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HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Acontecimientos de la Semana

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

8:45 am Bible Study
Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10
Matthew 11: 2-11
in OLPH Hall

5:00 pm Simon's Kitchen
in OLPH Hall

Wednesday, December 10

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
St. Francis Food Pantry
139 Sherman Avenue

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous
in OLPH Hall

6:15 pm Faith Formation for
Grades 5, 6, 7, and
Confirmation
St. Catharine Campus

Thursday, December 11

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Narcotics Anonymous
in OLPH Hall

Friday, December 12
5:00 pm Simon's Kitchen
in OLPH Hall



PARISH LITURGY

Liturgia de la Parroquia

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
100 Grant Avenue
Seaside Heights, NJ 08751

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 4:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 9:30 AM
7:00 PM (Misa en Español)

Daily Masses

Tuesday, Thursday &
First Saturday: 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation **with Individual Confession**

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 PM

St. Catharine of Siena Church
50 E Street
Seaside Park, NJ 08752

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 4:30 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 8:00 & 11:00 AM

Daily Masses

Monday, Wednesday
& Friday: 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation **with Individual Confession**

Saturday: 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Parish Mass Intentions***December 8, 2025 - December 12, 2025***

MON	8:00 am	+ Special Intention
	At St. Catharine	by Family
	5:45pm	People of the Parish
	At St. Catharine	
TUES	8:00 am	+ Matthew Carroll
	At St. Catharine	by Loving Family
WED	8:00 am	+ Edward & Pat Stefanik
	At St. Catharine	by Linda & Judy
THUR	8:00 am	+ Judy Cantalupo Carpini
	At St. Catharine	by Loving Family
	11:00pm	Spanish Mass
	At St. Catharine	
FRI	8:00 am	+ James Demetriades
	At St. Catharine	by Wendy & Rick Barfus

December 13, 2025 & December 14, 2025

SAT	4:00 pm	+ Richard Bakker
	At OLPH	by Jane Welsh
	4:30 pm	+ Joyce Burns
	At St. Catharine	by Veronica & Bill Matthaei
SUN	8:00 am	+ Margaret Paralusz
	At St. Catharine	by Debbie & John Bonura
	9:30am	+ People of The Parish
	At St. Catharine	
	11:00 am	+ Michael Beining
	At St. Catharine	by Rich McMillan
	7:00 pm	Spanish Mass
	At OLPH	

**SAINT FRANCIS FOOD PANTRY**Saint Francis Food Pantry is **OPEN** on**Wednesdays****10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.**

St. Francis Food Pantry has seen a dramatic increase in the number of families who are in need of food assistance. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP US!**

We need Ramen Noodles of all varieties, canned fruit, canned soups, canned pasta sauce, children's cereal, instant potatoes, jar pasta sauce, a variety of canned vegetables, juice, pancake mix & syrup, cake mix and icing, mayo, mustard & ketchup, coffee, regular and instant and tea.

People who have lost their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are most

WEEKLY OFFERING**November 22 - 23, 2025****Parish \$4,811 - Building Repairs \$1,857****November 29 - 30, 2025****Parish \$4,852 - Building Repairs \$1,777****Online****November 22 - 23, 2025****Parish \$1,277 - Building Repairs \$172****November 29 - 30, 2025****Parish \$929 - Building Repairs \$194****Thank you for your generosity**

**St. Catharine of Siena Church
Sanctuary Candle Burns in
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Saint Junipero Serra Parish Office
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mmara@stjuniperoserra.org

Fr. Michael G. Lorentsen, OFM Conv. Pastor

Fr. Mitchell Sawicki OFM Conv. Parochial Vicar

Ms. Renée Casadonte Parish Catechetical Leader
Safe Environment Coordinator

Ms. Melissa Mara Parish Office Manager
Executive Assistant to the Pastor

Mr. Martin Wilk, Jr. Property Manager and
Facilities Maintenance

Ms. Laura Dalton Pastoral Musician

Mr. Kevin Dzugan Custodian
At OLP Church

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
10:00 am –12:00 pm Office is OPEN

12:00 pm—1:00 pm CLOSED for LUNCH

1:00 pm—4:00 pm Office is OPEN

Tuesday Parish office is CLOSED in the morning for
a parish staff meeting and will open at
1:00 pm.

