

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent

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,

Happy St. Patrick's Day (sort of). It is the 17th of March this weekend. But with St. Patrick's Day falling on a Sunday, we celebrate the 5th Sunday of Lent and St. Patrick's feast doesn't get as much attention. Yes, we find ourselves just a week away from Palm Sunday and two weeks away from our celebration of Easter Sunday.



PAGE 2

As we enter into these final weeks of Lent, we also enter the holiest time of the year. Please check our schedule for next week: The celebrations of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil as well as the special schedule for Easter Sunday. If you haven't gone to confession yet during these days of Lent, there is still time to do so as we are offering confessions on Friday nights before the Stations of the Cross and our normal time on Saturday mornings. Most of our Lenten Penance Services in the area have wrapped up except for one more next Sunday at the Cathedral.

I have a couple more thoughts and insights into why Catholics kneel in church. In the Gospels, kneeling was typically seen as a way to express supplication and adoration. In the New Testament, kneeling is often preceded by an act of faith "I do believe, Lord." As we try to focus ourselves on why we, as Catholics, believe in the Eucharist, we believe that Christ is truly present before us in the Mass in the Bread and the Wine (the Body and Blood). We reserve the Eucharist not only so that we can give the Sacrament to those who are sick and dying, but to create a sacred space in our churches with our Lord present in the Tabernacle, a place for us to encounter Jesus in our prayer lives. As we will commemorate this next week on Holy Thursday, let us be grateful for what the Lord did for us by giving us the Eucharist to strengthen us and bring us closer to Him!

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



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

	Envelopes & Loose Donations	
March 4 - March 10, 2024		\$23,158
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$22,663</u>
		\$45,821
March 6 - March 12, 2023	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$21,010
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$18,405</u>
		\$39,415
2023 - 2024 Year to Date	\$1,101,059	
2022 - 2023 Year to Date	\$1,107,333	

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.

BAA Payment Reminder

To ensure that your Bishop Annual Appeal payments get credited to your account in a timely and accurate manner, send ALL payments directly to the Diocese of Kalamazoo at 215 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Checks should be payable to the Diocese of Kalamazoo with St. Catherine of Siena - Bishop's Appeal in the memo. Online payments may also be made on the Diocese's website at <https://diokzoo.org/give>. Thank you!

Calendar of Events

PAGE 3

Calendar events subject to change!

Sunday, March 17, 2024

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
10:15 am	Choir Practice, Choir Room
11:00 am	Mass, Church
11:00 am	CFF, Classrooms
11:40 am	RCIA Dismissal, SCR
12:00 pm	Exemplifications for Council 6980, Trinity
5:00 pm	Mass, Church
6:00 pm	WOW, Room 2/4
6:00 pm	High School Youth Group, Game Room
7:30 pm	H.S. Leaders' Meeting, Stanley Centre Gym

Monday, March 18, 2024

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
6:30 pm	Catholic Men's Fellowship, Jac's Pizza Westnedge
7:00 pm	CFF, Classrooms
7:00 pm	YFF, Fellowship, GWR & Stanley Centre Office

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:45 am	Rosary, Trinity Chapel
6:30 pm	RCIA, Room 5/7
6:30 pm	RCIC, Room 6/8

Wednesday, March 20, 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, March 21, 2024

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:30 am	WOW, Marian Hall & Rooms 5/7,6/8,9/11
10:00 am	Adoration, Trinity Chapel
12:15 pm	Art & Environment Meeting, GLP
12:50 pm	Benediction, Trinity Chapel
6:00 pm	Baptism Prep Class, GLP
6:30 pm	Choir Practice, Choir Room
6:30 pm	Friends of the Cemetery Meeting, Fellowship

Friday, March 22, 2024

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
6:30 pm	Reconciliation, GLP
7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross, Church

Saturday, March 23, 2024

7:30 am	Catholic Men's Fellowship, Room 9/11
8:30 am	SVPD Interviews, Stanley Centre Office
9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
11:00 am	Reconciliation, GLP, Trinity Chapel
3:30 pm	Rosary for Life, Church
4:00 pm	Mass, Church

