

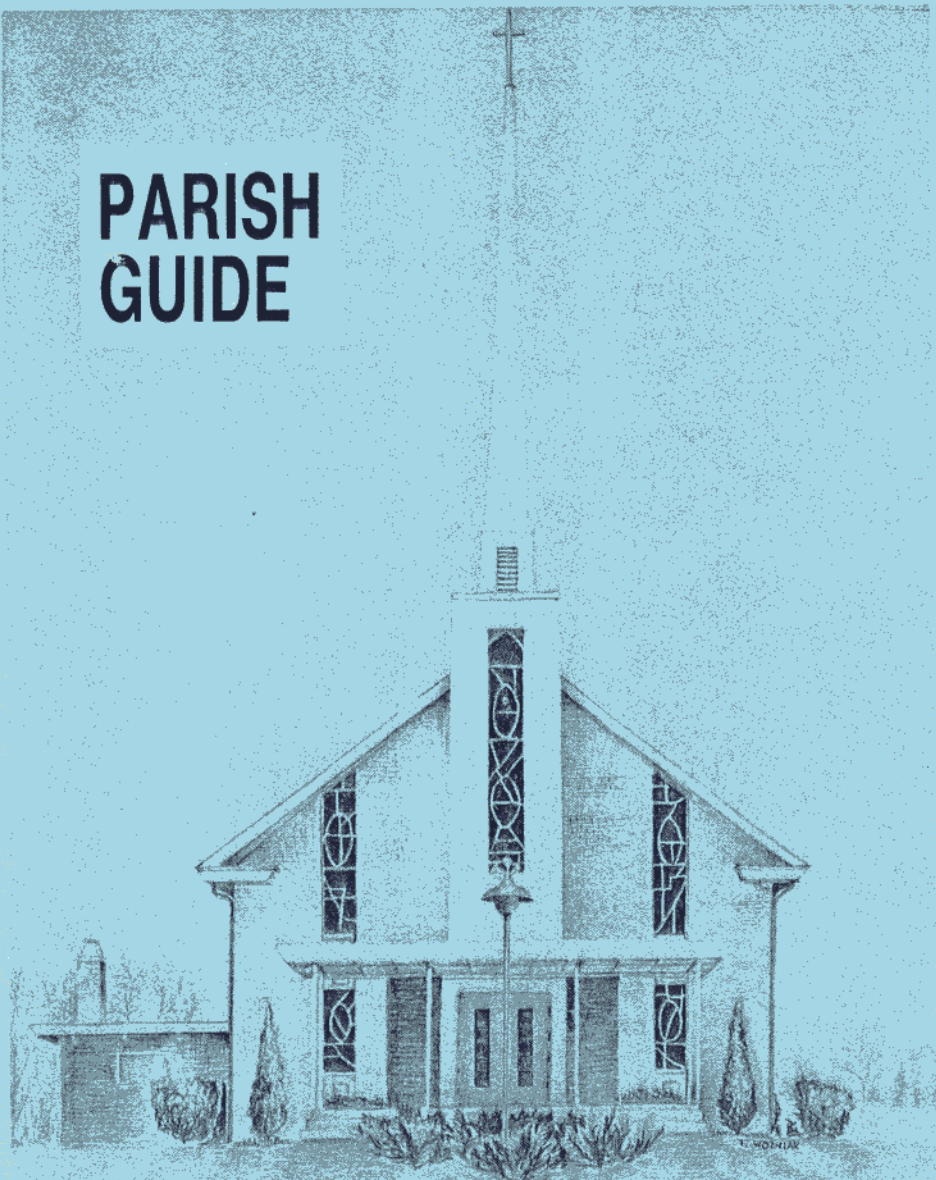
Spring, 1991

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St. Catherine of Siena Parish

PRESTON, CONNECTICUT

PARISH GUIDE



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PRESTON, CT.



