

Fourth Sunday of Advent: **DECEMBER 22, 2019**



**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:  
 The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,  
 and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14**

**Rev. William F. Platt, Pastor**  
**Rev. Mark D'Silva, Parochial Vicar**  
**Rev. Christopher Johnson, Resident Priest**

**Deacon Renato Berzolla**  
**Deacon Vincent Heidenreich**  
**Deacon Robert Henrey, Retired**  
**Deacon John Linsenmeyer**  
**Deacon Eduardo Rodrigues**

**SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE**

**REGULAR MASSES**

**SATURDAY – St. Catherine**

5:00 PM (Vigil)

**SUNDAY – St. Catherine**

7:30, 9:00 (Family Mass), 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

**SUNDAY – St. Agnes**

8:30 and 10:00 AM

**DAILY – St. Catherine Chapel**

Monday through Friday at 7:00 AM & 5:15 PM

**HOLY DAY – St. Catherine**

Eve: 5:15 PM (Vigil)

Holiday: 7:00 AM, 12:10 PM, & 5:15 PM

**MASSES IN OTHER LANGUAGES – St. Catherine**

**September to June (Chapel)**

French Mass - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 11:00 AM

Italian Mass - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11:00 AM

Spanish Mass - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11:00 AM

**Year-round (Chapel)**

Korean Mass - Every Sunday 5:00 PM

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**St. Catherine Chapel** – Every 1st Friday of the Month

Immediately following 5:15 PM Mass

**RECONCILIATION - Sacrament of Penance**

**St. Catherine (Sacristy)** Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00 PM

or by appointment at **St. Catherine** or **St. Agnes**

## Contact Us

### OFFICE

Ph: 203-637-3661

**Administrative Assistant** - Cindy Busani  
ext. 315 / rectory@ stc-sta.org

**Receptionists** - Lisa DeLeo & Claire DeLuca  
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**Faith Formation** - Kate Noonan Glaser  
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**Faith Formation Office Assistants**  
ext. 330 Emma Doring  
ext. 331 Betty Lundgren

### MINISTRIES

**Altar Servers** - Deacon Berzolla

**Baptismal Preparation** - Fr. Mark D'Silva

**Care of the Sick and Aging** - Fr. Mark D'Silva

**Eucharistic Ministers** - Lori Wilson  
ext. 328 / lori.wilson@stc-sta.org

**Director of Music** - Dr. Liya Petrides  
ext. 322 / music.director@stc-sta.org

**Parish Partners** - Jeannemarie Baker, RN  
ext. 375 / parishpartners@stc-sta.org

**Readers** - Lori Wilson  
ext. 328 / lori.wilson@stc-sta.org

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** - Deacon Berzolla

**Parish Office Hours:** Mon – Fri, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

**Faith Formation Office Hours:** M – Th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (Individual or during Mass)

Please call the Rectory to arrange for Baptism.  
Attendance at a Pre-Baptism Session is required –  
3rd Saturday: 1:30 p.m. in the Rectory

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please call the Rectory 9-12 months before proposed  
wedding date to arrange for marriage preparation.



*Please pray for the deceased members of our parish,  
especially for*

**Margaret Lucas** (12-16-19)

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, December 22

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

7:30 a.m. Dyanna Borges  
9:00 a.m. All the Members of this Parish  
10:30 a.m. Tony Giordan  
11:00 a.m. Spanish Mass  
5:00 p.m. John, Florence and Karl Ritzler

### Sunday, December 22 - St. Agnes Campus

8:30 a.m. Kimberly Orrico Gillick  
10:00 a.m. Peter Felix McAleer

### Monday, December 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

7:00 a.m. Thomas G. Shea  
5:15 p.m. Maria DeAnglis

### Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

5:00 p.m. All Souls  
7:00 p.m. All Souls  
Midnight All Souls

### Wednesday, December 25

Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

7:30 a.m. All Souls  
9:00 a.m. All Souls  
10:30 a.m. All Souls

### Wednesday, December 25 - St. Agnes Campus

8:30 a.m. All Souls  
10:00 a.m. Carmela and Carmelo Ambrogio

### Thursday, December 26

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

9:00 a.m. Helen and Jim Toth

### Friday, December 27

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

7:00 a.m. All Souls  
5:15 p.m. Alexandra Wholley

### Saturday, December 28

1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

5:00 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. John J. Fanning and Mr. and  
Mrs. Daniel J. O'Donnell, Jr.

