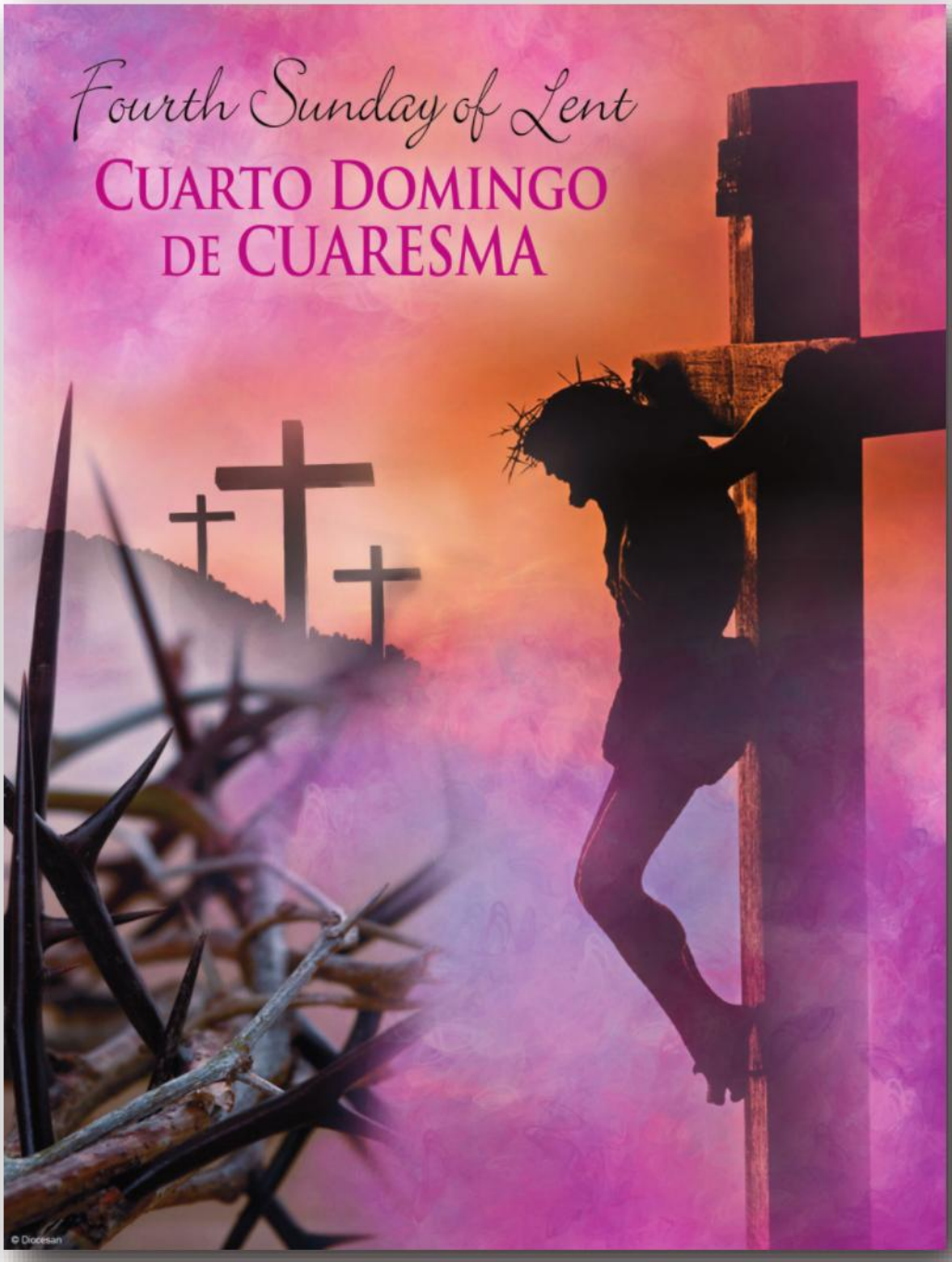
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



