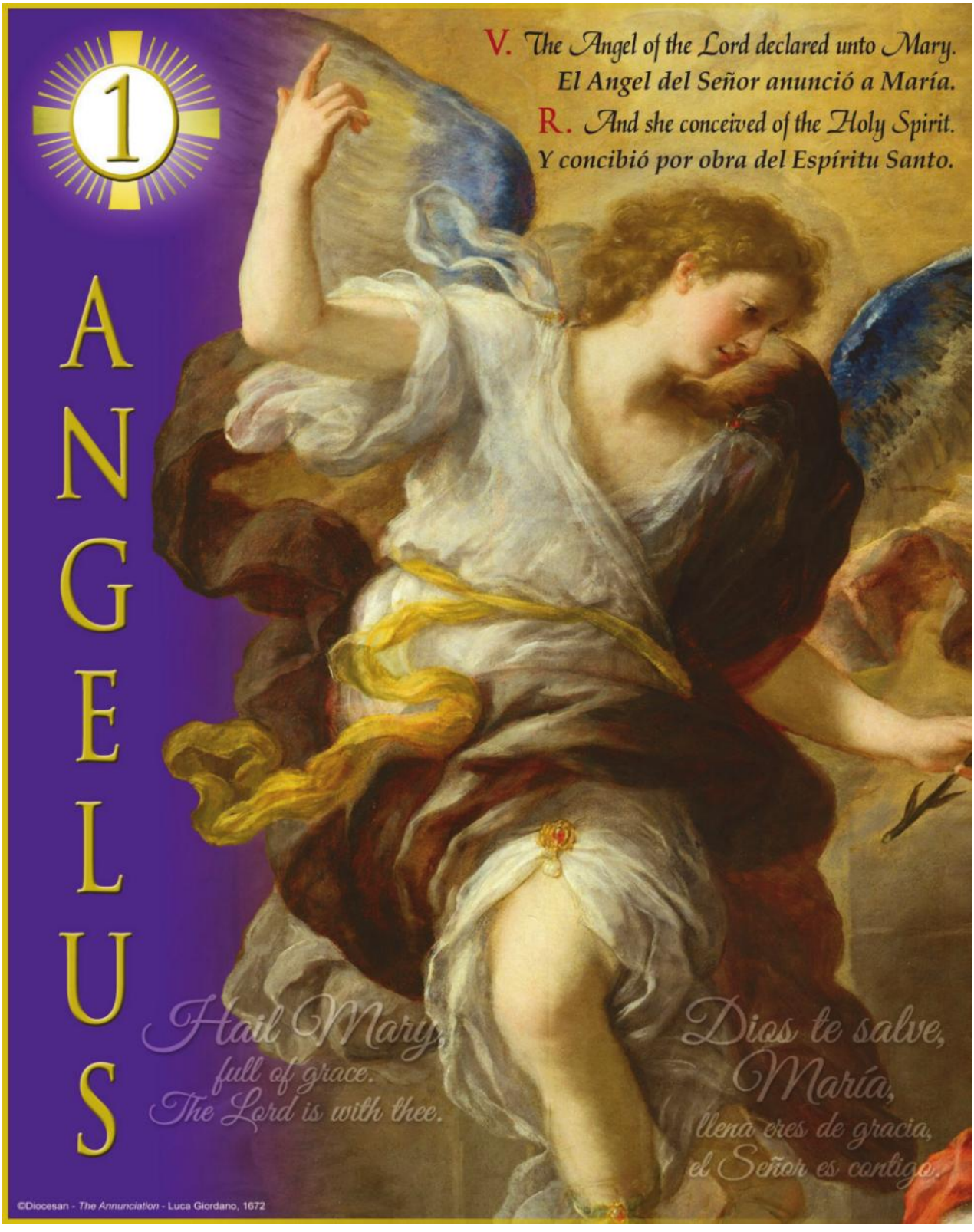
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

A Community empowered by God and striving to make Jesus known, experienced, loved, and imitated.