### Sunday, December 29

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

7:30 a.m. Vincent Ragusa  
9:00 a.m. William and Helen Lumzer  
10:30 a.m. Terence Cunniffe  
5:00 p.m. All the Members of this Parish

### Sunday, December 29 - St. Agnes Campus

8:30 a.m. Edward Burns  
10:00 a.m. Noell Gioffre

### NEXT WEEKEND CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

#### Saturday, December 28

Reconciliation: Fr. Mark D'Silva  
5:00 p.m. Fr. Mark D'Silva

#### Sunday, December 29

7:30 a.m. Fr. Christopher Johnson  
8:30 a.m. Fr. William F. Platt  
9:00 a.m. Fr. Christopher Johnson  
10:00 a.m. Fr. William F. Platt  
10:30 a.m. Fr. Mark D'Silva  
5:00 p.m. Fr. Mark D'Silva

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

**Attention  
Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors!**

**Sign-up Sheets for  
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**  
Masses are posted in the Sacristy.  
Please sign-up for your desired  
service time ASAP. Thank you!

*The Parish of  
St. Catherine of Siena  
and  
St. Agnes  
welcomes those Baptized  
into God's family*

*Eloise Abaroa  
Sean Jordan  
Nathanial Kloster*



*3rd Announcement*

**Elizabeth Robben  
and  
Ryan Patrick Muldoon**

**Megan Ormond  
and  
Tony Morello**

*Have made a Promise of Marriage*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit [www.stc-sta.org](http://www.stc-sta.org) for our full calendar

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Dec 24 | <b>St. Agnes Christmas Pageant</b><br>5:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass |
| Dec 24 | <b>Christmas Eve Masses</b> (see below)                          |
| Dec 25 | <b>Christmas Day Masses</b> (see below)                          |
| Dec 26 | <b>Parish Offices Closed</b>                                     |
| Dec 26 | <b>Meditation</b><br>7:00 – 7:30 p.m., St. Catherine's Chapel    |



### Christmas Eve


- 5:00 p.m. **The Vigil Mass of Christmas, Church**   
*Prelude of Carols*  
Rev. William F. Platt
- 5:00 p.m. **The Vigil Mass of Christmas, Gymnasium**  
*Prelude of Carols*  
Rev. Paul Sankar
- 5:00 p.m. **The Vigil Mass of Christmas, Lucey Parish Hall**  
*Prelude of Carols*  
Rev. Mark D'Silva
- 5:00 p.m. **The Vigil Mass of Christmas, St. Agnes**  
*Prelude of Carols*  
Rev. Christopher Johnson
- 7:00 p.m. **The Candlelight Vigil Mass of Christmas, Church**  
Rev. Mark D'Silva
- 11:30 p.m. **The Solemn Midnight Mass, Church**  
*Prelude of Congregational and Choral Carols*  
Rev. William F. Platt

### Christmas Day

- 7:30 a.m., Church  
**The Christmas Mass at Dawn**  
Rev. Mark D'Silva
- 8:30 a.m., St. Agnes  
**The Christmas Morning Mass**  
*Prelude of Carols*  
Rev. Christopher Johnson
- 9:00 a.m., Church  
**The Christmas Morning Mass**  
*Prelude of Carols*  
Rev. William F. Platt
- 10:00 a.m., St. Agnes  
**The Mass of Christmas Day**  
*Prelude of Carols*  
Rev. Msgr. Alan F. Detscher



- 10:30 a.m., Church  
**The Mass of Christmas Day**  
*Prelude of Carols*  
Rev. William F. Platt

 *There will NOT be a  
5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.*

# NEWS AND EVENTS



*Come sing  
with us  
this Christmas!*

We invite all families with children to sing as part of our **Family Choir** at the **5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass** at St. Catherine of Siena Church.

