# St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



## July 27, 2025 17th 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.

At all our Masses this weekend, we welcome a visiting missionary priest: Fr. Thadeus. He is a priest from the Tanga Diocese in Tanzania. Each year our parish welcomes a visiting priest from a missionary diocese to tell



us about the work and ministry as well as what the Church is like in that part of the world. As our new Holy Father, Pope Leo has reminded us in these first months of his papacy, the Catholic Church is a missionary church. We are to continue to carry the message of the Gospel to the world around us. As this weekend is part of the missionary cooperative for the Diocese of Kalamazoo, there will be a second collection to support the work of the Diocese of Tanga.

It's been a few weeks since I spoke about BAA, our 2025 Bishop's Appeal. I was hoping that I could announce that we have completed our goal for the year, but as of this past week, we were still \$8,000 away from reaching our goal this year. If you haven't pledged or would like to pledge to help us make our goal, please help support the work of the Church in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Pledge envelopes are still available in the entryways of the Church. Thanks to everyone who has given this year to bring us near our goal.

Weather permitting this week, we are planning to have the last steps of our parking lot maintenance done this week (seal coating and striping the lines). We will be open the entire week for Mass and there will be access to the offices, but sections of the lot will be shut down for a day or so (East lot, West lot) and some entrances will be closed due to the parking lot needing time to cure and dry.

As we reach this final week of July (it sure seems like this month has gone very quickly), just a reminder to mark your calendars for our annual Parish Picnic which is the Sunday following Labor Day (or September 7th). Also, if you have students that haven't registered for our Faith Formation classes for the fall, please contact our office or check the St. Catherine Website for registration information.

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**











## **Stewardship**

July 7, 2025 - July 13, 2025	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$20,331
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$14,866</u>
		\$35,197
July 8, 2024 - July 14, 2024	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$19,632
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$6,438</u>
		\$26,070

**2025 - 2026 Year to Date** \$**55,149** 2024 - 2025 Year to Date \$67,442

#### 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.

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## **Calendar of Events**

Mass, Church

#### Sunday, July 27, 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
12:00 pm Baptism(s), Church

#### Monday, July 28, 2025

5:00 pm

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 29, 2025

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel9:45 am Rosary, Trinity Chapel

7:00 pm KofC Officer's Meeting, Fellowship

#### Wednesday, July 30, 2025

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel

10:00 am St. C Walkers, Stanley Centre Gym

7:00 pm Scripture Study, Zoom

### Calendar events subject to change!

#### Thursday, July 31, 2025

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

#### Friday, August 1, 2025

9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel

3:00 pm First Friday Adoration, Trinity Chapel

#### Saturday, August 2, 2025

7:30 am Catholic Men's Fellowship, GLP
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**

Today's first reading, from Genesis, and Gospel reading are concerned with prayer. In the reading from Genesis, God is talking with Abraham about His plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their grave sins.

Abraham, whose son Lot and his family live there, talks to God about sparing the city for the sake of the few people who were not living in sin. Abraham seems to think he's pushing his luck with God by continuing to ask, but God continues to give Abraham the answer that he wants.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus' disciples ask Him to teach them how to pray. In response, Jesus gives them the Lord's Prayer, the prayer we know as the "Our Father". As we all know, we pray that God's name may be honored (which means we need to be the ones honoring it), we pray that His kingdom will come and His will be done on earth, we pray that our sins will be forgiven, that our daily needs will be met, and that God will spare us from the final temptation. Jesus then goes on to give two examples that speak to persistence in prayer and speaks the familiar words "ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." He reassures His followers that His Father knows how to give good gifts.

The message contained in these readings is that we should pray for what we and others need, for God indeed hears our prayers. In Bishop Robert Barron's book "An Introduction to Prayer", he writes that there are four things we should do when we pray: have faith and confidence in Jesus' words above, have forgiveness on our hearts for those who have wronged us, pray repeatedly for ours and others' needs, and pray in Jesus' name. I encourage all of us to pray in this way, trusting that our Father will answer our prayers...keeping in mind that the answers will come in His time and as He knows is best.

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!

BISHOP'S
ANNUAL
APPEAL

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!

## 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 <a href="http://ReportBishopAbuse.org">http://ReportBishopAbuse.org</a> 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.

## First Friday Adoration

Join us on **Friday, August 1st, 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

## Mission Appeal

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 on the weekend of **July 26th and 27<sup>th</sup>**. The mission needs are many but they are currently challenged to meet tuition fees for the major seminarians. We invite you to prayerfully consider contributing to their mission.

