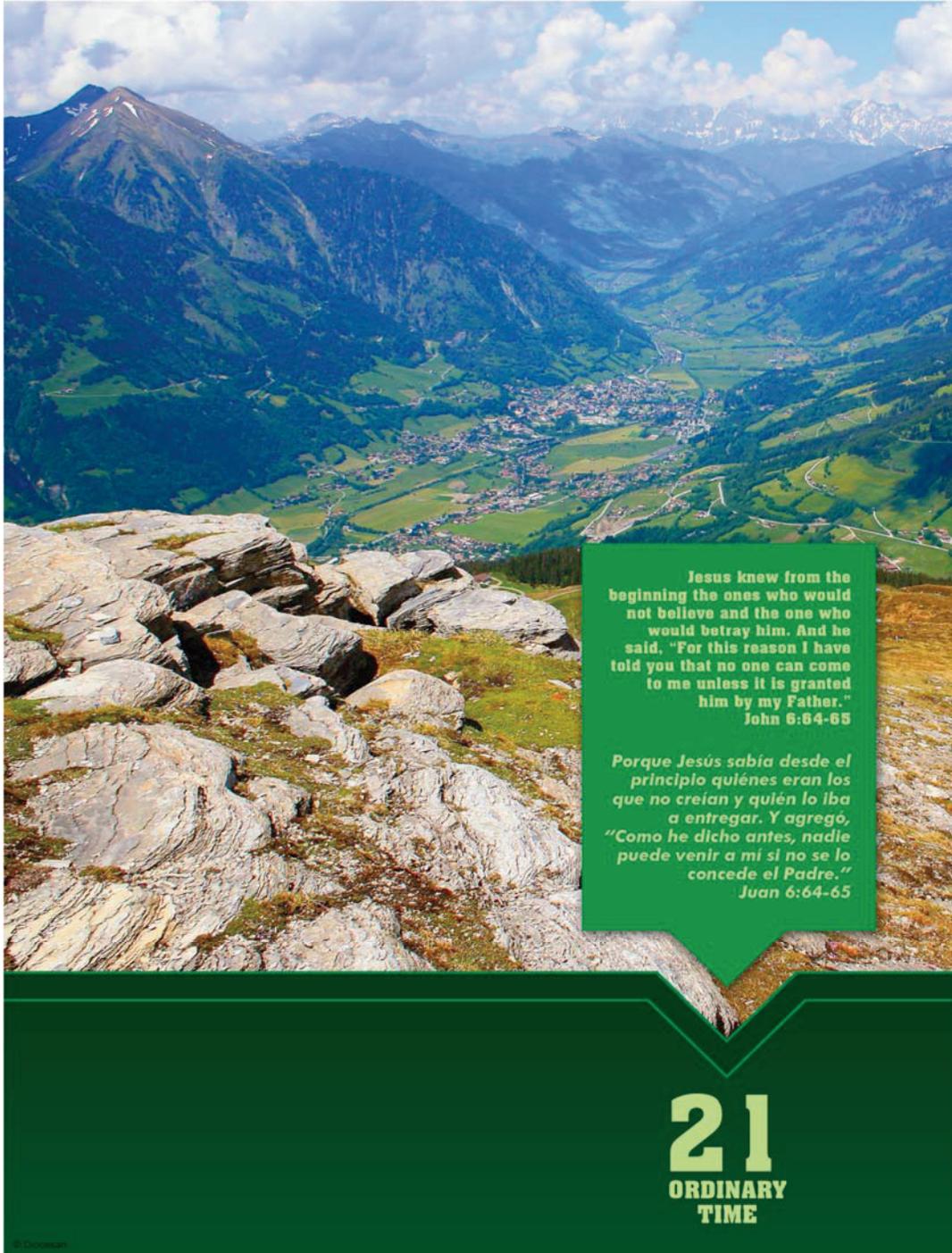


St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."
John 6:64-65

Porque Jesús sabía desde el principio quiénes eran los que no creían y quién lo iba a entregar. Y agregó, "Como he dicho antes, nadie puede venir a mí si no se lo concede el Padre."
Juan 6:64-65

21
ORDINARY
TIME

August 22, 2021
21st 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,

You may have noticed that my profile picture on my column has changed again. It's construction time in Marian Hall and in particular, the renovation of the kitchen. The hard hat is from one of my former parish renovation projects. After the initial planning and donations for this project were led by Fr. Ken, I had to pause the project during the days of the shutdown and the uncertainty that followed. We were finally able to

put this project back on track. Just a few weeks ago, we received our final approvals from the City of Portage to start the project. Demolition has been done and the different trades have been in to start on their area of the project.