Please contact **Dr. Liya Petrides** for more information at [music.director@stc-sta.org](mailto:music.director@stc-sta.org).



Join us for our  
**Christmas Pageant at  
St. Agnes**

Tuesday, **December 24**  
**5:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass**

## 2019 THANKS-IS-GIVING APPEAL GOAL: \$225,000

The week of December 7 to December 13, was a great week for the TIG Appeal! **40 new gifts** were received which **totalled \$43,690**. The TIG Appeal **total** as of December 13th is now up to **\$98,395**.

| DATE         | Total Donations Received | # Donations Received |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Nov. 1 – 30  | \$ 36,255                | 87                   |
| Dec. 1 - 6   | \$ 18,450                | 29                   |
| Dec. 7 - 13  | \$ 43,690                | 40                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$ 98,395</b>         | <b>156</b>           |

Thank you so much to our 156 parish families that have made this possible. Your support of this important parish appeal is greatly appreciated!

If you have not made your donation already, **please give your prayerful consideration to contributing to this year's TIG Appeal and working together to build our spiritual home.**



*Of one heart and mind*  
-ACTS 4:32

## Financial Report

### Sunday Offertory (for the last four weekends)

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| November 16 & 17 – St. Catherine..... | \$12,296** |
| November 16 & 17 – St. Agnes.....     | \$ 1,474   |
| November 23 & 24 – St. Catherine..... | \$10,537** |
| November 23 & 24 – St. Agnes.....     | \$ 330     |
| December 1 & 2 – St. Catherine.....   | \$10,520** |
| December 1 & 2 – St. Agnes.....       | \$ 1,121   |
| December 7 & 8 – St. Catherine.....   | \$ 8,197   |
| December 7 & 8 – St. Agnes.....       | \$ 1,509   |

\*\*May Include Annual, Monthly (AEG) and/or (OLG)

**Take the Simple Way to  
Support your Parish!**



St. Catherine of Siena offers **Online Giving** and you can use it to make your offertory donation from anywhere!

Visit [www.stcath.org/giving/online-giving](http://www.stcath.org/giving/online-giving)

**Online Giving** allows you to easily make donations, payments, and pledges via your smart device or computer to your church back home. Your support during summer months helps grow and sustain our parish all year long and is sincerely appreciated!

## Please Help Us Eliminate Bank-Returned Donation Checks!"

Each week, several of your generous donation checks are returned to us by the bank because the "Pay to" is incorrect, and this triggers a lengthy correction process for all. This issue can be eliminated by following these guidelines:

- 1). All donation checks should be made payable to: **Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes** (if space permits); otherwise, **St. Catherine and St. Agnes** will also be accepted by our bank. 2). In the **Memo Line** of your check, please reference the fund, e.g., *Christmas; Thanks-Is-Giving; Peter's Pence; Religious Retirement*. **Questions?** Please call **Terri Marino** in the Business Office on **Ext. 326**.

**Thank you for your continued support to the parish!**

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### New Year's Masses

#### New Year's Eve December 31, 2019

There is no longer at 7:00 p.m. Mass followed by a reception. There are only the regular daily morning and evening Masses at St. Catherine of Siena:

**7:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.**

#### New Year's Day - January 1, 2019 Mary, Mother of God

Masses are in the St. Catherine of Siena at **7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 5:15 pm.**



### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Give your spouse a special gift this Christmas by attending a

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.** The next Weekends are **March 27-29, 2020** in **Albany, NY** and **July 10-12, 2020** in **East Windsor, CT**

For more **information**, call Pat & Mary Jo McLaughlin at **860-315-2127** or visit them at <https://wwmectw.org/>

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** is a Roman Catholic organization serving in over 90 countries in a multitude of languages.

