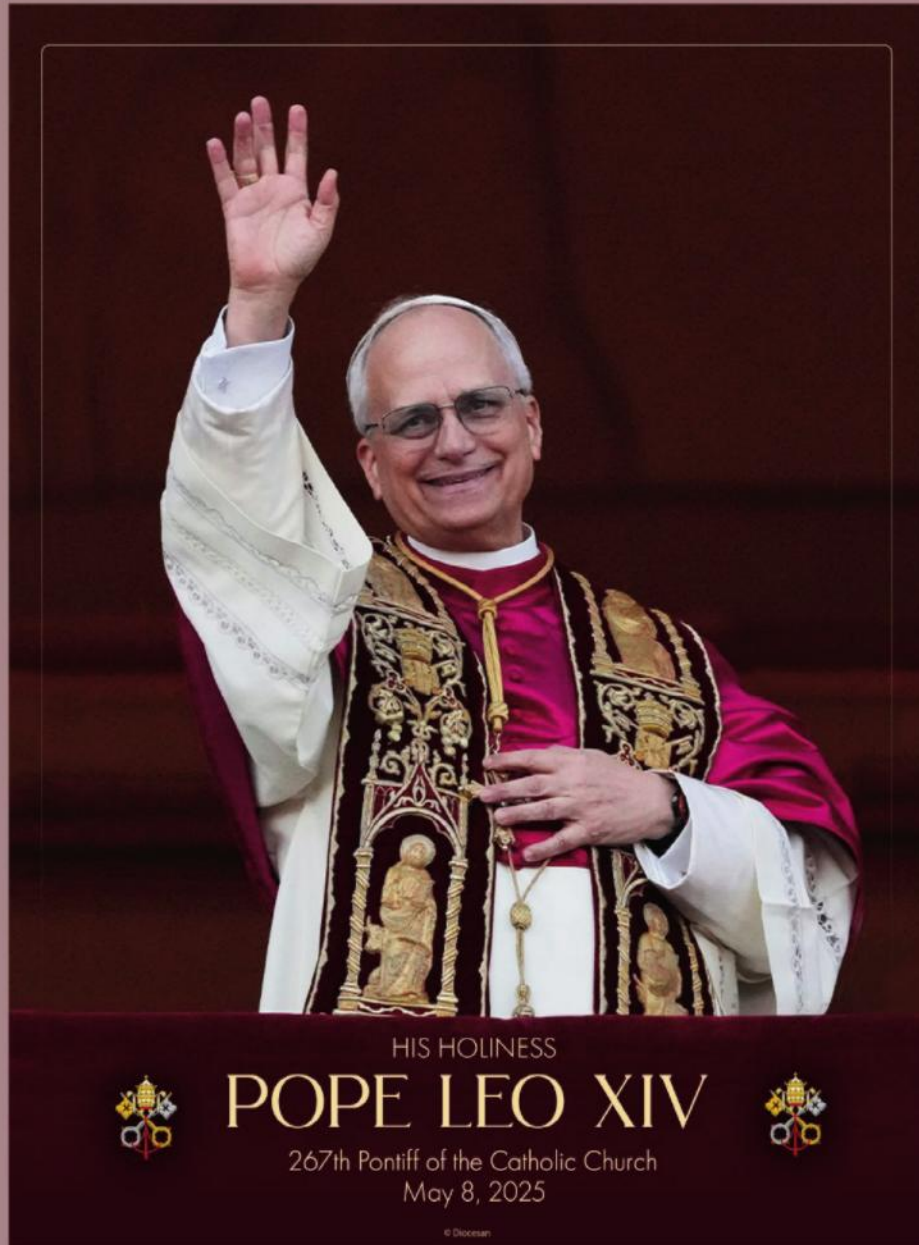

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter

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,

Pope Paul was the first pope that I could remember. Then it was Pope John Paul I (the shortest papacy), and soon after that Pope John Paul II (one of the longest papacies) who inspired me as a seminarian. The theologian Pope Benedict, the first Pope in centuries to “retire” (his books were almost mandatory reading in theology classes in the seminary) and our most recent Pope Francis. Each one of these popes brought out a different aspect of the Church and showed us how we could find and follow Christ.