Of course, everyone wants to know when construction is going to wrap up and we can begin using Marian Hall and the kitchen again. We will have to wait several more weeks before we can begin to answer this question because we know that everything takes a little longer now. As we reach some significant points in construction, I'll make sure to keep you informed. In one of my future columns, I will introduce you to the scope of work that is being done and what to expect to see when we re-open this area.

Everyone is invited to a special Mass for the Jubilee year of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, celebrated at the Cathedral on August 28, the Feast of St. Augustine, at 10:00 am.

It's Picnic Day! Please come and join us this Sunday afternoon, August 22, for our Parish Picnic! Food will be served from 12:30 –2:30 pm in the Stanley Centre. There will be games and other fun events until 3:30 pm. Hope you can attend!

Thanks for reading!
Fr. Mark

Stewardship

Collections August 2-8, 2021:	\$31,517
Collections August 3-9, 2020:	\$32,113
2021-2022 Year to Date Actuals:	\$154,865
2020-2021 Year to Date Actuals:	\$137,611

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.

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, 9:00, 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	

Visit Our Website: www.stcatherinesiena.org

Follow Us On Facebook: facebook.com/stcatherinesiena

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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

Joshua 24:1-2a,15-17,18b

Joshua and the people declare that they will serve the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 34:2-3,16-17,18-19,20-21

The Lord hears the cries of the just.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:21-32 (or shorter form Ephesians 5:2a,25-32)

Husbands and wives should love one another as Christ loves the Church.

Gospel Reading

John 6:60-69

Simon Peter confesses his faith that Jesus alone has the words of the eternal life.

Background on the Gospel Reading

For our Gospel today we hear the conclusion of the “Bread of Life discourse” in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. In the preceding verses, which we have heard proclaimed in our liturgy over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus explain that he is the Bread of Life, given so that those who believe may have eternal life. This discourse follows the miracle in which Jesus fed more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish. As Jesus has been teaching these things, John’s Gospel describes a murmuring crowd unable to accept Jesus’ words. In today’s Gospel, the crowd has dwindled in number, and John no longer references them, or the Jews. Instead John describes the questioning of those considered to be Jesus’ own disciples.

Today’s Gospel first records the response of those in the crowd who are described as Jesus’ disciples. Just as the larger crowd had struggled with Jesus’ teaching, these disciples also cannot accept Jesus’ words. Jesus is said to know about their murmuring. He responds by acknowledging their unbelief and by reiterating that only those chosen by the Father will follow Jesus to the end. John’s Gospel reports that many of those who had been Jesus’ disciples ceased to follow him at this point. The number of people following Jesus dwindled from a crowd of more than 5,000 to only 12 people. And it is to these Twelve that Jesus now turns his attention.

Simon Peter’s response to Jesus’ question as to whether those closest to him will also leave, reminds us of the reports of Peter’s confession of faith in the Synoptic Gospels. Peter announces, on behalf of all the Twelve, that they have come to believe all that Jesus has taught about himself: Jesus is the one from God in whom they have found the path to eternal life.

This conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse focuses on personal faith in the life of Christian discipleship. Each person must make his or her own judgment about who Jesus is and in doing so determine the way of life that he or she will follow. God’s grace invites us to be Jesus’ disciples, but each person must respond to the grace of God and confess as his or her own the belief that Jesus is the one from God. This faith then commits us to the path of life, leading us to eternal life.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/21st-sunday-of-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

LOYOLAPRESS.

