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Welcome to St. Catherine of Sweden Parish



St. Catherine of Sweden Parish
Bringing Christ's Love Alive Since 1943

Reverend Robert J. Vular – Administrator

rvular@diopitt.org

Reverend Christopher J. Mannerino – Parochial Vicar

cmannerino@diopitt.org

Deacon Clifford M. Homer – Pastoral Associate

deaconcliff@scospgh.org

Deacon Gary Molitor

garym@saintrich.org

Mass Times

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:15 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

Monday & Friday at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 a.m.

Reconciliation

Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. & Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

Church Information

2554 Wildwood Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

412-486-6001

www.scospgh.org

ST. CATHERINE OF SWEDEN CHURCH

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Welcome! Thank you for becoming a part of St. Catherine of Sweden Parish Family. We look forward to your fellowship for many years to come.

This booklet has information that will help you to become familiar with our many programs: spiritual, educational, and social. Our hope is that you will be involved in some way

It would be helpful to me if you would introduce yourself some Sunday before or after Mass so that I might know you by sight and welcome you to our parish family.

Once again, welcome and please know that you are in our prayers. God Bless You!

In Christ's Love,

Father Bob

Administrator

P.S. Please consider using our Electronic Giving Direct Payment program for making your offertory contributions. Instructions can be found on our website www.stcatherineofsweden.org under Quick Links – Faith Direct Parish e-Giving. This eliminates the need for envelopes.

If, however you prefer to have envelopes, please know that it can take up to six weeks for the envelope company to get your envelopes to you. In the meantime, please use the temporary envelopes available in the back of church or a plain envelope with your name and address on the front


Members of the Parish Staff

Hospital Chaplain	Rev. Joseph Luisi UPMC Passavant Hospital 412-367-6700
Director of Evangelization & Intentional Discipleship	Will Reaves – ext.15 willr@scospgh.org
Director of Music	Jim Skalos - ext. 32 jims@scospgh.org
Director of Preschool	Kate Sperdute - ext. 20 kates@ scospgh.org
Director of Elementary Faith Formation & CGS	Julie Thimons - ext. 19 juliet@ scospgh.org
Director of Middle School Faith Formation & Middle School (Interim) Youth Ministry	Lisa Cuzzo - ext. 23
Director of High School Youth Ministry	Taylor McKeegan – 724-444-1971 ext. 117 taylorf@saintrich.org
Safe Environment & Fundraising	Joanne Giovannini - ext. 35 joanneg@ scospgh.org
Business Manager	Daniel Stover – ext. 12 dans@ scospgh.org
Parish Secretaries	Anne Rakszawski (bulletin) - ext. 11 anner@scospgh.org Janis Mottola - ext. 10 janism@scospgh.org
Lit. Art & Environment & Maintenance	Ron Downing - ext. 25 rond@ scospgh.org
Maintenance	Michael Downing

Stewardship

We welcome you to our parish family. We are excited for you to be a part of our faith community. In doing so, we ask that you accept the parish objective to be a stewardship parish. There are three ways in which to practice good stewardship: Time, Talent and Treasure. In using your time and talent, we invite you to share these gifts by serving in a ministry of your choice as well as sharing your treasures to continue to support our building and staff. We encourage you to reflect on all your blessings and give back to God as He has given to you.

Take the opportunity to review the following ministries and see where your interest may lead you to share your good stewardship with the church.



*In effort to ensure the
safety of those persons
entrusted to our care,
all volunteers are
required to complete a
Safe Environment class*

~Please reference our website and bulletin for the most updated information on our programs and ministries~

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Linen Care

These volunteers help to launder and press the altar linens and vestments. Please contact **Ron Downing**.

Altar Servers Adult & Youth

Children in 4th grade through high school assist the priest as servers at weekend Masses, weddings and special liturgical celebrations. Adults assist the priest during weekday Mass and funerals. Training is required for both. Please contact **Jim Skalos**.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

During the Liturgy of the Word, the children gather in the Children's Chapel during the 9:15 a.m. Sunday Masses to hear the readings from the Children's Lectionary geared to their level of understanding. Adult presiders and prayer leaders facilitate. Please contact the **Elementary Faith Formation Department**.

Eucharistic Ministers

This ministry assists the priest in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ during Mass. Training is required. Please contact **Will Reaves** for more information.

Gift Bearers

Parishioners have the opportunity to take up the gifts of bread and wine during the Offertory at weekend Masses. Individuals and families are welcome in this ministry. Please contact the **Parish Office**.

Lectors

Parishioners with good speaking voices proclaim the Scripture readings to the congregation during weekend and weekday Masses. Training is required. Please contact **Jim Skalos**.