I never thought I would be writing about an American Pope, the first one too (and one from Chicago). It is exciting to think that this is history in the making. Pope Leo is not only the first American Pope, but the first Augustinian as well. For those of you who may have spent part of your summer up in the Douglas/Saugatuck area, for many years the Augustinians were located there and several of the Augustinian priests have worked in our diocese over the years. Just this little fact alone reminds us that sometimes, in some very unexpected ways, we have a connection to the Universal Church.

When a person just looks at our Popes, we realize how rich our history is. From Peter, the first Pope, to Pope Leo XIV, there are 267 popes. This alone shows us how the Church is founded on Christ. As Our Lord picked St. Peter to be the rock on which the Church was founded, the Holy Spirit guides the Church to pick the next successor of Peter. Anyone who sits in the Chair of St. Peter knows how much they need to rely on the Lord in order to carry out His work and to guide the Church in a constantly changing world.

In the days ahead, as we get to know our new Holy Father, please keep Pope Leo in your prayers. Through the example and footsteps of the Apostles, may he help to draw us closer to Christ.

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



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Stewardship

April 28, 2025 - May 4, 2025	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$19,954
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$17,339</u>
		\$37,293
April 29, 2024 - May 5, 2024	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$18,359
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$7,050</u>
		\$25,409
2024 - 2025 Year to Date	\$1,383,545	
2023 - 2024 Year to Date	\$1,339,903	

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, May 18, 2025

- 7:30 am Mass, Church
- 8:30 am Knights of Columbus Rosary, Trinity Chapel
- 9:00 am Mass, Church
- 10:15 am Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 11:00 am Mass, Church
- 12:00 pm Exemplifications Council 6980, Trinity Chapel
- 12:15 pm Baptisms, Church
- 1:00 pm Baptism, Trinity Chapel
- 5:00 pm Mass: First Communions, Church
- 6:00 pm Young Adults Dinner, Latitude 42, Portage Rd.
- 6:00 pm MomCo, Offsite

Monday, May 19, 2025

- 9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
- 6:00 pm KofC Memorial Mass, Trinity Chapel, GLP
- 7:00 pm Catholic Men's Fellowship, Fellowship

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

- 9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
- 9:45 am Rosary, Trinity Chapel

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

- 9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
- 10:00 am St. C Walkers, Stanley Centre Gym
- 7:00 pm Scripture Study, Zoom

Thursday, May 22, 2025

- 9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
- 10:00 am Adoration, Trinity Chapel
- 12:50 pm Benediction, Trinity Chapel

Friday, May 23, 2025

- 9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel

Saturday, May 24, 2025

- 7:30 am Catholic Men's Fellowship, Room 9/11
- 8:30 am SVdP Interviews, Stanley Centre
- 9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
- 11:00 am Reconciliation, GLP, Trinity Chapel
- 3:30 pm Knights of Columbus Rosary, Church
- 4:00 pm Mass, Church

Reflection on the Readings

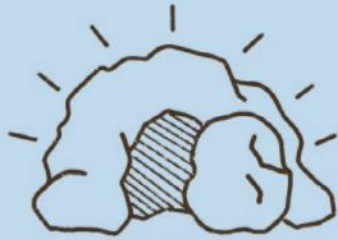
Today's Gospel reading from John occurs during the evening of the Last Supper. Just prior to this reading, Jesus has identified Judas as His betrayer. Judas, we are told, has just left the group of apostles to carry out the dreadful deed of betraying Christ and setting up His Crucifixion. But suddenly Jesus begins to speak of glorifying His Father and His Father glorifying him; but wait, this "glorification" He is talking about is His suffering and death. When we think of glory, we envision joy, beauty and triumph not suffering, death, darkness and failure. Jesus seems to be turning everything we know to be true upside down! Even the term "Good Friday" to describe the day Jesus was scourged then put to a terrible death seems a terrible paradox. The human mind then and even now struggles to understand this great mystery.

