
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



“There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”

July 20, 2025
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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,

Thank you everyone for another successful Vacation Bible School for 2025! It's nice to have everything up and going again, especially since last year at this time we were in full recovery mode from our tornado. Our volunteers and all our families that participated are greatly appreciated! Our staff did a great job once again!



A few of you may have noticed that the ushers are counting attendance these past few weeks during the month of July. There is a reason for this (especially post covid) as we enter into what are going to be the best plans for our priests and our parishes in the coming years. As I have written in my columns the past few weeks, we were blessed to have one ordination this summer. Yet, as the math shows, when three priests are called back to the order and/or their diocese, the math doesn't add up. That's why some of us are starting to help out at other parishes until some solutions present themselves. Bishop Lohse has been thinking and praying about this for both our diocese and as he also serves as the diocesan administrator for the Diocese of Steubenville. It is not just something unique to our area of our country. No decisions have been made about anything, but it gives us all something to think and pray about. All these things are just in their preliminary stages.

As I look around, I know that as I study the dioceses that my seminary classmates serve in, all of them have done a pastoral plan reorganization. Locally, our neighbor to the North (the Diocese of Grand Rapids) just announced their new pastoral plan a few weeks ago. In our own diocese, almost ten years ago, we did the collaborative reorganization. But we had more priests to fill those spots ten years ago (and somehow, I was ten years younger then!). It's going to take a lot of thinking and praying and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to help us with this. In this Jubilee Year that we are reminded that we are Pilgrims of Hope, we need to keep looking towards the future and what our Lord intends for the Church.

Thanks for reading!

Fr. Mark

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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: frontdesk@stcatherinesiena.org



Text to Give: (844) 311-5105



www.stcatherinesiena.org



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stcatherinesiena.flocknote.com



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Stewardship

June 30, 2025 - July 6, 2025	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$13,565
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$6,387</u>
		\$19,952
July 1, 2024 - July 7, 2024	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$20,423
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$20,949</u>
		\$41,372
2025 - 2026 Year to Date	\$19,952	
2024 - 2025 Year to Date	\$41,372	

Thank you all for your continued generosity!

If you are interested in membership or volunteering,
please contact our Front Office today!
frontdesk@stcatherinesiena.org or 327-5165.

Calendar of Events

Calendar events subject to change!

Sunday, July 20, 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	Temp Exemplifications for 6980, Trinity
12:30 pm	Loss of a Spouse, Room 9/11
5:00 pm	Mass, Church
6:00 pm	Young Adults Dinner, Monelli's (Westnedge)

Monday, July 21, 2025

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:45 am	Respect Life Rosary, Mary Garden, Trinity
7:00 pm	Catholic Men's Fellowship, Fellowship

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:30 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry, GLP
9:45 am	Rosary, Trinity Chapel
1:00 pm	Blood Drive, Stanley Centre Gym

Wednesday, July 23, 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

Thursday, July 24, 2025

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

Friday, July 25, 2025

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
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Saturday, July 26, 2025

7:30 am	Catholic Men's Fellowship, Room 9/11
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: Fr. Augustine Mission Appeal, Church

Reflection on the Readings

Today's first reading and psalm can be seen to be in opposition to today's Gospel reading. In the first reading, we hear of Abraham "rolling out the red carpet" for three visitors that he doesn't know; as far as he knew at the time, they were just three travelers passing by. Nevertheless, he opened his home to them to ensure that they felt welcome and to help them on their journey. In return for his generosity, God rewarded him and Sarah with a child, despite Sarah's advanced age.

The psalm echoes this theme, telling of all the benefits that belong to one who "does justice", who cares for his fellow humans. "He will live in the presence of the Lord"; the inference is that one who does not do these things will not have God's favor upon him/her.

The Gospel reading seems to paint a different picture. Jesus entered the home of Martha and Mary. Martha busied herself with all the "necessary" things to provide for their guest, while Mary simply sat with Jesus and listened to Him. When Martha finally got disgusted with her sister and asked Jesus to direct Mary to help her, Jesus said no... that Martha was worried about many things, when only one thing mattered. "Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

How are we to reconcile these two seemingly opposite positions? I'm sure there are many ways to view this; the lesson that these readings, taken together, impart to me is that both behaviors are important. There are times when we need to care for our fellow travelers, but we need also to make time to "listen" to Jesus...time in prayer, study, and reflection. And, when we are performing acts of service to others, we need to keep in mind that we are doing it out of love for them and for Jesus, not because it draws attention to ourselves.

