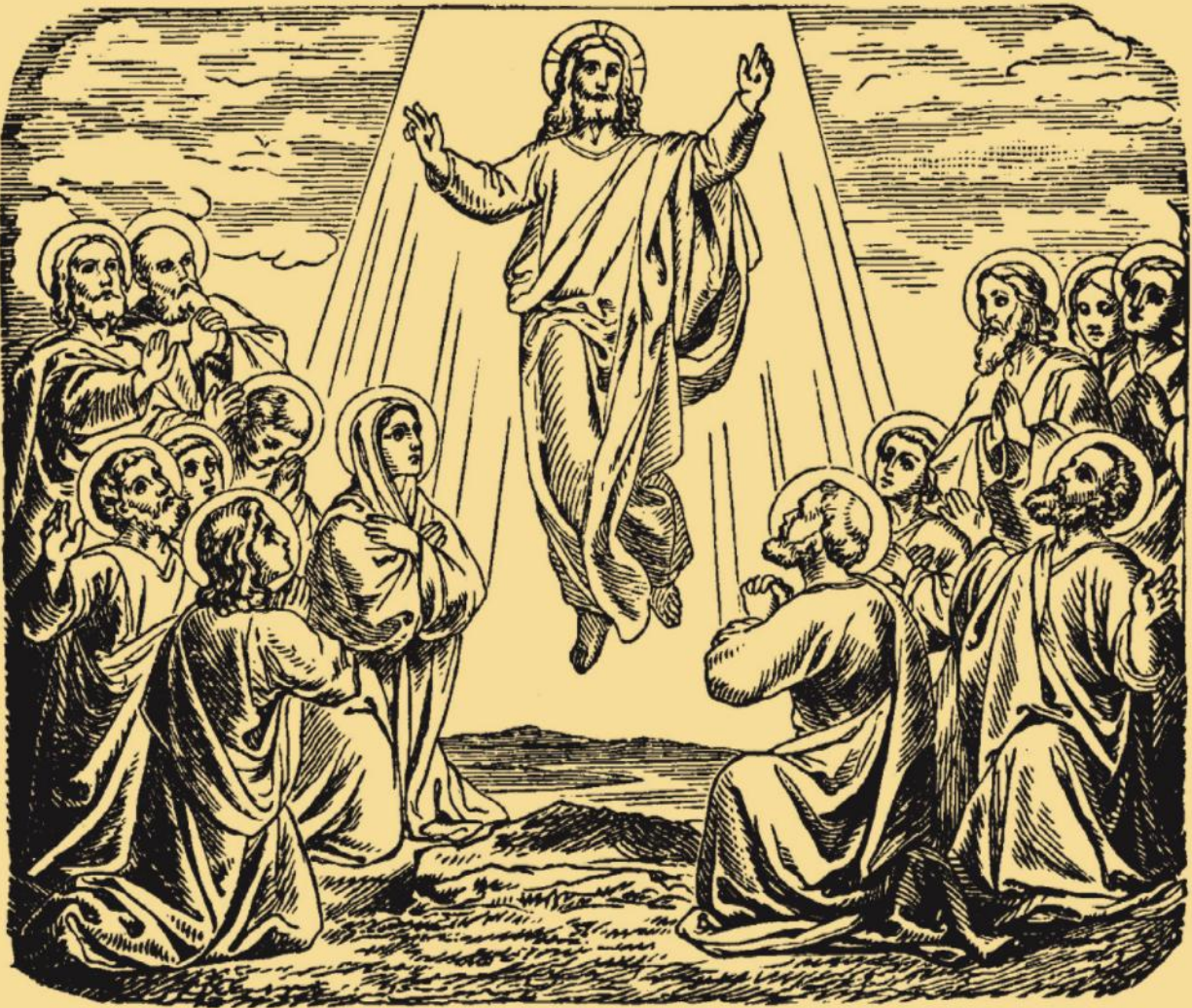

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



He was taken up to Heaven

June 1, 2025
The Ascension of the Lord

1150 West Centre Ave. • Portage, MI • www.stcatherinesiena.org • (269) 327-5165

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Dear Parishioners,

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension this weekend! As the disciples stand there, trying to figure out what this means, that Jesus has ascended into Heaven, they are encouraged by the Angels to have faith. This celebration should be a reminder to all of us to have faith. For even though we may not be able to physically see Jesus, He is always there for us. This celebration of the Ascension also means that our Easter Season is quickly drawing to a close. The Church will celebrate Pentecost next week. The Holy Spirit comes upon us, to guide us and help us live out our faith. The Holy Spirit shows us the mystery of the Trinity, and how God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit show us how to live our faith more fully. Come Holy Spirit, come upon us and guide us to the Kingdom.

