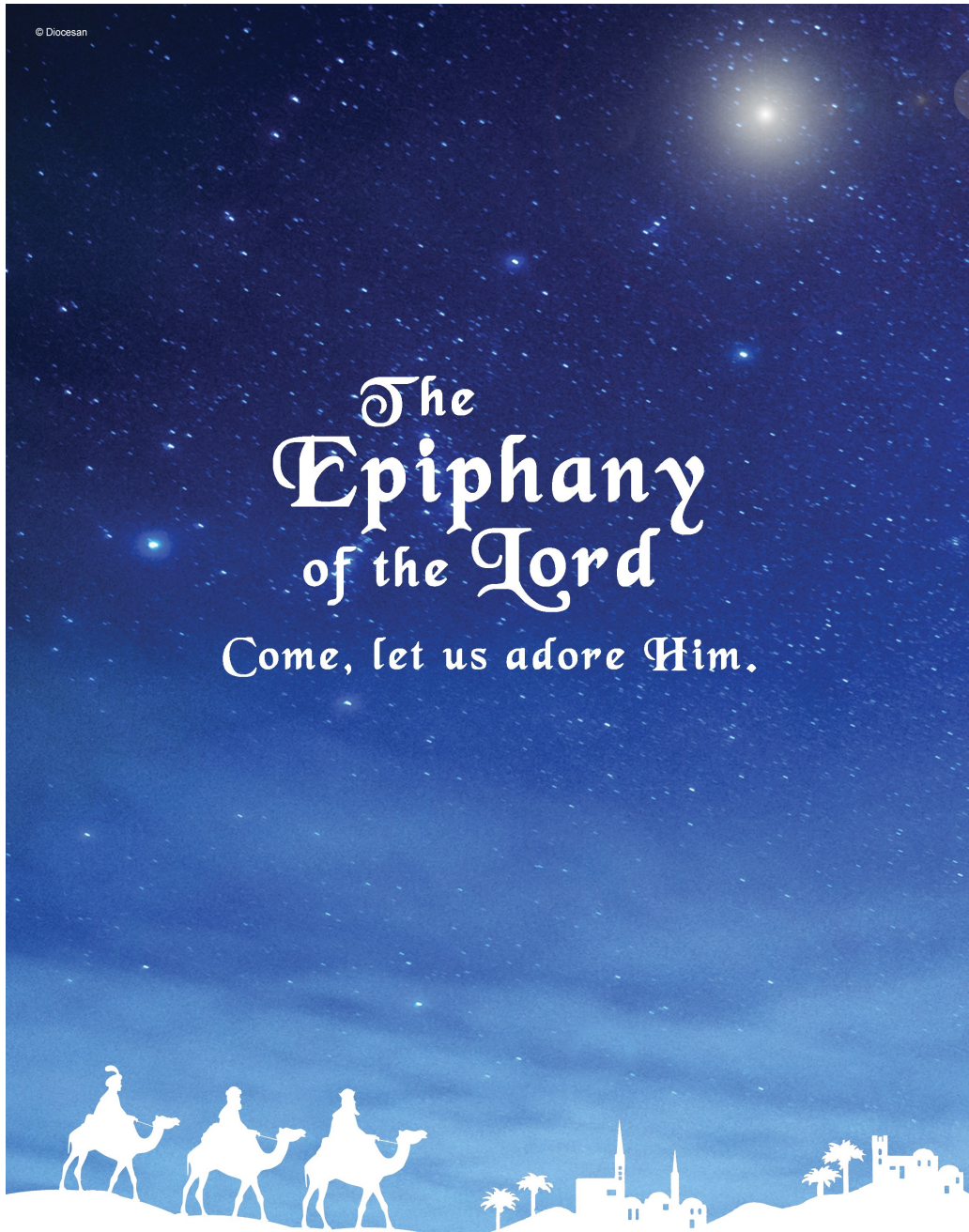


St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



January 7, 2024
Epiphany

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

It's not your imagination that both the Advent season and the Christmas season have been very short this year. We only had three full weeks to the Advent season (plus a day) and we only have two full weeks of the Christmas season, (from Christmas day) which ends tomorrow with the Baptism of the Lord. Time passes quickly and these short liturgical seasons this year remind us to make the most of every day! Our faith needs to be renewed each and every day!