Church of St. Catherine of Siena

243 Route 164 • Preston, Connecticut 06360-8726 • (203) 887-9966

Dear Parishioner,

St. Catherine of Siena is a parish of 400 plus families, with a mix of families, that are young, older, and in-between.

We are a community called to nurture and support one another on our faith journey.

We hope you feel the warmth and welcoming of life here in the parish. As you can see by the contents of this booklet, for a small rural parish, we have a great deal to offer, and encourage your participation.

Please use this booklet as a guide, and contact the rectory for any details pertaining to your parish life or spiritual needs.

Sincerely,

The Parish Life Committee

CHURCH OF
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
243 Route 164
Freston, CT 06360

Rev. James P. Carini	Pastor
Sister Cathleen Ryan, O. P.	Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Laura Tucker	Parish Secretary
Fred Gale	Director of Maintenance
Mrs. Mary Jane Haddad	Director of Music/Choir
Mrs. Christina McCann	Director of Youth Ministry
<u>RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:</u>	Monday - Friday 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
<u>TELEPHONE:</u>	Rectory Office - 887-9966 Siena Hall - 889-7640
<u>WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:</u>	Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:30 P. M. Sunday Masses - 8:00 A. M. 10:00 A. M. Holy days as announced.

Free babysitting is available in Siena Hall during the 10:00 A. M. Mass.

All parishioners and visitors are invited to coffee and donuts in Siena Hall after the 8:00 A. M. and 10:00 A. M. masses on the first Sunday of the month.

<u>WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:</u>	Tuesday	9:00 A. M.
	Wednesday	6:30 P. M.
	Thursday	9:00 A. M.
	Friday	9:00 A. M.

Other times as announced. These masses are held in the rectory basement unless otherwise announced.

RECONCILIATION: (Penance) Saturday 4:30 to 5:00 P. M.

Communal Services during Advent and Lent, and any other time by request.

BAPTISM:

Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of the month after the 10:00 A. M. Mass and on the fourth Sunday of the month during the 10:00 A. M. Mass.

Call the rectory for a Baptism Request form. A meeting for parents and godparents is held each month prior to the ceremony.

MARRIAGE:

Arrangements must be made six months in advance of the wedding date. A marriage preparation program is required.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

An annual Communal Anointing Ceremony is held in the Fall; any time by request.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Call the rectory for a registration form.

PARISH REGISTRATION:

Call the rectory for a registration form or pick one up in the church vestibule.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The Parish Community of St. Catherine of Siena, seeks to continue the mission of Christ in the world, by proclaiming and celebrating the good news of Jesus Christ in our midst.

...We gather together as a eucharistic community in love and service for one another.

...We, as a community of believers, are enriched through Scripture and the Sacraments enabling us to live the word of God in our daily lives.

...We pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, for God's guidance so that we may be effective in reaching out and serving others in our community.

In fulfilling this mission, we, the members of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, will grow in our spiritual relationship with God and one another.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council of St. Catherine of Siena, established in 1983, is a leadership community comprised of the pastor, pastoral associate, two trustees and eight other lay persons.

The purpose of the Parish Council is to provide direction for the parish based on the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the community. The Council is also to serve as an instrument for sharing the mission of Jesus, proclaiming his Word, building his community, celebrating his liturgy and serving his people.

The council meets monthly, usually the first Monday of the month. Any matter of concern may be presented to the council for its consideration.

Committees include: Education, Liturgy, Parish Life, Peace and Justice, Finance, Maintenance, and Ad Hoc Committees as needed.

MINISTRIES

Ministries are various forms of service given by parishioners to the parish as a response to their Baptismal call to witness to Jesus Christ through service to each other.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY: (Greeters/Ushers) This ministry exists to provide a spirit of warm friendliness and open hospitality among the assembly for the recreative work of the Spirit who moves in the liturgical celebrations to make us all one. Ministers try to make all feel at home, wanted and welcome.