Reflection on the Readings

Today's readings again speak of the new covenant that God established through Jesus. In the reading from Jeremiah, we hear of the new covenant that God said He would establish with His people; a covenant not written on stone tablets and obeyed strictly out of obedience, but one written on people's hearts and obeyed out of love and trust...even in the face of adversity. In the psalm, we hear the writer's plea for a clean heart, one that is prepared to receive God's new covenant...I imagine it as a white board that the psalmist is asking God to wipe clean prior to writing His covenant on it. Jesus gave us the ultimate example, as both the Gospel reading and the letter to the Hebrews describe. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that he was "troubled". He knew what lay ahead of Him, and what sane person wouldn't have been afraid? Yet, He trusted that the Father's plan for Him was the correct one; the one that would bring life from death not only for Himself, but for all of us. He used the example of a grain of wheat needing to fall to the earth and die to be transformed into something more. We, too, need to die to be transformed. We need to die to our sins, our bad habits, our self-centeredness, our pride, our selfishness. Lent is the time to do that; Easter is two weeks away. There is still time to open ourselves to God's mercy and grace, to allow Him to help us wipe the board clean, and to allow Him to write His new covenant on our hearts.

Reflection by parishioner John Ceglarek

News Around St. Catherine

Knights of Columbus Kentucky Derby Party

Save the date for **May 4th, 2024!** The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Kentucky Derby Party at 5:00 PM in Marian Hall. There will be dinner and dancing, and we will watch the Kentucky Derby. It'll be a great time for everyone. More details to come.

Blessing of the Baskets

After a time of fasting and abstinence, we invite you to the Blessing of the Baskets, where your food baskets will be blessed. To participate, bring your food baskets to Marian Hall shortly before **10:00 AM on March 30th, Holy Saturday**. For more information about assembling the baskets to be blessed, visit:

www.polishamericancenter.org/SwieconkaBasket.htm

Front Office Volunteer Needed

Would you like to help in our front office? We are in need of a volunteer for Tuesdays from 8:45 am - 12:00 pm to help with phone calls and assisting parishioners. Please contact Jennifer Cramer at jrcramer@stcatherinesiena.org for more information.

Primetimers Monthly Luncheon Gathering

Calling All Primetimers! (age 50+) Join us on **Monday, April 1, 2024 at 11:30 am** at The Crew Family Restaurant and Bakery (5200 Portage Road, Portage 49002 - near the Airport and just south of the I94/Portage Rd interchange). We will enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal. We also invite Primetimer caregivers, family, and friends. No reservation needed, just show up and ask for the Primetimers! Everyone picks up their own bill. See you there!

Central Deanery Lenten Penance Service

Location	Date	Time
St. Augustine Cathedral	Sun., March 24	3:00 PM
Divine Mercy Sunday		
St. Mary Paw Paw	Sun., April 7	3:00 PM
St. Monica	Sun., April 7	3:00 PM

March 23rd and 24th

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE



See a Knight after any Mass



All donations support Michigan Citizens
with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

351

**SAINT
CATHERINE**
of SIENA

ON HOLY THURSDAY

Write checks out to
St. Vincent de Paul

We appreciate those of you who generously contribute to the Church. When you contribute on Holy Thursday (if you're writing a check), make the check out to St. Vincent de Paul. All Holy Thursday collections go toward the services that St. Vincent de Paul offers! Thank you.

New Members

Kevin & Dawn Cupka

Dave & Holly Folk

Gregory & Elizabeth Lowman

Lawrence Romyak

Heather Rose

Benjamin Nobis

Christopher & Margaret
Brake

Perfect & Uwineza, Marie
Odile Ndayishimiye
Mfashijwenimana

Remembrance

Gloria Price

James Hatridge

EASTER FLOWERS

“IN MEMORY OF” AND “IN HONOR OF”

There is one week left! We will be accepting donations for the Easter flowers **until Palm Sunday, March 24th**, for it to be included in the bulletin. With your contribution, you can choose “In Honor Of” for a living person or “In Memory Of” which is for someone who has passed. You can make your donation through the envelopes you received in the mail, visit the office, or call the church at (269)-327-5165.





A Message from the Diocese

The Diocese of Kalamazoo has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set-up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at: (844) 324-3374. The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit <http://ReportBishopAbuse.org> or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.

G O L F L E A G U E S

Fore! Both the St. Catherine's Couple's Golf League and the Men's Golf League will begin their 2024 season in April at Pine View Golf Course. The Couples League tees off every Monday and the Men's League on Wednesdays in two person teams. We welcome new players to be regulars or substitutes.

If you're interested, please contact:

Couples League: Bob and Becky Klose, (269)-491-0402, bob.klose61@gmail.com

Men's League: Pat Larkin, (269)-744-1631, plkazoo@msn.com.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

We invite you to join us for these special times!

