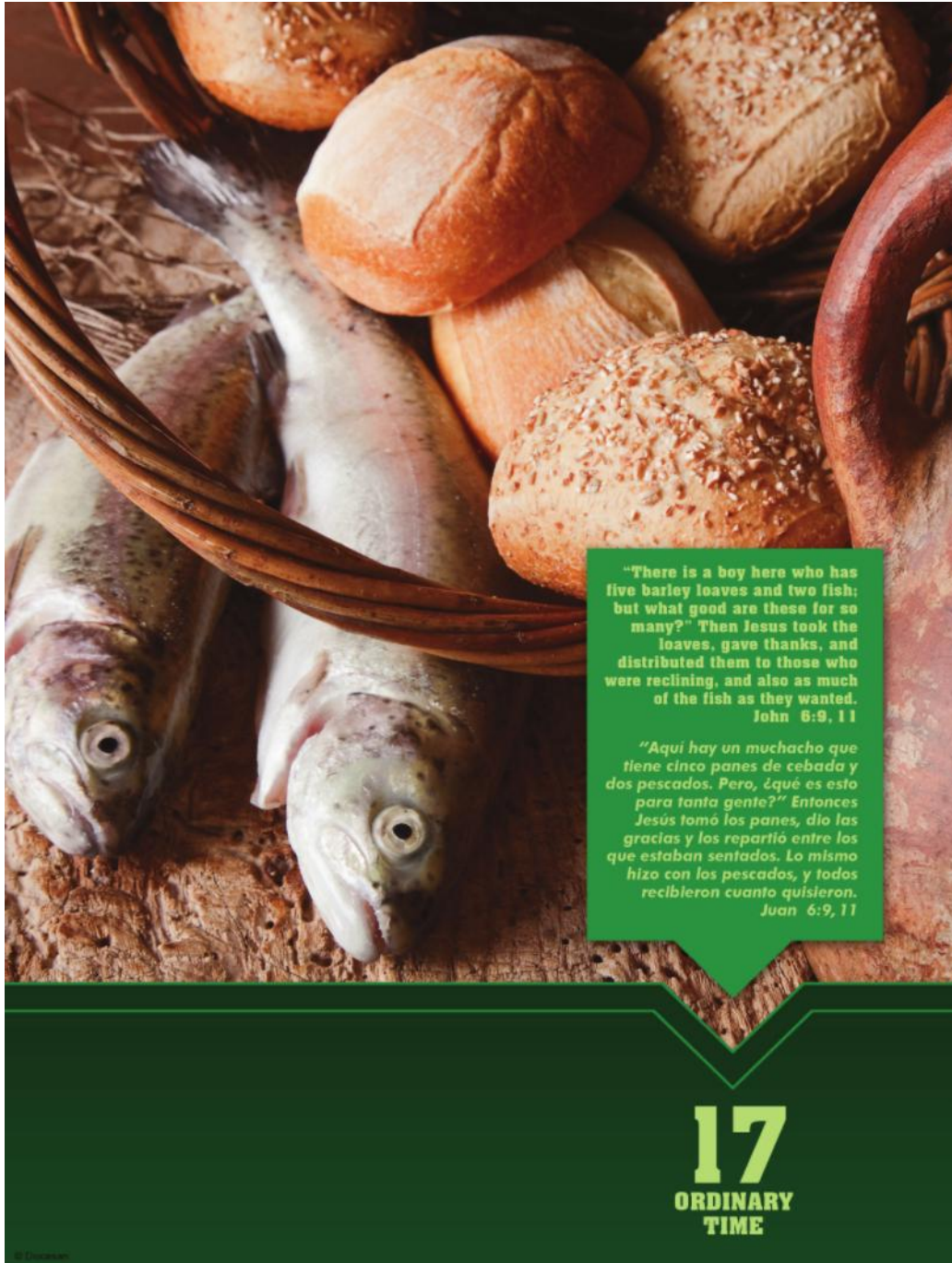


St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

We are called to honor the Lord by serving others in hope.



