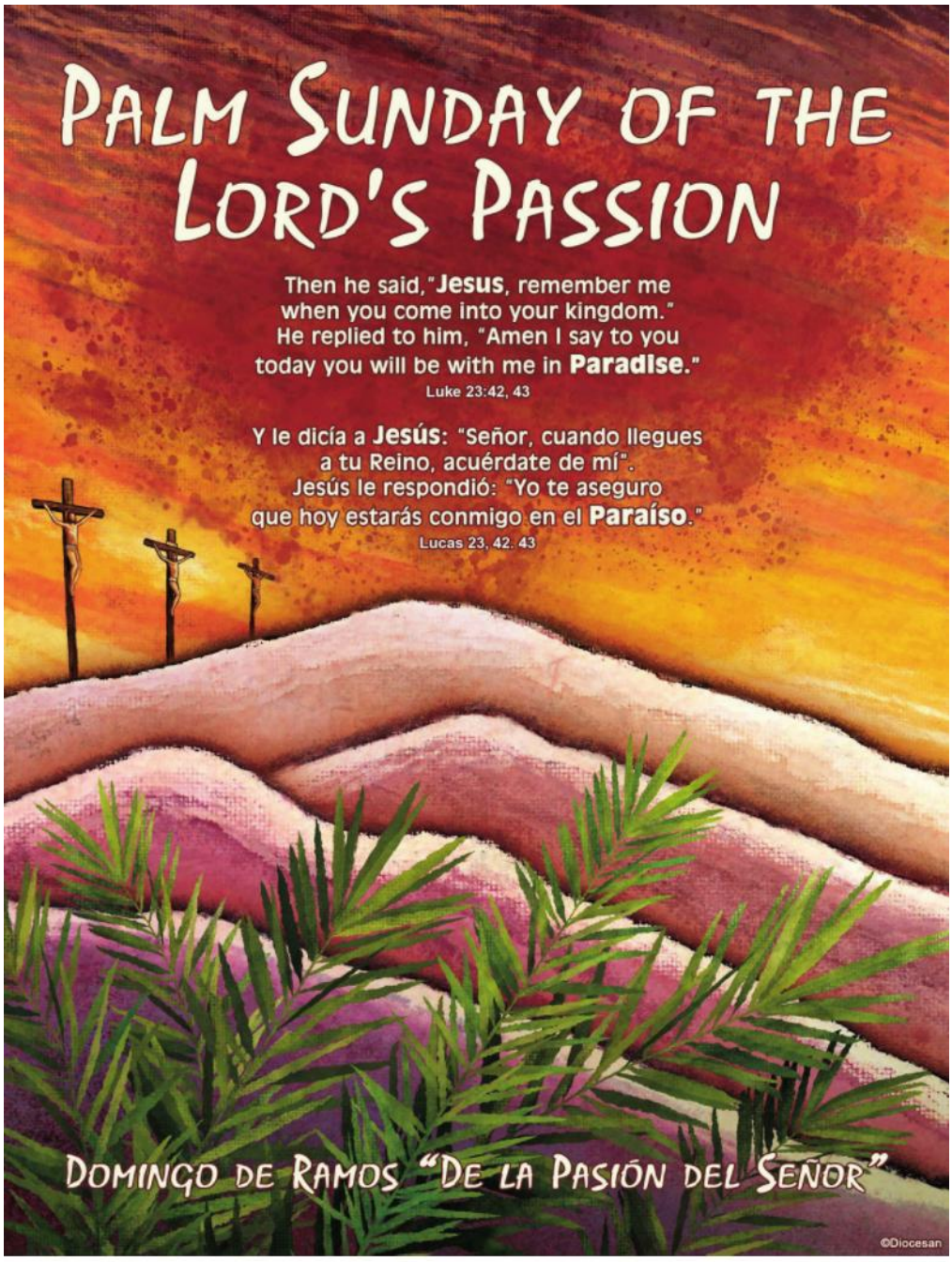
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



April 2, 2023
Palm Sunday

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

Dear Parishioners,

Palm Sunday: The day that so many people recognized Jesus as the Christ. He was welcomed into Jerusalem. Yet days later, he would be led to the Cross to suffer and die for us. Even 2,000 years ago, we see how quickly the world can turn against God and not recognize the love of God at work in the world.

