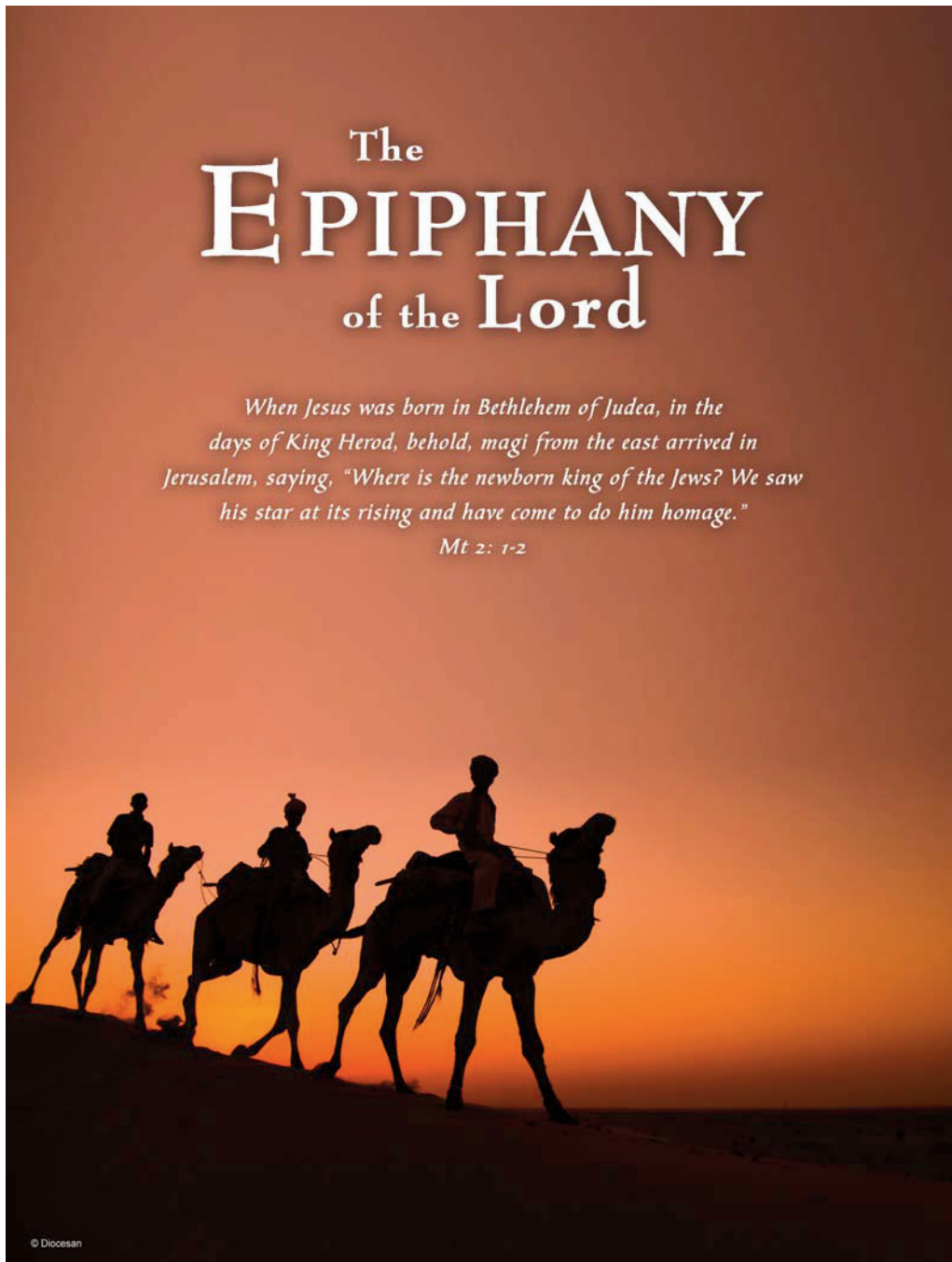


# St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



**January 3, 2021**  
**Epiphany**

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In case of after-hours emergency, death, or danger of death, please call: (269) 598-0357

## News from Fr. Mark



Dear Parishioners,

What will the new year bring? It's a question we ask every year at this time. But this year, we really mean it! What will 2021 hold for us, our families, our work, our Church? Since we are still in

the middle of a pandemic where the first vaccinations have just gone out, we all hope that 2021 holds a more normal life for all of us and an end to this pandemic. This is certainly the prayer that is in our hearts and minds as we begin this new year. We hope for the healing of all those who have had the virus and the comfort of all those who have lost a loved one during this past year. We all know that we don't want another year like 2020 in our future.

There is at least one thing to look forward to in 2021! The Diocese of Kalamazoo will be celebrating 50 years! The actual anniversary date is in July and because of the pandemic, not a lot of plans have been made yet. 2021 is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination for Bishop Bradley. There will definitely be more information on these events as we get closer to these dates.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> of January is also a day that the Church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany. As we see these Three Kings come from afar to pay homage to the infant Jesus, the Star was what guided them. I hope some of you had an opportunity to see the Christmas Star back in December. It's a reminder to all of us, especially during these difficult times, how Christ is always with us. During these winter months, we continue the course of our virtual parish activities (with the exceptions of the celebration of the Sacraments and such things as funerals) until it's once again safe for us to gather in person for classes and other activities. Please check our website for more information on how to join these activities.

