St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



Memorial Day

REMEMBER AND HONOR

May 25, 2025 Sixth 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,

It's been a very quick month of May. After Easter, the calendar was full and we have a new Pope as well! As we find ourselves at this final weekend of May, it's also the time of year that we acknowledge all of the



graduates in our parish. I know that we have many schools represented at our parish and each one has a different date for their graduation. Please know that we will keep you all in our prayers during this special time in your life and wish you well in the future!

We are now several weeks into our Bishop's Annual Appeal for 2025. If you haven't done so already, please prayerfully consider a pledge to this annual effort to support the many ministries that are sponsored by the Diocese of Kalamazoo. As always, we need your help and prayers to make this successful and thank you for all your support in the past. In a special way, we pray for our seminarians, especially for Paul Thuantho who will be ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Kalamazoo next week on Saturday, May 31st. The cost of educating a seminarian goes up every year and as we plan for the fall, this will not be an exception. Thank you for supporting the education of your priests and seminarians through the Bishop's Appeal.

On Monday, we will remember those who have served our country. It is Memorial Day, a day to remember all those who have protected the freedom of our country. Since I have had several of my family members in the military, this day always has a special meaning for me. Thank you, Vets, for your service!

Please remember, in most of the dioceses of the United States, the Solemnity of the Ascension will be celebrated next **Sunday, June 1st** (as we will here in Kalamazoo/Portage). Only a few of the dioceses in the United States continue to celebrate the Ascension on Ascension Thursday, 40 days after our Lord's Resurrection.

Thanks for reading!

Fr. Mark

Mass

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Monday - Saturday:9:15 am (Trinity Chapel)Saturday:4:00 pm, Vigil MassSunday: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

Stewardship

May 5, 2025 - May 11, 2025	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$17,405
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$6,366</u>
		\$23,771
May 6, 2024 - May 12, 2024	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$16,248
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$23,270</u>
		\$39,518
2024 - 2025 Year to Date	\$1,407,316	
2023 - 2024 Year to Date	\$1,379,421	

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

Sunday	/ May	25	2025
Sunday	<i>y</i> , way	23,	2025

7:30 am	Mass, Church
8:30 am	Knights of Columbus Rosary, Trinity Chapel
9:00 am	Mass, Church
10:00 am	Siena's Rehearsal, Church, Choir Room
11:00 am	Mass, Church
5:00 pm	Mass, Church

Monday, May 26, 2025 *OFFICES CLOSED, MEMORIAL DAY*

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
Prayer Shawl Ministry, GLP
Rosary, Trinity Chapel
KofC Officers Meeting, Fellowship

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
10:00 am	St. C Walkers, Stanley Centre Gym
6:00 pm	Circle of Friends, Fellowship
7:00 pm	Scripture Study, Zoom

Reflection on the Readings

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Calendar events subject to change!

Thursday, May 29, 2025

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

Friday, May 30, 2025

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
5.15 am	Bany mass, miney emaper

Saturday, May 31, 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
1:00 pm	Baptism, Church
3:30 pm	Knights of Columbus Rosary, Church
4:00 pm	Mass, Church

First Holy Communion

Join us in prayer for those who have received their First Holy Communion this May. Their names will be listed in the June 1st bulletin!

Today's Gospel reading from John is like a gold mine! It contains nuggets of golden promises to sustain us through the trials we will all face in this life. The apostles must have been shaken to hear Jesus' final words before His arrest and crucifizion. Jesus knows their fears and offers several promises to sustain them in the days and years ahead. These same promises are given to us.

"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." Jesus promises that for those who believe, those who love and follow Him, the Holy Trinity will come to live in our souls. Is your soul ready to welcome the Holy Trinity? Is it a place of holiness?

Jesus then promises that after His Ascension, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have told you." Jesus taught His disciples many things. Much of what he taught them they didn't understand until after His resurrection. The Gospel writers, inspired by the Holy Spirit, were able to explain His words and record them for us. That same Holy Spirit leads and guides us in the everyday situations we face. It is on us to be listening for His voice.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you." Jesus leaves us His peace, but it is not the peace we normally think of. His peace is not a peace that comes from the world. This peace is offered to us again by God through the priest at every Mass. It does not promise the absence of suffering or hardship or pain. Rather, it remains uncompromised even when these events arise. The love of God for believers continues undisturbed through any trials, even death. Jesus tells us we should rejoice even when we lose a loved one because they are going to glory with the Father. This is the abiding peace of wholeness and tranquility that can only come from the Lord.

