

# St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



**December 10, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**1150 West Centre Ave. • Portage, MI • [www.stcatherinesiena.org](http://www.stcatherinesiena.org) • (269) 327-5165**

**In case of after-hours emergency, death, or danger of death, please call: (269) 598-0357**

Dear Parishioners,

It's the Second Sunday of Advent and we are only two weeks away from Christmas Eve! Wait a minute, how can this be? This year, it's a "short" Advent season. We literally only have three full weeks of Advent plus a few hours. Yes, it's true: Two weeks from this Sunday, it's not only the 4th Sunday of Advent, but it's Christmas Eve!



PAGE 2

Yes, this is the confusing year on the Liturgical Calendar. Having done this several times now in my time as a priest, it doesn't really get any easier to explain this. That is why there is a special graphic from the Diocese in the bulletin today (and next week) to remind everyone of what to do in 2023.

In short, everyone still has the obligation to attend one of the Sunday Masses on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 24th (the Vigil on Saturday night on the 23rd or the morning Masses on Sunday the 24th) and a Christmas Mass. The expectation is that a person will attend two masses (one for Advent, one for Christmas) between the 23rd of December to the 25th of December. Due to this unusual combination, the Sunday evening Masses will actually be vigil Masses for Christmas. Attending a Christmas Mass will not fulfill your obligation of attending a Sunday Mass.

It's a good thing we don't have to worry about this every year! I looked at the 2024 calendar and thankfully, since it is a leap year in 2024, Christmas will be on a Wednesday next year.

With only two more weeks until Christmas, I encourage everyone to make the most of these remaining days of Advent for prayer and for the Sacrament of Penance. Next Saturday, we will be offering an Advent retreat. We will continue to have individual confessions on the next two Saturday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon. Since we already had our penance service this past week, please check the schedule for upcoming Penance Services at the other area parishes. Since time is so short, make the most of this season of Advent!

Thanks for reading!

Fr. Mark

## 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](mailto:Office@stcatherinesiena.org)



Text to Give: (844) 311-5105



[www.stcatherinesiena.org](http://www.stcatherinesiena.org)



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[stcatherinesiena.flocknote.com](https://stcatherinesiena.flocknote.com)



[prayers@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:prayers@stcatherinesiena.org), (269) 978-2344,  
or <https://stcatherinesiena.org/prayerrequest>

## Stewardship

<b>November 20 - November 26, 2023</b>	<b>Envelopes &amp; Loose Donations</b>	<b>\$14,766</b>
	<b>Electronic Giving</b>	<b><u>\$7,327</u></b>
		<b>\$22,093</b>
November 21 - November 27, 2022	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$13,756
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$24,737</u>
		\$38,493
<b>2023 Year to Date</b>	<b>\$580,424</b>	
2022 Year to Date	\$594,658	

***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, December 10, 2023

7:30 am	Mass, Church
9:00 am	Mass, Church
10:00 am	Benedictine Oblates, GLP
10:00 am	CFF, Classrooms
10:00 am	YFF, Fellowship, GWR
11:00 am	Mass, Church
11:00 am	CFF, Classrooms
11:40 am	RCIA Dismissal, Room 1/3
12:00 pm	Baptism, Church
5:00 pm	Mass, Church
6:00 pm	MS Youth Group, Stanley Centre Gym
6:30 pm	MOPS meeting, Fellowship
7:30 pm	Youth Ministry MS Leaders Meeting, SC Gym

## Monday, December 11, 2023

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
7:00 pm	Catholic Men's Fellowship, GLP
7:00 pm	CFF, Classrooms
7:00 pm	YFF, Fellowship, GWR, Stanley Centre Office

## Tuesday, December 12, 2023

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:30 am	Prayer Shawl Knitters, GLP
9:45 am	Rosary, Trinity Chapel
6:00 pm	SVDP Business Meeting, Fellowship
6:30 pm	RCIA, Room 5/7
6:30 pm	RCIC, Room 6/8
6:30 pm	Grief Share Program, Classroom 9/11

## Wednesday, December 13, 2023

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
10:00 am	St. Catherine's Buddy Up Walkers, Stanley Centre Gym
6:30 pm	33 Days to Morning Glory Make-up Session, GWR
7:00 pm	33 Days to Morning Glory, GWR
7:00 pm	Scripture Study, Zoom

## Thursday, December 14, 2023

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
10:00 am	Adoration, Trinity Chapel
12:50 pm	Benediction, Trinity Chapel
6:30 pm	Choir Practice, Choir Room

## Friday, December 15, 2023

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
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## Saturday, December 16, 2023

