good example of your lives, and for this, we are grateful in more ways than can be expressed in a letter.

Christmas reminds us to thank you for everything that you teach us about who Jesus Christ is in your lives. We appreciate your good example, your prayers, and your affirming support of our priestly lives. May God bless you for being so generous and cooperative in so many ways to make our parish family the growing community of faith which reflects the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We greet especially our parishioners who are sick, handicapped, or elderly and not able to join us at the table of the Lord each weekend. Thank you for your beautiful example of loyalty to your Catholic Faith and to our Parish Family of which you are a special part.

To those of you who lost loved ones this past year, we want you to know that you are in our prayers and thoughts especially at this time. Our deceased watch over and support us from their heavenly home. May the compassion and healing of our Savior Lord strengthen your family at these holiday times when we feel our losses.

In all our Masses throughout the Christmas Season, we will ask the blessings of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, upon all of you and your families. Again, thank you so much for everything you do for your parish and your priests.

With our love and gratitude,

Rev. Father Brian Miller, Rev. Father Matthew Kuna, Deacon JV, Deacon Fry, Deacon Stapleton, Deacon Schneider



**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

*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.***

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16: David wishes to build a temple to house the tables of the Law, but God speaks to him, promising to exalt and secure the House of David forever. The Lord will bring peace.

Rom 16:25-27: God has revealed His plan of salvation through the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is made known to all people that they may believe and obey.

Lk 1:26-38: Gabriel speaks to Mary, announcing that she who is a virgin shall conceive through the Holy Spirit and give birth to a son. Mary agrees to God's request.

Today's Message: David's posterity shall endure forever. His kingship finds its fulfillment in the Son of Mary, Jesus the Christ. To Him be glory and praise forever.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

KNIGHTS CHRISTMAS HOLY HOUR - 7:00 p.m. - Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

PRAY THE ROSARY – 6:45 a.m. – Chapel

RCIA – 6:00-7:30 p.m. – Parish Center

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

PRAY THE ROSARY – 7:30 a.m. – Chapel

All contributions for 2023 must be received by December 31, 2023 to be included on your statement. Thank you for your generosity during the past year. If contributions are received after December 31st they will be applied to your 2024 statement.



**For the week of December 24th
The Sanctuary Candle
will burn In
Loving Memory of**

**St. Catharine's Church - Living &
Deceased of Speece & Sauppee
Families**

**St. Catharine's Chapel - Deceased
Members of the Curtin Family**

St. Mary's - Poor Souls in Purgatory

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 Gloria Stoudt

4:30 Thomas "Butch" Mathews

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

9:30 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

10:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 Richard Heins

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00 Michael Minnaugh

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00 Walter & Corine Weber

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:00 Sean J. Wertman (9th Anniversary)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:00 Joan Lloyd

4:30 Walter Paul

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:30 Helen B. Anderson (1st Anniversary)

9:30 Salvatore Corso (10th Anniversary)

11:30 Carmen Romero (11th Anniversary)

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 24, 2023

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

Monday

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Mass During the night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62: 11-12; Ps 97: 1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3: 4-7; Lk 2: 15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday

Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday

Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a & 2-8

Thursday

Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday

Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday

1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/25	Rev. Joseph S. Ganser
Tuesday 12/26	Rev. Angel Garcia-Almodovar
Wednesday 12/27	Rev. Andrew N. Gehringer
Thursday 12/28	Rev. Robert J. George
Friday 12/29	Rev. John M. Gibbons
Saturday 12/30	Rev. Joseph Gleixner, M.S.C.

Catholic Trivia

Question: What symbol is associated with St. John the Apostle?

- A. A Divine Man
- B. A Winged Lion
- C. A Winged Ox
- D. A Rising Eagle

Answer on page 6

The Parish Center will be closed the week after Christmas and will reopen January 2nd.

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.

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



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

Forty Hours Adoration - January 7,8, &9th at the Church

Join Jesus Sunday after the 11:30 Mass and Monday & Tuesday after 7:15 a.m. Mass for Adoration until 6 p.m. each evening.

To sign up for an Adoration time, see sign up Clip boards at the back of the Church and Chapel. Regular Monday attendees, can join Jesus at their usual Adoration time **at the Church**. For more information please call Sue Hissick at 610-568-6328 and leave a message.

Available times: Sunday: 12:30– 1 and hourly until 5-6, Tuesday 8-9 a.m. and hourly 5-6 p.m. Start 2024 by spending an hour with Our Lord.

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 Burkhardt, 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, Julia Karpati, 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 Ziembra, Mollie Ziembra, Mary Ann Zimmerman **A Time to die:** & 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.

ADVENT 

C	L	K	D	L	L	S	R	L	S	B	V	R	E	F	X
E	I	K	J	U	V	C	C	X	A	E	U	E	J	V	S
B	F	W	K	T	F	A	B	G	V	L	R	J	O	B	Q
E	P	P	K	I	J	N	V	F	I	I	X	O	S	E	A
G	K	M	S	G	A	D	Y	L	O	E	G	I	E	N	Z
O	Y	V	B	A	V	L	K	U	U	V	L	C	P	Q	M
O	J	L	B	B	O	E	E	S	R	E	C	E	H	M	E
D	G	B	I	E	S	E	E	M	A	C	D	F	J	N	R
N	L	A	S	U	R	R	K	R	M	V	T	F	F	O	C
E	U	P	D	L	R	F	S	U	W	A	S	G	C	E	S
W	A	K	U	V	S	I	C	K	L	W	N	F	K	A	A
S	B	J	C	R	E	S	A	M	A	R	Y	U	Y	M	L
A	N	G	E	L	P	N	M	Y	A	V	H	R	E	I	Q
I	L	L	E	Y	L	T	B	P	N	F	T	L	L	P	
S	N	Q	H	L	Y	F	E	B	X	K	D	P	J	D	L
J	E	S	U	S	I	W	R	E	A	T	H	R	D	R	G

WORDSEARCH

MARY	JOSEPH	REJOICE
ANGEL	PURPLE	SAVIOR
JESUS	WREATH	EMMANUEL
ADVENT	BELIEVE	GOODNEWS
CANDLE		ISRAEL



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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

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

Catholic Trivia ANSWER: D.—St. John the Apostle, the son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. His Feast Day is December 27th. John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only not to die a martyr's death. John is known as the author of the Gospel of John and four other books in the New Testament - the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation. St. John is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. He is often depicted in art as the author of the Gospel with an eagle, symbolizing "the height he rose to in his gospel." St. Matthew is depicted as a Divine Man; St. Mark as a Winged Lion; and St. Luke as a Winged Ox.

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.**



St. Catharine of Siena Council 14880 To join:
<https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html>

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.