"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted.
John 6:9, 11

"Aquí hay un muchacho que tiene cinco panes de cebada y dos pescados. Pero, ¿qué es esto para tanta gente?" Entonces Jesús tomó los panes, dio las gracias y los repartió entre los que estaban sentados. Lo mismo hizo con los pescados, y todos recibieron cuanto quisieron.
Juan 6:9, 11

17
ORDINARY
TIME

July 25, 2021
17th Sunday in 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,

Have you signed up for Flocknote yet? For the past few weeks, we have introduced and rolled out a new communication platform (and app) to the parish community. This is another way that we can

improve communications from the parish to our groups and parishioners. Having said this, I realize that not everyone is tech savvy or likes anything that has to do with smart phones or



computers. This will not replace any of our other media that we use to communicate, but will be an additional way to communicate. Flocknote is a great way to stay in touch with the members of the groups that you belong to and also gives you access to educational materials from Bishop Barron's video library and talks. If you haven't done so, please look into this for it's a great opportunity to stay connected.

This past Wednesday, I had the opportunity to attend and be a part of the 50th Anniversary Mass and celebration for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. I was around in 1971, but I was too young, and certainly don't remember much about the creation of the Diocese. It was a great way to gather with Bishop Bradley, other bishops from Michigan, our priests, and those who were able to attend. I'm probably not going to be around to celebrate the 100th anniversary, so I needed to make the most of this celebration! A recording of the Jubilee Mass will be available on the website for the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Fr. Peter has been visiting with us for the past several weeks and returned to Honduras a week ago. Please keep him in prayer as he continues his longtime ministry.

Thanks for reading!

Fr. Mark

Stewardship

Collections June , 2021: \$33,517

Collections June , 2020: \$32,312

2021-2022 Year to Date Actuals: \$49,131

2020-2021 Year to Date Actuals: \$47,770

- *Note—the new fiscal year began July 1. The "Year to Date" totals reflect the new fiscal year totals.*

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>.

Clergy Contacts

Fr. Mark Vyverman fathermark@stcatherinesiena.org
Fr. Bill Jacobs fatherbill@stcatherinesiena.org
Fr. Ben Huynh fatherben@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

Schedule

Mass

Monday - Saturday: 9:15 am (Trinity Chapel)

Saturday 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 - Thursday: 9:00 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.



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Sunday Connection

First Reading

2 Kings 4:42-44

Elisha the prophet feeds 100 people with 20 barley loaves.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145:10-11,15-16,17-18

The Lord feeds his people and answers their needs.

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:1-6

The Ephesians are encouraged to live the unity of their Baptism.

Gospel Reading

John 6:1-15

Jesus feeds the crowd of more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Through most of Lectionary Cycle B, our Sunday Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Mark. Over the past two Sundays, we heard how Jesus sent his disciples to share in his mission. If we were to continue reading Mark's Gospel, we would next hear his report of how Jesus feeds the crowds in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Our Lectionary, however, leaves Mark's Gospel for the next several weeks and instead presents this event from the Gospel of John. In John's Gospel, Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fishes is presented as a sign of his authority and divinity. Jesus interprets the meaning and significance of this miracle as a sharing of his Body and Blood. This chapter is sometimes called the "Bread of Life Discourse."

In many important ways, John's Gospel uses the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to teach about the Eucharist. Like the Last Supper, this miracle is said to have occurred near the time of the Jewish feast of Passover. (In John's Gospel three Passovers are identified.) Jesus' language is similar to the language he used at the Last Supper as reported in the Synoptic Gospels. John's description of this event also anticipates the Messianic banquet of heaven, as the crowd reclines and all hungers are satisfied with abundance. This connection is further amplified by the response of the crowd, who wants to make Jesus a king. John is teaching us that each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are anticipating the eternal banquet of heaven.

Recall that John's Gospel tells the story of the Last Supper differently than the Synoptic Gospels. Instead of describing the meal and Jesus' actions with the bread and cup, John describes how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. We hear this Gospel when we remember the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. This recollection of Jesus' action at the Last Supper complements the institution narrative of the Synoptic Gospels and Paul's Letters that we hear repeated at each Mass.