Friday No office hours

**The Parish Office is closed on Monday, December 8th for
the Immaculate Conception Holy Day.**



Faith Formation for Children

December 10th - 5:00pm - 6:15pm

Grades 1 - 4

December 17th- 6:15 pm - 7:30pm

Grades 5, 6, 7, & Confirmation Class

December 24th - No Classes - Merry Christmas

December 31st - No Classes - Happy New Year



LAST DAY FOR 2025 GIFT GIVING FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Our common Advent Journey begins next **Sunday, November 30th**. With our tradition of giving alms to those in need during Advent, our Parish of St. Junipero Serra will have a **Gift- Giving Opportunity** at each of the churches of the parish to provide Christmas gifts for our families who need help at Christmas.

This year we are asking parishioners to donate gift cards from any of the following stores: **TARGET, KOHL'S, WALMART, BOSCOV'S, ACME, SHOPRITE, AMAZON, CVS, & WAWA**. Parishioners can place Gift Cards in the "Gift Card Mailbox" located at St. Catharine of Siena Church and Our Lady of Perpetual Church OR you can drop Gift Cards off at the parish office.

Please remember to write the value of each Gift Card on the card or envelope (e.g. \$10, \$20, \$25). There is no limit to the amount of Gift Cards that you may donate. However, we ask that each Gift Card's denomination not exceed \$25. This will allow us to share the joy of Christmas with as many families in need as possible.

We will need to have all donated Gift Cards by **TODAY, December 7th** so that we have enough time to sort and distribute to the families.

THANK YOU!

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Patroness of the United States of America

TOMORROW, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

A Holyday of Obligation in the United States

This Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics within the boundaries of the United States since our **Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception** is patroness of the United States of America.

Since we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent on December 7th this year, there is no vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception on December 7th.

Our Masses for this solemnity will be

Monday, December 8th

8:00 am at Saint Catharine of Siena Church

5:45 pm at Saint Catharine of Siena Church

7:00 pm Spanish Mass

at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hall

Collection Envelopes

Many parishioners have contacted us about not receiving their collection envelopes. We've been informed that many churches, including ours, are experiencing USPS delays caused by staffing shortages, changes in sorting operations, facility consolidations, and recent weather issues. Because mail from different ZIP codes is processed through different sorting centers, delivery times have varied. The good news is that most of our envelopes are now moving again, and delivery should continue to improve in the coming days. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

"We cannot forget those who are most fragile. We cannot conceive of a society that races ahead at full speed clinging to the false myths of wellbeing, while at the same time ignoring so many situations of poverty and vulnerability."

Pope Leo XIV
December 2, 2025

The Knights of Columbus Council 8415
invite all parishioners and their families to a

Breakfast with Santa



**Sunday
December 7
9 a.m. until noon**

Saint Catharine of Siena Church Hall
50 E Street, Seaside Park

\$10 Adults
Pay at the Door
Kids 5 & under free

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RAFFLE**

**Celebration of Francis of Assisi's Greccio**

THIS Wednesday, December 10 at 5:45 pm in Saint Catharine of Siena Church Hosted by the children of our Parish Faith Formation Ministry. **RSVP by 12/9**

5:00 pm Classes Grades 1-4

5:45 pm Greccio Celebration in the Church followed by pizza in the St. Catharine Parish

A Message from our Pastor

Michael G. Lorentsen, OFM Conv.



May the Lord give you peace!