Happy Epiphany!

Fr. Mark

## Schedule

### Mass

Monday - Friday:	9:15 am (Marian Hall)
Saturday	No Morning Mass 4:00 pm Vigil Mass
Sunday:	7:30 am, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm 9:00 am (Stanley Centre)

**All schedules are subject to change.**

**Check our website for the most up to date information.**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:frontdesk@stcatherinesiena.org)

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

## Clergy & Deacon Contacts

Fr. Mark Vyverman

[fathermark@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:fathermark@stcatherinesiena.org)

Fr. Bill Jacobs

[fatherbill@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:fatherbill@stcatherinesiena.org)

Fr. Ben Huynh

[fatherben@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:fatherben@stcatherinesiena.org)

Fr. Jeff Hanley

[fatherjeff@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:fatherjeff@stcatherinesiena.org)

Deacon Brian

[deaconbrian@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:deaconbrian@stcatherinesiena.org)

Call our Front Office to leave a non-urgent message for a Priest or Deacon

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



(Left to Right)

**Fr. Ben Huynh, Fr. Bill Jacobs,  
Fr. Mark Vyverman, Fr. Jeff Hanley**





December 18, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Peace be with you!

In these Advent days of preparation for the coming of our Lord, we hope and pray that the Prince of Peace may console you and draw you to himself. Over this past year the struggles with the global COVID-19 pandemic have weighed heavily on our hearts, yet our Lord has been with us to deepen our faith and trust in him. Know of our prayers for you and for all health care workers who are so diligently caring for those who are ill.

As vaccines for COVID-19 are now becoming available, we wish to address the moral questions that have arisen, insofar as some vaccines are developed using cells lines that have originated from the tissue taken from babies who were aborted decades ago.<sup>1</sup> Abortion is a grave evil, and we must avoid complicity in abortion. Let us also pray for God's peace, healing, and mercy for all those who have had abortions.

At the time of this writing, the Food and Drug Administration has given approval for the emergency use of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer. Two other vaccines, one developed by Moderna and the other developed by AstraZeneca, might also gain FDA approval.<sup>2</sup>

It is morally permissible to receive the vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna. Neither of these vaccines have used cell lines originating in tissue taken from aborted babies in their design, development, and production. However, both the Pfizer and the Moderna vaccine did use such a cell line in the confirmatory testing. This connection to the abortion is very remote, however, and it is important to keep in mind that there are varying levels of responsibility. Greater moral responsibility lies with the researchers than with those who receive the vaccine. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has indicated that it is morally permissible to be vaccinated if there are no alternatives and there are serious health risks.<sup>3</sup> Such serious health risks are present due to the current pandemic.

The vaccine developed by AstraZeneca is more morally problematic, however. It did utilize in the design, production, development, and confirmatory testing a cell line that originated from tissue taken from an aborted baby. This vaccine may be received only if there are no other alternatives. If one does not have a choice of vaccine and a delay in immunization may bring about serious consequences for one's health and the health of others, it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine. It is somewhat similar in production to the Rubella vaccine, which the Pontifical Academy of Life indicated could be received for grave reasons and if there are no other alternatives.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For more on the morality of COVID-19 vaccines, see the joint statement of the chairmen of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine and Pro-Life Activities on which our statement is based: [moral-considerations-covid-vaccines \(usccb.org\)](https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines)

<sup>2</sup> For more information about specific vaccines being developed for COVID-19 see this reference chart from the Charlotte Lozier Institute: [COVID-19-Vaccine-Candidates-and-Abortion-Derived-Cell-Lines.pdf \(lozierinstitute.org\)](https://lozierinstitute.org/COVID-19-Vaccine-Candidates-and-Abortion-Derived-Cell-Lines.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions (Dignitas Humanae)* (2008), nos. 35-36; [Instruction Dignitas Personae on Certain Bioethical Questions, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith \(vatican.va\)](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/inf_20080927_instruction_dignitas-personae_en.html)

<sup>4</sup> Pontifical Academy for Life, "Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Foetuses," (9 June 2005) in *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 6:3 (2006): 541-49



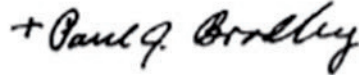
If one were to choose not to be vaccinated, one would have a moral responsibility to embrace the necessary precautions to avoid spreading the disease to others.

At this same time, we join our voices to call for the development of vaccines that have no connection to abortion. Our consciences must not be dulled, nor may we imply in any way that abortion is acceptable.

Let us implore the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that God may bring an end to the pandemic and that all esteem and respect the dignity of human life.