### Spiritual Direction: Available Now



Spiritual Direction is for anyone who is seeking a deeper connection with God. If you are interested in exploring Spiritual Direction, please e-mail **Lori Wilson** at

**Lori.Wilson@stcatherine-stagnes.org** or call her at or **203-637-3661 x328** or **914-837-0199**.



COMMUNICATING CONCERNS CAN SAVE A CHILD FROM A LIFETIME OF PAIN.

#### The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth

The Protecting God's Children program educates and trains adults (clergy, teachers, staff, volunteers, parents) about the dangers and warning signs of abuse, the ways to prevent abuse, the methods of properly reporting suspicions of, and responding to allegations of abuse.

### ATTENTION ST.CATHERINE'S PLAYERS VOLUNTEERS!

If you would like to volunteer, in ANY capacity at St. Catherine's (or any parish), you must attend a VIRTUS session. The next session will be held at St. Catherine's prior to the Players show for those who would like to volunteer.

**January 23, 7:00 PM**

Lucey Parish Hall  
A light dinner will be provided.

Please take advantage of this great opportunity!

**Preregistration is required** - visit [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) to register.

Please contact **Betty Lundgren** at **203-637-3661 ext. 331** with any questions.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FAITH FORMATION



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent. . .

We take the entire season of Advent as a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God's love coming to us through the baby Jesus. Many of the faith formation students went home with Advent calendars. There are more **copies of the Advent calendars in the church lobby**. Please take some time to look at your Advent calendar as a family. Each calendar day has a suggestion to help us prepare for the celebration of Christmas throughout the season.



*Let's keep making some time to slow down and reflect this season.*



**All weekly classes will resume after the Christmas break on January 5 with the Sunday Family Program.**

Our **First Reconciliation Family Retreat** is **Saturday, January 11** at 9:30-11:00 AM in the Parish Hall and is for all students in the **First Reconciliation and First Communion program**, whether they attend classes at the St. Catherine of Siena or the St. Agnes Campus.

Our **First Reconciliation for the St. Catherine of Siena students** is **Saturday, January 11** between 2:00-4:00 PM in St. Catherine of Siena Church.

Our **First Reconciliation for the St. Agnes students** is Sunday January 12 following the 10:00 AM Mass.

### Teach Your Own Parent Meetings

2 options:

**January 14, 7:00-8:00 PM** in the Gym

**January 15, 10:00-11:00 AM** in Room 204

**Questions?**

Contact **Kate Glaser** at [kate.glaser@stc-sta.org](mailto:kate.glaser@stc-sta.org)

### Confirmation Retreat

**February 2, 2020—10:00 AM-4:00 PM., St. Agnes Church**

## PICS OF THE WEEK



**Christmas party at St. Agnes. . . Thanks to all, including the Waffle Crew, Raffle team and Santa for making it extra special for everyone!**

"Christmas in Paris" Dinner & Concert was a smash hit, and helped our parish kick off the festivities of the season!



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Be with us

Emmanuel,  
soon we will celebrate your birth,  
the day God came crying and laughing,  
a child in our midst.

On this day we celebrate that you are with us,  
you have always been with us,  
and you want all people to be with you.  
Help us entrust our lives to you, to belong  
to you alone.

Be with us as we answer your call to be  
humble and holy.

Keep us as your brothers and sisters,  
as children of your Father,  
no matter how often we step away from you.  
Stay always by our side  
so that we will be with you forever in  
your kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 22, 2019**

## Fulfillment



*Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6 (7c, 10b); Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24.* When King Ahaz and the people of southern Israel were under attack, the king sought help from a foreign power. The prophet Isaiah told him to trust in God instead. Isaiah even offered proof of God's protection, but the king refused it. Ahaz probably suspected that if he trusted in God, his life would change in a way he would not like.