I have been very pleased to see that there have been so many news articles on our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, as well as pictures and videos of him in Peru, the countries that he traveled to as the Superior General of the Augustinian order, his work as a cardinal in Rome, and many other aspects (and sorry Cubs fans, you can't claim him-he likes the White Sox). I continue to hear about more and more connections that he has had to our diocese over the years. It is very exciting for me to see all the connections to our new Holy Father! Please keep him in your prayers as he enters into the first few weeks of his papacy.

By the time you read this article, Bishop Lohse should have ordained our newest priest on the 31st of May. We pray for Fr. Paul (Biak) Thuantho as he begins his time of priestly ministry in our diocese. Some time ago, I was that young priest being ordained. Now after all these parishes that I have served in throughout the diocese, I will be celebrating my 32nd anniversary at the end of this month of June.

Over the past few weeks, you have also heard me mention how our Bishop's Annual Appeal has supported Fr. Thuantho and his educational journey. Thank you to all that have already pledged to this year's appeal. But if you haven't pledged yet, we still need your help to make our goal! Your prayers, your pledge to the appeal can continue to help educate our future priests and so many other ministries in our diocese. Pledge envelopes are available at the entrances of the church and you may be receiving a follow up mailing if you haven't taken the opportunity to pledge this year.

Thanks for reading!

Fr. Mark



PAGE 2

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

May 12, 2025 - May 18, 2025	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$9,413
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$8,102</u>
		\$17,515
May 13, 2024 - May 19, 2024	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$26,648
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$8,282</u>
		\$34,930
2024 - 2025 Year to Date	\$1,424,831	
2023 - 2024 Year to Date	\$1,414,351	

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

PAGE 3

Calendar events subject to change!

Sunday, June 1, 2025

7:30 am Mass, Church
8:30 am Knights of Columbus Rosary, Trinity Chapel
9:00 am Mass, Church
11:00 am Mass, Church
5:00 pm Mass, Church

Monday, June 2, 2025

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
11:30 am Primetimers, Jac's Pizza (3112, S 9th St)
7:00 pm Catholic Men's Fellowship, Fellowship

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:45 am Rosary, Trinity Chapel
6:40 pm KofC Rosary, Fellowship
7:00 pm KofC Business Meeting, Fellowship

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

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

Thursday, June 5, 2025

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

Friday, June 6, 2025

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
3:00 pm First Friday Adoration, Trinity Chapel

Saturday, June 7, 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
5:15 pm Syro Malabar, Trinity Chapel, Marian Hall

Reflection on the Readings

The Solemnity of the Ascension signals that the Easter season is coming to an end. With Pentecost just days away, it can be easy to pass over the Ascension, or to wonder why it matters.

Our readings for today show us two versions of the event, both recorded by St. Luke. Jesus blessed his disciples before "he parted from them and was taken up to heaven." But why was it necessary for Jesus to ascend? After all, some of his followers were still plagued with doubts, even after multiple proofs of his resurrection (cf. Matt. 28:17). Most of the disciples, including Peter, had proved cowardly and disloyal when they fled from Jesus' arrest just a few weeks before. Wouldn't it have been better for Jesus to stay and oversee the founding of his new church himself?

As if anticipating this question, Jesus said that it was actually for his disciples' benefit that he was returning to the Father: "for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (Jn. 16:7). Jesus' return to the Father opened the door for the Holy Spirit to descend upon the apostles at Pentecost and birth the new Church.