## KofC Golf Outing

Join us for a fun day of golf, fellowship, and prizes — hosted by the Knights of Columbus! We will gather at Pine View Golf Course, Three Rivers on Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Registration: 8:00 AM | Shotgun Start: 9:00 AM
- Format: 4-Person Scramble (Men's, Women's, or Mixed Teams)
- Cost: \$90/person includes golf, cart, coffee & donuts, dinner, and beverages Dinner only: \$30 | Hole Sponsor:
   \$75
- Extras: Team prizes, hole-in-one contest, 50/50 raffle Register by **August 18th**. Download the form at <a href="mailto:stcatherinesiena.org/kofc6980">stcatherinesiena.org/kofc6980</a> and mail it with payment (checks to Knights of Columbus). Questions? Contact Tom Collins: (269) 501-2303

## 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 vrodriguez@diokzoo.org.

## **Primetimers**

Calling All Primetimers (age 50+) to join us for lunch on Monday, August 4th, 2025, at 11:30 AM at Monelli"s Italian Grill and Restaurant located at 7141 S. Westnedge Ave., Portage, MI 49002. Come and 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!

## St. Augustine Cathedral School is Hiring!

St. Augustine Cathedral School, a joyful Catholic school in downtown Kalamazoo, is seeking a dedicated and faith-filled Kindergarten teacher to join our family for the 2025-2026 school year. We are a PK-8 mission driven school, welcoming students as they grow in Faith, Knowledge, and Stewardship. If you would like more information, please see our website: <a href="http://bit.ly/44CGuRR">http://bit.ly/44CGuRR</a> or email the principal at azommers@stakzoo.org

## On the Cover: VBS 2025

We had a blast at VBS this year! With the theme True North, kids discovered how to trust Jesus to guide them through life. Huge thanks to our incredible volunteers, prayer warriors, generous sponsors, and donors—this faith-filled adventure wouldn't have been possible without you. We're so grateful for the love and support that made this week unforgettable. God bless you all!

## 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 <a href="https://www.stcatherinesiena.org/giving-tree-2">https://www.stcatherinesiena.org/giving-tree-2</a> 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

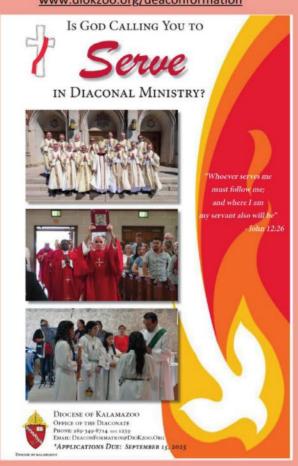


#### NOTE THE STARTING DATE CHANGE FOR THIS.

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 <a href="www.griefshare.org">www.griefshare.org</a>. Questions? Contact Paula White at (269) 330-3762 or pwhitentc@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



## **Mass Intentions**

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 †

MONDAY: July 28, Weekday

Ex 32:15-24. 30-34/Mt 13:31-35

9:15 am Rebecca Kraft

**TUESDAY: July 29, Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus** 

Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Jn 11:19-27

9:15 am Taco Bob †

WEDNESDAY: July 30, Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and

**Doctor of the Church** Ex 34:29-35/Mt 13:44-46 9:15 am Tony Roemer †

THURSDAY: July 31, Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Mt 13:47-53 9:15 am Soul of Teresa Tran †

FRIDAY: August 1, Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and

Doctor of the Church

Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Mt 13:54-58

9:15 am Jo Ann Haggard's Birthday

SATURDAY: August 2, Saint Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop;

Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Priest

Lv 25:1, 8-17/Mt 14:1-12

9:15 am Sophia Mullin's Baptism Anniversary

SATURDAY: August 2, Vigil of the Eighteenth Sunday in **Ordinary Time** 

4:00 pm Bonnie Kovach †

**SUNDAY: August 3, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** 

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21

7:30 am Margaret Markson † 9:00 am People of the Parish 11:00 am Mary Wroblewski † 5:00 pm Fr. Francis J. Murray †

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## **Staff Contacts**

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Michelle Clemens / (269) 327-5165

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

Coordinator

klaske@stcatherinesiena.org

Kathy Laske / (269) 978-2332 **Gary Townsend** 

**Clergy Contacts** 

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

All clergy contacts are @stcatherinesiena.org Call our Front Office to leave a non-urgent message for a Priest or Deacon (269) 327-5165

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