Reflection on the Readings

Today’s Gospel reading comes again from the Gospel of John. On previous Sundays we have focused on the Bread of Life Discourse where Jesus has insisted that His disciples must eat His flesh and drink His blood. “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.” But in today’s Gospel, Jesus observes that many are murmuring about this difficult mystery and even begin to turn away and leave Him. Jesus turns to His twelve apostles and asks a key question, “Do you also want to leave? Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” Nearly 2,000 years later, we still have those who murmur and even walk away from the Church. Sometimes we are not certain what our lives mean or in what direction they are going. Especially in dark and difficult times, maybe our own doubts overwhelm us and we would like to just give up. And yet, just as Peter responded, where else can we go? Jesus is asking us to trust Him in faith. Do we have the courage to keep walking with Him even when there are no miracles happening, even if we desperately need one? Ponder these things in your heart.

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.



ANNUAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

June 30, 2021

It goes without saying that the year 2020 was a difficult year for all of us. As a parish, our attendance numbers declined greatly, nearly all activities suspended entirely, and the need for social distancing required Masses to be celebrated in multiple locations. As our attendance numbers dropped and activities were postponed, the pandemic created financial challenges for our parish.

In March 2020, at the start of the pandemic, Sunday collections and other revenue sources were unexpectedly interrupted. This came at a time when our reserve funds were low due to significant roof repair costs. We would like to use this opportunity to let the parish know our financial situation as of June 20, 2021. Please review the following information on our Statement of Income and Expenses, and our Balance Sheet. We welcome your comments. Contact **Alan DeMars** at ademars@stcatherinesiena.org or **Father Mark** at FatherMark@stcatherinesiena.org for further information or to share your comments.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

	7/1/18 -6/30/19	7/1/19 - 6/30/20	7/1/20 - 6/30/21
Revenues:			
Sunday Collections	\$1,488,119	\$1,440,399	\$1,344,234
Holy Day Collections	66,681	81,634	83,486
Miscellaneous Revenues	118,378	101,086	21,629
Investment Gains/Losses	17,713	3,069	30,877
Planned Giving, Memorial & Other Gifts	159,061	144,582	31,519
BAA Refund	0	0	119,098
Revenues to Support Operations	\$1,849,952	\$1,770,770	\$1,630,843
Debt Reduction Gifts	14,433	14,571	50,673
Pass Through Payments	204,590	93,324	304,616
Total Revenues	\$2,068,975	\$1,878,665	\$1,986,132
Expenses:			
Clergy, Admin & Ministry Salaries	\$668,064	\$608,637	\$390,791
Employee Benefits and Parish Insurance	151,973	157,079	104,299
Daily Parish Operations	153,038	181,903	105,416
Facilities & Maintenance Expenses	246,412	237,005	218,995
Religious Education	29,492	14,205	33
Loan Interest	90,674	62,163	41,885
Catholic Schools Support	260,302	260,301	234,276
Subtotal Operational Expenses	\$1,599,954	\$1,521,294	\$1,095,695
Pass Through Expenditures	234,274	148,785	304,119
Capital Expenditures	57,473	80,026	223,761
Total Expenses	\$1,891,702	\$1,750,106	\$1,623,575
Excess/Shortfall Revenues over Expenditures	\$177,273	\$128,559	\$362,557

Notice our significant reduction in operating revenues over the past two years. This was offset, in part, by the \$119,098 in Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA) payments paid back to our parish by the Diocese this past year. We also experienced a substantial reduction in operating expenses resulting from staffing changes, reduced hours, the suspension of in-person ministry programs, lower payments for Catholic school support, and a reduction in our mortgage interest rate.

BALANCE SHEET

	6/30/2020	6/30/2021
<u>Assets</u>		
Parish Operating Account	\$197,413	\$100,041
Restricted Funds - Ministries & Miscellaneous	35,317	13,794
Restricted Funds - Contingencies	20,000	50,000
Restricted Funds - Short Term Capital Needs & Emergencies	185,968	266,840
Restricted Funds - Long Term Capital Needs & Emergencies	255,850	782,833
Total Assets	<u>\$694,547</u>	<u>\$1,213,508</u>
<u>Liabilities and Equity</u>		
Accounts Payable	106,024	106,024
Loans from the Diocese	1,466,529	1,622,933
Total Liabilities	<u>\$1,572,553</u>	<u>\$1,728,957</u>
Excess of Income/Expense current year	128,559	362,557
Prior Year End Balance	-1,006,564	-878,005
Total Parish Equity	<u>-\$878,005</u>	<u>-\$515,449</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$694,547</u>	<u>\$1,213,508</u>