News from Fr. Mark

Dear Parishioners,

As we reach this final weekend of November, we also begin a new Church year with the 1st Sunday of Advent. With the way that 2020 has gone, I believe that most of us would say we need a new beginning! The first Sunday of Advent also signals a new year of faith. It reminds us of what Jesus always taught: We have a new beginning in Him. As we look ahead to Christmas, and even to the new year of 2021, we don't know what our future holds or even what the next year is going to be like. Despite all the uncertainty that we might face during these days of this pandemic, there always will be things that we can say for certain: Christ will always be with us. Please use these upcoming weeks of Advent as a way to deepen your faith and trust during these uncertain times. For faith always triumphs!

Of course, all of us have been wondering what Christmas is going to be like this year. It certainly will be one of the most different and unusual Christmas times that we will celebrate in our life. For this reason, along with the help of my staff, we are putting out a number of special communications to help you prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Watch our website, check your email (or mail box if you don't have email) and we will communicate with you how we plan to celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. We will NOT have an Advent Penance service this year and will continue to have Drive in Confessions in the parking lot on Saturdays at 11 am until noon with several priests available to hear your confessions. In the last week before Christmas, we may also add some additional times.

Bishop Bradley has renewed the dispensation from Sunday Mass. But this doesn't mean that you shouldn't plan to come to Mass if you are able and healthy. We continue to do all the special cleaning and protocols that we have put in place over these past few months to keep everyone safe when they enter our church buildings. We have also made a number of improvements to our livestream equipment and soundboard so that we could also have a dependable way to broadcast the Mass to you over the internet should you not be able to make it to Mass for health reasons or worsening conditions during this pandemic.

May these days of Advent help us to renew our faith and to prepare ourselves and our families for the birth of Christ!

Thanks for reading!
Fr. Mark

Schedule

Mass

Monday - Friday:	9:15 am (now in Marian Hall)
Saturday Vigil Mass:	4:00 pm (new time)
Sunday:	7:30 am, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm
	9:00 am (Stanley Centre)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We are offering "drive-in" confessions in our main parking lot on Saturdays from 11:00 am -12:00 pm. Please remain in your car during your reconciliation.

Parish Office Hours

Open by appointment only. Please email **FrontDesk@stcatherinesiena.org** Monday—Friday for assistance. We are checking our email and phone messages regularly during the business week.

Phone: (269) 327-5165 **Fax:** (269) 327-7266
Email: **frontdesk@stcatherinesiena.org**

Visit Our Website: **www.stcatherinesiena.org**
Follow Us On Facebook: **facebook.com/stcatherinesiena**
View Mass on YouTube: **bit.ly/stcatherinesienaYouTube**

If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, please call (269) 978-2344 or email **prayers@stcatherinesiena.org**.

All schedules are subject to change.
Check our website for the most up to date information.

Clergy & Deacon Contacts

Fr. Mark Vyverman	fathermark@stcatherinesiena.org
Fr. Bill Jacobs	fatherbill@stcatherinesiena.org
Fr. Ben Huynh	fatherben@stcatherinesiena.org
Fr. Jeff Hanley	fatherjeff@stcatherinesiena.org
Deacon Brian	deaconbrian@stcatherinesiena.org

Call our Front Office to leave a non-urgent message for a Priest or Deacon
(269) 327-5165

After-hours emergency, death or danger of death, call for a Priest: (269) 598-0357

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24:
4:00 pm
7:00 pm
10:00 pm

December 25:
10:00 am

THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

November 11, 2020
St. Martin of Tours, Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we approach the end of the Liturgical Year on the Solemnity of Christ the King (November 22, 2020), and prepare to begin a new Year on the first Sunday of Advent (November 29, 2020), our Diocese, country and world still find ourselves in the grips of the worldwide pandemic, COVID-19. While we seem to be getting ever closer to having a vaccine that promises to be highly effective in helping to protect us from contracting this dangerous virus, the numbers of people getting sick from this disease continue to increase in Michigan, in most of our country and throughout the world. It is necessary that everyone remain vigilant to the dangers of this virus. We are urged by Health officials to keep taking the precautions of maintaining social distancing, mask wearing, and avoidance of gathering in large groups for extended periods of time.