As we begin this Holy Week, let us turn our attention to Christ this week and what He has done for us. See the great love that He has for us and for the world. Ponder how this love is everlasting by participating in the many special liturgies of this Holy Week: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Mass on Easter Sunday. If you are seeking confession this week, we will have some additional times after the Good Friday service and will also have confessions on Holy Saturday morning as well. Continue to renew your faith during these holiest of days.

We also have some special family activities planned for Holy Saturday. The Blessing of Easter Baskets will take place, as well as a special pre-Easter brunch, and an Easter Egg hunt. Please check the bulletin for more information.

Have a blessed Holy Week!
Fr. Mark

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays from 11:00 am—12:00 pm,
Trinity Chapel/GLP
If this time does not work for you, call our Front Office to schedule an appointment with a priest.

Front Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Phone: (269) 327-5165 **Fax:** (269) 327-7266
Email: Office@stcatherinesiena.org

Text to Give: (844) 311-5105
www.stcatherinesiena.org
facebook.com/stcatherinesiena
stcatherinesiena.flocknote.com
prayers@stcatherinesiena.org, (269) 978-2344, or https://stcatherinesiena.org/prayerrequest

Stewardship

Mar. 13-19, 2023	**Envelopes & Loose Donations**	$11,524
	Electronic Giving	**$12,703**
		$24,227
Mar. 14-20, 2022	Envelopes & Loose Donations	$14,082
	Electronic Giving	$12,618
		$26,700
2023 Year to Date	**$1,127,847**	
2022 Year to Date	$1,051,915	

Thank you all for your continued generosity!

If you are interested in membership or volunteering, please contact our Front Office today!
Office@stcatherinesiena.org or 327-5165.

Calendar of Events

Calendar events subject to change!

Sunday, April 2, 2023

7:30 am KofC Food Drive, Narthex
7:30 am Mass, Church
8:30 am Coffee and Donuts, Marian Hall
9:00 am Mass, Church
11:00 am Mass, Church
5:00 pm Mass, Church
6:00 pm WOW, Canceled

Monday, April 3, 2023

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
11:30 am Primetimers, Rykse's
7:00 pm Catholic Men's Fellowship, GLP

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:45 am Rosary, Trinity Chapel
6:00 pm Chrism Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral
6:30 pm GriefShare Meeting, GWR
6:30 pm KofC Rosary, Fellowship
7:00 pm KofC Business Meeting, Fellowship

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
6:30 pm Penance Service at St. Augustine Cathedral
7:00 pm Scripture Study, Zoom

Thursday, April 6, 2023

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
7:00 pm Holy Thursday Mass, Church
8:30 pm Adoration, Marian Hall
9:00 pm Art & Environment Decorating, Church

Friday, April 7, 2023

Front Office Closed

1:00 pm Good Friday Service, Church
2:30 pm Reconciliation, GLP, Trinity Chapel
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross, Church

Saturday, April 8, 2023

7:30 am Catholic Men's Fellowship, Rooms 9/11
9:00 am Art & Environment Decorating, Church
10:00 am KofC Food Drive, Marian Hall
10:00 am Blessing of the Baskets, Marian Hall
11:00 am Reconciliation, GLP & Trinity Chapel
2:45 pm Siena's Rehearsal, Church, Choir Room
9:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass, Church