As shown above, we have increased the parish's reserve savings considerably over the past year. The increase in these reserves is due to:

- higher net income resulting from the significant reductions in operating expenses, and the generous parishioner support of the BAA and the subsequent payments back to our parish by the Diocese
- \$106,000 in loan proceeds from the government sponsored Payroll Protection Program
- additional borrowing from the Diocese to fund roof repairs

Looking to the future, we anticipate the coming years will continue to prove challenging as we address the maintenance of our aging buildings and our need to replace older equipment. We have also begun to reduce our mortgage debt by \$12,300 monthly. We hope to see collections return to previous levels as we attempt to find replacements for other sources of income that have ceased or been reduced.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish and our activities. We truly could not do all that we do without the support of our generous parishioners here at St. Catherine's. As stated in the beginning of this report, we welcome your comments. Contact **Alan DeMars** at ademars@stcatherinesiena.org or **Father Mark** at FatherMark@stcatherinesiena.org for more information about this Annual Report.

Faith Formation



CFF is Back this Fall!



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



Children's Faith Formation (CFF) Classes are open for registration! This year, we are offering online AND in-person classes for first grade through fifth grade. If all students who register for grades 1-5 have classroom space and Catechists to teach the class, we will be able to open registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. Contact Karen for more details on the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. At this time, we are following the

recommendations of the Pediatric doctors and the CDC for youth to wear masks when they are in classes. Online registration forms are on our website at <https://stcatherinesiena.org/cffclasses>. **Classes begin Sunday, September 12.**

We Need NEW and Returning Catechists!

We're so excited to welcome our CFF children back this fall to in-person classes. We hope to welcome back all former catechists and meet some new ones too. We expect class numbers to be higher than ever. If you have the desire to work with children one day a week, or even one day here and there, please let us know! Grades first through fifth are available. Pre-K and Kindergarten may be an option as well. Contact **Karen Galloway** at cff@stcatherinesiena.org.



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

In-Person and Online Youth Faith Formation Available!

Anyone who will be in grades 6-12 this coming school year are welcome to come. **If you have been confirmed, WE WANT YOU TO COME!** 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.

We will be offering many program options. On-Line and In-Person

You can do both the online and the in-person at the same time. Both programs will provide individuals hours for Confirmation.

Online Diocesan Program: <http://www.diokzoo.org/theway>

Do this program at your own pace. Go to the website above. Click the lesson you want to do. Watch the videos. Find the grade that is appropriate. 9th-12th grade Candidates use the 8th grade module. At the end of each session are questions. Write an answer to 4 of the questions listed. Turn those into Philip Dezern and you will get one hour of credit towards Confirmation, per session of questions you complete. You can email or mail these to Philip Dezern. You can turn these in after each session, monthly, or after all sessions are completed. Please put your name top of the sheet and the grade you are in, as well as session topic.

In-Person Program: Check the bulletin for dates for activities

We are not guaranteeing we will be offering in-person activities every month. You will register with Philip Dezern by email, phone call, or text per session.

Masks are required for all in-person activities.

Upcoming Activities:

August 29

3:30 - 4:45 pm (1.5)
 or
 6:15 - 7:30 pm (1.5)

Meet in the Stanley Centre

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

**ST. CATHERINE'S
PARISH PICNIC**

**THIS
WEEKEND**

**August 22
12:30 - 3:30 pm
Stanley Centre**

**Lunch provided.
DUE TO COVID,
NOT A POTLUCK.**

**Join us for Games, Raffle Prizes and More!
No beer tent this year - we couldn't get the permit in time.**

News Around St. Catherine's

Knights of Columbus Golf Outing August 28

There's still time to join the 12th Annual St. Catherine's Golf Outing, sponsored by our Knights of Columbus, on **Saturday, August 28 at Pineview Golf Course**. Registration begins at 8:00 am and shot gun starts is at 9:00 am. Men, Women or Mixed teams available. Entry fee is \$65 per person and dinner is \$25. Entry fee includes golf and riding cart. If you're interested in signing up, or have any questions, contact **Bob Hamman at (269) 988-4956**.