Jesus glorifies His Father through His total obedience. He prays, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not my will, but as you will." (Matt. 26:39) The true essence of holiness is Jesus' total submission to the Father. It is nothing more and nothing less than total and unconditional love for the Father. It was the greatest act of love and the most God-glorifying thing that could be offered. Jesus then makes it clear that He will be with His apostles only a little while longer. They, of course, don't understand. Still, Jesus goes on to tell His apostles that just as He has loved them, they are to love one another. He is asking them to refocus the love they have for Him to each other for His sake. They must put aside petty rivalries and "us against them" thinking. By their loving care for each other and all those they encounter, others should be able to recognize them as disciples of Jesus. Jesus says simply, "I give you a new commandment: love one another." Jesus has boiled down the 613 different commandments the Pharisees prided themselves on obeying to just two. They encompass the whole of the Law: Love God and Love your neighbor as yourself. This new commandment is required of each of us as well if we want to be His followers. Could each of us pass the test that Jesus proposes at the end of this reading? Can we be identified as disciples of Christ by how we love one another? This love is not a "feeling" or "emotion." Jesus is not asking us to have sweet, happy, feelings toward all. The love He speaks of is a resolve or a commitment to action. As Bishop Robert Barron so well states, it is willing the good of the other. This "simple" commandment of Jesus is in fact the greatest challenge we will encounter in this life.

Reflection by Parishioner Dale Gerber

News Around St. Catherine and the Diocese

He is Risen!



Young Adults Dinner & Discussion

We invite all young adults (ages 18-35) to join us for dinner and discussion on **Sunday, May 18th at 6:00 PM!** We will be fellowshiping while enjoying delicious food at Latitude 42 (7842 Portage Rd, Portage, MI 49002).

Everyone covers their own bill. Contact: Michelle Zawadzki at mzawadzki@stcatherinesiena.org.

Mass to Celebrate Election of the New Pope

"In this joyful Easter season as we continue to celebrate Christ's triumph over sin and death, may God pour forth his blessings upon Pope Leo XIV. May the Holy Father be strengthened and supported by our prayers." - The Most Reverend

Edward M. Lohse. Bishop Lohse will celebrate a special Mass honoring Pope Leo XIV on **Monday, May 19th at 5:30 PM** at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo. All are invited to join Bishop Lohse.

Fr. Bob Flickinger's Ordination Anniversary

Please join us in honoring Fr. Bob Flickinger as he celebrates 50 years of priestly service on **Sunday, May 18th from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM** at Saint Basil Parish, 513 Monroe Blvd., South Haven, MI 49090. Come share your love, gratitude, and memories with Fr. Bob on this joyful occasion! If you're unable to attend, feel free to send your congratulatory messages to Fr. Bob at the address above.

Migrant Ministry Collections



COLLECTIONS BEGIN IN JUNE

Migrant Ministry is collecting items for the farm workers living at the migrant camps in our area this summer. The collection will take place during the month of June. Donations can be left on the Migrant Ministry table in the Narthex (lobby), where the following list will also be posted.

- **Male Long sleeve shirts sized:** Medium and Large, (Small is okay too)
- **Male Blue jeans sized:** 30x30, 32x30 (more of this size), 32x32, 34x32
- **Personal hygiene items:** toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, lip balm, body wash or bar of soap
- **Food:** rice, pinto beans, cooking oil, salt, sugar, oatmeal, cookies, corn and flower tortillas, hot sauce, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise
- **Cleaning products:** dish soap, sponges, Clorox, laundry soap
- Toilet paper, paper towels

St. Catherine parishioners who wish to visit a migrant camp are invited to team up with St. Tom's team on **Wednesday nights from July 15th through August 12th**. Meet at St. Tom's at **6:30 PM**. Youth Service hours can be earned. If you're interested in visiting a migrant camp, please contact Ree Millard with questions at (269) 720-0510.

Circle of Friends Gathering

Join us on **Wednesday, May 28th at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM** for Circle of Friends! This gathering for adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities is a time of fellowship, activities, and reflections on the Sunday readings and a simple dinner. We will gather in the Fellowship Room in the Stanley Centre at St. Catherine of Siena (1130 W. Centre Street, Portage, MI 49024). Contact Veronica Rodriguez at (269) 349-8714, EXT. 1240 or email at vrodiguez@diokzoo.org

Caregiver Connections

Caregiver Connection is a monthly Zoom gathering for those caring for a loved one with a disability. Experience community, support, and faith sharing by joining us on **Sunday, June 1st, 2025 at 1:00 - 2:00 PM**. To register, go to ccdok.org/connections-registration or contact Veronica Rodriguez at (269) 349-8714 Ext. 1240 and email her at vrodiguez@diokzoo.org.