March 14, 2021
4th Sunday of Lent

1150 West Centre Ave. • Portage, MI • www.stcatherinesiena.org • (269) 327-5165
In case of after-hours emergency, death, or danger of death, please call: (269) 598-0357

News from Fr. Mark

Dear Parishioners,

We find ourselves at the halfway point of Lent this week (Laetare Sunday), and in our readings, we will start to see how our Lord's Passion will soon be upon us. These final weeks of Lent can often remind us all of the difficulties we might face personally with work, difficult relationships, family issues or health problems. Often we like to accompany and walk along with Jesus on the Way of the Cross. But we are also able to see how Christ will be with us every step of the way if we just let Him walk these difficult journeys with us. He will help us through any suffering or difficulty.

Please watch our website, Facebook page and now our Flocknote communications from the Parish to let everyone know what to anticipate for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. Talking with my brother priests, we are certainly happy to celebrate these final weeks of Lent with you this year in-person (versus having to be home for several months last year). It just wasn't the same for you or us. There may still be Covid restrictions and safety protocols in place, but we will still be able to gather and pray during the holiest time of the Church year.

Many people have asked questions about the Catholic Church's position on the now-available COVID-19 vaccines. In summary, both the Pfizer vaccine and the Moderna vaccines are morally permissible. Please read the letter from the Bishop in this week's bulletin for more information.

Thanks for reading!

Fr. Mark

Our Priests

(Left to Right)

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

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

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

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

Monday - Friday: 10:00 am—12:00 pm
Phone: (269) 327-5165 **Fax:** (269) 327-7266
Email: FrontDesk@stcatherinesiena.org

Text to Give: (844) 311-5105

Visit Our Website: www.stcatherinesiena.org
Follow Us On Facebook: facebook.com/stcatherinesiena
YouTube: youtube.com/c/StCatherineofSienaParishMI

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

Easter Masses

Photo by Mads Schmidt Rasmussen on Unsplash

Easter Vigil, Sat., April 3
9:00 pm
Easter, Sun., April 4
7:00, 9:00, 11:00 am;
NO 5:00 pm Mass

All services will be held in the main church with overflow in Marian Hall and the Stanley Centre.

MICHIGAN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

March 3, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Peace be with you!

As vaccines for COVID-19 continue to become 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.[1] 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.

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.[2] Such serious health risks are present due to the current pandemic.

The vaccines developed by Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca are more morally problematic, however. They utilized in the design, production, development, and confirmatory testing a cell line that originated from tissue taken from an aborted baby. These vaccines 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 Johnson & Johnson or AstraZeneca vaccine. Both are 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.[3]

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.

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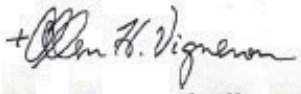
[1] For more on the morality of COVID-19 vaccines, see the joint statements of the chairmen of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine and Pro-Life Activities on which our statement is based: moral-considerations-covid-vaccines (usccb.org) https://www.usccb.org/news/2021/us-bishop-chairmen-doctrine-and-pro-life-address-use-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine 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)

[2] Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions (Dignitas Personae) (2008), nos. 35-36: Instruction Dignitas Personae on Certain Bioethical Questions, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (vatican.va)

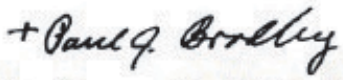
[3] Pontifical Academy for Life, ""Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Foetuses," (9 June 2005) in National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly 6:3 (2006): 541-49

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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.

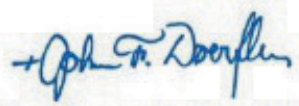


Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit

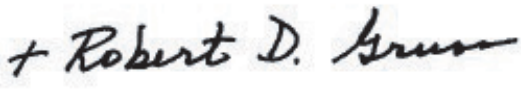


Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

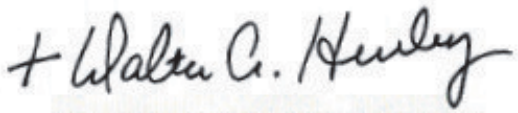
Most Reverend Earl A. Boyea
Bishop of Lansing



