

# Saint Catherine of Siena

10 North Pocono Road · Mountain Lakes, New Jersey 07046

Rectory: 973-334-7131

June 3, 2019

Dear St. Catherine of Siena Families,

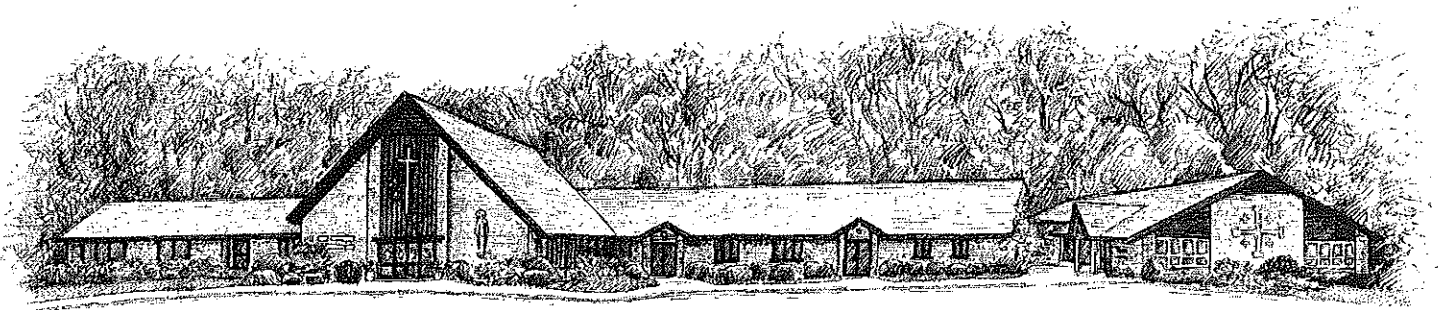
This coming Fall we as a parish will embark on a parish renewal rooted in missionary discipleship. This renewal will be parish wide and therefore impact our Religious Education programs, which each year serves 500+ students. The delivery of Religious Education has been changing for the past two decades. The classroom model of catechizing children, a model used by the Church for decades, no longer is effective because the culture has changed so significantly. As a society we face a crisis of faith and the breakdown of the family unit. Many Catholic families universally desire to “get the sacraments” for their children (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) without being offered a path of true spiritual growth and active engagement in the faith. Simply “getting the sacraments” has little to no impact. We trust in God’s grace, but that grace builds on our nature. We have to participate in that grace. *As families*, we need to be present and participate in the community (*belong*), learn about our faith (*believe*), and then live it (*behave*).

The parish exists to form disciples of Jesus Christ, offering a path of true spiritual growth and opportunities for committed engagement in the faith. Achieving such engagement suggests that parents/families should seek to:

- Pursue a personal relationship with Jesus
- Develop a regular rhythm of participation in Mass and in the life of the parish
- Pursue opportunities to learn and grow in the fullness of our faith
- Recognize Christ’s presence in ordinary moments of daily life.

As parishioners, we enter into relationship with the other committed disciples who are on this spiritual journey.

Clear expectations are at the heart of every healthy relationship.



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## What can you expect from your parish?

- Dynamic and uplifting liturgies.
- A place where you will be loved and supported, regardless of the messiness and struggles of your life, through a transformation to become more and more the person God has created you to be
- A place where you will be valued and recognized as having unique gifts and talents for the service of God and others
- A place where your financial contributions will be honored and put to work for building up the Kingdom of God with transparency and accountability

## What is expected of you as a parishioner of St. Catherine Parish?

- To connect (belong)
- To worship and grow (believe)
- To serve and give (behave)

We exist as a parish in order to form disciples of Jesus Christ. We will travel together on this new and exciting spiritual journey. As part of this renewal, you and your families are asked to participate in one of three *Building Forward In Our Faith* “get-togethers” starting with Mass and followed by a gathering:

September 14 @ 5:30pm.

September 29 @ 9:30am

September 29 @ 11:30am

At these gatherings you will hear more about our vision and have an opportunity to commit to ministries that will enable your family to flourish in the faith.

Peace,



Rev. Jared J. Brogan

Pastor

