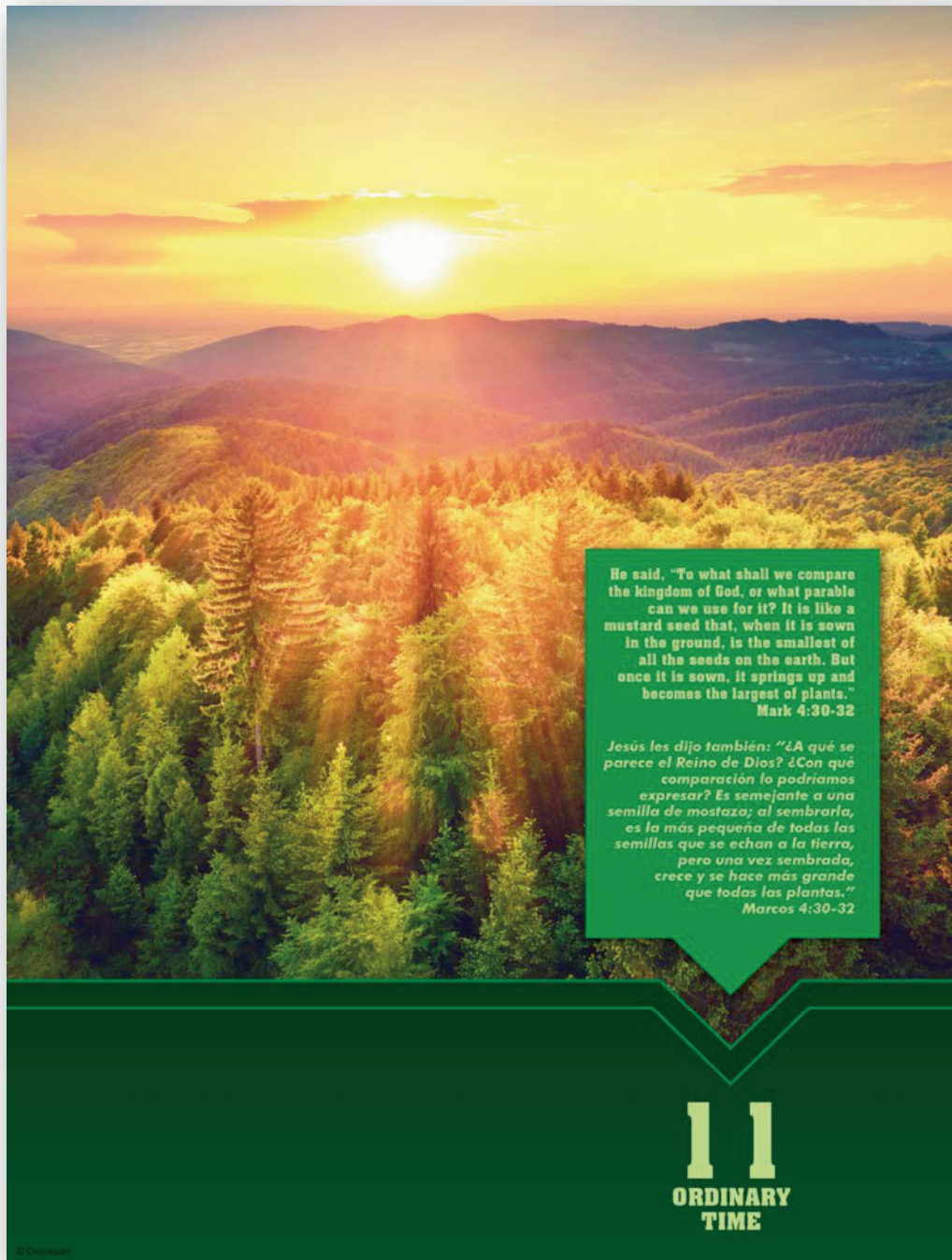


St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



June 13, 2021
11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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,

It's summer! (Almost). Even though it's officially a week before Summer begins, and especially since Memorial Day was a few weeks ago, we all consider this to be summer. Even though it's summer, our staff has been thinking about the programming that we are going to do in the Fall. Since things change pretty quickly (as far as

protocols and such), this has been challenging for everyone and is often a moving target! But please be assured that we have not forgotten about the activities and programs that were part of the parish life before COVID-19. As soon as we have these plans in place, we will let you know what our fall programming will look like.

As the bulletin goes to press, it looks like we may have a familiar face around St. Catherine's in the next few weeks. Fr. Peter Gregor was unable to join us last summer, or even during his Christmas break, due to travel restrictions. If all goes well, we are hoping to see him later this week. He certainly missed seeing everyone. Keep him in prayer that his flights and journey to Portage goes well.