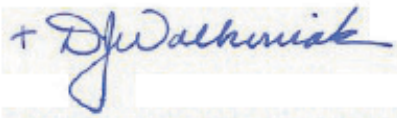
Most Reverend John F. Doerfler
Bishop of Marquette



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

This Week at St. Catherine

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

Sunday, March 14, 2021

7:30 am	Mass, Church
9:00 am	K of C Rosary, VIRTUAL via Zoom
9:00 am	Mass, Stanley Centre Gym
11:00 am	Mass, Church
1:00 pm	RCIA, VIRTUAL via Zoom
5:00 pm	Mass, Church
6:00 pm	Women of the Word, VIRTUAL via Zoom
6:30 pm	MOPS, VIRTUAL via Zoom

Monday, March 15, 2021

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Marian Hall
10:00 am	Private Prayer, Trinity Chapel

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Marian Hall
10:00 am	Private Prayer, Trinity Chapel
7:00 pm	Alpha, VIRTUAL via Zoom

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Marian Hall
10:00 am	Private Prayer, Trinity Chapel
7:00 pm	Alpha, VIRTUAL via Zoom

Do you know the difference between a Catechumen and Candidate?
Both are persons participating in the Right of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). A Catechumen specifies a non-baptized person preparing for full membership in the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. Candidates are previously-baptized persons seeking full communion with the Catholic Church through Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Thursday, March 18, 2021

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Marian Hall
10:00 am	Private Prayer, Trinity Chapel
10:00 am	Women of the Word, VIRTUAL via Zoom
12:30 pm	GriefShare, VIRTUAL via Zoom

Friday, March 19, 2021

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Marian Hall
10:00 am	Private Prayer, Trinity Chapel
7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross, Church

Saturday, March 20, 2021

9:15 am	NO DAILY MASS TODAY
11:00 am	"Drive In" Confessions, Main Parking Lot
3:30 pm	Knights of Columbus Rosary, Church
4:00 pm	Mass, Church

Sunday, March 21, 2021

7:30 am	Mass, Church
9:00 am	K of C Rosary, VIRTUAL via Zoom
9:00 am	Mass, Stanley Centre Gym
11:00 am	Mass, Church
1:00 pm	RCIA, VIRTUAL via Zoom
5:00 pm	Mass, Church
6:00 pm	Women of the Word, VIRTUAL Zoom
6:30 pm	MOPS, VIRTUAL via Zoom

Stewardship

Collections February 22-28, 2021: $26,691

Collections February 24-March 1, 2020: $28,754

2020-2021 Year to Date Actuals: $890,691

2019-2020 Year to Date Actuals: $1,000,920

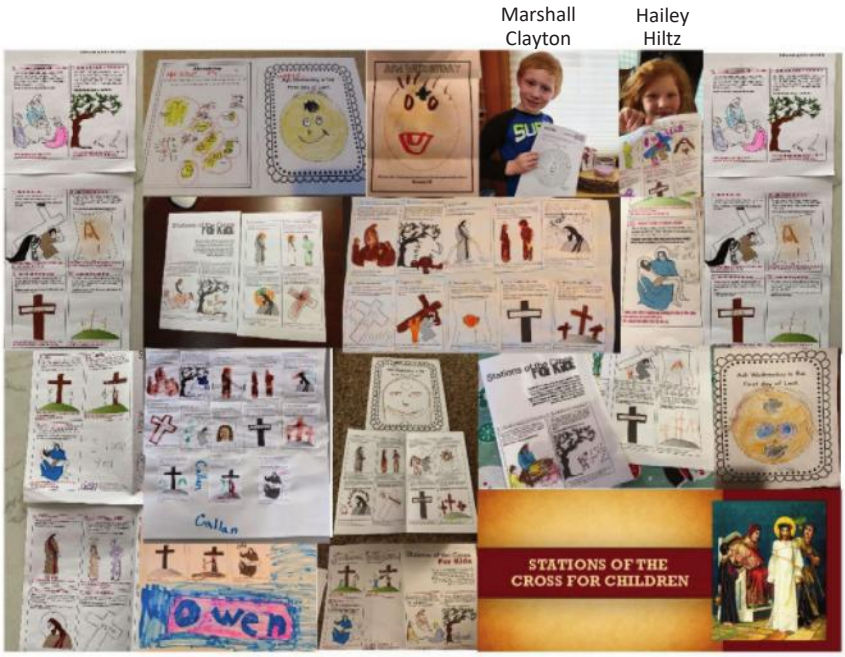
Giving Through eGiving & ACH

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.