CFF Registration

Registration for the 2025-26 CFF year opens this **Friday, May 23rd, 2025**. Please register online at the parish website, stcatherinesiena.org/ under the white menu tab that reads, "Faith Formation". As per diocesan guidelines, our First Reconciliation / First Holy Communion is a two-year program. Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion begins in the first grade with those sacraments being received in the Spring of the second-grade year. Exceptions to the two-year requirement are only made to sacramental candidates who can be verified to have already completed their first year of preparation in another Catholic parish. For further information, please refer to the parish website or call our Children's Faith Formation Director, George Dragan at (269) 978-2347 or email him at gdragan@stcatherinesiena.org. The deadline to register is **August 31st, 2025**, classes fill up quickly.

YFF Registration

Registration for the 2025-26 Youth Faith Formation Year and the middle school and high school youth groups opens this **Friday, May 23rd, 2025**. As per diocesan guidelines, our Confirmation program is a two-year program. Preparation for Confirmation begins in 7th grade and is received in the Spring of the 8th grade year. Exceptions to the two-year requirement are only made to sacramental candidates who can be verified to have already completed their first year of preparation in another Catholic parish. For further information please refer to the parish website or call our Youth Faith Formation Director, Michelle Zawadzki at (269) 978-2343 or email her at mzawadzki@stcatherinesiena.org. Register early. Classes fill up quickly. The deadline is **August 31st, 2025**.

Catholic Resources for Family Planning

Unfortunately, many individuals and couples today struggle with infertility. The Catholic Church approaches this sensitive issue with deep compassion and clear ethical guidance. To learn more about the Church's teaching on In Vitro Fertilization, please visit:

www.usccb.org/resources/25-IVF-parish-primer.pdf

For more info on Natural Family Planning, please visit:

www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/nfp-national-providers

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.

Congratulations to those we welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil!

Baptized and Confirmed

Dylan Butler
Noah Bohan
Jeff Hecht
Brodi Idalski

Received and Confirmed

Sarah Saulcy
Ben Ritsema
Megan Idalski
Matt Kohler
Tanner Rynd

Catholic Adults Confirmed

Davi Sa Leitao

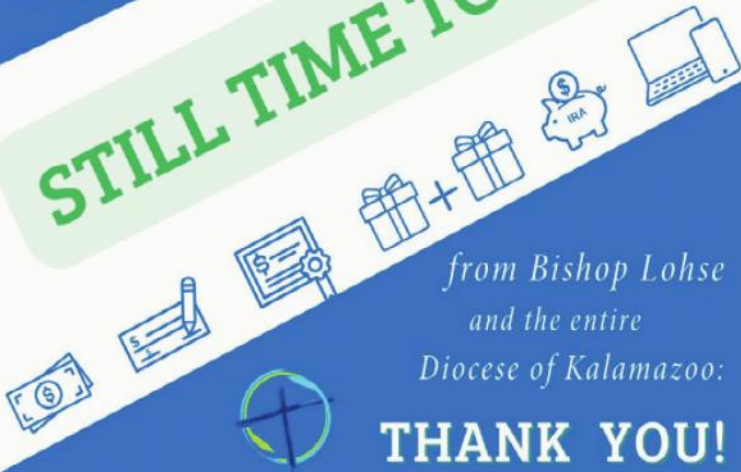
May God bless you as you grow in your Christian journey!

MAKING AN IMPACT

...Throughout the year



STILL TIME TO GIVE!



*from Bishop Lohse
and the entire
Diocese of Kalamazoo:*

THANK YOU!

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2025
DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO



DIOKZOO.ORG

Sign up for Diocesan Insider!

Have you signed up to receive updates from the Diocese of Kalamazoo? The Diocesan Insider is an electronic email newsletter that covers upcoming diocesan and parish events, photos from past events, Diocesan and Catholic news, and more! To subscribe, scan the QR code below or visit: diokzoo.org/diocesan-insider-1



First Holy Communion

Join us in prayer for those who have received / are receiving their First Holy Communion this May. The first group received theirs on May 4th and the second group is receiving theirs this weekend, May 18th. **We will be listing their names in a future bulletin.** We congratulate each child who is receiving / has received their First Holy Communion and pray that the peace coming from our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you now and forever.