Reflection on the Readings

A little over five weeks ago we started Lent with good intentions to make this Lent our best ever. In reality, has it passed by with only token gestures of repentance and sacrifice? Either way, let us be determined to make the most of Holy Week by focusing on the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a disturbing and unsettling story. It is a reading that if we did not know the glorious and joyful outcome of Easter morning, we would likely not want to read at all! At the very start of today's Gospel from Matthew, we learn that Judas has laid his plan for his betrayal of Jesus. Jesus then warns His disciples of his imminent death and how their faith will be shaken. From there it gets worse. Clueless disciples fall asleep while Jesus prays in agony. Judas betrays Jesus for silver. Peter denies Him three times. The Sanhedrin call for Jesus' death and an ambivalent Pilate acquiesces to the demands of the crowd. Then comes the beating and humiliation of Jesus by the soldiers and, finally, His terrible suffering and death on the cross. When we finish the story, we quite understandably desire to leave this ugly scene and move on to the joy of Easter morning. We want to experience the good news of Jesus' resurrection and reappearance to His disciples. And that is truly Good News. But wait, maybe before we rush back to our busy lives, we should spend more time this Holy Week at the Crucifix! Maybe we should stay a while longer with Christ crucified. For here is where the incarnate God paid the price for our sins. Forgiveness costs and Jesus paid the ultimate price for us. They were our sins Jesus bore upon that cross. Yes, Christianity is about the joy of the resurrection. But let's not rush too fast to Easter this week. While there is nothing wrong with candy, egg hunts and new outfits, as disciples we too are called to pick up our own crosses and follow the path of Jesus. May we remember throughout this Holy Week what God did for each of us. St. Paul says it best, "For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." (2 Corinthians 5:21) This is why we call it Good Friday.

Reflection by parishioner, Dale Gerber

News Around St. Catherine

Last Monday, March 20, our Children's Faith Formation hosted an opportunity for families who wanted to learn about Stations of the Cross. Faith Formation Director, George Dragan, talked about the history, meaning and importance of this traditional Lenten devotion, then led all present in the devotion itself, explaining how the devotion is done, and providing a reflection and prayer for each station. He was assisted by the Homan family boys, Keegan, Kelton, and Silas, who acted as servers for each Station. Thank you to the almost 200 parishioners who attended this event!

Easter Ushers Needed

We are expecting many to attend our Easter Masses, and we need your help! Volunteer to Usher at one of our Easter Sunday Masses (7:00 am, 9:00 am or 11:00 am). Please reach out to Alana Murray today at amurray@stcatherinesiena.org or 327.5165 x 133. Thank you for your help!

Weekly Rosary on Tuesdays

Don't forget, Karen Zawadzki is leading a weekly rosary after Daily Mass on Tuesdays in Trinity Chapel.
NO commitment is necessary. All are welcome to join! We hope to see you there!

Respect Life's: Spiritual Adoption Series - Month 5 "It's a Boy!"

Yay- I am half-way there and just over one pound! I am now about the size of a banana. At this stage of development, its time for an ultra-sound. Big news, Mommy just found out that I am a boy! That must be a good thing, because I can hear that she is really happy! I can't wait to meet her! I am getting bigger everyday. If I was born today, I would have a chance of surviving... with lots of help, of course. I thank you for your prayers. They helped my mother with her pregnancy and helped her seek the support she needs the past few months since she learned about me.

"See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand" Deuteronomy 32:39

Mrs. Foley's Pre-K/K Class after making crafts for St. Patrick's Day. Great job, kids!

From left to right

Simon Bergevin, Maxwell Foley, Hank Montmorency, Bentley Beers, Kate Jones, Molly Mucha, and Graham Kindle

News Around the Diocese

Catholic Charities Bread of Life Food Program

Catholic Charities' Bread of Life Food Program provides free food weekly to families in need. There are no income requirements. A little bit goes a long way, just $20 will feed three families! Please consider donating today at https://www.ccdok.org/donate-today/. Additionally, during Lent we are running a "Text to Give" campaign to raise funds for families. All you need to do is text the word **BREAD** to 50155. Thank you for your continual generosity and support.