ADULT CHOIR: The purpose of the choir is to enhance the singing at Mass and to sing special music in three or four-part harmony thus increasing the appreciation of music in the liturgy. The choir practices from September to May, each Thursday evening from 7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and sings at the 10:00 A. M. Sunday mass and at special services.

MUSIC GROUP: These people provide the music for the 5:30 P. M. Saturday evening liturgy. Practices are held each Wednesday evening in the church from 7:00 P. M. to 8:00 P. M.

LECTORS: Lay lectors proclaim the Scriptures at weekend liturgies.

COMMENTATORS: High school youth and adults read the announcements and General Intercessions at the weekend liturgies.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: (Sometimes called "Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist" or "Ministers of the Bread and Cup".)

Ministers of the Eucharist help with the distribution of Holy Communion under both the form of Bread and the form of Wine during the Celebration of Mass. Confirmed, adult parishioners serve the parish in this ministry. These ministers also bring communion to the sick and homebound.

EUCCHARISTIC BREAD: Families of the parish are encouraged to bake the bread used each weekend for the celebration of Eucharist. This practice is especially meaningful when the bread is baked by the family or friends of the person for whom the Mass is offered or by those who are celebrating a special event at the Mass--a baptism, anniversary, etc. A special recipe is available for the bread dough. For further information or if you can be a baker of the Eucharistic Bread, please contact the rectory.

ALTAR SERVERS: Boys and girls in Grade 5 and up whose family is registered in the parish are invited to become altar servers.

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

MINISTRY OF CATECHIST: Parishioners, both men and women, share their faith with children and teenagers in the religious education program. Formal classes for each grade level are taught from fully developed lesson plans, using modern methods of teaching. Catechists are provided with all materials and expected to prepare well for the teaching sessions.

If you think you are called to witness as a Catechist or as an aide to a Catechist, please contact the rectory.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: The religious education program provides a deep understanding of faith for all parishioners. Emphasis is on the importance of on-going education for adults and recognizes parents' right and responsibility as prime educators of their children. Every adult parishioner is urged to take part in adult programs.

Classes for children Kindergarten through Grade 8 meet twice a month, October through April. A yearly calendar gives schedule dates for these sessions.

Students in Grades 9 and 10 receive remote preparation for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation by attending monthly sessions and other related programs according to schedule. Immediate preparation for Confirmation (Grade 11 and older) is given in sessions that meet once a month according to schedule.

NURSERY: As a service to the parish, the Ladies Guild with the aide of teenagers provides the care of infants and children during the 10:00 A. M. Sunday mass. Volunteers are welcome to help care for the children.

YOUTH MINISTRY: The high school aged youth are involved in monthly activities which provide opportunity for fellowship, socializing, sports, service projects and faith direction. The Youth Minister is assisted by a Core Committee of youth and parents.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISM: Infant Baptism continues to be celebrated after the birth of a child. The ceremony is held on the third Sunday of the month after the 10:00 A. M. Mass. Parents may also choose to have the Baptism during the 10:00 A. M. Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month. A meeting for parents and godparents is held each month prior to the ceremony.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULT: (RCIA) The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process of welcoming adults interested in joining the Catholic church. A team of parishioners, along with the Pastor and Pastoral Associate guide the process and an Orientation session is held each year. Volunteers for this ministry serve as sponsors, catechists and hospitality ministers. The Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) are administered at the Easter Vigil Liturgy. Formal entrance into the church by baptized non-Catholics also takes place during this liturgy.

EUCCHARIST: Children who participated in the first level of the program prepare to receive First Communion in second grade. A meeting for parents and two children's workshops provide theological and catechetical background. The First Communion Mass is celebrated in May on the Saturday before Mother's Day.

RECONCILIATION: Children in the fifth grade are prepared for this sacrament which is received at a Penance Service in the Spring. Communal Penance Services for parishioners are celebrated during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Individual opportunities for confession are available each Saturday afternoon at 4:30 P. M. in the church.

