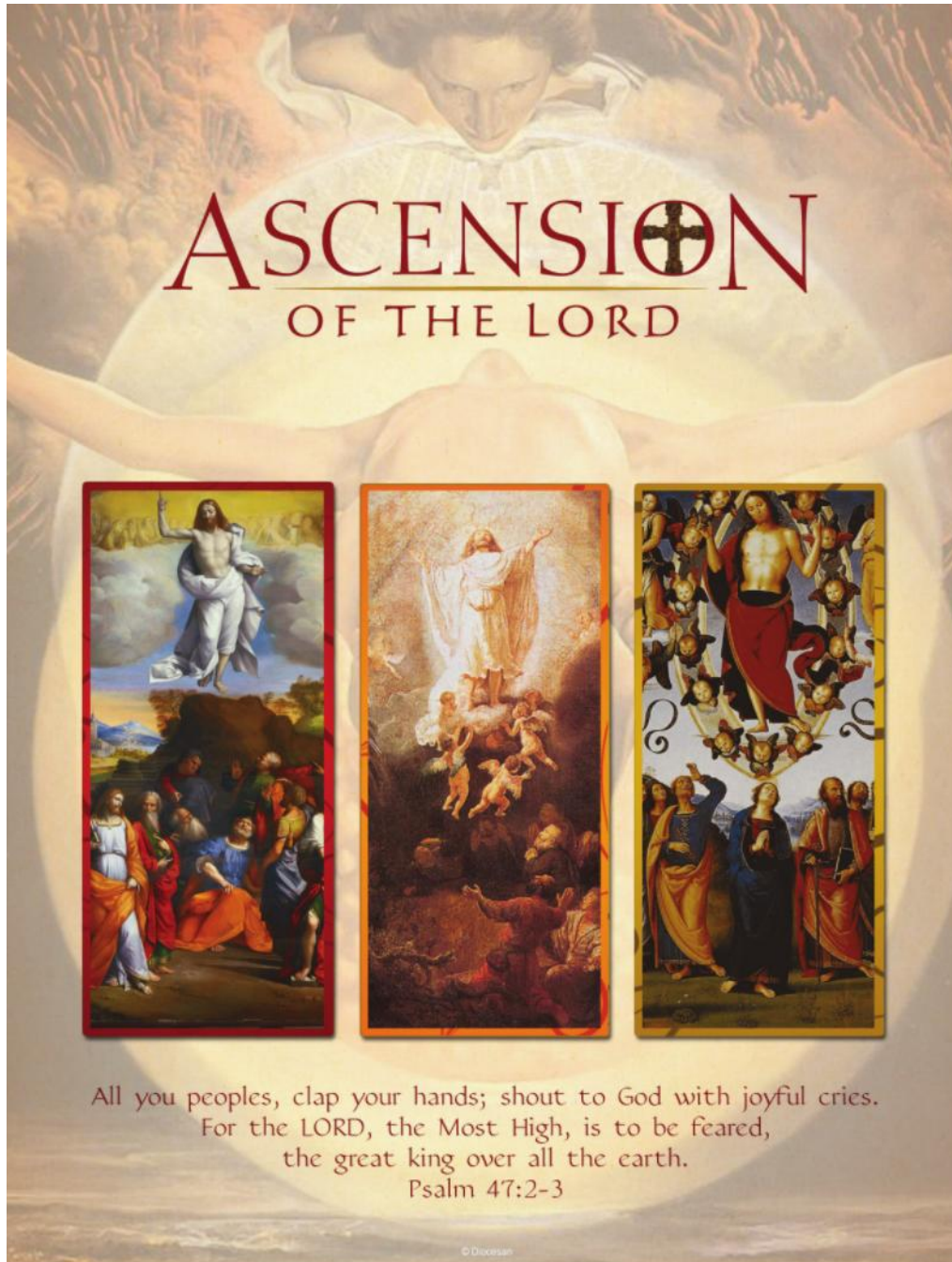


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experienced, loved, and imitated.*



May 16, 2021
Ascension of the Lord

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News from Fr. Mark



Dear Parishioners,

Sometimes we may feel just like the disciples: looking up at Heaven and wondering where is our Lord. But as the angels would remind the disciples, we do not have to keep looking for the Lord, for He is

always here with us. We do not have to doubt or fear, for the Lord will never abandon us. As we find ourselves in these final days of the Easter season, and prepare ourselves for the great feast of Pentecost, may we never forget how the Lord is always near.

As we continue to make progress towards our Bishop's Annual Appeal 2021 goal, I would like to thank everyone who has helped us get to this point. I hope we can wrap up our pledge portion of this campaign within the next few weeks. If you haven't had a chance to pledge or make a gift yet to support the work of the Church in our diocese, there's still time. Please prayerfully consider a pledge; no gift is too large or too small. Pledge envelopes can be found at the entrance of the church and one can pledge anytime online at <http://www.diokzoo.org> (please click on the BAA 2021 link once you get to the site). May the Lord continue to bless all the ministries and outreach of the Church throughout these counties of Southwestern Michigan.