In light of that reality, and in spite of my great reluctance to do so, I am once more **extending the General Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.** Since this will mark the third time I am granting this General Dispensation for a particular period of time (the first two times being: March 20th until September 6th; and September 6th until November 22nd), at this time, I am granting this General Dispensation **until further notice.**

Please remember that this Dispensation, though general, applies primarily to those people who are in a vulnerable category, those who are medical personnel/caregivers in direct contact with COVID-19 patients, as well as for those who are seriously concerned for their safety in gatherings of people. **The General Dispensation should not be used by those who are physically able to safely attend Mass.**

It is also important to realize that there is no greater duty that we have in our lives than the obligation to be mindful of our relationship with God and our need to give God thanks, praise and honor, as we live our lives in this world, mindful of our Eternal destiny. The Third Commandment coming directly from God is to: "Keep Holy the Lord's Day". The Church has dictated, through one of the Commandments of the Church, that the best way for every Catholic to fulfill that command is through the obligation to come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, unless there is good reason that a person is not able to do so (sickness being one of those reasons). This General Dispensation *does not* "dispense" us from the Third Commandment, and we must not allow the temporary lifting of the obligation to come to Mass from finding other significant ways to *"Keep Holy the Lord's Day"*. Some of those ways, of course, are: participating in the Celebration of Holy Mass virtually, through one of the many live-stream opportunities available; spending time as a family/household in prayerfully reading/reflecting on the Sunday Scripture Readings; spending quality time in private prayer; doing special works of charity for those in need.

Just as families and loved ones who are separated from one another long for the day when they can be reunited; and just as parents, who provide for the well-being of their children, not solely out of obligation or fear of reprisal, but out of love; so too should every one of us be *longing for the time* when we will all be able to be reunited with one another, in person. As a Community of Faith, we should long for the opportunity to worship our Loving God and share in the joy of God's Presence among us through His Word, and most especially, through the Gift of the Holy Eucharist. I fervently pray that we will experience the defeat of this dangerous COVID-19 virus sooner than later, so that these General Dispensations will become unnecessary.

As we prepare to end this current Church Year, and to begin another with the four weeks of Advent leading to Christmas Joy, please remain strong in your faith, and continue to *long for the time* when we can safely join one another around the Table of the Lord, Who has come to be Emmanuel, God with us, and to be our spiritual Food and Drink for our Journey of Faith.

Assuring you of my fervent prayers for you, and asking that we continue to pray for one another, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+Paul J. Bradley

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

SAINT CATHERINE of SIENA a community empowered by God, striving to make Jesus known, experienced, loved and imitated.

November 2020

Dear Parishioners:

We are happy to announce our plans for the 2020 Christmas Masses. We appreciate everyone who completed our survey to help us determine the best times for everyone. Christmas Masses will look a bit different this year. For those planning to attend in person, we are working with reduced seating capacity of 25%, social distancing, and the need to wear a face mask.

Christmas Eve Masses (in the main church, overflow in Marian Hall): **4 pm, 7 pm, and 10 pm**
Christmas Day Mass (in the main church, overflow in Marian Hall): **10 am**
Additional Masses in the STANLEY CENTRE GYM will be available should we exceed the capacities in the Church and Marian Hall during any of these times.

What should you expect for Christmas Masses in 2020 at St. Catherine?

1. **If you are not feeling well**, please stay home and watch the live stream Mass on our website, on our Facebook, or on our YouTube channel.