Reflection by parishioner John Ceglarek

News Around St. Catherine and the Diocese

Join us in growing in
faith and fellowship!



Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the Bishop's Annual Appeal! We are incredibly close to reaching our goal with **\$280,991.84** pledged—just steps away from the finish line of **\$289,211**. If you haven't yet had the chance to give, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift today. Every contribution makes a difference and brings us closer to our goal!

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

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, phone (800) 276-1562 or visit <http://ReportBishopAbuse.org>. 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.

Young Adults Dinner & Discussion



We invite all young adults (ages 18-35) to join us for dinner and discussion on **Sunday, July 20th at 6:00 PM**. We will be fellowshiping while enjoying delicious food at Monelli's Italian Grill & Sports Bar (7141 S. Westnedge Ave). 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

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, August 3rd, 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 vrodiguez@diokzoo.org.

Loss of a Spouse



We invite you to join us for a one-time, 2-hour program designed for those grieving the loss of a spouse. It will be held at St. Catherine Siena in room 9/11 on **Sunday, July 20th, 2025, from 12:30 to 2:30 PM**. A \$10 fee covers the program booklet and is payable at the door. Register online at www.griefshare.org. Questions? Contact Paula White at (269) 330-3762 or pwhitentc@mac.com.

"GriefShare helped me to know I am not alone."

Kathleen, GriefShare participant

Circle of Friends



Join us on **Wednesday, July 23rd 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

St. C Walkers



Stay active and connect with others!

Join the St. C Walkers every Wednesday **from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM** at St. Catherine of Siena's Stanley Centre Gym. Enjoy a dry, welcoming environment to get your steps in and share great fellowship. Don't forget to bring clean, dry shoes to change into once inside! We look forward to walking with you next Wednesday!

Back to School Giving Tree is here!

The annual Back to School Giving Tree project, which supports various local organizations, continues now through August 17th.

Wish lists are available on our website at <https://www.stcatherinesiena.org/giving-tree-2> or via the QR code.

Please drop off donations (labeled with the name of the recipient organization) to the designated area in the narthex. Please note that we are not accepting gift cards due to multiple fraud attempts.

Questions? Contact Colette Gushurst at gushursts@yahoo.com



GriefShare 13-Week Program



NOTE THE STARTING DATE CHANGE FOR THIS.

The 13-week GriefShare program begins **Tuesday, September 30th**, and meets weekly from **6:30 to 8:30 PM**. This Christ-centered support group offers a sacred space to process grief while exploring 13 key topics on the journey toward healing. The \$25 fee includes a guidebook and is payable at the first session. Register online at www.griefshare.org. Questions? Contact Paula White at (269) 330-3762 or pwhitenc@mac.com.

Diaconal Formation Applications

Effective immediately, the Diocese of Kalamazoo will begin receiving applications for candidates to enroll in the inquiry phase of diaconal formation. Additional information including the timelines, standards, requirements and applications can be found on the diocesan website at www.diokzoo.org/deaconformation



IS GOD CALLING YOU TO

Serve

IN DIACONAL MINISTRY?



*"Whoever serves me
must follow me;
and where I am
my servant also will be"*
— John 12:26



DIocese of Kalamazoo
OFFICE OF THE DIACONATE
PHONE: 269-349-8714 ext. 1239
EMAIL: DEACONFORMATION@DIOKZOO.ORG
"APPLICATIONS DUE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2025"



Welcoming Rev. Fr. Thadeus as visiting Missionary Priest next weekend!

Please welcome Rev. Fr. Thadeus Mkamwa, Ph.D., who will be representing the Catholic Diocese of Tanga in Tanzania/East Africa and speak at all the weekend Masses for Diocesan MCP-2025 at our church St. Catherine of Siena, Portage, MI on **the weekend of July 26th & 27th**. Fr. Thadeus is a bona fidei priest from Tanga, Tanzania. He was ordained a priest in 1997. Since his ordination, Fr. Thadeus has done parish ministry in Tanzania, USA and Ireland. He has taught as a Lecturer and later Associate Professor at the Saint Augustine University of Tanzania.

He has held several educational positions. Since 2021, Fr. Thadeus has been the Principal of Stella Maris Mtwara University College. The mission needs of the Tanga Diocese are many, but currently we are very challenged to meet the tuition fees for our diocesan major seminarians who are now in formation and studies in our national Philosophical and Theological seminaries. Any help we can get from this Mission Appeal (MCP 2025) will be vital in supporting the formation of these fine young men who will soon move on into priesthood. We can't thank you enough for your consideration in this. Your generous financial and spiritual help will make a difference. Please be generous in your response to Father's appeal.