Please continue to pray for our 1st Communion students. We wrap up our 1st Communions at the weekend Masses next weekend on Pentecost.

As we have gradually re-opened and returned to Mass a year ago at Pentecost, Bishop Bradley announced that the General Dispensation from Sunday Mass will expire on May 23, Pentecost Sunday 2021. Since this was just announced by the Diocese last week, we will have more details soon, but we wanted to get the word out as soon as possible.

Thanks for reading!

Fr. Mark

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

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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.

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**

Sunday Connection

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Jesus is taken up to heaven in the presence of the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 47:2-3,6-7,8-9

Sing praise to God as he mounts his throne.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23 or Ephesians 4:1-13 (shorter form: Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13)

God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

Gospel Reading

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus is taken to heaven, and the disciples go forth to preach as Jesus commanded.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today is our liturgical celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, when Jesus was taken to heaven on the fortieth day after Easter. In Cycle B, our Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Mark. Scholars have long noted some irregularities about the ending of Mark's Gospel. There is a natural break in the story line at verse 8, when Mark's report of the discovery of the empty tomb comes to an abrupt conclusion. This verse reports that the women were so frightened by what they had seen at the tomb that they told no one. This may be the original ending of Mark's Gospel, but it is also possible that the more complete ending has been lost.

Some manuscripts of Mark's Gospel, written between the fourth and ninth centuries, include what scholars have termed the Shorter Ending. This is often printed in our Bibles for reference. This ending indicates that the women told their story to Peter's companions. Scholars believe that this ending is not original to Mark. They theorize that this ending was added by copyists who sought to resolve the original abrupt ending at verse 8.

Other early manuscripts include a Longer Ending that scholars also believe was written by someone other than the Evangelist. Nonetheless, quotations from this Longer Ending are found in the writings of the early Church Fathers, and it was accepted at the Council of Trent as part of the canonical Gospel of Mark. Our Gospel for today's celebration of the Feast of the Ascension is taken from this Longer Ending.

There are similarities in the reports of Jesus' Ascension found in the Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke. In each case, Jesus assigns his disciples the task of proclaiming the gospel message to the entire world. There are also notable distinctions. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, the disciples are sent by Jesus to baptize and to preach. In Luke's Gospel, however, the commission to baptize is absent. Instead, Jesus directs the disciples to return to Jerusalem to await the fulfillment of his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. Curiously, only the Gospels of Mark and Luke actually report Jesus' ascension into heaven. Matthew's Gospel concludes with Jesus' promise to remain with his disciples forever. Only the Gospel of Mark notes that Jesus

ascended to sit at the right hand of God. In noting this, Mark teaches that Jesus' ascension affirms the glory Jesus received from God after his death and Resurrection.

Even if this ending to Mark's Gospel was written by someone other than the Evangelist, in the commission that Jesus gives to his disciples, there are elements that are quite typical of Mark's Gospel. The signs that will accompany belief in Jesus are as vivid as the action performed by Jesus during his ministry. Those who believe in Jesus will be empowered to do what Jesus himself has done. During his ministry, Jesus sent his disciples to preach, to heal, and to drive out unclean spirits. Now they are sent again to do these things and more. From his place with God in heaven, Jesus helped his disciples, and he continues to help us as we try to live as his followers.



Photo by [Kelly Sikkema](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Resource:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/ascension-of-the-lord-cycle-b-readings/>

God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

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Stewardship

Collections April 19-25, 2021: \$24,467

Collections April 20-26, 2020: \$24,030

2020-2021 Year to Date Actuals: \$1,202,870

2019-2020 Year to Date Actuals: \$1,287,358

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.

As Christian stewards, we recognize God as the source of everything we are and that we have. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we share in the mission of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. If you haven't done so already, please prayerfully consider a very generous gift to this year's appeal. Remember, no gift is too small or too large, and every gift makes the work of Jesus Christ possible. Donation envelopes are available in the Narthex, the Front Office, or you can donate online at <https://diokzoo.org/bishops-annual-appeal>.

Goal: \$277,176

Total Pledged: \$147,985.03

Total Paid: \$98,256.03

of Pledges: 358

**We have made it to 66%
of our goal!**

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

DIocese of Kalamazoo

News Around St. Catherine's



Food and Baby Items Drive for Catholic Charities

Our **Knights of Columbus** and **Respect Life Ministry** groups are gathering donations for the Catholic Charities. Our Knights of Columbus are collecting non-perishable food items that may be dropped off anytime the week of **May 17-22** in the vestibule of the church or on **Saturday, May 22, between 9:00 am and noon**, stop by for the **"Drive-in and Drop"** and donate items to

the Knights directly in the St. Catherine's parking lot. Respect Life Ministry is also collecting baby items (find a list of needed items in the Narthex or on the Respect Life Ministry page at <https://stcatherinesiena.org/respectlifeministry>) in the vestibule until the end of the month. 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!

