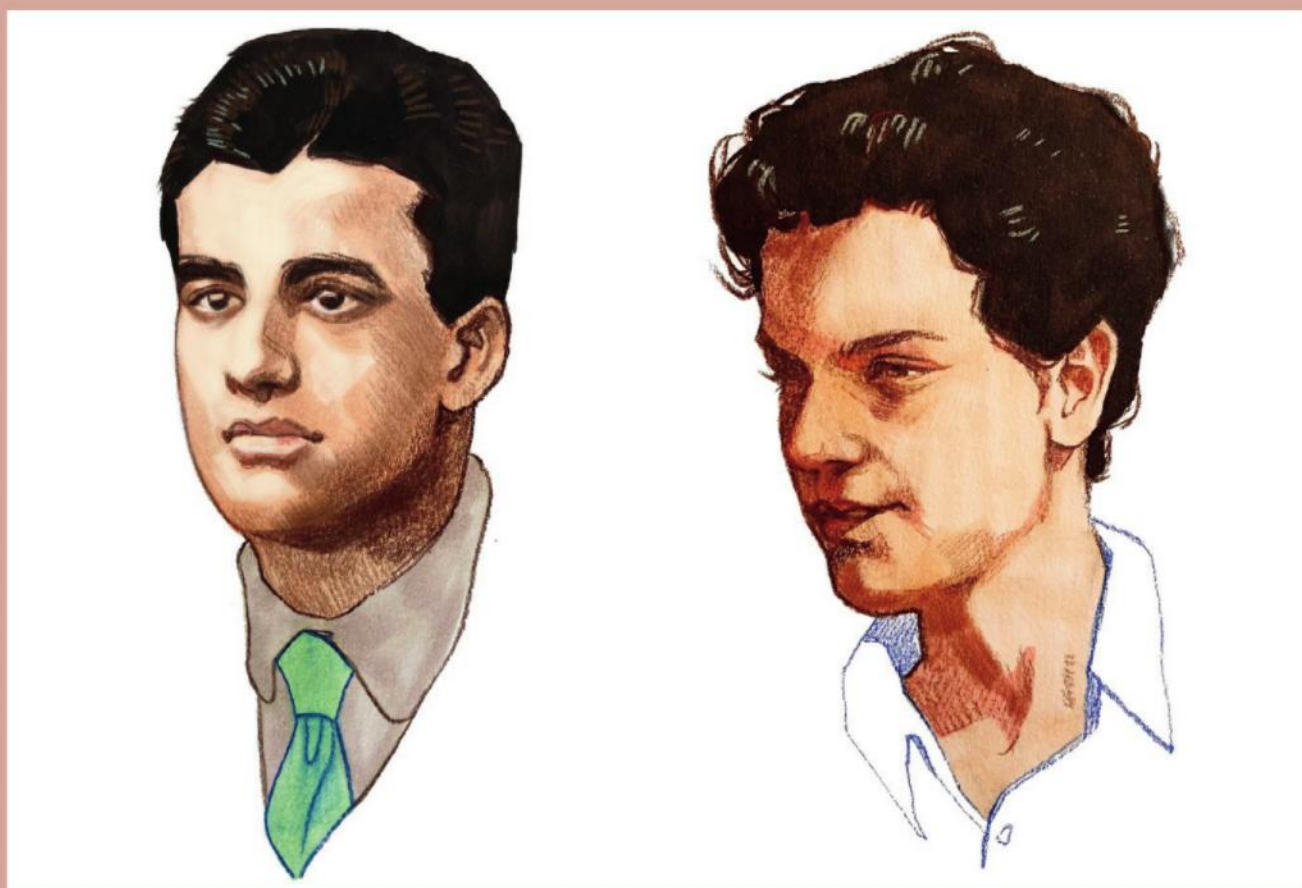

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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

*Canonized as Saints of the Church on
September 7, 2025*



Pier Giorgio Frassati

Carlo Acutis

September 7, 2025
23rd 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,

It's Picnic weekend at St. Catherine. Of course, one of the first questions that comes to mind is: Where did the summer go? It seems like summer went by very quickly this year. But we are definitely ready with our Fall programs that are beginning over the next few weeks!