2. Although Bishop Bradley has granted dispensation from attending Masses, **please remember your obligation to be mindful of your relationship with God and our need to give God thanks, especially on the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus.** Those who are sick or in a high-risk category (due to health problems) are encouraged to watch the live stream Mass.

3. **No reservations or holding seats before Masses**. Seating will be first come, first serve at all our Mass times for Christmas. We ask that you **do not** hold spots or pews for family members. We will not have additional seating in the Narthex area. We will not "pack" the church as we have in previous years. Our ushers will direct you to your seats.

4. **Please arrive early**. Once capacity is reached, doors will be closed, and you will be directed to go to the gym or come to another Mass.

5. **We will livestream the Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4 pm on Christmas Eve** on our website, on our Facebook page, and on our YouTube channel. The video of this Mass will then be available for viewing in all three locations.

6. **All our areas used for Mass will be cleaned and disinfected between Mass times**. This includes the bathrooms and other common areas.

I ask for your continued patience during these difficult times. If you and your family can join us for Christmas Mass, we will be ready to welcome you for our Christmas celebration.

Please note: Due to the Pandemic, any changes to the regulations and restrictions by the State or the Diocese could change our Christmas plans as outlined above. Please read the bulletin, our Facebook page, and our website for the most up to date information.

Sincerely,

Rev. Mark J. Vyverman

Rev. Mark J. Vyverman
Pastor

Youth Faith Formation

Phil Dezern, Director
pdezern@stcatherinesiena.org
(616) 633-0994

Youth Faith Formation Confirmation Preparation Plan for Grades 6 —12

We will be offering two program options. On-Line and In-Person

6th graders can only do the online option for now.
7th graders can do online with some possible limited in-person.
8th-12th graders can do both programs, at the same time.

Online Diocesan Program: http://www.diokzoo.org/theway

- Go to the website above, find the grade that is appropriate.
- Do this program at your own pace.

⇒ 9th-12th grade Confirmation Candidates use the 8th grade module.

⇒ 7th-12th graders doing this program for Confirmation Credit must do the following:

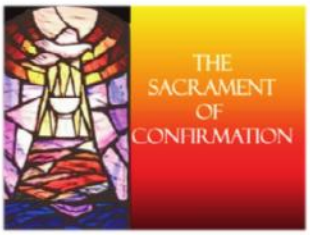
- At the end of each session are questions. Write an answer to 4 of the questions listed.
- Turn those into Philip Dezern and you will get 1 hour of credit towards Confirmation, per session of questions you complete. You can email or mail these to Philip Dezern.
- You can turn these in after each session, monthly, or after all sessions are completed. Please put your name top of the sheet and the grade you are in, as well as session topic.

Limited In-Person Program: Check the bulletin for dates

- We are not guaranteeing we will be offering in-person activities every month.
- You will register with Philip Dezern by email or phone call per session.
- Registration is cut off Saturday at noon or when activity is full. We cannot take walk-ins.
- Each session will count 1.5 hours towards Confirmation.
- **Masks are required for all in-person activities.**
- Please bring your own water bottles as the drinking fountains will be non-functional.

Upcoming Dates for in-person activity:

- Remember you must register for each date you plan on attending.
- We are limited in the number we can take due to social distancing guidelines and leaders.
- Each date has two session times:
  3:30 - 4:45 pm; 6:15-7:30 pm
- Next In-Person Activity
  No In-Person Until Further Notice



What Do You Need for Confirmation?

You must complete 60 hours of youth ministry activities (starting in 7th grade). This can be done over a two to four year span. The **Confirmation Record Keeping Form** needs to be turned in the year you wish to be confirmed. You need to do service hours (the number of hours is up to you and your parents). The year you get confirmed, you need to write a letter to the Bishop, a paper on your service work, and a paper on a saint. Candidates choose a sponsor (not the parents) who is at least 16 and a practicing Catholic. Remember, being a sponsor is hard work and not an honorary title.

Thank You for Your Support!