In both stories about the Eucharist—the washing of the disciples' feet and the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes—the Gospel of John teaches us that the Eucharist is an action. Our word Eucharist is taken from the Greek language and describes an action: "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we are fed by Jesus himself, and we are sent to serve others.

John's Gospel notes the detail that the bread blessed and shared with the crowd are barley loaves. This is the food of the poor. It reminds us that God feeds and nourishes us, fulfilling our physical needs as well as our spiritual ones. In the Eucharist, we are sent to serve the poorest among us.



The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes recalls a particular aspect of the Mass. In this miracle, Jesus transforms a young boy's offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labors, represented by bread and wine. These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we, too, are transformed by the Eucharist.

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

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

Resource:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/17th-sunday-of-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

LOYOLAPRESS.

Faith Formation



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



CFF Registration Forms Available!

We are excited for another year of our Children's Faith Formation Classes! This year we will be offering online AND in-person classes for first grade through fifth grade. At this time, masks will be required for in-person classes until we receive further direction from the Diocese. Online registration forms can be found on our website at <https://stcatherinesiena.org/cffclasses>. **Classes will begin Sunday, September 12.** Catechists are needed for Sunday mornings, and Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Contact **Alyssa Brown** at cff@stcatherinesiena.org for more information or to volunteer as a Catechist.

Once You Register in CFF—Join the CFF Facebook Group

If you enroll your child(ren) in Children's Faith Formation classes this year, we encourage you to join the Children's Faith Formation Facebook page to keep up on any last minute changes, updates or share photos. Please request to join us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stcatherinesienacff>. Karen Galloway, our Children's Faith Formation Director, will approve your request and you'll have access to the most up-to-date information on CFF classes and any future programs. We will also launch a new Children's Faith Formation Flocknote group this fall. Details to follow soon!



Youth Faith Formation
Phil Dezern, Director
pdezern@stcatherinesiena.org

Youth Ministry Back in Full Swing!

Our Youth Ministry is finally able to meet again on a regular basis! Anyone who will be in grades 6-12 this coming school year is welcome to come. **If you have been confirmed, WE WANT YOU TO COME TOO!**

Youth Ministry helps prepare for Confirmation, but is not just a Confirmation prep program. Remember, your faith journey and education do not end with the receiving of the sacrament. Upcoming dates and times are below. A few notes about the sessions:

- We are still asking you to register with Philip by email, text, or a phone call for each session you plan to attend. This is to help with supplies and leadership needed. Philip's number is **(616) 633-0994**.
- Friends who are not Catholic are welcome to come. This is youth ministry: **all are welcome**.
- We are still asking youth to wear masks until we receive further clarification from the Diocese.
- All activities are in the Stanley Centre.
- In the schedule below, the parenthesis () are the number of hours provided for Confirmation Preparation.

Remember the following guidelines as it comes to Confirmation Preparation. You must complete 60 hours of St. Catherine youth ministry activities (starting the summer before your 7th grade year). This can be done over a two-to-five-year span. The **Confirmation Record Keeping Form** must 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 chose the sponsor (not the parents) who is at least 16 and a practicing Catholic. Remember, being a sponsor is hard work not an honorary title.

Upcoming Activities



July 25	3:30—4:45 pm (1.5)	August 8	3:30—4:45 pm (1.5)
	6:15—7:30 pm (1.5)		6:15—7:30 pm (1.5)
August 7	12:30—4:45 pm (5)	August 29	3:30—4:45 pm (1.5)
	(Movie Retreat)		6:15—7:30 pm (1.5)

News Around St. Catherine's

Donate to This Year's "Back to School" Giving Tree

The annual Back-to-School Giving Tree project is back. We will again use SignUp Genius for our lists, as we did at Christmas. Please go to our website at <https://stcatherinesiena.org/givingtrees> for the SignUp Genius lists for our Back to School charities this year. We will also have a paper list available in the vestibule with barcodes to pull up the list electronically, or to view items needed for each ministry. You may drop off your donations in the designated boxes in the vestibule. **Please label the bag or item with the organization it is designated to go to.**