The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Catherine of Siena conference, is dedicated to supporting local families and households in need. Our neighbors often face challenging times, including homelessness, evictions, or utility shut-offs for electricity, gas, or water.

Every Saturday morning, we gather with local families and households at the Stanley Centre. We actively listen to their stories, provide in-kind assistance, and offer financial pledges to help them overcome their financial hardships and regain stability.

Thanks to your support, in the first six months of 2025, we have been able to offer the following services to those most in need in our community:

From January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025:

Type of Assistance	Adults Helped	Children Helped	Assistance Amount (USD)
In-Kind Goods	189	-	\$3,591.00
Housing (Eviction/Homeless)	103	91	\$20,063.87
Utility (Shut-off notice)	107	75	\$16,528.70
Funerals / Other	7	-	\$1,417.48

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and its generous parishioners for their monetary donations and continued support. Your contributions provide hope and relief for families and households in our community. If you wish to continue supporting, monetary donations may be dropped off in the poor box located near the church's entrance. Rest assured, your donations go directly to those who need them most.

I also want to inform this community that starting July 13th, we will transition our assistance process to **appointment-only**, beginning August 2nd. During this period, there will be no Saturday interviews on July 19th and 26th.

If you are interested in joining St. Vincent de Paul and participating in our charitable work, please contact Dave Clare at (269) 363-6579.



New Members

Genevieve Bogedain

Scott and Tammy Dando

**Josh Hafner and Christian
Meylan**

Jaden Hafner

Baptisms

Eliana Marian Holysz
Daughter of David and
Kathleen

Luca Mazzara
Son of John and Jacqueline

Piper Tourchette
Daughter of Randy and
Suzanne

Amellia You-Tong
Daughter of Ting-Yu Mu and
Shiaomin Lu

Remembrance

Donald Oostveen

Welcome to St. Catherine of Siena!



**Erin Morgan,
Administrative
Assistant**

**We are delighted to introduce our two new members,
Administrative Assistant Erin Morgan (Pictured) and
Maintenance Member, Blake Maxwell (Not Pictured).**

**Administrative Assistant Erin Morgan looks forward to working
in the Front Office and will often times be the one at the other
side of the line when you call the office. When she's not at St.
Catherine of Siena, she enjoys writing and playing music with
family and friends.**

**Maintenance Member Blake Maxwell is looking forward to
helping us keep things in tip-top shape around the building.
When he's not here, he is teaching middle school full-time. He
also enjoys building 3D printers.**

If you see them around, give them a warm welcome!



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: July 19, Vigil of the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Charles† and Elizabeth† Kovacs

SUNDAY: July 20, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:1-10a/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42

7:30 am Carol Vaseleski †

9:00 am People of the Parish

11:00 am Connie Shoemaker

5:00 pm Eric Munson †

MONDAY: July 21, Weekday; Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Ex 14:5-18/Mt 12:38-42

9:15 am Joan Niedzielski †

TUESDAY: July 22, Saint Mary Magdalene

Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

9:15 am Soul of Teresa Tran †

WEDNESDAY: July 23, Weekday; Saint Bridget, Religious

Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Mt 13:1-9

9:15 am Rose Maronto †

THURSDAY: July 24, Weekday; Saint Sharbel Makhlof, Priest

Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Mt 13:10-17

9:15 am Mary Wroblewski †

FRIDAY: July 25, Saint James, Apostle

2 Cor 4:7-15/Mt 20:20-28

9:15 am Alice Kavanaugh †

SATURDAY: July 26, Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ex 24:3-8/Mt 13:24-30

9:15 am The Deceased Members of the Gillespie & Forero Families †

SATURDAY: July 26, Vigil of the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Former President Joe Biden

SUNDAY: July 27, The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:20-32/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:00 am Robert† and Nicholas† Sikora

11:00 am Tony Roemer †

5:00 pm Errol De Silva †

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Text **JOINSCS** to **84576** OR

Connect with us online at:

stcatherinesiena.flocknote.com



Staff Contacts

Front Office

frontdesk@stcatherinesiena.org

Mary Myers / (269) 978-2335

Erin Morgan / (269) 978-2340

Accounting

accounting@stcatherinesiena.org

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

pwhitenc@mac.com

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

Coordinator

klaske@stcatherinesiena.org

Kathy Laske / (269) 978-2332

Gary Townsend

Blake Maxwell

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,
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What kind of
cellphone did Delilah
use?

Samson



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