Faith Formation



Children's Faith Formation
Karen Galloway, Director
kgalloway@stcatherinesiena.org
(269) 370-9013

Children's Faith Formation Learn about Stations of the Cross

Our Children's Faith Formation (CFF) children are continuing to learn about the season of Lent. Last week they learned about the Stations of the Cross and how each station represents a different part of Jesus' Passion story. We love seeing their artwork and photos on our Children's Faith Formation Facebook page. Learn more about joining the CFF Facebook pages in the article below.

Children's Faith Formation on Facebook

Keep up to date on the latest information happening in Children's Faith Formation online on their private Facebook page. Please request to join us at **https://www.facebook.com/groups/stcatherinesienacff**. Karen will approve your request and you'll have access to the most up to date information on CFF classes and any future programs.

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

Confirmation Dates Pending

For those youth who will be confirmed this year, we are awaiting the guidelines from the Diocese on how Confirmation will be handled this year. We will keep you posted as we know more. If you are wondering if your youth has completed the necessary requirements to be confirmed, please contact Phil by email or phone.

Spotlight on Our Lectors

"When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy. Although in the readings from Sacred Scripture the Word of God is addressed to all people of whatever era and is understandable to them, a fuller understanding and a greater efficaciousness of the word is nevertheless fostered by a living commentary on the word, that is, by the Homily, as part of the liturgical action. "

(*General Instruction of the Roman Missal* [GIRM], no. 29)

Lectors proclaim the Word of God at Mass and other liturgical services. Lectors prepare by understanding what they will proclaim, by prayer, and by practicing. Please prayerfully consider joining our Lectors Ministry as your schedule allows. If you are interested in becoming a Lector, please contact **Alana Murray** at **FrontDesk@stcatherinesiena.org**.

VIRTUS training is required of any adult who works with children at the church or within the Catholic Schools.

News Around St. Catherine's

Don't Be Late to Mass —You May Not Get a Seat

We're so happy to see our Mass attendance increasing each week, especially at the Sunday 11:00 am and 5:00 pm Masses. As our numbers go up, please arrive BEFORE Mass starts to claim a seat. Once we are at capacity, we will suggest an alternative Mass for those who arrive late. Thank you for your understanding!

Caring Network Food Drive

Our Knights of Columbus are gathering donations for 12 Baskets, Catholic Charities, and Loaves and Fishes the week of **March 13—March 20**. Please drop off non-perishable and baby items to the vestibule of the church anytime, or come on **Saturday, March 20** between **9:00 am and noon** for the "Drive-in and Drop" and donate items to the Knights directly in the St. Catherine's parking lot. For a complete list of items needed, please see our Facebook page or website for more information. If you have any questions, please contact **Al DeMars** at **ademars@stcatherinesiena.org** or **978-2338**. Thank you in advance for helping with this mission!

Front Office Open Monday through Friday Our Front Office is open for in-person business Monday – Friday from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Please wear a mask when you come in for everyone's safety. We are still available outside office hours via email or voicemail: **FrontDesk@stcatherinesiena.org** or **327-5165**.