Liturgical Arts & Environment

This ministry concentrates on the church atmosphere. The committee is dedicated to decorating the church in a manner that will enhance the environment for Sunday liturgies as well as special events. Please contact **Ron Downing**.

Music Ministry Adult Choir Handbell Choir Cantor

The Adult Choir sings at the 9:15 a.m. Mass each Sunday, September thru June. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Handbell Choir plays for special occasions throughout the year. Cantors lead the assembly in hymns at all liturgies when music is part of the celebration. Please contact **Jim Skalos**.

Ushers

Ushers locate available seating, collect the offertory and assist in the comfort of the assembly. Men, women and children over the age of 10, accompanied by an adult, may serve as ushers. A training session is required. Please contact **Will Reaves**.

Wedding
Coordinator

These individuals assist with the needs of the bride, groom & wedding party for weddings held at St. Catherine's. Please contact **Ron Downing** for details.

Social Ministries

Baking
Ministry

Parish gatherings are supplied with home-made dessert items through the culinary skills and efforts of this ministry. If you wish to share your baking abilities, please contact **Joanne Giovannini**.

Baptismal
Garment
Makers

Baptismal garments for infants who are to be baptized at our parish are sewn by these volunteers. The Christian Women organization oversees this ministry. All materials are provided. Please call the **Parish Office** for more information.

Bereavement
Ministry

This ministry provides liturgical services during funeral Masses, serving as Cantors, Lectors, Greeters, and placing the Christian symbols on the casket. Members are called to funerals to participate in prayer at the final viewing and to send cards to the grieving survivor as well as to be present for the bereaved at grief support meetings. Please contact **Will Reaves**.

Chill
Chasers

This group of knitters and crocheters gathers each Tuesday 10:00 a.m. until noon in Room 222. They bring their needles and hooks to make hats, scarves, & blankets for the homeless and inner-city school children. Much of the yarn is donated. Many also work from home if they can't attend the weekly gathering. Please call the **Parish Office** for more information.

Christian
Women

The Christian Women organization is open to all women of the parish 18 years and older. This group promotes spirituality, service, and socializing. Members organize and prepare funeral luncheons and receptions for Confirmation and First Reconciliation. They support local food banks, Sisters Place and Pro-Life. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Please contact **Will Reaves** for more information.

Divorce Care

This group provides spiritual, emotional, and psychological support & information for individuals going through the process of separation and/or divorce and helps those coming to terms with life after divorce. Meetings are Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. & run in a 13 week cycle. Please contact **Will Reaves**.

Forever Young

This is a social senior citizen group for both men and women who meet once a month on Thursdays for a luncheon and presentation. This group is combined with St. Richard Parish and generally meets there. Watch the bulletin for monthly announcements.

Knights of Columbus

This fraternal organization is open to men 18 years of age and older. The Knights sponsor social activities and fundraisers and offer many fun activities for the family throughout the year. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Please contact **Will Reaves**.

Ladies of Charity

LOC is an international organization of women who attempt to imitate our Lord in helping the needy, both physically and spiritually. They provide loving services to parishioners in need, particularly the elderly, through visits to the home, nursing home, and/or hospital. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please contact **Will Reaves**.

Rosary Making Ministry

The Rosary Makers gather together or work at home to make rosaries based upon the needs of the parish and missions. Instruction will be provided. Please contact **Will Reaves**.

Sleeping Mat Ministry

Learn to make a “sleeping mat” for the homeless from ordinary plastic grocery bags. No prior “crocheting” skill is required. All you need is a #N- 10MM crochet hook and a pair of scissors. This group meets each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. until noon in Room 222. You can join the gathering or work from home. Please call the **Parish Office** for more information.

Spiritual Therapeutic Recovery

Spiritual Therapeutic Recovery is a positive, faith-based group that provides guidance and support to parents of adult children who are struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. It is truly based on the well-known truth to “Let Go and Let God”. David Gentile, a psychologist who has worked with this population of clients for several years and has personal experience as well, facilitates the group. Meetings are on predesignated Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Children’s Chapel. Please call the **Parish Office** to register.

Saint
Peregrine
Club

This support and prayer group is open to all who are recently diagnosed cancer patients, those currently in treatment for cancer, survivors, and the family members and friends of someone affected by this terrible disease. Meetings are every third Sunday from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. in Room 227. Just stop in any time. For more information, please contact **Will Reaves**.

St.
Vincent
de Paul
Society

This international society is a Catholic lay organization which provides resources for families that are in need and suffering. This group also sponsors parish-wide food drives and fundraisers to support North Hills Community Outreach, a Christmas Angel gift program, Bundle Saturday each May, and a Coat & Boot Drive every winter. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. To get involved, please contact the **Parish Office**.