But before we leave this Christmas season, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany this weekend. The Three Kings, or the astrologers, had been watching and waiting. The people of Israel had been doing this as well for centuries, but many missed the signs. Yet, this Christmas Star was different than anything else seen before. This was just the start of the many signs and wonders that would change the world. As we finish this Christmas season, sometimes we forget to appreciate how rich of a tradition of faith that we have! This event was life changing for the Three Kings. They recognized the hand of God in the birth of a child. The birth of Jesus should be life changing for us as well, reminding us how special and how important our life of faith can be for each one of us. The Christmas season may be ending, but if we allow it, the Christmas season renews our faith.

Of course, in Europe, and in some other countries around the world, Epiphany is a time for the exchange of gifts. That's not the tradition that we have here in the United States. But, I do have some good news to share! After a couple of years of working on this, we finally are able to turn our attention to renovating the Marian Hall bathrooms. We have the funds to do this project and the diocese has approved our plans. I'll have some additional information about this project in the coming weeks.

As this season renews us and strengthens our faith, may we never lose the wonder and awe that the birth of Jesus reveals to us!

Have a blessed Epiphany!

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



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

December 18 - December 24, 2023	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$27,564
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$18,001</u>
		\$45,565
December 19 - December 25, 2022	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$23,499
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$18,752</u>
		\$42,251
2023 Year to Date	\$724,487	
2022 Year to Date	\$751,446	

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, January 7, 2023

7:30 am	Mass, Church
8:30 am	Coffee and Donuts, Marian Hall
9:00 am	Mass, Church
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
5:00 pm	Mass, Church
5:30 pm	WOW, Room 2/4
6:00 pm	Youth Group, Game Room
7:30 pm	Youth Ministry Leader Meeting, Game Room

Monday, January 8, 2024

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 Office

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:30 am	Prayer Shawl Knitters, GLP
9:45 am	Rosary, Trinity Chapel
12:30 am	Art & Environment Meeting, Church
6:00 pm	SVDP Business Meeting, Fellowship
6:30 pm	RCIA, Room 5/7
6:30 pm	RCIC, Room 6/8

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
10:00 am	St. Catherine's Buddy Up Walkers, SC Gym
7:00 pm	Scripture Study, Zoom

Thursday, January 11, 2024

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:30 am	WOW, Marian Hall & Classrooms 5/7,6/8,9/11
10:00 am	Adoration, Trinity Chapel
12:50 pm	Benediction, Trinity Chapel
6:30 pm	Choir Practice, Choir Room

Friday, January 12, 2024

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
---------	----------------------------

Saturday, January 13, 2024

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
11:00 am	Reconciliation, GLP, Trinity Chapel
2:45 pm	Siena's Rehearsal, Church/Choir Room
3:30 pm	Rosary for Life, Church
4:00 pm	Mass, Church

Reflection on the Readings

Matthew's Gospel today is the scriptural basis for the feast of the Epiphany of The Lord. It commemorates the finding and adoration of the infant Jesus by the wise men (the Magi). The Magi were not kings but more than likely scholars who engaged in astrology and predictions of the future. They were also Gentiles. Matthew is beginning to develop the theme that the Christ child has arrived for all nations, not just the Israelites. Christ is heralded and given homage by the Magi as the king for all. It is a joyous occasion for which the Magi offered precious gifts to the newborn king. Yet the undertone of future trouble is also present as Herod attempts to glean from the Magi the whereabouts of the child Jesus for sinister purposes. Both the Magi and then the Holy Family flee from Bethlehem. We later learn that Herod decreed the massacre of all infant boys in Bethlehem under the age of 2. It is often said these were the first martyrs of Christianity. What is the message for us to ponder today? When our lives begin to encounter dark times of sorrow and suffering, have faith that good will eventually outweigh evil and hardship. As this Gospel passage begins to foreshadow, the Christ child who is showered with princely gifts by the Magi will eventually be crucified and buried but that is not the end. His resurrection is the "rest of the story." And that is truly the Good News for each of us. As St. Paul wrote to the Romans, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose," (Romans 9: 28). May we too answer God's call to love and to serve our Lord as we begin this New Year.

Reflection by Parishioner Dale Gerber

The Epiphany of the Lord



Come,
let us
adore
Him.

News Around St. Catherine

St. Vincent de Paul Coat Drive

St. Vincent de Paul's downtown location is collecting gently used or new coats starting **January 6**. You can leave coats in the bin that will be found in the entry foyer at the main entrance **until January 21**. They are especially in need of men's winter coats, as many churches have donated women's coats! We thank you for helping keep others warm this winter.