And finally, I am sad to report that Fr. Jeff will soon be leaving St. Catherine's. Bishop Bradley has appointed Fr. Jeff as his Master of Ceremonies (for the times that the Bishop is at Mass and diocesan liturgies), and Director of Worship for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. He will also continue to serve as Hackett's chaplain, as well as working at the Marriage Tribunal at the Diocese. Since a lot of his ministry is now based at the Diocese, the Bishop will be moving Fr. Jeff to live, in residence, at the Cathedral Rectory downtown. Fr. Jeff will begin these new assignments on July 5. Our thoughts and prayers are with Fr. Jeff as he prepares to begin this new assignment.

Thanks for reading!
Fr. Mark

Campaign for St. Catherine's 2021 is Over

Thank you to all who donated during our 2021 BAA campaign this year. Your generous gifts allow us to continue the work of Jesus Christ throughout our Diocese. If you didn't have a chance to donate during the campaign, it's never too late to donate. Donation envelopes are available in the Narthex, the Front Office, or you can donate online at <https://diokzoo.org/bishops-annual-appeal>.

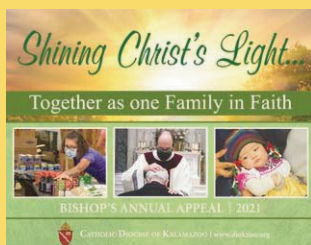
Goal: \$277,176

Total Pledged: \$220,243.03

Total Paid: \$141,515.03

of Pledges: 515

**We made it to 85%
of our goal!**



Clergy 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, 9:00 am, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm

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

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.

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**



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

June 3, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

On June 1, several statewide COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and our Diocese of Kalamazoo has responded with a new set of guidelines for us to follow. After several months of knowing what Mass would look like with all the former protocols in place, we will now have to adjust to new guidelines. You may read the full guidelines from the Bishop on their website at:

<https://diokzoo.org/public-return-to-mass>.

For now, here are the highlights of what you need to know:

- **Masks:** Mask wearing is encouraged but is optional for those who are vaccinated during all Masses. For Parish activities and events, wearing a mask is still required to attend.
- **Social Distancing:** We will continue to offer seating with social distancing between the rows but will now also offer open seating in several sections in our main church. We will have an usher help guide you to whichever seating area you feel the most comfortable in.
- **Communion:** Priests or extraordinary ministers will continue to wear masks when distributing Communion.
- **The Sign of Peace** continues to be a non-contact gesture or nod.
- **Daily Mass** will still be held in Marian Hall.
- **Confessions:** Saturday morning confessions will remain in our parking lot (especially due to its continued popularity and participation). We have no plans to change this system at this time.
- **Health:** As always, please stay home if you are not feeling well. We will continue to **live-stream our Saturday 4 pm Mass** on the weekend. Wash your hands and/or use sanitizer before receiving Communion.
- **Reminders:** General Dispensation from attending Mass was lifted on May 22/23. Please attend a Mass that best fits your schedule unless you are homebound or physically unable.

Please continue to be patient with us as we continue to follow all the policies and procedures given to us by the State of Michigan and our Diocese of Kalamazoo. I will continue to keep you updated with any other changes as they become available.

Peace Be with You,

Rev. Mark J. Vyverman
Pastor

Sunday Connection

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22–24

I, the Lord, bring low the high tree and lift high the lowly tree.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 92:2–3, 13–16

They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6–10

The lives of all are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Mark 4:26–34

The reign of God is like a mustard seed.

Background on the Gospel Reading

After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days—Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—the Church returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday's Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable's meaning, and he does this in private at a later time.

Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.



These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "thy kingdom come." We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith.

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

Resource:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/11thsundayinordinarytimebsundayconnection/>

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.

LOYOLAPRESS.

New Members



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

Aaron & Maureen Ford **Joseph & Annaliese Kaiser**

Jared & Haley Hector

Scott Liskiewicz

Chelsea Henning

**Raymond & Barbara Murphy
Sanders**

**Alec & Ali-Marie
Ingram**

Baptisms

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

Abigail Su Brown

Daughter of Theodore & Alyssa Brown

Gannon Kwiatkowski

Son of Kevin & Lynlee Kwiatkowski

William Harrison Everett

Son of Richard & Kristin Everett

Madeline Mucha

Daughter of Kyle & Elizabeth Mucha

Xavier Gurica

Son of Ben Gurica

Melanie Mucha

Daughter of Kyle & Elizabeth Mucha



Faith Formation



Youth Faith Formation

Phil Dezern, Director

pdezern@stcatherinesiena.org

(616) 633-0994

Yes, Youth Ministry Still Meets in the Summer!