+ 

Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron  
Archbishop of Detroit

+ 

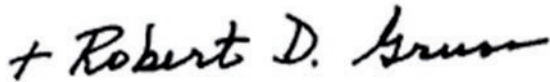
Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley  
Bishop of Kalamazoo

+ 

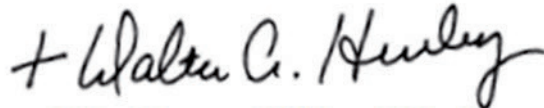
Most Reverend Earl A. Boyea  
Bishop of Lansing

+ 

Most Reverend John F. Doerfler  
Bishop of Marquette

+ 

Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Saginaw

+ 

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley  
Apostolic Administrator  
Diocese of Gaylord

+ 

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids



## Youth Faith Formation

Phil Dezern, Director

[pdezern@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:pdezern@stcatherinesiena.org)

(616) 633-0994

## What Do You Need for Confirmation?

You must complete **60 hours of youth ministry activities** (starting in 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Tax Statement Reminder

All 2020 tax statements with contributions totaling more than \$500 will be mailed by January 25. Tax statements with less than \$500 in contributions can be mailed or emailed upon request. Call or email **Al DeMars** at [ademars@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:ademars@stcatherinesiena.org) or **Linda Reaume** at [lreaume@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:lreaume@stcatherinesiena.org) with any questions.

## Stewardship

Alan DeMars, Finance Director

[ademars@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:ademars@stcatherinesiena.org)

(269) 327-5165



**Collections December 14-20, 2020: \$26,766**

Collections December 15-22, 2019: \$29,501



**2020 Year to Date Actuals: \$594,642**

2019 Year to Date Actuals: \$695,267

## Other News

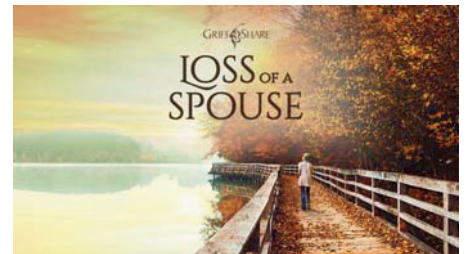


## AV Help Desperately Needed

We need tech help! During this time of COVID-19, we are relying more and more on the AV services in our church. We desperately need more volunteers to help with this ministry. Volunteers should be comfortable with technology, but no prior AV experience is required. Primarily, volunteers help with running the soundboard during Mass. Training is provided. For more information on volunteering, please contact **Kendra Stampor** at [kstampor@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:kstampor@stcatherinesiena.org).

## GriefShare Seminar January 7

Grieving the death of a spouse? Or do you know someone who is? Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem so hard to bear. Find help at a **Loss of a Spouse** seminar sponsored by St Catherine of Siena Parish. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.griefshare.org>. This two hour seminar will take place on **Thursday, January 7** from **6:30 -8:30 pm** virtually on Zoom. There is a \$5.00 cost for the book (to be ordered online). Questions? Contact **Paula White** at **269-330-3762** or [pwhitenc@mac.com](mailto:pwhitenc@mac.com).



## Looking for help and encouragement after the death of a loved one?

**GriefShare** is a special biblically-based weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help. St Catherine of Siena Parish is sponsoring GriefShare with virtual meetings on Zoom beginning **Thursdays, January 14 thru April 15 from 12:30 -2:30 pm**. For information & to register go to <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/128757>. The cost is \$20 for the workbook. Questions? Contact **Paula White** at **269-330-3762** or [pwhitenc@mac.com](mailto:pwhitenc@mac.com).

# Mass Intentions

## SATURDAY: January 2, Vigil of The Epiphany of The Lord

4:00 pm People of the Parish

## SUNDAY: January 3, The Epiphany of The Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6/Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6/Matthew 2:1-12

7:30 am †Theresa Hartley

9:00 am †Bryan Dewey

11:00 am †Elaine Stewart

5:00 pm People of the Parish

## MONDAY: January 4, Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

9:15 am †Kathy Kincaid

## TUESDAY: January 5, Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44

9:15 am People of the Parish

## WEDNESDAY: January 6, Saint André Bessette, Religious

1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52

9:15 am End Abortion

## THURSDAY: January 7, Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22a

9:15 am People of the Parish

## FRIDAY: January 8

1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16

9:15 am †Eileen T. Tobin

## SATURDAY: January 9

1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30

(Private) People of the Parish

## SATURDAY: January 9, Vigil of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

4:00 pm †Stanley & †Anna Arszynski

## SUNDAY: January 10, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

7:30 am †Robert Hartley

9:00 am People of the Parish

11:00 am †Russell Boehm

5:00 pm †Timothy Loviska

# 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

(Nursery Closed Until Further Notice)

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

## Office Supervisor

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

## Parish Nurse (volunteer)

Paula White / pwhitenc@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,  
all email addresses end in:

**@stcatherinesiena.org**



*We must pray without ceasing,  
in every occurrence and  
employment of our lives – that  
prayer which is rather a habit  
of lifting up the heart to  
God as in a constant  
communication with Him.*

St Elizabeth Ann Seton



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