During his recent apostolic visit to Turkey and Lebanon, Pope Leo XIV spoke several times to various groups and to the world. He urged our world and our Church to persevere in the pursuit of peace.

In an address to thousands of young people in Lebanon, the pontiff said to them (and to us), "You have hope! You have time! You have more time to dream, to plan and to do good. You are the present, and the future is already taking shape in your hands! You have the enthusiasm to change the course of history! The true opposition to evil is not evil, but love – a love capable of healing one's own wounds while also caring for the wounds of others."

At the beginning of this new liturgical year and as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas we as one parish have hope, we have time, we can dream, and we can plan to do good. Our outreach efforts through the Saint Francis Food Pantry and Simon's Soup Kitchen, our faith formation for children and adults, our ongoing efforts to make necessary repairs on our several buildings are some parts of our parish as we move forward together into the future. None of this is easy and all of it has great meaning because of our faith, hope, and love. As we gather for Mass each Sunday, we are nourished by the proclamation of the Word and our sharing in the Eucharist. Our common worship gives us strength to move forward as one parish, united in faith, nurtured by hope, and sustained by love.

During that gathering of young people, the pope and the people assembled listened to the testimony of a young Lebanese woman named Joelle. Joelle had made a pilgrimage to Taizé, met a girl her age, Asil, also Lebanese but Muslim, who lived in southern Lebanon. When Asil's village was bombed during Israeli raids, she turned to Joelle because her family no longer had anywhere to go. Joelle and her mother welcomed them, Asil and her family, into their home. Joelle said, "The difference in religion never created a barrier... We lived in deep harmony... I understood a fundamental truth: God does not dwell only within the walls of a church or a mosque. God is revealed when different hearts meet and love one another as brothers and sisters." We are all called to love.

IMPORTANT TAX BENEFIT FOR YEAR END

Parishioners 73 years of age and older are most likely familiar with the IRS tax law mandating required minimum distributions ("RMDs") from your IRA. When the mandatory distributions are taken, you must then pay income taxes on distributions.

For those in the position of not needing the RMD for living expenses, you can avoid the income tax and help Saint Junipero Serra Parish at the same time by donating your RMD, or a portion of your RMD, to Saint Junipero Serra Parish. There are a few points to consider:

- Age Requirement:** IRA owners must be age **73 years** or older to make a tax-free charitable contribution. Those who meet the age requirement can transfer some or all of their RMD to Saint Junipero Serra Parish without paying income tax on the transaction. If you file a joint tax return, your spouse can also make a charitable contribution to Saint Junipero Serra Parish. Charitable contributions can only be made from IRAs, not 401(k)s or similar types of retirement accounts. So you might need to roll funds over from a 401(k) to an IRA if you want to make tax-free charitable contributions part of your retirement plan. You do not need to itemize your taxes in order to make an IRA charitable distribution.


- Time Requirement:** Qualified charitable contributions **must be made by December 31** each year in order to exclude that amount from taxable income.

- The Charitable Contribution Satisfies RMD's:** An IRA charitable contribution also satisfies the annual minimum distribution requirement for your IRA. If you prefer, you can donate part of your required distribution to Saint Junipero Serra Parish and withdraw the rest of it as retirement income as long as you meet the minimum distribution requirement by the end of the calendar year.

- Calculate your tax break:** For a retiree in the 25 percent tax bracket, an IRA charitable contribution of \$5,000 could reduce your income tax bill by \$1,250. Even a \$1,000 donation would save you \$250 in taxes. The benefits of making a charitable contribution from your IRA are even bigger for those in higher tax brackets (the maximum allowable charitable contribution is \$100,000 per person per year).

Contributions must be set up to transfer directly: Your IRA company will write a check, payable to the parish, then they will send the check to you and you then send it to the parish. If you withdraw the money from your IRA and later donate it, it will not qualify as a tax-free qualified charitable distribution. If you wish to take advantage of this benefit, please contact the parish office.

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