Even more significantly, Jesus' ascension into heaven represents the climax of the entire Paschal Mystery. Jesus' passion and death are moments bound in time—occurring on a specific day in a specific year. But when Jesus ascended into heaven and offered his glorified, but-still-wounded body to his Father, his sacrifice was brought out of time and into eternity, into a "sanctuary [not] made by hands" (Heb. 9:24). Because Jesus' sacrifice of his body and blood has been made eternal, it can be made eternally present in the Eucharist—Jesus is thus high priest for all time, always interceding and offering himself for us (Pitre, CCC 662).

Without the Ascension, there is no Paschal Mystery! Let us be all the more grateful, then, for Jesus' return to his Father and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, now just a week away.

Reflection by Parishioner Kathryn Wilmotte

News Around St. Catherine and the Diocese

Join us in fellowship and growing in our faith.



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 Restaurant, 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!

First Friday Adoration

Join us on **Friday, June 6th, at 3:00 PM** in the Trinity Chapel for First Friday Adoration. Take time to adore Jesus during this special late afternoon and early evening opportunity, as we honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus on First Friday. All parishioners are invited to come and spend time in prayer and reflection on this important day of devotion. For more information, contact Deacon Brian at deaconbrian@stcatherinesiena.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 diokzoo.org/personswithdisabilities or contact Veronica Rodriguez at (269) 349-8714 Ext. 1240 and email her at vrodriguez@diokzoo.org.

Migrant Ministry Collections



COLLECTIONS BEGIN THIS WEEKEND

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

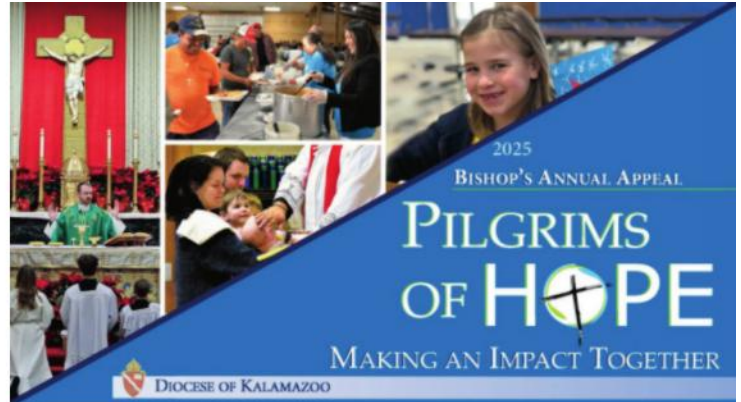
St. Catherine parishioners who wish to visit a migrant camp are invited to team up with St. Tom's team on **Wednesday nights from July 15th through August 12th**. Meet at St. Tom's at **6:30 PM**. Youth Service hours can be earned. If you're interested in visiting a migrant camp, please contact Ree Millard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

Young Adults Dinner & Discussion

We invite all young adults (ages 18-35) to join us for dinner and discussion on **Sunday, June 22nd at 6:00 PM.** We will be fellowshiping while enjoying delicious food at Ziki Japanese Restaurant (279 W Centre Ave, Portage, MI 49002). Everyone covers their own bill.

Contact: Michelle Zawadzki at mzawadzki@stcatherinesiena.org.

For in order that man may do well, whether in the works of the active life, or in those of the contemplative life, he needs the fellowship of friends. - Thomas Aquinas



Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far to the Bishop's Annual Appeal! As of May 27th, we are over 50% of the way to our goal, having raised **\$146,986.19!**

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 diokzoo.org!


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". 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 is now open! Please register online at the parish website, stcatherinesiena.org/ under the white menu tab that reads, "Faith Formation". 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**.

The Pirates of Penzance



Backwoods Players presents Gilbert and Sullivan's, "The Pirates of Penzance." Featuring swashbuckling pirates, Victorian damsels in distress, soaring vocal lines, and sidesplitting comedy from beginning to end, this operetta (directed by Danny Shultz, with musical direction by Ursi Engebretsen) runs from June 13-14 at Hackett Catholic Prep's auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for age 10 and up, \$5 for children under 10. Reserve your tickets today at bwplayerskzoo.wordpress.com/#tickets or scan the QR code above!

First Holy Communion 2025

Congratulations to the children who received their First Holy Communion in May!

We pray that the peace coming from our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you now and forever.