- Family and Children Services – has programs including foster care and adoption, counseling, crisis intervention, and family preservation. They have a secure website: <https://www.fcsources.org/> with easy online monetary donations through Network for Good and are always in need of 'in-kind' gifts such as diaper or personal care products for their 'pantry.' In addition, they collect books and board games for the Family Center Resource Room.
- Generous Hands - benefits hungry children by strengthening their physical, emotional, nutritional, and educational well-being. They have volunteers organizing food donations at their warehouse in Vicksburg and are also collecting supplies or financial donations. <https://www.generoushands.org/ways-to-give>
- ARK – a shelter run by Catholic Charities of Diocese of Kalamazoo that provides a variety of services for runaway and homeless youth in crisis and their families. <https://ccdok.org/the-ark-shelter>
- Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries is still a resource for housing (formerly the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission) but is now a combined effort with the former Kalamazoo Deacons Conference. They utilize donations for needy families and operate Rescued Treasures located at 524 N. Burdick Street. They support children returning to school. <https://www.kzoogospel.org>
- Peace House – two families on the Eastside of Kalamazoo that support children in their neighborhood to come to safely learn and play. They have provided tutoring and other after-school programs in the past.

We appreciate your willingness to help with this project. Please bring items to the parish by the end of July for Generous Hands and by the end of August for other groups. If you want to offer help as a driver once items are collected, please send an email to **Colette** at gushursts@yahoo.com.



GriefShare Loss of Spouse Program Begins August 26

GriefShare's *Loss of Spouse* program will be held on **Thursday, August 26** from **6:30 – 8:30 pm** on Zoom. This is a single two-hour program. Register and order the booklet online at <https://www.griefshare.org/loss/events/3547>. Invite others you know who are grieving the loss of their spouse. Cost: \$5.00 for booklet.

Save the Date: GriefShare Program Begins September 2

The next 13-week GriefShare program will begin on **Thursday, September 2** from **12:30 – 2:30 pm** on Zoom. The GriefShare program is for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. The program offers information and support for you on the grief journey. Please feel free to invite others who have lost a loved one. Registration begins soon. Continue to watch the bulletin, Facebook, and our website for when the class opens online. In the meantime, please mark your calendars.



New "Scripture Study" Begins September 8



Join our new Sunday Scripture Group this fall and learn more about the weekly Sunday Scriptures starting on **Wednesday, September 8** from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Each week we will read the scriptures for the upcoming weekend Mass and look at them from three different perspectives:

1. What the world was like when the inspired writer was living and writing.
2. How they fit into the Church's Liturgical Year.
3. What do they mean for us in today's world.

We will write up a theme that we gather from these readings and discuss how they affect us. Afterwards, we will give the notes to the liturgical staff at the parish. Our input may help those who plan our liturgies by inspiring a homily or a choice in music or decorations. Our group will

become a vital part of our liturgical celebrations at St. Catherine of Siena. For more information and to register for this study, please contact **Barbara Murphy-Sanders** at bmurphysanders@gmail.com.

Spotlight on our Jenny Blomeke



The Blomeke Family joined our parish in 2010. Ben and Jenny have three children: Katherine, Andrew and Joshua. Ben and Jenny like to lead their children by example. They, and each of their family members, have stepped up to take on different roles in the parish when they are not sitting in the pew worshipping the Creator of the Universe. Different members of their family have taken on one or more of these roles: Altar Server, Children's Faith Formation, Eucharistic Minister, Choir, Gardening and Scouts. We are very grateful for their dedication to God, Our Church and our parish family!

News Around the Diocese



Many Diocesan Outreach Offices Joining Catholic Charities

On July 1, a number of pastoral ministry outreach offices from the Diocese of Kalamazoo joined the **Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo agency**. This transition will allow for an expansion of resources for Catholic Charities in the areas of immigration assistance, outreach to the Hispanic/Latino and migrant population, social services to the Benton Harbor community, as well as advocacy and programs related to pro-life and persons with disabilities issues. Read the full press release on the Diocese's website at: <https://bit.ly/DiocesanOutreachPrograms>.