New Members

Paul Charkowski

Mary Ellen Agar

Karen Moore

David & Juliana Kulpa

Joe and Amanda Dusenbery

Alex and Emily Harrant

Jill and Rick Neubert

Ralph and Kayla Piper

Bryan and Lizzeth Mesa

Eamonn and Gillian Nestor

Joel and Kelly DeLorge

Clayton and Vanessa MacRitchie

Baptisms

Lenora Sing

Daughter of Hunter & Rachael

Remembrance

William Easto

Alex Clements

Dennis VanAlst

Margaret Hocevar

Richard Bowman

Eleanor Haverlock

Kelly Wyant



PARISH NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK

JUNE 23RD @ 6:35 PM



SAINT CATHERINE of SIENA

Join us for a night of fellowship and fun at the Homer Stryker Field on **Monday, June 23rd** with the first pitch at **6:35 PM!** Gates open at 5:35 PM.

Tickets cost \$46.00 and include:

- Group seating in the covered awning of the Miller Lite Trap
- All-inclusive food and drink for 2 hours
- A 5-tab wristband for adult beverages, you can use one for a hat

While kids are welcome, this is a great adults' night out with friends and fellow parishioners! Stay tuned for future more family-friendly opportunities in the coming months.

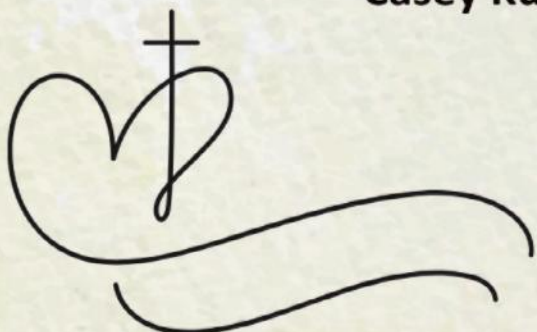
To purchase tickets, visit growlerstickets.com (or visit the QR code) and enter Promotion: Siena25. Tickets are also available in the Front Office.