School is out, but that doesn't mean you can't still see your friends! We are still offering onsite activities for Youth Ministry for grades 7-12 (on a limited scale). Registration is REQUIRED until further notice. 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.



News Around St. Catherine's

Front Office Hours Changing



Effective **Monday, June 14**, our Front Office will now be open **Monday—Thursday from 9:00 am—12:00 pm**. We're very excited to see everyone back at church and to be able to offer extended hours during the week to accommodate the needs of our parish. If you need to come in at a different time, please contact our Front Office for an

appointment. Please contact us with any questions at **FrontDesk@stcatherinesiena.org** or **327-5165**.

Respect Life Ministry: Calling all able-bodied families!

Would you be willing to help dads have a **CLEAN** car for Father's Day AND help fund a local mobile ultrasound unit that travels to underserved areas? Respect Life Core Team would like to offer the first **50 fathers** on **June 20, Father's Day**, at the **9:00 am Mass**, a **\$5 CAR WASH while they pray!** But we need volunteers to help us. This could easily be a family event, or a way for youth to get service hours for Confirmation, National Honor Society, or just because you love your dad. If you have an hour to help out, please sign up on the **Let's Honor our Dads!** **Flocknote feed** at the bottom of our webpage at **RespectLife@stcatherinesiena.org**. or email **Joon** at **joon@park-one.io**. Thank you for volunteering!



Stewardship

Collections May 24-30, 2021:	\$20,854
Collections May 25-31, 2020:	\$30,179
2020-2021 Year to Date Actuals:	\$1,304,249
2019-2020 Year to Date Actuals:	\$1,393,497

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.

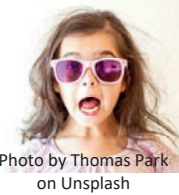


Photo by Thomas Park on Unsplash

It's Summer Time – Move Your Giving to Online or ACH

Now that summer is here, kids are done with school, vacations are coming up, and other events or activities have started, let our online giving or ACH program allow you to have one less thing to worry about this summer. With everything else going on in your busy life, setting up a recurring donation may mean one less thing to think about. Your generosity keeps us going! Learn more at <http://www.stcatherinesiena.org/giving> or contact **Linda Reaume** at **lreaume@stcatherinesiena.org**.

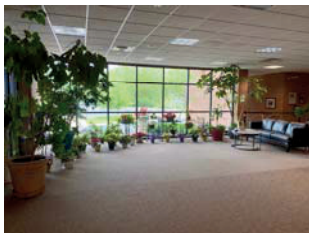
Linen Guild Members Needed

We are currently in need of a volunteer to launder and iron the liturgical linens that are used at Mass. You would commit to wash the lavabo towels, purificators, corporals, palls, and the amice. Everything should be ironed as well, except the towels, once a week for the month of April. If you're interested in this ministry, please reach out to **Marianne Verner** at **978-2340** or **mverner@stcatherinesiena.org**. God Bless you as you contemplate this ministry.



Join Our Arts & Environment Team

The average age of our volunteers in our arts & environment ministry is 70. This ministry needs some younger help added to help put up decorations in the church as the church year evolves. It can also include taking care of the plants/flowers inside of the church building or outside flower arrangements. If you're interested in this ministry, please reach out to **Marianne Verner** at **978-2340** or **mverner@stcatherinesiena.org**.



Spotlight on Catherine Taylor



Catherine Taylor has been a part of our parish family since 1972. Catherine has been ministering to the people of the parish and the surrounding area for almost 50 years. Throughout her time at St. Catherine's, she has held many volunteer roles from serving others in hospice, hug therapy, children's events and helping senior citizens. She has been a volunteer in the following roles here at St. Catherine's: Sacristan, Lector, Eucharistic Minister for Mass, assisting in spiritual development, Arts & Environment, volunteer at our Blood Drives, and after more than 20 years, Catherine recently resigned as a volunteer in our Funeral Ministry. Catherine shared with us that she had once heard that everyone needs a standing ovation at least once in their life. And we agree: Please join us in giving Catherine a standing ovation through prayer, personal congratulations to Catherine, and wishes that God will continue to bless her in this life in the next life. **Thank you, Catherine!**

News Around the Diocese



Peter's Pence Collection June 27

On June 27, our Diocese will participate in the **Peter's Pence Collection**, which supports the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Francis with the funds to carry out his charitable works around the world. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit <http://www.usccb.org/peters-pence>.

Migrant Ministry Collection at St. Thomas More

St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish is accepting donations for the **Aleman Center**. Food items needed are: rice, flour, sugar, cooking oil, canned tomatoes and packs of water. Other items that can be used are: sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, diapers of all sizes and wipes, toiletries: especially toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo. No other items than the ones listed can be accepted at this time due to COVID restrictions. Donated items may be brought to the St. Thomas More parish office Garage at 1333 West Lovell St. (corner of Monroe and Lovell), Monday – Friday after 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. We will be collecting donations until July 17. If you have questions about times, please call the parish office at 381-8917.