St. Joseph Church Needs Musician

Opportunity for talented musician with good keyboard skills able to work with a guitar group, adult choir of 15, and an Hispanic Coro musical group. Job does not require a musical degree. Ideal candidate will need to work 25-30 hours weekly rehearsing, selecting/preparing appropriate music for Catholic worship, and providing accompaniment for weekend and other liturgical services. Opportunity is open to anyone who can provide good interpersonal skills to work with any individuals willing to sing. Salary and benefits negotiable. Contact **Janice Mackay**, Search Committee, St. Joseph Church, Kalamazoo, MI at jmack50@sbcglobal.net



Help Save the Hyde Amendment

Some powerful Members of Congress want taxpayer dollars to pay for abortion for poor women. To offer a woman a government-funded abortion, but not the resources she needs to care for her child, is not "choice" but intimidation. Government money would be better spent supporting women in crisis pregnancies and struggling new mothers than paying to end the lives of their children. Tell Congress to save the Hyde amendment: <https://bit.ly/no-taxpayer-abortion-action>.



Thank You!!

FLOCKNOTE LAUNCH/ ICE CREAM PARTY SUCCESS

Thank you to all who came out to enjoy ice cream with our priests and our Flocknote Initiative Advisory Team (FIAT) this past Sunday, July 18. It was a huge success! If you missed the party, don't worry! We are having a Parish Picnic in August. Date TBD. Stay tuned to the bulletin, Facebook, and Flocknote for more information.





Join us for an evening of prayer and fellowship!

Looking for opportunities to meet other St. Catherine parishioners, but also want to socialize? We have the perfect solution! We're proud to introduce a new program: P3—Prayer, Penance; Pub. For one hour, we will spend time in prayer and reflection in adoration, with the opportunity to go to confession at the same time. Before the hour is up, a priest or deacon will give a short speech on a topic of their choice. Afterwards, for those who wish to, we will join up at a local pub for a buy-your-own-drink to discuss the talk and have the opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners.

All are welcome!

Friday, July 30 ~ St. Catherine of Siena Main Church

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 7:00-7:45pm: | Eucharistic Adoration with confessions available |
| 7:45-8:00pm: | Meditation and Benediction by Deacon Brian |
| 8:00 pm: | Reposition |

Then join us at **One Well Brewery**, 4213 Portage Street, Kalamazoo for some time at the pub.

QUESTIONS? JOIN RCIA!

INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH? HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHURCH? CONTACT US
TODAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR RCIA PROGRAM!

FR. MARK

FATHERMARK@STCATHERINESIENA.ORG

(269) 327-5165

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Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: July 24, Vigil of the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Jane Steimle†

SUNDAY: July 25, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:42-44; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:00 am Erica Jorg Hilbert†

11:00 am Christopher Clark†

5:00 pm For those who have experienced abortion that they receive God's mercy

MONDAY: July 26, Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Mt 13:31-35

9:15 am Elizabeth Agnone†

TUESDAY: July 27

Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Mt 13:36-43

9:15 am Lianne Arthurs †

WEDNESDAY: July 28

Ex 34:29-35; Mt 13:44-46

9:15 am Bernadine Gushurst†

THURSDAY: July 29, Memorial of Saint Martha

Ex 40: 16-21, 34-38; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

9:15 am Msgr. Eugene Sears

FRIDAY: July 30, Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Mt 13:54-58

9:15 am Deacon Eugenio Aleman †

SATURDAY: July 31, Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Lv 25:1, 8-17; Mt 14:1-12

9:15 am Deacon Howard Whitehouse †

SATURDAY: July 31, Vigil of the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Bill Barnes†

SUNDAY: August 1, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35

7:30 am Robert Hartley†

9:00 am People of the Parish

11:00 am Robert Putnam†

5:00 pm Betty O'Conner†

Staff Contacts

* On furlough (unpaid leave);

Other lay staff hours have been reduced

Administrative Assistant

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

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@stcatherinesiena.org

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