Thank you for your continued support of our church. We ask those who can to continue giving, either via mail or **eGiving through Vanco** at **https://stcatherinesiena.org/give**. If you are interested in starting an automatic deposit of offerings, we have an **Automated Clearing House (ACH)** option you can utilize. Please see more information about this program on our website at **https://stcatherinesiena.org/ach-form**.

Donations for Other Groups

When making a donation to El Sitio, Debt Reduction, Mass Intentions, Diocesan Second Collections, etc., please do not combine with your Sunday offertory envelope.

Stewardship

Alan DeMars, Finance Director
ademars@stcatherinesiena.org
(269) 327-5165

Collections November 9-15, 2020: $27,822

Collections November 4-10, 2019: $26,209

2020 Year to Date Actuals: $468,567

2019 Year to Date Actuals: $557,023

December Envelope Error

We received word that some of our collection envelopes for December 13 are incorrect. If you receive envelopes from us for contributions, you may notice you received two envelopes for our December 13 second collection for the National Religious Retirement fund. If you are missing your regular contribution envelope, please cross out "National Religious Retirement" on the extra envelopes sent in error on December 13 and write "Weekly Envelope" on your weekly contribution to solve this error. Thank you for your help!

End of the Year Donations Reminders and Updates

All Charitable donations must be post marked **no later than December 31, 2020** to be included on your 2020 tax statement. Any donations post marked or received after December 31 will be credited to your 2021 tax statement. Due to the varied processing times of the credit card companies and banks, **credit card and ACH check donations made at the end of the year may not be processed before December 31, 2020** and will be included in your 2021 tax statement.

Help Our Elders: Give to the National Religious Retirement Fund

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the National Religious Retirement Fund will help provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

MDHHS Directives

Other News

Last week the State of Michigan (MDHHS) issued directives under the direction of the Governor as a response to the growing number of COVID-19 cases throughout the State. The issued directives do not affect St. Catherine's at this time. We will continue to follow the guidelines already in place throughout our Diocesan Directives for the celebration of Masses and the Sacraments, which, to the very best of our knowledge, have adequately addressed the necessary preventative measures for the spread of the pandemic. At this point, Sunday and daily Masses, weddings and funerals, and all other sacramental celebrations and prayers are not affected by the new restrictions. However, for the next three weeks, **any parish meetings for the purpose of religious education/faith formation, or any other meetings or gatherings will only be held virtually.** Thank you for your support as we continue to "forge ahead" in spite of the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Let us continue to remember one another in prayer.

Christmas Memorial Flower Envelopes Due December 9

The Christmas Memorial/In honor of Flower Envelopes are due by December 9 in order to be recognized in the Christmas Bulletin. If you have any questions or need an envelope, please contact the **Front Office** at **frontdesk@stcatherinesiena.org** or **327-5165**. Thank you!

2021 Calendars & Advent Books Have Arrived

Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes has once again graciously purchased our church calendars for the parish to share with our parishioners. Calendars are available in the vestibule for pick up. We also have our Advent Little Books available for pick up in the vestibule. Donations for the "Little Books" are appreciated.

Inclement Weather Policy 2020

As the season for unpredictable weather approaches, we want to remind our Parishioners of our Inclement Weather Policy for closing the Parish (with a few changes due to COVID-19). In the past, we followed the Portage Public School cancellation schedule. However, with most schools teaching virtually this year, we will use the Pastor's discretion on the weather conditions and inform everyone via our Front Office Voicemail (327-5165), our Facebook page, our website (**http://www.stcatherinesiena.org**), and on WWMT-TV and WOOD-TV. **If the Parish is closed, all activities are cancelled and there will be no Mass**.

Attention Men: Become a Knight of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's Fraternal Organization. The key principles are Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. As is true of other Knights of Columbus councils, our council (St. Catherine of Siena Council #6980) has activities in six different areas: Church, Community, Council, Family, Pro-Life, and Youth. We are actively seeking men (at least 18 years of age) who would like to join our council. To join, either go online (12 month membership fee is waived) at **https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html** or contact **Dan Dunn** at **370-2433** or **ddunnlucey@charter.net**.