KofC Free Throw Championship

On Sunday, February 4, the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Free Throw Championship! It's open to all 9 to 14-year-old girls and boys, as long as they have not already participated in another Knights of Columbus Council Free Throw competition. There is no cost to participate. Registration starts at 12:00 pm, and the competition starts at 1:00 pm in St. Catherine of Siena's Stanley Centre Gym!

KofC Spelling Bee

Calling all students in grades 4th - 9th! Join us on Sunday, January 28th to show off your spelling skills. Registration starts at 12:30 pm, first contest begins at 1:00 pm. Free contest! Download word lists & rules at mikofc.org/resources/state-spelling-bee.

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for VBS Summer 2024. This year we're scuba diving into friendship with God! Save the dates for July 15-19, 2024!

Liturgical Ministries

We are looking for more Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, & Ushers. If you are interested in any of these ministries or have any questions, please contact Kristi Kelly kkelly@stcatherinesiena.org

Thank You from the Gospel Mission

Thanks to God for all of our generous parishioners. We collected twenty two very full bags of socks, underwear, and other warm items for the Gospel Mission. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you.





**Knights of
Columbus®**



CHILI COOK OFF

Saturday, January 27 after 4 pm Mass in Marian Hall

WHEN YOU BUY A BOWL, YOU'LL SAMPLE ALL OF THE DIFFERENT FLAVORS. MONEY RAISED WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITIES AND PROJECTS IN THE PARISH.

Contact Dan Kloosterman at (269)-760-7216 for more information.



*ST. CATHERINE MIDDLE
SCHOOL GROUP*

**GLOW
IN THE
DARK**

GAMES
JANUARY 14, 6:00-7:30 PM
IN THE STANLEY CENTRE



STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

At this weekend long event, teens experience a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ that ignites their devotion, strengthens their prayer life, and empowers them to live on mission long after the conference ends.

Deadline to register is January 22, 2024

For High School Students 9-12th graders

Contact Casey Keller for more information and to register!

Ckeller@stcatherinesiena.org



**MAIN
CAMPUS
STEUBENVILLE
OHIO**

**JUNE
28-30,
2024**

COST: \$350
* PAYMENT
PLANS
AVAILABLE

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: January 6, The Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 pm People of the Parish

SUNDAY: January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

7:30 am Jack Johnson †

9:00 am Deacon Ed Feltes †

11:00 am Frank Seidl †

5:00 pm Dee Cekola

MONDAY: January 8, The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or, in Year B,

Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

9:15 am Audrey Hensley †

TUESDAY: January 9, Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)

1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1:9-20/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

9:15 am Tom Minehart †

WEDNESDAY: January 10, Weekday

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Mk 1:29-39

9:15 am Jeff Miller †

THURSDAY: January 11, Weekday

1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45

9:15 am Linda Johnston †

FRIDAY: January 12, Weekday

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12

9:15 am Eric Munson †

SATURDAY: January 13, Weekday

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Mk 2:13-17

9:15 am Stanley Sokolowski †

SATURDAY: January 13, The Vigil of Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Walter Lavon Allred †

SUNDAY: January 14, The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:00 am Aurelio Pangilinan, Jr. †

11:00 am Lindsey Dowdy

5:00 pm Ralph William Farquhar †

Text **JOINSCS** to **84576** OR
Connect with us online at:
stcatherinesiena.flocknote.com



Staff Contacts

Accounting

accounting@stcatherinesiena.org

Alan DeMars / (269) 978-2338

Linda Reaume / (269) 978-2346

Bulletin/Communications

communications@stcatherinesiena.org

Mackenzie Holton / (269) 327-3441

James Reasoner / (269) 327-3441

Faith Formation Ministry

faith@stcatherinesiena.org

Casey Keller / (269) 978-2335

George Dragan / (269) 978-2347

Front Office

office@stcatherinesiena.org

Kristi Kelly / (269) 978-2340

Jennifer Cramer / (269) 327-5165

Music Ministry

music@stcatherinesiena.org

Michelle Clemens / (269) 327-5165

Parish Nurse Ministry

pwhitenc@mac.com

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

Clergy Contacts

Fr. Mark Vyverman

Fr. Jacob Sundararaju

Deacon Brian

Deacon Ron

fathermark@stcatherinesiena.org

fatherjacob@stcatherinesiena.org

deaconbrian@stcatherinesiena.org

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**

"Can you complete this sentence?" the teacher asked her Sunday school class after learning the Lord's Prayer. "Give us this day our..."

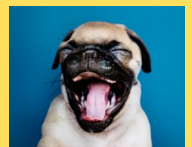


photo created by
rawpixel.com

"Jelly bread!" One little boy exclaimed.