7:30 am	Catholic Men's Fellowship, Classroom 9/11
8:30 am	SVDP Interviews, Stanley Centre Office
9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
10:00 am	Parish Advent Retreat, Marian Hall, Church
11:00 am	Reconciliation, GLP, Trinity Chapel
3:30 pm	Rosary for Life, Church
4:00 pm	Mass, Church

## We're hiring!

St. Catherine Parish is hiring one or more part-time maintenance / janitorial associates. They are needed for various hours including some weekends and evenings. Interested applicants should email their resume to Al DeMars at [ademars@StCatherineSiena.org](mailto:ademars@StCatherineSiena.org)

**SAINT  
CATHERINE  
of SIENA**

# Reflection on the Readings

On this second Sunday of Advent, let's recall that last Sunday Jesus cautioned us to remain prepared and "watchful" for His arrival. In today's Gospel, we learn more clearly what we must do to prepare our hearts and our lives. We hear from the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Then we hear a lengthy exhortation from John the Baptist who proclaims we must prepare ourselves through a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." John, a prophet himself, is the fulfillment of a long preparation throughout Old Testament history. He pronounces that One mightier than he is coming Whose sandals he is not worthy to tie. John is speaking of the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. John concludes his prophecy by telling us that while he baptizes with water, Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. So how do we apply these readings to our journey through this season of Advent? John tells us to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight His paths. We can do this by imitating the early Christians who were said to belong to "the Way." The "Way" of the Lord is discipleship. Discipleship requires repentance. John tells us that he baptizes with water, but that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Repentance calls us to reorient ourselves to God. We must ask God to come into our hearts. The baptism by Jesus completes the final step of repentance. Jesus' baptism is a baptism of fire, the fire of the Holy Spirit. It is a baptism of salvation. As infants we were given this gift of salvation in Baptism. But now, we must freely make the decision to choose the path of discipleship if we want to be ready to welcome Jesus at Christmas. Choose to receive the gift of the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist to draw closer to the "straight path". Accept the daily opportunities to do the many "small things done with great love" that draw us closer to one another. Let the very way we live our life proclaim the Good News to others that Jesus is our true Lord and His kingdom on earth has come.

Reflection by Parishioner Dale Gerber



# News Around St. Catherine

## Gospel Mission Sock and Underwear Drive

Please consider donating a NEW pair of socks or underwear for the homeless at the Gospel Mission. All sizes are needed for men, women, and children. Items can be placed on the table located in the narthex **until December 18th**. Thank you for your help and generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Michele at 269-808-2452 or Mary Jo at 269-569-0037.

## Women of the Word

Women of the Word is inviting you this winter and spring to join our study, *Lectio Mark: Faith over Fear* by the Augustine Institute. **Cost is \$15 per book.** Financial assistance is available. Register by **December 14th** by returning the flier from previous bulletins to the parish office or going online at [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com) under the km\_packard@hotmail.com tab. For registration questions, contact Katie Packard at km\_packard@hotmail.com or general questions contact Janet Wheeler at rwhee28934@aol.com

## Front Office Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in volunteering in the front office? We'd love to have you! We're looking for friendly faces to answer phones and do light Clerical work. Morning or afternoon shifts. Please email your name and contact information to [FrontDesk@Stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:FrontDesk@Stcatherinesiena.org) and we'll be in touch soon! Thank you and God Bless!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Donations

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is seeking donations of colored yarn! They are accepting red, navy, gold, black, yellow, shades of blue, pink, purple, brown, and cream yarn. Gift cards to a fabric store are acceptable as well. Thank you! Contact Kristi Kelly for more information at [kkelly@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:kkelly@stcatherinesiena.org)

## ADVENT RETREAT

**Sat. Dec 16th at 10-4 pm**

Marian Hall and Church

Lunch provided.

No childcare provided.

Free event. Accepting free will donations.

*Let's prepare  
alongside each other  
and rediscover the joy  
in Advent.*

*Joy*

Contact: George Dragan at [gdragan@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:gdragan@stcatherinesiena.org)



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL Thanksgiving Project Success!

The St Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Project was a great success! Thanks to everyone's generosity, we delivered turkeys and food to 120 families! We planned to serve 100 families but since St. Catherine of Siena is a generous parish, we had more than enough to give to 20 more families and donated 60+ bags of extra food to Catholic Charities, South County, and the 10 families we helped financially that Saturday. We thank the Prayer Shawl Weavers for the washcloths, Meijer for the food bags, the Middle School Youth Group for packing the bags, the 47 teams of drivers and helpers who delivered the food, and the parish staff for their help. The Thanksgiving Project is an annual project for St Catherine of Siena's SVdP. Throughout the year we help families with heating and housing needs and provide non-bridge items to families in need. Interested in getting more involved? We invite you to join our St Vincent de Paul group. Contact our president at 269-363-6579 or email him at [svdpozanam@gmail.com](mailto:svdpozanam@gmail.com)