Learn More About Racial Equality with JustFaith

Join the St. Tom's Social Justice Ministry who is offering JustFaith Ministries' **Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege**, a 10-week module that awakens groups to the economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others. Participants will read three books, *40 Days of Prayer, I'm Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown, and *White Fragility* by Robin D'Angelo. Cost of the books and materials is approximately $50. Scholarships are available. The program will be offered **virtually on Thursday evenings, 6:30 - 8:30 pm**, via Zoom, beginning **January 14, 2021**. Participants will need internet access. Space is limited. **To register, or for more information, contact: sttomssjm@gmail.com by December 15, 2020.**

Around the Diocese

View the Fall General Assembly of the USCCB

The 2020 virtual Fall General Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) recently met and have updates, vote totals, texts of addresses and presentations, and other items from the assembly available at **https://www.usccb.org/general-assembly-november-2020**.

November is Black Catholic History Month

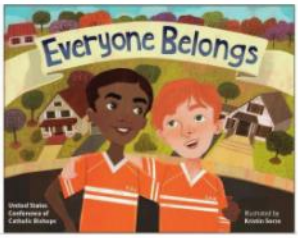
Our diocesan Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism has provided reflections and resources for you to explore each week of November to celebrate Black Catholic History Month. View these resources at **https://diokzoo.org/racism**.

Young Adult Retreat December 4-5

Join young adults from around the diocese on **Friday, December 4 at 7:00 pm through Saturday, December 5 at 9:00 pm** for a retreat led by **Fr. Ricardo Pineda Jr**., CPM (Fathers of Mercy) at **St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Center**, Battle Creek. Fr. Ricardo Pineda Jr. will present **"Worth Dying For: The Battle for Purity"** that focuses on seeking greater integrity in our relationship with God, others and ourselves. Cost is $50. Learn more and register at **http://diokzoo.org/young-adult-retreat**.

Catholic Charities Needs Volunteers

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Kalamazoo** could really use the help! Please check out their website at **http://www.ccdok.org/volunteer** for more information on different volunteer opportunities. Please prayerfully consider helping this great organization with your gifts and talents by signing up for a volunteer opportunity.



Everyone Belongs Awarded Gold Medal

Everyone Belongs, a children's book published by the **USCCB Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism and Loyola Press**, was awarded a gold medal in the Religion/Spirituality category of the 2020 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards. The USCCB states, "[*Everyone Belongs*] empowers young readers to reflect on the dignity of the human person created in God's image and the reality of racism in our society." Read more about *Everyone Belongs* on the USCCB site at **https://www.usccb.org/resources/everyone-belongs-0**.

Join the National Association of Catholic Nurses

The National Association of Catholic Nurses is pleased to have a local council in our diocese.
The main goals of the council are to provide spiritual nourishment, ethical support, networking and friendship with fellow Catholic Nurses. Join **https://NACN-USA.org** and as a member of the national association you will be automatically enrolled as a member in our local council and will receive updates on council formation.
Questions? Contact **Janet C. Munday**, BSN, RN. Regional Director at **JanetMunday@gmail.com**.

Christmas Giving Tree

DONATE
NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 6

Thank you in advance for your generous donations to our 2020 Christmas Giving Tree Fundraiser! Our lists are digital this year at: http://bit.ly/GivingTreeLists2020

A list of needed supplies is also in the vestibule of the church.

Please LABEL the bag or item with the organization you wish to donate to.
DO NOT WRAP DONATED ITEMS.