Thank You from St. Augustine

Thank you to all who helped make the Once in a Blue Moon Sale a success! Because of your generous donations, St. Augustine received over $20,000 for its PTO programs, a record for the sale's 27-year history! Note that all unsold items go to charity groups. If you know of any groups that may benefit from leftover clothing or household items from future sales, please contact St. Augustine school at (269) 349-1945.

St. Monica 'Kids Klub' Employees Needed

St. Monica Catholic School is looking to hire several responsible individuals to work in their after-school care program, Kids' Klub, for this year and next. Employees are needed every day of the week during the school year, Monday – Friday, from 3:00-5:30 pm to help supervise students on school grounds. Interested candidates must be at least 16 years of age. Contact Clare czemlick@stmonicakzoo.org with your resume. Thank you!

New Foundation Director - Keith Tharp

Keith Tharp has accepted the position of Foundation Director for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Keith brings a wealth of professional experience to this position. He has been working extensively in the Lansing Diocese. Keith will begin working full-time for the Diocese of Kalamazoo on June 19, 2023. Prior to that date he will be working on a part-time/ consulting basis attending meetings and getting to know the needs of the Foundation while he transitions away from his current role in Lansing. Welcome Keith!

Knights of Columbus®

FOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting food items on Saturday and Sunday, April 1 & 2 before and after all weekend Masses in the Narthex. Additionally, the Knights will be collecting food on April 8, during the Holy Saturday Brunch in Marian Hall.

Blessings, Bunnies and Brunch

Holy Saturday, April 8th @ 10am

Come have your Easter Baskets blessed with the food and treats for your Easter celebration.

St. Catherine's wants to start a new tradition, one borrowed from the Polish and Slavic Churches. Please bring your basket loaded with the foods you will serve for Easter dinner so that Fr. Tom can bless them.

Some traditional items you might want to include:

Salt - to remind Christians that they are to "season" the Earth
Candle - symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World
Easter Eggs - symbolizing our new life in Christ
Bread - symbolizing Jesus, the Bread of Life
Meat - symbolizing abundance
Ribbons - symbolizing joy and celebration
Cheese, Butter lamb, Fruits, Candies, Horseradish

Donations welcome but all events are free!
Please RSVP at stcatherinesiena.org for all events so we know how many eggs and pancakes to make!

After the blessing of the baskets please join us for a

Easter Brunch

Pancakes with a topping bar and Sausage
10 am - 12 pm

Easter Egg Hunt
Toddler - 5th Grade

We will have split age groups hunting for eggs

Fr. Ben tossed in some special shinny Eggs filled with $$$
Starts at 11:30 am

NO NEED TO ARRIVE EARLY THIS YEAR...

WIN A ROW FOR EASTER!

You can win one row for your family (or friends!) this Easter Sunday, April 9. One pew near the front of the sanctuary will be reserved for each winner.

Table will be set up in the narthex to purchase your raffle tickets after Mass on March 19, 26 and April 2.

Tickets are $1 each, NO limit! Cash and check only. You must be 18 or older to purchase. Two winners per Easter Sunday Mass. Limit one Mass winner per family. Winners will be notified on April 3.

Funds raised will go toward the purchase and maintenance of new projectors in our main sanctuary.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST. CATHERINE'S!
LICENSE X08303

a guide to HOLY WEEK

By Melinda McPherson

Though chronologically three days, the PASCHAL TRIDUUM is one liturgical day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery

Holy Thursday

Jesus celebrates the Last Supper with his Apostles

Jesus institutes the Eucharist and constitutes the Apostles as priests

Displaying great humility, Jesus washes the feet of his Apostles

Gives *mandatum*, command to love one another as he has loved them

During the agony in the garden, he accepts God's will, then is arrested

At the end of Mass the altar is stripped and all decorations are covered or removed. Even the tabernacle is emptied and all consecrated hosts are moved to an Altar of Repose to mimic the absence and loss felt by the disciples during Jesus' agony and death.