Quilting
Ministry

Quilters get together once a month to pray and work on quilts for shut-ins, elderly and those suffering from an illness. They meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10:15 a.m. Sewing experience is not necessary. Please contact **Will Reaves**.

WOW

Widows or Widowers group meets usually the first Saturday of each month at 12:30 p.m. for lunch and fellowship at one of our area restaurants. Please contact the **Parish Office** to register.

Spiritual Enrichment

Divine
Mercy
Chaplet

Each Friday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m., parishioners gather in the church to recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

All are welcome to join in prayer which concludes before the morning Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Men's
Bible
Study

This group of men meets every Thursday morning in the Children's Chapel from 6:00 - 7:30 a.m. Their weekly devotion focuses on a particular book of the Bible and includes personal study, small-group discussion and prayer. Feel free to join in prayer with the group at any time.

Rosary for
Peace

Parishioners gather as a community every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Children's Chapel to pray the rosary for world peace. All are welcome to join in prayer.

Saint Catherine of Sweden Pre-School

Mommy and Me Program

- Your child should have reached his/her 2nd birthday by September 1. Classroom will be a multi-age room of 3, 4, and 5 year olds.
- Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Tuition \$450.00 per year – 9 payments of \$50.00

The Mommy and Me program for the two year old child and mother or caregiver is designed to meet the child's developmental needs by providing adult assisted play activities. The program encourages the child to develop communication, self-help, socialization and motor skills. The two year old explores new ideas by participating in group circle time, the singing of songs and simple craft projects.

3 Year Old Program

- Your child should have reached his/her 3rd birthday by September 1.
- Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 – 11:30 a.m. – Morning Session
12:15- 2:45 p.m. – Afternoon Session
Tuition - \$1089.00 per year – 9 payments of \$120.00
- Registration limit is 1 teacher to 8 children.

4 Year Old Program

- Your child should have reached his/her 4th birthday by September 1.
- Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
9:00 – 11:30 a.m. – Morning Session
12:15- 2:45 p.m. – Afternoon Session
- Tuition \$1350.00 per year – 9 payments of \$150.00
- Registration limit is 1 teacher to 8 children.

5 Year Old Pre-K Program Enrichment

- Your child should have reached his/her 5th birthday by December 1.
- Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuition \$1620.00 per year – 9 payments of \$180.00.
- Registration limit is 14 children per classroom.

Primary Montessori Program – Montessori Curriculum Approach

The unique Montessori curriculum allows children to learn at their own individual pace as they successfully navigate challenges that help develop proficiencies appropriate to their needs and development level.

The curriculum includes guided choices for learning activities during uninterrupted working periods. Peer learning plays a central role as children access a variety of learning materials which are carefully arranged in a comfortable environment and are unique to the Montessori program. Our teachers design classrooms to encourage maximum levels of choice and freedom within limits and while adhering to a comforting level of

Pre School

structure. Children make individual decisions within the environment to enhance their own learning and work with teachers when they want guidance or support.

- Your child should be 3 years old by September 1.
- This classroom will be a multi-age room of 3,4, and 5 year olds
- Monday-Thursday 8:30a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuition \$3780.00 per year – 9 payments of \$420.00

Enrichment Program

- Your child needs to be in the 4 year old or Pre-K Class
- Wednesday 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 4 months
- Sports, theater, cooking, and language

EXTRA FEES

Nonrefundable registration \$75.00

Fundraising fee \$200.00 (because of our very low teacher – student ratio) due either through selling items or buy out

Off property field trips

Health Requirements

For your child's protection, we will need proof that your child's immunizations are up to date before school begins in September.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Faith Formation classes are offered at various times to meet the needs of our growing Parish. Children in grades K-8 must register each year. Please contact the **Faith Formation Office** for more information and to register.

- **Weekly Faith Formation Classes** - Offered on Sunday mornings, Monday evenings and Wednesday evenings. Classes include 2 family nights for grade K-5 & 2 youth group gatherings for grades 6-8. This program combines classroom instruction & family liturgical & lesson reinforcement activities.
- **Home Schooling Program** - Offered to all grades, except 2,6,7 & 8, for those who prefer to teach their children at home. Parents will be provided with textbooks, a syllabus, an on-line program & chapter tests, which are submitted to the Faith Formation Office.
- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** – Level 1 is offered for 3-6 yr. olds (must have turned 3 by June 1st). Level 2 is offered for 1st graders. This is a Montessori Method of Faith Formation developed to bring children closer to Christ through materials based on the Mass & Bible. Registration is required.

Faith
Formation
Programs
from
preschool-
thru
Grade 8

Appalachia Work Camp

This is a week-long service project for teens and adults who travel to the mountains of Kingwood, WV to help rebuild homes and provide safe housing to those in need. The annual trip takes place in June. Please contact the **Parish Office**.

Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts

This exciting program for young boys helps to build character, train them in the responsibilities of being a participating citizen and develop personal fitness. Cub Scouts start in kindergarten through fifth grade. The Boy Scout program begins at 10 years old having completed 5th grade to 18 years old. Please contact the **Parish Office**.

CYM Basketball

This organization involves high school boys & girls and runs from October through February. If your teen is interested, please contact the **Parish Office** for more information.

Middle School EDGE

This is an exciting new youth ministry geared towards middle school students. It will be full of high energy and fun experiences with friends. This will allow your child to learn and grow in the Catholic Faith and to feel how they are an important part of our parish family. Check out our website for updated information or please contact the **Parish Office**.

Life Teen High School

This group is for high school students looking for a fun and friendly place to hang out and learn more about God. We meet almost every Sunday from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Check out our website for more information or contact **Taylor McKeegan**.

Junior Ladies of Charity

This service group is for high school through college age girls. They meet the second Sunday of each month from 8:15 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. For more information please contact the **Parish Office**.

Adult Formation and Sacraments

R.C.I.A.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process for adults and teens who are seeking inclusion into the Catholic Church (R.C.I.C. is also available for children). This program includes those that have never been baptized, have been baptized in another faith, or have been baptized Catholic but have never received their other sacraments. This six month process runs from September and ends at the Easter Vigil Mass. Please contact **Will Reaves**.

Baptism

Baptism is a sacrament through which we become members of the Catholic Church. Parents must be registered members of the parish and have taken the Baptismal class within three years of the baby's birth. Once a month, St. Catherine's offers Baptismal classes in conjunction with St. Richard Parish. Classes are held at St. Richard's on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. in the even months and at St. Catherine's on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the odd months. Please call the **Parish Office** to schedule a Baptism or register for a class.

Holy Communion

When a child is able to understand God's presence among us they are then welcomed to the Lord's Table for First Holy Communion. A special preparation program is required for the second grade students in the Faith Formation Program.

Communion to Shut-ins

The Eucharist is available for those that are sick or confined to the home. Please contact the **Parish Office**.

Confirmation

In Confirmation, we confirm the promises taken on our behalf in Baptism. During Confirmation, we commit ourselves to a life as a Catholic Christian. Please contact the **Parish Office** with any questions.

Anointing of the Sick

If anyone is sick at home, in the hospital, or in a nursing home who would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick (anointing), please contact the **Parish Office**.

Marriage

Couples planning to be united in marriage should contact the **Parish Office** six months in advance of the desired date. Pre-Marriage classes are required. Please contact the **Parish Office** for class registration information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Adopt-an-Island

Individuals, families or groups adopt one of the parking lot islands to weed & tend from May through September. Please contact **Ron Downing**.

Church Cleaning

Twice a year volunteers are needed to help with a thorough cleaning of the church. Please contact **Ron Downing**.

Fish Fry

This wonderful fund raiser occurs every Friday during Lent with the exception of Good Friday. Volunteers are needed to serve, cook, set up and clean up. Please contact **Joanne Giovannini**.

Funeral Luncheon

This group helps set up, prepare food, serve and clean up for funeral luncheons held in Farmer Hall. Please contact **Joanne Giovannini**.

Purse Bash

This fun fund raiser is held in the Spring. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets, set up, serve lunch, and clean up. Please contact **Joanne Giovannini**.

ONIB

One Night in Bethlehem is a wonderful evening held in December for families with children ages 2-10. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets, set up, oversee crafts, games, story time, and the Living Nativity, help with the angel bakery and clean up. Please contact **Joanne Giovannini**.

Trunk or Treat

Volunteers are needed for set up, overseeing children's activities, and clean up. Please contact **Joanne Giovannini**.

VBS

Vacation Bible School is a week-long event held for children each summer. Volunteers are needed to decorate, be group leaders, help with crafts, games, music, snack, and clean up. Please contact **Julie Thimons**.

**Finance
Council**

The Finance Council is an advisory body of lay persons established to consult with the Pastor or Parish Administrator in matters pertaining to the parish financial affairs.

Gregory Conley
Russell Demor
Steve Ek
Terri Gray
Claudia Slusser

**Pastoral
Council**

The Pastoral Council provides direction to the parish through a parish mission statement. The council carries out the goals and objectives of the parish in partnership with the Finance Council under the direction of the Pastor or Parish Administrator.

Lisa Ference
Bernadette Jaketic
Eileen Morrow
David Ubinger

Contact your Pastoral Council members at
pastoralcouncil@scospgh.org.