



# SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

CONTACT: Fr. Phillip Lichtenwalter – Pastor  
St. Catherine of Siena American National Catholic Church  
(314) 329-8207  
[pastor@SaintCatherineSTL.org](mailto:pastor@SaintCatherineSTL.org)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Gay & Catholic: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church hosts booth at STL Pride 2012**

June 1, 2012 – In a society where gay Catholics are discriminated, outcast, and rejected by the Roman Catholic Church, St. Catherine of Siena American National Catholic Church will stand in support of the GLBTQ community during the 2012 STL Pride Festival, weekend of June 23-24, 2012. During this year's festival, St. Catherine of Siena American National Catholic will be counted among the first Catholic Churches to ever sponsor a booth during the St Louis Gay Pride Festival.

“We want to show St. Louisians that you can be both openly Gay and proudly Catholic” stated Fr. Phillip Lichtenwalter, pastor of St. Catherine's. “We welcome everyone into the fullness of the Catholic faith no matter what orientation.”

St. Catherine's Board President, Connie Butler comments, “Catholic means universal. All are welcome and we mean it!” She added, “We will have the opportunity to reach out to thousands of gay and lesbian Catholics who might be looking for a Church to call home. St. Catherine of Siena is a home for everyone; gay, straight, young, old, black, white, male or female. All are welcome with no exceptions!”

Founded in early 2011, St. Catherine of Siena has made a name for itself here in St Louis. A home for former Roman Catholics who have been hurt, outcast, discriminated and reject by the Roman Church, St. Catherine's strives to witness to an authentic expression of Catholicism which embraces all God's children. In addition to a GLBT ministry, the Church maintains a ministry to the homeless and forgotten, an outreach to the imprisoned and recently released by providing gift bags of necessities-of-life, and supports a local food ministry through monthly grocery drives and donations.

Parishioner, Paul Kelley, Jr. comments, “My entire life I have searched for a Catholic Church which welcomed me. It wasn't until late in my life that my partner and I found St. Catherine's and now we feel at home.” He continues, “We aren't a *gay* Church, we are a Catholic Church which welcomes gays!”

Committed to the unfulfilled vision of the Second Vatican Council, St Catherine of Siena American National Catholic Church, celebrates the seven Sacraments, has open communion, ordains women and has married clergy, celebrates the Sacrament of Marriage for same-sex couples and strives to witness to the extravagant love of God.

St. Catherine of Siena American National Catholic Church worships on Saturdays at 5:30 PM at 600 North Euclid Avenue, St Louis, MO 63108. For more information on St Catherine of Siena American National Catholic Church visit [www.SaintCatherineSTL.org](http://www.SaintCatherineSTL.org).

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