St. Martin of Tours Parish: Encounter Camp 2021

The **St. Martin of Tours Parish in Vicksburg** invites students to join their local service camp **June 14-17 from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm** each day, with a \$30 registration fee. Meals and a t-shirt will be provided to each camper. This camp is a great way to encounter Jesus while serving your community and sharing his love with others! Please contact **Shannon** at ym@stmartinvicksburg.org with any questions.

A Message From the Diocese

The Diocese of Kalamazoo has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set-up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at: **(844) 324-3374**

The **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR)** has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for Investigation. To make a report, visit <http://ReportBishopAbuse.org> or phone **(800) 276-1562**. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.



Save a life. Contact Congress.

WHAT

Congress is trying to force Americans to pay for abortion.

HOW

The Hyde Amendment and similar laws have protected taxpayers from funding elective abortion for 45 years. Now, powerful members of Congress want to take away these laws that *both* Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century.

WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT THESE PROTECTIONS?

Billions of taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortion.

TAKE ACTION

Sign the petition to Congress at NoTaxpayerAbortion.com!

At St. Catherine's, engaged couples should contact **Marianne Verner** in the Front Office at **978-22340** or **mverner@stcatherinesiena.org** about Marriage prep. Engaged couples also are asked to participate in a pre-marital retreat. The *Joy-Filled Marriage Weekend* is offered through the Diocese of Kalamazoo. To obtain a current schedule, contact **Socorro Truchan** at **struchan@diokzoo.org**.

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



June is the start of wedding season!

The Catholic Church has a long history of helping couples to prepare for marriage. It has learned a great deal that can benefit any couple, regardless of religion.

Because the Catholic Church wants couples to form strong, lasting marriages, couples who wish to marry in the Catholic Church are asked to:

- Contact and meet with your parish priest as soon as you are engaged.
- Take at least six months to intensively prepare for your marriage. This goes beyond choosing a date and church, reserving a place for the reception, and picking out dresses. It means using this time to delve more deeply into your relationship and approach this momentous day with prayer and reflection.
- Attend an approved marriage preparation program. There are many different formats for marriage preparation programs ranging from intensive weekends, to a weekly series, to "in home" mentor couple programs. Check out the most common national programs here. To find what programs are available near you, contact your diocesan family life office. Catholic marriage preparation programs are usually presented by a team of lay married couples and a priest or deacon. They are not restricted to Catholics, but they are always in keeping with Church teaching.
- Most dioceses ask couples to take a marriage preparation inventory (such as FOCCUS, PMI, or PREPARE). These are not "tests" to determine whether you can get married in the Church, but rather discussion starters to assess what issues you already agree on and what you might need to discuss further.

Marriage is a vocation to holiness. Whether you are just starting out in marriage or have fifty years under your belt, the advice, real life stories, and Church teaching here can help strengthen and bless your marriage. Explore resources from For Your Marriage! <https://www.foryourmarriage.org>



Catholic
Current

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This blog post first appeared on [ForYourMarriage.org](https://www.foryourmarriage.org).



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: June 12, Vigil of the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Steve Momotiuk†

SUNDAY: June 13, The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 17:22-24; 2Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

7:30 am For the Birthday of Maria Jose Wink

9:00 am Christine Coulter†

11:00 am People of the Parish

5:00 pm People of the Parish

MONDAY: June 14

2Cor 6:1-10; Mt 5:38-42

9:15 am Mary Brown†

TUESDAY: June 15

2Cor 8:1-9; Mt 5:43-48

9:15 am For the Unborn

WEDNESDAY: June 16

2Cor 9:6-11; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

9:15 am Father Jeff

THURSDAY: June 17

2Cor 11:1-11; Mt 6:7-15

9:15 am Bishop James A. Murray †

FRIDAY: June 18

2Cor 11:18, 21-30; Mt 6:19-23

9:15 am For the Souls in Purgatory†

SATURDAY: June 19, Saint Romuald, Abbot

2Cor 12:1-10; Mt 6:24-34

(Private) The Beauty of Marriage

SATURDAY: June 19, Vigil of the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Patrick McKinley†

SUNDAY: June 20, The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 38:1, 8-11; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41

7:30 am Blas Rodriguez†

9:00 am Tom Zacharski

11:00 am People of the Parish

5:00 pm Jack Halter†



“It is better to say
one Our Father
Fervently and devoutly
than a thousand,
with no devotion
and full of distraction.”

- Saint Romuald, Abbot

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,
all email addresses end in:
@stcatherinesiena.org

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