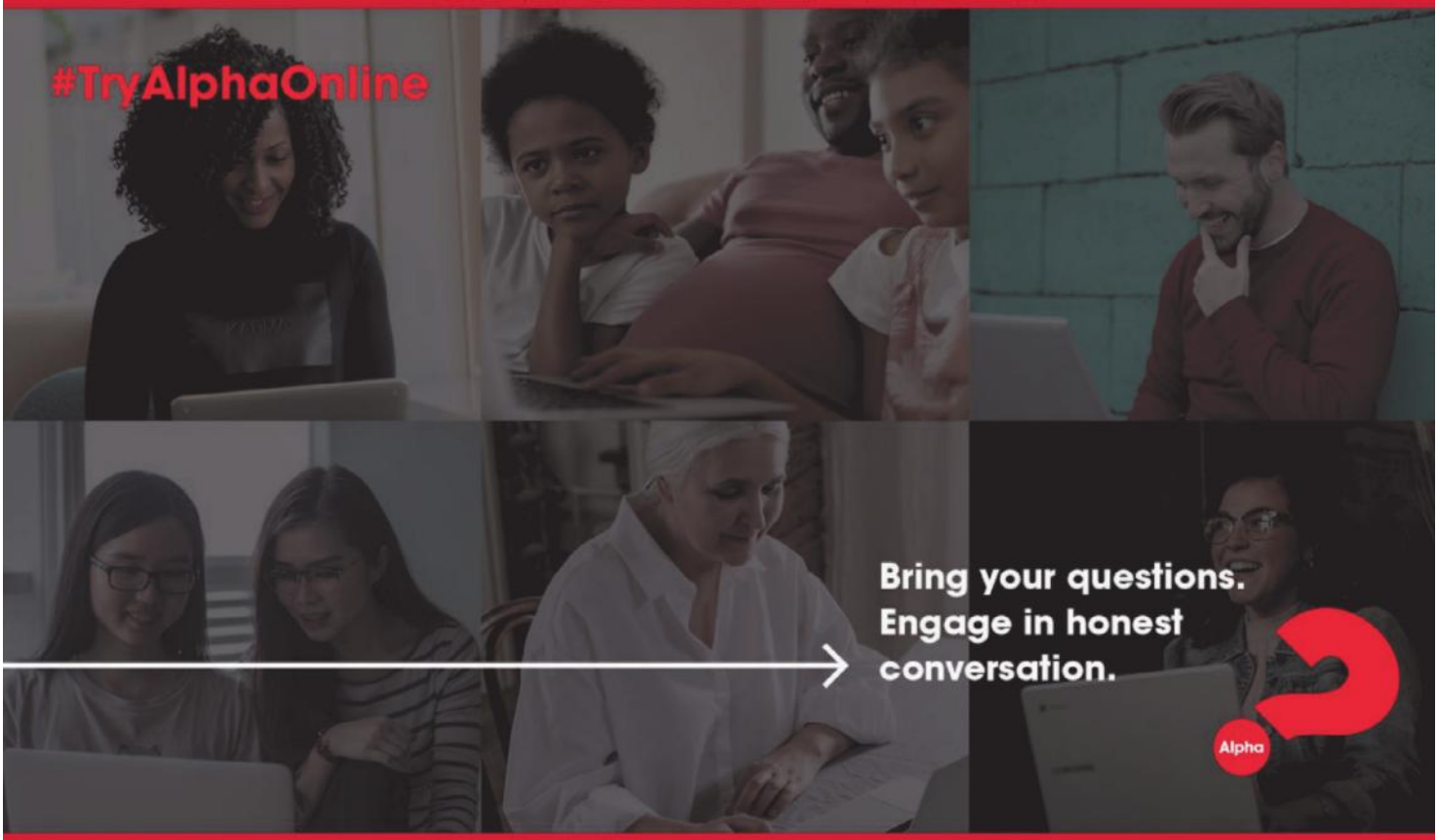
Parishioners are encouraged to return the donated items to the narthex (near the parish office) before and after Masses; the Vestibule is also an option for after Mass donations.