New Members

We welcome the following Parishioners into our Parish Family for the month of February

Houston & Amanda Haines

Rebecca Johnson

Nancy Knapp

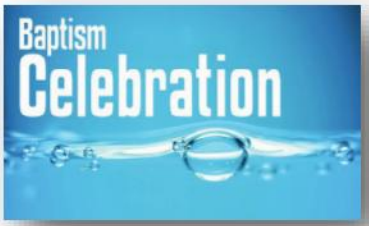
Tyler & Jenna Rosenhagen & Family

Jennifer Schaefer

Baptisms

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our Parish family to the following February Baptisms:

Alexander Amarasinghe
son of Anthony & Megan Amarasinghe



Remembrance

We remember our loved ones who have gone to join our Heavenly Father in the month of February:

Rosemary Bastos

Laurie Weick-Wood

Deacon Edward Feltes

Julia Zaborski

Jack Halter

2021 Lenten Season

Magnifikids at Mass

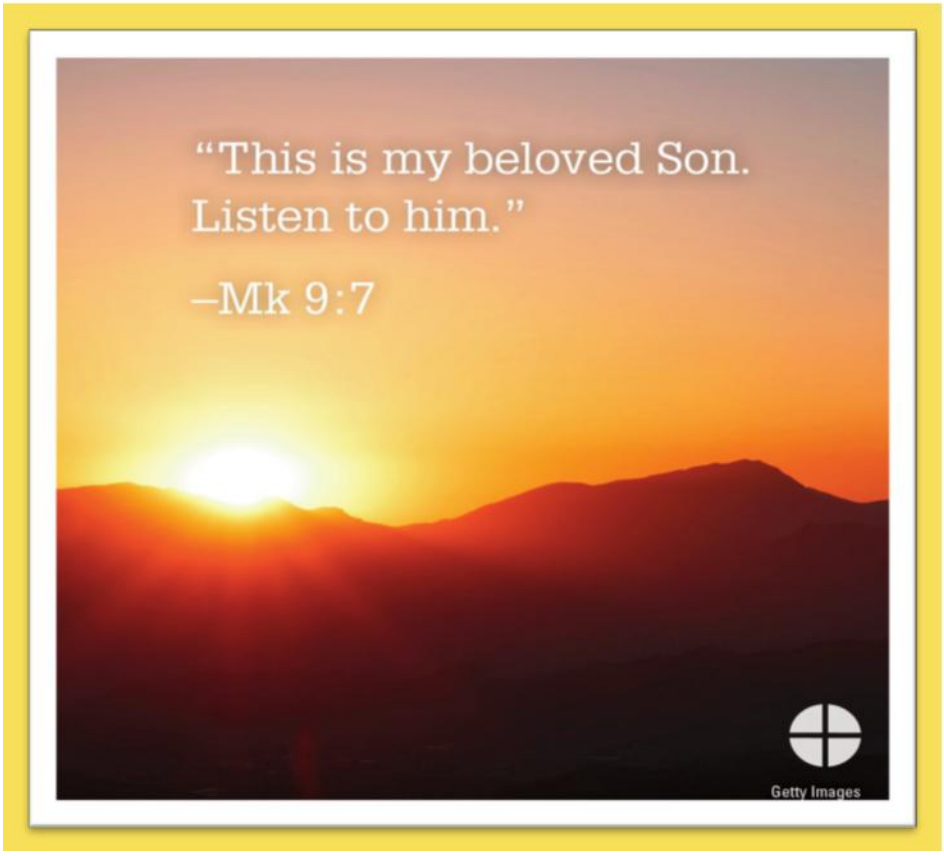
Thanks to our Knights of Columbus, we are able to offer MagnifiKids for children at Mass every weekend. They are available in the vestibule of the church by our bulletins. Grab one before Mass or on your way out. We usually have quite a few left at the end of the weekend. If you know of any organizations that would like previous week s' MagnifiKids, please let us know!

Trinity Chapel Open for Private Prayer

Trinity Chapel is open for **daily private prayer Monday – Friday from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**. Come bring your bible, your rosary or just yourself and spend some time in the presence of Our Lord. Physical distancing will be in place and you must wear a face mask. Please stop by the office to let us know that you are heading into the chapel.