CONFIRMATION: This sacrament is celebrated in the Spring each year. Young people in 11th grade and up participate in a preparation program leading to the sacrament. Adults desiring to be confirmed share in several sessions for their preparation and celebration of the sacrament at Pentecost.

MARRIAGE: Couples need to meet with the pastor at least six months prior to the date of the marriage and to participate in one of the Pre Cana programs: Couple-to-Couple, Engaged Encounter (week-end), Evening for Engaged Couples (six sessions).

ANointING OF THE SICK: A communal Anointing of the Sick takes place each year during one of the weekend masses in the Fall, or individual anointing may be received upon request. Ministry to the Sick and Homebound is available through Eucharistic Ministers who visit weekly bringing Communion and the prayers of the community.

ORGANIZATIONS/ACTIVITIES

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - OANACO COUNCIL 6642

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men and is open to all men of the parish. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. There are many benefits to being a K. of C. member, such as comprehensive insurance plans and scholarships. The local council supports the parish community in many ways. Some of the projects include an annual children's Easter Egg Hunt, supplying Bibles for the First Communion class, Tootsie Roll Drive to aid the handicapped and drug awareness programs.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL GUILD

Our Lady of Good Counsel Guild is open to all women of the parish. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, September through May, except where a change is necessary due to a holiday or a special event. The purpose of the Guild is to provide support to the members of the parish community, and to provide spiritual and social support for its members. Projects include an annual potluck supper for senior citizens of Preston, support of the babysitting program for the 10:00 A. M. Sunday mass, organization of the receptions following the Easter Vigil Liturgy, First Communion and Confirmation receptions.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

St. Catherine's Summer festival, which originated in 1980, is an annual event held in late June. Plans for this event begin in January. The festival is a weekend of games of skill and chance, good music, fine food and fun for all ages, and an opportunity for all parishioners to come together in a spirit of cooperation and fun. All proceeds realized from the festival are used in areas of need within the parish.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

The Good Samaritan Fund is a non-denominational assistance program, which provides one-time interim help to persons of Preston in need of energy assistance, food, clothing, shelter, etc., until traditional aid can be obtained. To seek assistance or to make a donation to the Good Samaritan Fund, please contact the rectory.

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands belong to parishioners who have volunteered their services to fill needs such as providing rides to the doctor or pharmacy in emergencies, raking leaves and shoveling snow for those unable to handle this themselves, relief for primary caregivers who need a respite. For further information, assistance or volunteering, please call the rectory.

HISTORY OF THE PARISH

For many years the Catholics in the town of Preston were under the jurisdiction of the Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Norwich, but in the year 1954 The Most Reverend Bernard J. Flanagan, Bishop of Norwich transferred that jurisdiction to the Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Jewett City, Msgr. Alfred F. Driscoll.

He arranged for Mass to be offered on Sundays and Holydays in the Firehouse in Preston City, the first Mass being celebrated there on December 19, 1954. Religion classes were held there and later in the homes of parishioners.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Guild was organized and became the nucleus of a drive for a church that would provide for the spiritual needs of all of the Catholics in Preston.

In 1959 four acres of land was donated to the parish by the William O'Neil Family of Norwich, and after a successful financial drive and with the help of the Norwich Diocesan Development Fund, ground was broken in July of 1959. The new church was dedicated on April 24, 1960 by His Excellency, Most Reverend Vincent J. Hines, Bishop of Norwich.

St. Catherine's remained a mission church of St. Mary's in Jewett City until November 1, 1975, when the Rev. Joseph Finnerty was appointed our first pastor. His installation took place on December 7, 1975 with Bishop Daniel Reilly.

In 1985 under the direction of Father Joseph Finnerty the church was renovated as we see it today.

When Father Joseph Finnerty left in 1985 for sabbatical studies, the Rev. John Nash was appointed pastor on August 30, 1985. The Rev. Paul Laverde became our temporary administrator when Father Nash was reassigned in November of 1985. Father James Carini became our Pastor on March 6, 1986, and remains with us as of this date.