Back to School Giving Tree Drive Ends August 31

Our annual Back-to-School Giving Tree project ends August 31. Please remember to bring your items by August 31, preferably earlier if possible. We always need volunteers to help sort and deliver items. If you would like to volunteer to help with this project, please contact **Colette Gushurst at gushursts@yahoo.com**. Thank you in advance for your assistance and generosity!

Join Women of the Word This Fall

Come join us this Fall for a 12 week study on "Lectio: Eucharist" by the Augustine Institute. Weekly in person meetings are Thursdays from 10:00 am—12:00 pm starting September 23 or Sundays from 6:00-8:00 pm starting September 26. We are also offering a virtual group option on Thursday mornings via Zoom. A "Young Mom" group is also offered during the Thursday mornings meetings. We will be in person at St. Catherine's unless COVID rules change; we have the option to become completely virtual again. Book costs \$15, but financial assistance is available. Registration weekend is September 11 & 12 after all the Masses. Payment will be taken at time of registering. Online registration is at Signup Genius at <https://bit.ly/WOW2021-2022>. For registration questions contact **Katie Packard at km_packard@hotmail.com**. For more information about WoW or this study, please contact **Janet Wheeler at rwhee28934@aol.com**.



St. Catherine of Siena Music News

CHOIR IS BACK!



Hello, Church Family!

I'm so excited to let you know that the Adult Choir at St. Catherine's will resume very soon! Rehearsals begin on Thursday, August 26, and will run from 6:30-8:30 pm. If you are interested in joining this fun and worshipful group, please email me at ttetzlaff@stcatherinesiena.org to ensure that there is a folder of music ready for you.

Sadly, because of Covid, we will not be able to resume Young Adult Praise and Upper Harmony Children's Choir yet, but I hope that isn't too terribly far off.

I know everyone is loving being able to sing the Mass parts again. I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to hear the congregation participating! I also know that many parishioners would like to have music to follow, and I would like that as well. This is a work in progress; Father Mark and I see this period of returning to singing in Mass as an opportunity to make some welcome changes that will optimize congregational participation for years to come. We have been discussing options that will eliminate both the weekly waste of worship aids and the need for someone to run screens. After discussion and research, we both agree that a hymnal with readings and music will be the perfect tool for optimal congregation participation. We will be getting these hymnals in the next couple of months, and we appreciate your patience as we await their arrival.

The past year and a half has been a wild ride for all of us, and I doubt that we have seen the end of the loops and spins. But God is good and in control, and we will keep marching (and singing) on.

**Blessings to all,
~Tricia**

**SAINT
CATHERINE
of SIENA**

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

**SAINT
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of **SIENA**

1150 WEST CENTRE AVENUE
PORTAGE, MI 49024
(269) 327-5165
FRONTDESK@STCATHERINESIENA.ORG

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: August 21, Vigil of The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Bill Barnes†

SUNDAY: August 22, The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32;
Jn 6:60-69

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:00 am Robert Ostrowski†

11:00 am Atkinson Family Deceased†

5:00 pm For all new mothers and fathers

MONDAY: August 23, Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin

1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Mt 23:13-22

9:15 am Sandra Allard†

TUESDAY: August 24, Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

Rv 21:9b-14; Jn 1:45-51

9:15 am Mike O'Neill†

WEDNESDAY: August 25, Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest

1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32

9:15 am Thomas Kurian †

THURSDAY: August 26

1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51

9:15 am 60th Wedding Anniversary of Don & Pauline
Bowers

FRIDAY: August 27, Memorial of Saint Monica

1 Thes 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13

9:15 am Rosemary Bastos †

SATURDAY: August 28, Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Thes 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30

9:15 am Marianne Verner's Birthday

SATURDAY: August 28, Vigil of The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Eileen Tobin † Augustina Sandoval Zagal †

SUNDAY: August 29, The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

7:30 am Jun-Lee Pangilinan

9:00 am Joseph Nespodzany Sr. †

11:00 am George Rehe†

5:00 pm People of the Parish

Staff Contacts

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
Paula Hudson / 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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