Poppy Beattie
Bentley Beers
Simon Bergevin
Easton Betzle
Hazel Buffenbarger
Jordan Burgess
Anthony Cavis
Brady DeLorge
Harper Dusenberry
Maxwell Foley
Reyden Friedmann
Faith Giddings
Peyton Gifford
Santiago Gomez
Matteo Green
Lauren Greenop
Savannah Guinn
Benjamin Hirschman
Oisin Kelly
Graham Kindle
Liam Kissinger
Mason Lipowski
Rebekah Mannil

Cooper McDonald
Adalynd Meacham
Kensington Merkel
Hank Montmorency
Ezekiel Nadaud
Sam Nestor
Kennedy Ann Phillips
Sonny Reid
Luke Schwein
Jerry Stiger
Jude Strachota
Clara VanLeeuwen
Dominic Vecore
Marlyn Welton
Gabriele White
Bella Zahel



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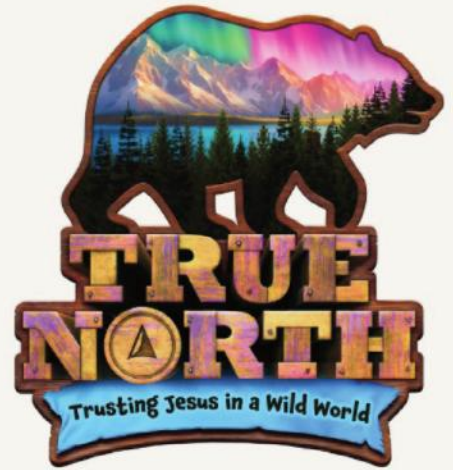




VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 14-18 | 9 AM-Noon

We especially need volunteers and donations!



Register!

At VBS True North, kids will be immersed in the Word of God through songs, recreation, science experiments and Bible stories! Daily snacks will be served, and each participant will receive a t-shirt! The cost for this fun-filled learning experience is \$30 per person or \$60 per family (3+ children). VBS is for children entering Pre-K-5th grade in the fall.



Volunteer!

Volunteer Opportunities for 6th graders-adults. We need lots of help before and during the event! Are you creative and want to help make decorations? Do you love to pray and are you available to pray for VBS before and during the event? Do you love being around young people and want to be a crew leader or a station leader? Contact Michelle Zawadzki!



Donate!

VBS is taking donations to make True North Vacation Bible School an immersive experience for the kids. We appreciate your generosity in donating items from the following Amazon wish list. If you can't scan the QR code, contact Michelle Zawadzki!



Michelle Zawadzki: mzawadzki@stcatherinesiena.org





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Mass Intentions

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

MONDAY: June 2, Easter Weekday; Saints Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs

Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33

9:15 am Marge Hocevar †

TUESDAY: June 3, Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a

9:15 am Thomas Pyret †

WEDNESDAY: June 4, Easter Weekday

Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19

9:15 am David and Kathleen Chapman's 50th
Wedding Anniversary

THURSDAY: June 5, Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26

9:15 am Chris Woleban's Birthday

FRIDAY: June 6, Easter Weekday; Saint Norbert, Bishop

Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19

9:15 am Soul of Teresa Tran †

SATURDAY: June 7, Easter Weekday

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn 21:20-25

9:15 am Deacon Ed Feltes †

SATURDAY: June 7, Vigil of Pentecost Sunday

Gn 11:1-9/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

4:00 pm Kathy Borchert †

SUNDAY: June 8, Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

7:30 am Dr. Richard Brozovich †

9:00 am Adam Gabel †

11:00 am Gloria Price †

5:00 pm People of the Parish

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mmyers@stcatherinesiena.org

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Alan DeMars / (269) 978-2338

Linda Reaume / (269) 978-2346

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Mackenzie Holton / (269) 327-3441

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George Dragan / (269) 978-2347

Michelle Zawadzki / (269) 978-2343

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Michelle Clemens / (269) 327-5165

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pwhitenc@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

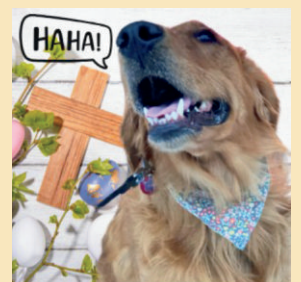
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