Primetimers Not Meeting Until Further Notice

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Michigan, the **Primetimers will not be meeting until further notice**. The group encourages everyone to be safe and patronize their favorite restaurants by ordering take-out or home delivery. Primetimers are people 50 years old and over and their friends who enjoy eating out. They usually meet at an area restaurant on the 1st Monday of each month at 11:30 am. Each person picks up their own bill. If you're interested in joining them at a future date, please contact **Paula White** at **330-3762** or pwhitenc@mac.com.



Photo by Mariana O.M on Unsplash



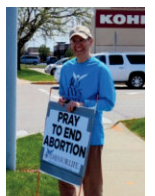
Rice Bowl Campaign Totals

As the collection for the rice bowl campaign ends, we want to share with you that we were able to collect \$1,083.75 for the Rice Bowl Campaign! This money will partly be used to teach people how to garden themselves, and then collect the seeds to garden the following year. This will enable them to have the seeds annually without having to buy more. Then year after year, they can continue to grow their crops. They are not only being fed one time, but given the skillset to feed themselves. Thank you for your generosity.



Respect Life Ministry: LifeChain Event Success

On May 2, we had 17 St Catherine parishioners joined by 21 other churches from around the Kalamazoo area to be a voice for the voiceless and pray to end abortion for a LifeChain event. Thank you to all who came out to support the event. Learn more about our Respect Life Group and the events they have planned at <https://stcatherinesiena.org/respectlifeministry>. Make sure you sign up for their FlockNote updates found at the bottom of the page. You may also send an email to respectlife@stcatherinesiena.org.



Faith Formation



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

First Communion Still Happening Every Weekend in May

We are happy to announce we will have 50 children receiving their First Communion throughout May at the Saturday 4:00 pm and Sunday 5:00 pm Masses. Both Masses will be live-streamed. Please pray for these children as they receive this most holy sacrament. Congratulations to all!



Join the CFF Facebook Page

Don't forget—we also have a **Facebook** page just for our **Children's Faith Formation (CFF)** children/parents. 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



Calling All 6th Graders

Youths in grade 6 are now able to join us again for Youth Ministry! Starting in June, any hours they get in Youth Ministry will count towards Confirmation Hours. If parents want more information, please contact **Phil** at pdezern@stcatherinesiena.org or (616) 633-0994.

Miss Youth Ministry In Person? Then Come Join Us!

We are offering onsite activities for Youth Ministry for grades 7-12 on a limited scale. Registration is **REQUIRED**. If you wish to receive an email about an upcoming activity, please email **Phil** at pdezern@stcatherinesiena.org. Phil will put you on the email list that receives upcoming Youth Faith Formation meeting dates and events. Remember, masks are required for all Youth Ministry in-person events. Each session will count 1.5 hours towards Confirmation. Youth are encouraged to bring water bottles as the drinking fountains are non-functional at this time.



Spotlight on Donna Buehrle



We at St. Catherine's rely so much on our dedicated volunteers to help us keep this parish running smoothly. We would like to recognize **Donna Buehrle** for her dedication to several ministries in our church, including the Linen Guild, Prayerline, Hospitality Committee, Funeral Lunches, and also for serving as a Sacristan. Donna and her husband, Richard, have been members of St. Catherine's since 2002. We appreciate all the time she has donated to helping the parish run smoothly.

Thank you, Donna!

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: May 15, Vigil of the Ascension of the Lord

4:00 pm †John Steimle

SUNDAY: May 16, Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13;
Mk 16:15-20

7:30 am †For the Poor Souls in Purgatory

9:00 am †CeCe McGuinness

11:00 am †Matthew Andrews

5:00 pm People of the Parish

MONDAY: May 17

Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

9:15 am †Sophie Marie Varney

TUESDAY: May 18

Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a

9:15 am †Beatrice Huss

WEDNESDAY: May 19

Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19

9:15 am †Michael Patrick O'Donnell

THURSDAY: May 20

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:21

9:15 am Special Intentions for Fr. Bill Jacobs

FRIDAY: May 21

Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19

9:15 am †Mike Winchester

SATURDAY: May 22

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

(Private) People of the Parish

SATURDAY: May 22, Vigil of Pentecost Sunday

4:00 pm †Edith Bates

SUNDAY: May 23 Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25; Jn 20:19-23
or Jn 15:26-27, 16:12-15

7:30 am People of the Parish

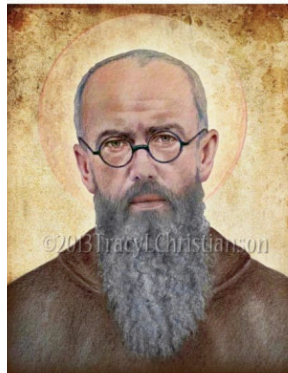
9:00 am †Dolores M. Stora

11:00 am †Jack Halter

5:00 pm †George Rehe

Never be afraid of
loving the Blessed
Virgin too much.
You can never love her
more than Jesus did.

- Saint Maximilian Kolbe



Staff Contacts

* On furlough (unpaid leave);

Other lay staff hours have been reduced

Administrative Assistants

Alana Murray / 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,
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