Don't Forget to Pick Up A Rice Bowl

This year, CRS Rice Bowl invites you to journey to Madagascar, El Salvador and Timor-Leste to learn about the root causes of hunger and how communities—with the support of CRS and faith communities like yours—are making sure they have the right nutritious food to thrive. With prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can continue Jesus' mission to care for all in need. Visit **http://www.crsricebowl.org** for resources for families and parishes. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl anytime in **our main door or Marian Hall vestibules or in the Stanley Centre after Sunday Mass**. If you have any questions regarding the Rice Bowl program, please contact **Marianne** at **mverner@stcatherinesiena.org**.



Don't miss our **Lenten Talks** this Lent. We will offer three pre-recorded Lenten talks that we'll broadcast on our website and Facebook page and will be available throughout Lent. Here are the featured topics and links to those completed already:

Fr. Mark:
"The Saints and Lent"
(http://bit.ly/FrMarkLent2021)

Fr. Jeff:
"Lord, Teach Me How To Pray"
(**http://bit.ly/FrJeffLent2021**)

Fr. Bill:
"Lent, Give Up,
But Also Give Forward"

We will also have a Stations of the Cross video, created by our own Fr. Jeff from last year, available virtually.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

As the anniversary of the Gospel of Life and the Solemnity of the Annunciation approaches on March 25, please join in praying a special Novena, "A Heart Open to God's Will" March 16-24. Let us follow the example of Mary and call upon her intercession to help us open our hearts to say "yes" to life in all circumstances.

A Heart Open To God's Will

O Mary, Blessed Mother of God, when the angel greeted you, you were surprised and fearful; yet, in wonder you listened and opened your heart to the divine message.

Your life had been ordinary, like so many of Adam's children, but your "yes" changed your life and led to the salvation of us all, because you invited Christ Our Lord to grow inside of you.

Mother of Our Savior, help me to open my heart to the Father's will in my life. Pray for me to the Lord God as I pray to Him,

O God, prepare my heart for it is hard for me to trust in your will. Give me clarity of vision, that I may see your way. Open my ears, that I may hear your words. Place your hand on my shoulder, that I may feel your guidance. Enlighten the darkness of my soul, that I may be filled with your light.

Grant me wisdom as I ask (mention your requests here).

Generous and loving God, like your daughter Mary, help me to know and do your will in this life and in the next.

Grant me a grateful heart and help me to always pray as Mary prayed:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for He has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen.

Pray: All or part of the novena daily for 9 days from March 16-24.

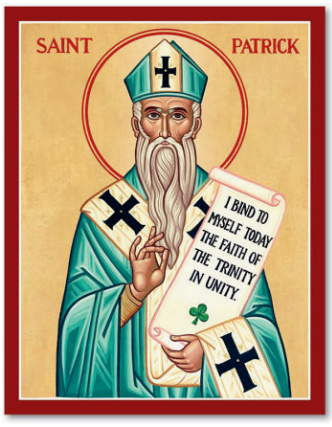
Please share with family and friends.

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: March 13, Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Lent
4:00 pm †Bob Dappern
SUNDAY: March 14, The Fourth Sunday of Lent
2Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21
7:30 am †Deacon Ed Feltes
9:00 am †Rosemary Bastos
11:00 am † Judy LaPorte
5:00 pm People of the Parish

MONDAY: March 15
Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
9:15 am †Dorothy Talanda
TUESDAY: March 16
Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
9:15 am †Tyson Carpenter
WEDNESDAY: March 17, Saint Patrick, Bishop
Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
9:15 am †John Small
THURSDAY: March 18, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
9:15 am Special Intentions for Fr. Bill Jacobs
(Private) †Richard Chobey
FRIDAY: March 19, Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a Or Lk 2:41-51a
9:15 am †Joe Cekola
SATURDAY: March 20
Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
(Private) People of the Parish

SATURDAY: March 20, Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent
4:00 pm †Thomas LeBlong
SUNDAY: March 21, Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
7:30 am People of the Parish
9:00 am †Christine Coulter
11:00 am †Henry Magalski
5:00 pm †Patricia Fawley



The Lord opened the understanding of my unbelieving heart, so that I should recall my sins.

- St. Patrick

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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 / 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,
all email addresses end in:
@stcatherinesiena.org

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