Like King Ahaz, Joseph found himself in what looked like an impossible situation. Even if he discreetly divorced Mary, everyone would find out why. Unlike King Ahaz, however, when Joseph is given the chance to entrust himself to God's plan, he takes it. He bravely brings his betrothed into his home. By doing so, Joseph fulfills two prophecies.

He receives the sign promised to an ancient king, and he incorporates the unborn child of the virgin into his family line, the line of King David.

Although Ahaz failed to trust in his Lord, God vowed to remain with his people. God's enduring presence takes a startling turn in the house of Joseph, for the child is more than a son of David; he is also, as St. Paul writes, "Son of God in power." The child is Emmanuel, God living in the midst of his people as one of his people.

Yet this child belongs not only to Jews, but to everyone. And everyone belongs to him. In Jesus, God fulfills his plan of salvation. In Jesus, God calls us to entrust ourselves to him, to become holy, and to belong to him forever.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 23

#### Elijah Returns

Our Old Testament ends with the prophecy that Elijah will return to prepare people for God's arrival. It would be several centuries, however, before someone would again speak for God. When John the Baptist began his prophetic ministry, people believed that God was at last speaking to them. The unusual elements of John's birth point to the new era that is about to begin. Find or draw an image of John the Baptist and use it to reflect on the ways people of his era might have reacted to him. *Today's Readings: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57-66.*

### Tuesday, December 24

#### Peace

King David united Israel, brought the nation peace, and upheld God's covenant. God's promise that a descendant of David would reign forever is part of God's promise to bring peace to the world. By calling Jesus the "son of David," we acknowledge that Jesus is the "daybreak from on high" who will "guide our feet into the path of peace." Pray for all the nations of the world, especially those that are in the deadly grip of violence. *Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Luke 1:67-79.*

### Wednesday, December 25

#### God's Goodness

When God created the world, he saw that it was good. Sin plunged the world back into darkness, but God did not give up on his creation. Instead, he prepared to bring light to the world once again. Today we celebrate God's advent in our world. We celebrate his affirmation of the goodness of creation and his promise that "all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God." Look for the goodness in each moment of this day. Thank God for the goodness that surrounds and fills you. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18.*

### Thursday, December 26

#### St. Stephen, the First of Many

The light has come into the world, but not everyone wants to hear about it. Jesus warned his followers that they would face persecution. Stephen was the first to face persecution: he was brutally killed for proclaiming the Gospel. Thousands have given their lives since then. Their courage shows the unwavering light and truth of the Incarnation. Place the names or images of Christian martyrs you admire by your nativity set. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17-22.*

### Friday, December 27

#### St. John, Evangelist and Apostle

Although St. John does not include stories about Jesus' birth in his Gospel, he emphasizes that Jesus is God's Son in the flesh. Those who believe that Jesus is the fullest and most perfect revelation of God enter into communion with his Father. Through this fellowship with God, all who believe will enter eternal life. St. John longed for people to believe that Jesus was truly God-in-the-flesh, and he rejoiced when they did. Celebrate the Incarnation by praying the Angelus today. *Today's Readings: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a and 2-8.*

### Saturday, December 28

#### The Holy Innocents

The joyful, uplifting stories surrounding the birth of Jesus come to us mostly from the Gospel according to Luke. St. Matthew's stories foreshadow Jesus' passion and death. We're reminded of the threat that looms over Jesus as we hear how King Herod goes to horrific lengths to eliminate a potential rival. Not only did King Herod walk in darkness, he even tried to destroy the light itself. Confess the ways you still walk in darkness, and ask God to forgive you and bring you back into the light of Christ. *Today's Readings: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Matthew 2:13-18.*



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