If you are interested in assisting with the sorting or delivery of these items, please contact Colette at gushursts@yahoo.com

This year's donations going to:

The ARK and Caring Network (Catholic Charities)
Baraga Manor
Family and Children Services
Foster Care Program
Hospitality House
Jail Ministry
Kairos Dwelling
Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries
Ministry with Community
Open Door/Next Door
Peace House
St. Vincent dePaul

ALPHA RETURNS
JANUARY 2021



VIRTUAL MEETINGS START WEEK OF JANUARY 11-13

Day of week TBD based on participant preference

Register Online Today!

http://stcatherinesiena.org/alpha

Please read the Parish's bulletin, website and Facebook page for the latest updates.

269-327-5165

alpha@stcatherinesiena.org

http://stcatherinesiena.org/alpha

https://www.facebook.com/groups/stcatherinesienaalpha

#AlphaOnline

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: November 28, Vigil of The First Sunday of Advent
4:00 pm †Frank Lazowski

SUNDAY: November 29, First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Corinthians 1:3-9/
Mark 13:33-37
7:30 am †Tina Schelstraete
9:00 am People of the Parish
11:00 am †Deceased Members of K of C Council 6980
5:00 pm †Mary Beth Johnson

MONDAY: November 30, Saint Andrew, Apostle
Romans 10:9-18/Matthew 4:18-22
9:15 am Steve & Nancy Dudasko on their 35th Wedding Anniversary
TUESDAY: December 1, Advent Weekday
Isaiah 11:1-10/Luke 10:21-24
9:15 am †Sandra Allard
WEDNESDAY: December 2, Advent Weekday
Isaiah 25:6-10a/Matthew 15:29-37
9:15 am †Robert Ferguson
THURSDAY: December 3, Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
Isaiah 26:1-6/Matthew 7:21, 24-27
9:15 am †Dave Richmond
FRIDAY: December 4, Advent Weekday; Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Isaiah 29:17-24/Matthew 9:27-31
9:15 am End Abortion
SATURDAY: December 5, Advent Weekday
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26/Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
9:15 am People of the Parish

SATURDAY: December 5, Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent
4:00 pm †Evelyn Schmidt

SUNDAY: December 6, Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Peter 3:8-14/Mark 1:1-8
7:30 am †Mary Johnson
9:00 am †Robert Ostrowski
11:00 am People of the Parish
5:00 pm †Mildren & †Myron Orr

Notice of Non-Discriminatory Policy As To Students

The Schools of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. The Schools of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of education policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs and activities, employment policies or contractual agreements.

Staff Contacts

* On furlough (unpaid leave);
Other lay staff hours have been reduced

Administrative Assistants
Alana Murray / frontdesk@ / (269) 327-5165
Christa Quandt* / frontdesk@ / (269) 327-5165

Adult Faith Formation
Fr. Mark Vyverman / fathermark@ / (269) 327-5165

Children's Faith Formation
Karen Galloway / cff@ / (269) 327-0861
Alyssa Brown* / cff@ / (269) 327-0861

Finance
Alan DeMars / ademars@ / (269) 978-2338
Linda Reaume / lreaume@ / (269) 978-2346

Human Resources
Alan DeMars / ademars@ / (269) 978-2338

IT & Communications Coordinator
Kendra Stampor / kstampor@ / (269) 978-2332

Music Ministry
Tricia Tetzlaff / ttetzlaff@ / (269) 978-2333

Nursery Coordinator
Deb Dozeman / ddozeman@ / (269) 327-3441

Office Supervisor
Marianne Verner / mverner@ / (269) 978-2340

Parish Nurse (volunteer)
Paula White / **pwhitentc@mac.com** /
(269) 330-3762

Virtus & Communication Manager
Deb Dozeman / ddozeman@ / (269) 327-3441

Youth Faith Formation
Phil Dezern / pdezern@ / (616) 633-0994

Unless otherwise indicated,
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@stcatherinesiena.org

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