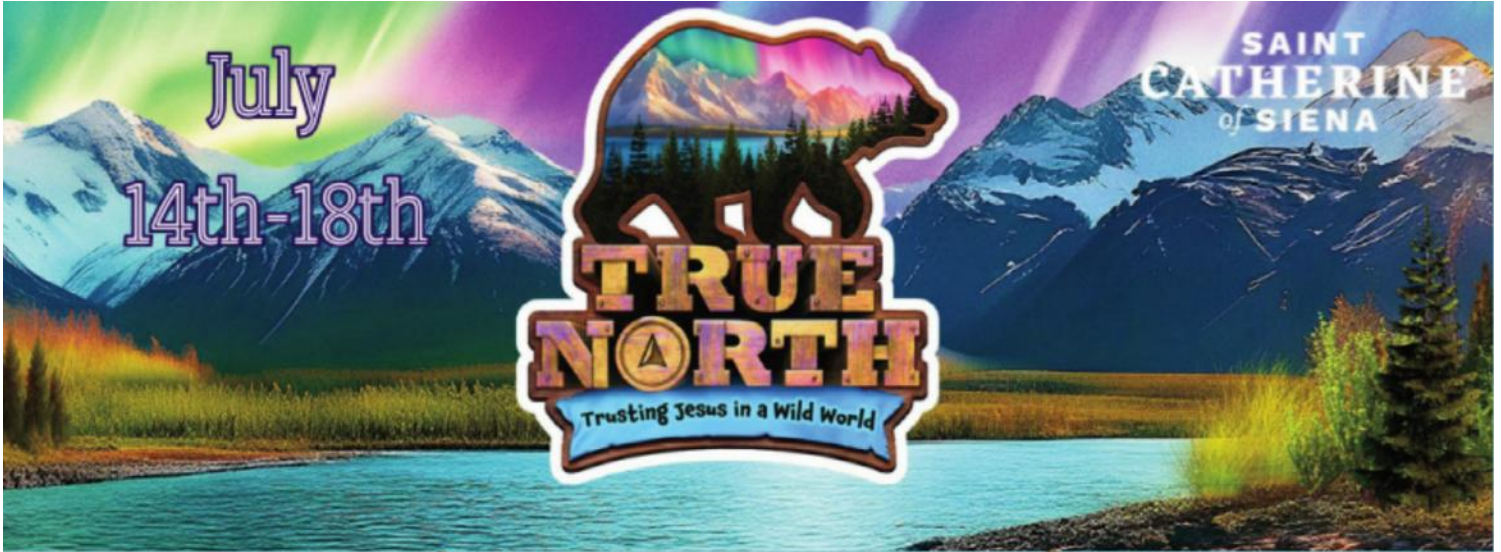


Confirmation 2025

Congratulations to those who were confirmed on May 14th, 2025!
We pray that the peace coming from the Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brianna Bauler | Elizabeth Moss |
| Grayson Bays | Braden Muzslay |
| Sawyer Brewster | Nora Napolitan |
| Lauren Canfield | Gabrielle Peterson |
| Nick Carlin | Nora Rachowicz |
| Liam Corder | Sophia Rakoski |
| Claire Delonis | Graham Ritter |
| Caleb Duckworth | Natalia Salas |
| Ashlyn Fork | Harper Scarlett |
| Ella Kaiser | Josh Sebastian |
| Jakob Klok | Elizabeth Sparks |
| Natalie Lundquist | Connor Stiles |
| Shawn Mack | Gianna Swager |
| Miles Mahabir | Claire Szczesny |
| Alexa Malaski | Paige Woolsey |
| Brooklyn Martinson | Sophia Worthington |
| Casey Kupka | Dakota Kupka |





VOLUNTEER FOR VBS!



Scan the QR Code
to Volunteer

Are you ready to answer the call from the wild and volunteer for True North Vacation Bible School? In order to give as many kids as possible a fun and faith-filled week, we need the following positions filled: Crew Leaders, Station Leaders, Station Aids, Decorators, Set Up, Nursery Leader, Parking Lot Aids, Prayer Team and more. We hope you'll join us on this incredible adventure!



Faith-Filled Fun!



Leadership
Opportunities



Get Crafty!



stcatherinesiena.org/vbs

mzawadzki@stcatherinesiena.org

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: May 17, Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:00 pm Sharron Meisenhelder †

SUNDAY: May 18, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:00 am Eldred † & Beatrice † Huss

11:00 am Rose † & Fred † Peskar

5:00 pm Dick † & Marilyn † Vykydal

MONDAY: May 19, Easter Weekday

Acts 14:5-18/Jn 14:21-26

9:15 am Joe Hofbauer †

TUESDAY: May 20, Easter Weekday

Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a

9:15 am Kevin Wade †

WEDNESDAY: May 21, Easter Weekday

Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8

9:15 am Paul Portman †

THURSDAY: May 22, Easter Weekday

Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11

9:15 am Roy † & Genevieve † Hiler

FRIDAY: May 23, Easter Weekday

Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17

9:15 am Mary Wroblewski †

SATURDAY: May 24, Easter Weekday

Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21

9:15 am Chester † & Florence † DalPonte

SATURDAY: May 24, Vigil of the Sixth Sunday of Easter

4:00 pm Edward † & Stella † Ferworn

SUNDAY: May 25, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:00 am George † & Mary † Heinze

11:00 am Ronnie Norris †

5:00 pm Gayle Kelly †

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Staff Contacts

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office@stcatherinesiena.org

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Alan DeMars / (269) 978-2338

Linda Reaume / (269) 978-2346

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Michelle Zawadzki / (269) 978-2343

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Michelle Clemens / (269) 327-5165

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

Facilities Coordinator

klaske@stcatherinesiena.org

Kathy Laske / (269) 978-2332

Clergy Contacts

Fr. Mark Vyverman

fathermark

Fr. Joseph Abraham

fatherjoseph

Deacon Brian

deaconbrian

Deacon Ron

deaconronald

Deacon Doran

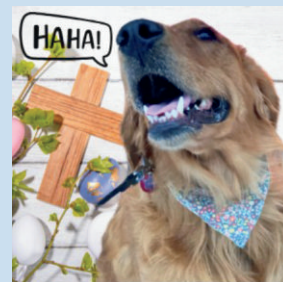
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What did pirates call
Noah's boat?

The arrrrrrrrk.



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