Location	Date	Time
St. Martin of Tours	Sun, Dec 10	3 PM
St. Thomas More	Mon, Dec 11	6:30 PM
St. Joseph	Wed, Dec 13	6 PM
St. Monica	Thurs, Dec 14	6 PM
St. Ambrose Parchment	Tues, Dec 19	6 PM

## Advent Penance Services



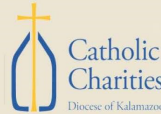
Diocesan Bilingual Mass for  
the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
The Most Rev. Edward M. Lohse,  
Bishop of Kalamazoo, presiding

Monday, December 11, 2023  
6:00 p.m. at St. Basil Parish  
513 Monroe Blvd., South Haven, MI 49090

**All are invited!**



*Please bring flowers to offer to the Virgin Mary and to share with others who are not able to bring flowers.*



For more information contact the  
Office of Hispanic/Migrant Affairs at:  
(269) 381-9800, Ext. 213

## CHRISTMAS 2023

Are you ready to celebrate the season? Know what the obligations are and how to fulfill them. This year, the 4th Sunday in Advent is also Christmas Eve. You will need to attend a Mass to fulfill your Sunday obligation and one to fulfill the Christmas Holy Day obligation. Below are the Mass times at St. Catherine of Siena.

### 4th Sunday of Advent

Dec. 23 - Saturday Vigil  
Mass  
4:00 PM

-or-

Dec. 24 - Sunday Mass  
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM

### Christmas

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve  
Vigil Mass  
4:00 PM, 6:30 PM, 9:00 PM

-or-

Dec. 25 - Christmas Mass  
10:00 AM

**AND**

# Mass Intentions

**SATURDAY: December 9, Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent**

4:00 pm Clara Martin †

**SUNDAY: December 10, The Second Sunday of Advent**

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

7:30 am Jan Neale †

9:00 am Margaret Hudson †

11:00 am Maggie Cantu †

5:00 pm People of the Parish

**MONDAY: December 11, Advent Weekday; Saint Damascus I, Pope**

Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26

9:15 am Deacon Jack Prendergast †

**TUESDAY: December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

9:15 am Maggie Edwards †

**WEDNESDAY: December 13, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

9:15 am Donald Cole †

**THURSDAY: December 14, Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

9:15 am Jun Pangilinan †

**FRIDAY: December 15, Advent Weekday**

Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

9:15 am Walter Zawadzki †

**SATURDAY: December 16, Advent Weekday**

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

9:15 am Paul and Joyce Bede

**SATURDAY: December 16, Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent**

4:00 pm People of the Parish

**SUNDAY: December 17, The Third Sunday of Advent**

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

7:30 am Dee Cekola

9:00 am Jacqueline Forsyth

11:00 am John (Jack) Johnson †

5:00 pm Dominique (LeFaive) Neidig †

Text **JOINSCS** to **84576** OR  
Connect with us online at:  
[stcatherinesiena.flocknote.com](http://stcatherinesiena.flocknote.com)



# Staff Contacts

## Accounting

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Linda Reaume / (269) 978-2346

## Bulletin/Communications

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James Reasoner / (269) 327-3441

## Faith Formation Ministry

[faith@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:faith@stcatherinesiena.org)

Casey Keller / (269) 978-2335

George Dragan / (269) 978-2347

## Front Office

[office@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:office@stcatherinesiena.org)

Kristi Kelly / (269) 978-2340

Jennifer Cramer / (269) 327-5165

## Music Ministry

[music@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:music@stcatherinesiena.org)

Michelle Clemens / (269) 327-5165

## Parish Nurse Ministry

[pwhitenc@mac.com](mailto:pwhitenc@mac.com)

Paula White (volunteer) / (269) 330-3762

# Clergy Contacts

Fr. Mark Vyverman

Fr. Jacob Sundararaju

Deacon Brian

Deacon Ron

[fathermark@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:fathermark@stcatherinesiena.org)

[fatherjacob@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:fatherjacob@stcatherinesiena.org)

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[deaconronald@stcatherinesiena.org](mailto:deaconronald@stcatherinesiena.org)

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**

A pastor was preaching about judgment day. "Thunder will roar, flames will flash across the sky. Floods, storms, devastation such as you've never seen..." he continued dramatically.

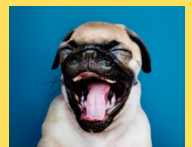


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[rawpixel.com](http://rawpixel.com)

Wide-eyed, a young boy turned to his mother.  
"Will I get to skip school that day?" he whispered.