It is easy to forget these comforting words of Jesus through the ups and downs of our daily lives. But God always fulfills His promises. We may forget Him at times but He never forgets us. May we always be on the lookout for how God is working in our lives, just as He said He would. Let us pray: "Jesus, help us to trust in your promises." These promises Jesus gave His disciples 2000 years ago are also for all believers in 2025!

Reflection by Parishioner Dale Gerber

News Around St. Catherine and the Diocese

He is Risen!



Primetimers

Calling All Primetimers! (age 50+) to join us for lunch on **Monday, June 2nd, 2025, at 11:30 AM** at Jac's Cekola's Pizza Restautant, 3112 S 9th St, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. 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!

Circle of Friends

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 vrodriguez@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 <u>diokzoo.org/personswithdisabilities</u> or contact Veronica Rodriguez at (269) 349-8714 Ext. 1240 and email her at vrodriguez@diokzoo.org.

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.

CFF Registration

Registration for the 2025-26 CFF year is now open! 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 secondgrade 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.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far to the Bishop's Annual Appeal! As of May 15th, we are 35% of the way to our goal. Your generosity will make a huge impact funding programs such as: Seminary Education, Catholic Education Development, Catholic Charities, and Parish Life Ministries. We invite others to prayerfully consider pledging to give toward our goal of \$289,211. To give, please pick up an envelope or give online at <u>diokzoo.org</u>!

Parish Night at the Ballpark!

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**, doors open **at 5:35 PM**! Tickets cost \$46.00 and include: Group seating in the covered awning of the Miller Trap Tent, Allinclusive 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 <u>growlerstickets.com</u> and enter Promotion: Siena25. Tickets are also available in the Front Office.

YFF Registration

Registration for the 2025-26 Youth Faith Formation Year and the middle school and high school youth groups is now open! Please register online at the parish website, stcatherinesiena.org/ under the white menu tab that reads, "Faith Formation" 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.



Volunteer Opportunities 6th Grade - Adults

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



Scan the QR Code to Volunteer!



Contact: mzawadzki@stcatherinesiena.org

Mass Intentions

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 †

MONDAY: May 26, Saint Philip Neri, Priest Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26-16:4a 9:15 am Bonnie Kovach + **TUESDAY: May 27, Easter Weekday** Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11 9:15 am John + & Clara + Szczepanik WEDNESDAY: May 28, Easter Weekday Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15 9:15 am Soul of Teresa Tran + **THURSDAY: May 29, Easter Weekday** Acts 18:1-8/Jn 16:16-20 9:15 am Giana Wheaton FRIDAY: May 30, Easter Weekday Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23 9:15 am Connie Shoemaker SATURDAY: May 31, The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Lk 1:39-56 9:15 am Marge Hocevar +

SATURDAY: May 31, Vigil of the Ascension of the Lord 4:00 pm Martha E. Taylor † SUNDAY: June 1, The Ascension of the Lord Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53 7:30 am Hudson Lipowski 9:00 am Julia Nespodzany † 11:00 am Lou Farraye †

5:00 pm People of the Parish

Join our Flocknote! Text JOINSCS to 84576 OR Connect with us online at: stcatherinesiena.flocknote.com



Staff Contacts

mmyers@stcatherinesiena.org Mary Myers / (269) 978-2335

Accounting accounting@stcatherinesiena.org Alan DeMars / (269) 978-2338 Linda Reaume / (269) 978-2346

Bulletin/Communications communications@stcatherinesiena.org Mackenzie Holton / (269) 327-3441

Faith Formation Ministry faith@stcatherinesiena.org George Dragan / (269) 978-2347 Michelle Zawadzki / (269) 978-2343

Music Ministry music@stcatherinesiena.org Michelle Clemens / (269) 327-5165

Parish Nurse Ministry pwhitentc@mac.com Paula White (volunteer) / (269) 330-3762

Facilities Coordinator klaske@stcatherinesiena.org Kathy Laske / (269) 978-2332

Clergy Contacts

- Fr. Mark Vyverman Fr. Joseph Abraham Deacon Brian Deacon Ron Deacon Doran
- fathermark fatherjoseph deaconbrian deaconronald deacondoran

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



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



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