Palm Sunday

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM

Palm Sunday Mass Times, Church

Holy Thursday, March 28

7:00 PM Holy Thursday Mass, Church

8:30 PM Adoration, Marian Hall

Good Friday, March 29

1:00 PM Good Friday Service, Church

6:30 PM Confessions

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, March 30

10:00 AM Blessing of the Baskets, Marian Hall

11:00 AM Confessions, GLP, Trinity Chapel

9:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass, Church

Easter Sunday, March 31

7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

Easter Sunday Mass Times, Church



VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

.....
JULY 15-19
9 AM-NOON
.....

**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES
6TH GRADE-ADULTS**

- Crew Leaders
- Station Leaders
- Station Aids
- Decorators
- Set Up
- Nursery Leader
- Parking Lot Aids
- Prayer Team

Scan the QR Code to Volunteer!
Email Casey
if you have any questions!
ckeller@stcatherinesiena.org



**SAINT
CATHERINE
of SIENA**



I ARISE TODAY,
through the strength of heaven

News Around the Diocese

Scholarship Opportunity for Faith-Filled College Students

The Keeping the Catholic Faith Scholarship Fund held at the Catholic Foundation of Michigan provides scholarships to incoming college students who desire to live, grow, and share their Catholic faith after high school. Thanks to the generosity of a local Kalamazoo family, the fund will provide a \$1,000 financial scholarship. The application closes **on April 1st**. To learn more or apply online, you can visit bit.ly/KTCF

Divine Mercy Novena

All are invited to join us in praying the Divine Mercy Novena at St. Monica Church, 534 W. Kilgore, Kalamazoo, beginning Easter Sunday. **Novena Schedule:** Sunday, March 31 at 12:15 PM, Monday April 1 - Saturday, April 6 at 7:00 PM. Sunday, April 7, is Divine Mercy Sunday and will begin at 3:00 PM.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo invites you to the 2024 Mission Possible Fundraising Breakfast on **Wednesday, May 22**, at the Kalamazoo Country Club. We invite you to enjoy breakfast, learn about our programs and services, the impact on the lives of the families we serve, and be a part of expanding our mission throughout the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Registration is at 7:30 AM. Breakfast and presentation are at 8 - 9 AM. Please RSVP by May 8 by registering at <https://ccdok.org/mission-possible/>, emailing info@ccdok.org, or calling (269)-381-9800.

Friends of the Catholic Cemeteries

Want to help with the local Catholic Cemetery? Mt. Olivet and Catholic Riverside are the two local Catholic cemeteries owned and operated by the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Volunteers are coming together across 8 Kalamazoo-area parishes to promote preservation and to pray for the dead. Next meeting is **Thursday, March 21** at St. Catherine's Stanley Centre in the Fellowship Room at **6:30 PM**. Learn how you can help! If you have questions, contact Ellen Nightingale (ellen.night@gmail.com).

Mid-life Singles (Mid-30s to 50s)

Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), **on April 5-7, 2024**. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$215 for meals and a single room. Visit sites.google.com/view/reflectretreat, email reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call (586)-770-1772 for details.

Spanish Session for Synod Planning Committee Date Correction

Los nuevos horarios de sesión incluyen: Martes, 19 de Marzo, 7:00 - 8:30 PM en San José, Kalamazoo [gimnasio].

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: March 16, Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm People of the Parish

SUNDAY: March 17, The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

7:30 am Raymond Kaczmariski †

9:00 am Margaret Pillar Birthday

11:00 am People of the Parish

5:00 pm Frank Gerald Pochyla †

MONDAY: March 18, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Jn 8:1-11

9:15 am James Whitcomb †

TUESDAY: March 19, Saint Joseph, Spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

9:15 am John and Clara Szczepaniuk †

WEDNESDAY: March 20, Lenten Weekday

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42

9:15 am Thomas Leblong †

THURSDAY: March 21, Lenten Weekday

Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59

9:15 am David Piotrowicz †

FRIDAY: March 22, Lenten Weekday

Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42

9:15 am Betty Ihrke †

SATURDAY: March 23, Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56

9:15 am Jan Keasey Birthday

SATURDAY: March 23, Vigil of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

4:00 pm Deacon Ed Feltes †

SUNDAY: March 24, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:00 am John † and Rose † Tubiola

11:00 am Frank Gerald Pochyla †

5:00 pm Patricia Long †

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@

fatherjacob@

deaconbrian@

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**

Q: What kind of car
would Jesus drive?

A: A Christler.

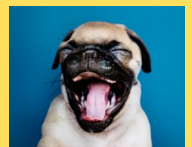


photo created by
rawpixel.com