No final blessing as the liturgical day continues

Make a pilgrimage to visit seven churches in your area

Spend an hour in adoration

Palm Sunday

People of Jerusalem welcome Jesus as king as he triumphantly enters the city

Crowd waves palms and lays cloaks on the ground before him

Jesus rides in on a donkey to fulfill Old Testament prophecies

The liturgy begins with blessing of palms, an extra reading about Jesus' entry into Jesusalem, and a procession while the congregation waves palms to play the part of the crowds

Take the palms and place them in your home or workplace as a witness to faith in Jesus' Paschal Victory

Put yourself in the shoes of the people who first welcomed Christ as king, but in a matter of days, called for his crucifixion

Good Friday

While Jesus was being questioned, Peter denies him three times

Pilate has Jesus scourged and a crown of thorns put on his head

Jesus carries his own cross to Calvary, where he is crucified

With the words, "It is finished," Jesus dies and darkness descends

Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb

This is the only day of the year where no Masses are celebrated, and no sacraments are performed, unless it's an emergency

Candles are only lit during the liturgy when the Eucharist is present and during the Veneration of the Cross

Fasting and abstinence from meat

Pray the Stations of the Cross

Maintain silence during the hours Jesus was on the cross

Easter Sunday

Jesus rises, conquering death, and opening the path to new life!

Empty tomb is found first by the holy women, then by Peter and John

Jesus appears to multiple groups of disciples, they see and believe

Catechumens receive sacraments of initiation, and the whole congregation renews baptismal vows

We sing Alleluia again for the first time since the beginning of Lent

The new Paschal candle is carried into the church and the congregations' candles are lit from it

Take part in a festive gathering with family and friends to honor this day as the highest of feasts

Start by blessing the table and home with holy water from the Easter Mass

Keep the celebration going during the Octave of Easter for eight days, and the Easter season for 50 days until Pentecost

What Happened That Day

What You'll See at Church

How to Live Out the Day

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Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: April 1, Vigil of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
4:00 pm Coletta Dubray †
SUNDAY: April 2 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54
7:30 am Stanley Cipkus
9:00 am Matt Stempihar †
5:00 pm Fred Simon †
11:00 am People of the Parish

MONDAY: April 3, Monday of Holy Week
Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11 Mk 6:53-56
9:15 am Richard Bush †
TUESDAY: April 4, Tuesday of Holy Week
Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
9:15 am Brendan Coyle †
WEDNESDAY: April 5, Wednesday of Holy Week
Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25
9:15 am Toni Kowalski †
THURSDAY: April 6, Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)
Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21 (260)
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/ 1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
7:00 pm Coletta Dubray †
FRIDAY: April 7, Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
No Masses
1:00 pm Good Friday Service
SATURDAY: April 8, Holy Saturday
9:15 am No Mass

SATURDAY: April 8, Easter Vigil
Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ex 14:15—15:1/Is 54:5-14/Is 55:1-11/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Rom 6:3-11/Mt 28:1-10
9:00 pm People of the Parish
SUNDAY: April 9, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
7:00 am People of the Parish
9:00 am People of the Parish
11:00 am People of the Parish
5:00 pm No Mass

Staff Contacts

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accounting@stcatherinesiena.org
Alan DeMars / (269) 978-2338
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Paula White (volunteer) / (269) 330-3762

Clergy Contacts

Fr. Mark Vyverman	fathermark@
Fr. Benedict Anthonysamy	fatherbenedict@
Fr. Ben Huynh	fatherben@
Fr. Tom McNally	fathertom@
Deacon Brian	deaconbrian@
Deacon Ron	deaconronald@

All clergy contacts are @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

One Sunday morning my sister Liz was surprised to receive a phone call from her minister. He reported that he'd just been in a minor car accident and asked if she could inform the congregation he'd be unable to conduct services that day. Liz was flattered that out of the entire congregation, she was the one he had called—until the minister went on to say that since Liz was always the last to arrive at church, he knew she would be the only person he could still reach at home.

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

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