Please join us after the 11 AM Mass at the Stanley Centre! Everyone is welcome, and food and drink will be provided. As I always have to write my columns ahead of time, I can't always promise sunshine and warm weather, but I hope that we have a nice day! Regardless of what the weather may bring, we will be both inside and outside the Stanley Centre. Bring your appetite and your family members! Come enjoy some games, magic acts and balloons! The grounds look a lot better than they did at this time last year. We were busy this summer trying to repair everything and grow some grass. Hope to see you there!

Are you looking for something to do this Fall? At the picnic we will also have a number of tables from our groups and ministries. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities and programs that you may be interested in participating in. Maybe you would like to sing in the choir or be a cantor? Are you interested in becoming a Knights of Columbus member? Do you want to learn more about our El Sitio ministry or St. Vincent de Paul? There are plenty of opportunities to become more immersed in the life of our parish. Maybe you want to even lend your hand volunteering on our Donut Sundays? Stop by the ministry tables and find something new.

Of course, if you are reading this column today in our bulletin, you are obviously not in Rome. I am sure that St. Peter's square and the city of Rome are very crowded today for this special day. Pope Leo will be canonizing two new saints today: St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati. This canonization was delayed due to the death of Pope Francis. If you don't know a lot about either of these two new saints, please check into their lives and how they both can inspire us to come closer to Christ. St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, pray for us!

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: frontdesk@stcatherinesiena.org



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Stewardship

August 18, 2025 - August 25, 2025	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$13,580
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$6,750</u>
		\$20,330
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	Electronic Giving	<u>\$10,293</u>
		\$27,897
2025 - 2026 Year to Date	\$225,062	
2024 - 2025 Year to Date	\$230,332	

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, September 7, 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
- 12:00 pm Parish Picnic, Stanley Centre
- 5:00 pm Mass, Church
- 6:30 pm MomCo Kick Off, Latitude 42 (Portage)

Monday, September 8, 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, September 9, 2025

- 9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
- 9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry, GLP
- 9:45 am Rosary, Trinity Chapel
- 6:00 pm SVDP Business Meeting, Fellowship
- 6:30 pm OCIA, Room 5/7

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

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

Thursday, September 11, 2025

- 9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
- 10:00 am Adoration, Trinity Chapel
- 12:50 pm Benediction, Trinity Chapel
- 6:30 pm First Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday, September 12, 2025

- 9:15 am Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel

Saturday, September 13, 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
- 2:45 pm Siena's Rehearsal, Church, Choir Room
- 3:30 pm Knights of Columbus Rosary, Church
- 4:00 pm Mass, Church

Reflection on the Readings

Jesus' words in today's Gospel passage are startling, and a bit scary taken at face value. "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." And again, "Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." How are we to take this message?

Our God knows the world we live in; He knows we all have responsibilities to various people and institutions. I don't believe Jesus is telling us to abandon our relationships with our loved ones and friends, or to walk away from all our responsibilities. Rather than a call to irresponsibility, I see this message as a call to a greater, altered responsibility. The first commandment says to love God with all your heart, soul, strength, etc. God must be first in our lives, above everyone and everything else. But, how do we show our love for God? It isn't enough to read scripture and pray, although certainly those things are important. The way we truly show our love for God is through loving our neighbors as ourselves...words put into action. The message in today's Gospel, then, is a call to reorient our thoughts and actions away from selfishness and self-centeredness towards generosity and love for others. All our thoughts and actions should be centered around Jesus and His teachings; we need to see the world and live in the world as Jesus did. This means putting others ahead of ourselves; their needs and wants come first, even if that means making a sacrifice.

What things keep you from putting God first in everything you do? We all have something that we hold onto dearly...possessions, titles, security, our time, bad habits, etc. We all need to see how we can adjust our priorities to put others first. We can't do it alone; as the first reading tells us. We need God's grace to first identify and then work to correct these issues. Thankfully, God's grace is free for the asking.

Reflection by parishioner John Ceglarek

News Around St. Catherine and the Diocese

Join us in growing in
faith and fellowship!



MomCo Kick-Off THIS Sunday

Location: Latitude 42 Hop Garden
(Portage location)

Date: Sunday, September 7th

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM



We are hosting a casual meet up for our initial meeting of the year. We are just grabbing a picnic table in the hop garden so swing by the bar to grab an appetizer or drink on your way out! We will talk about our new theme for this year, answer any questions guests may have, and enjoy some time to connect with other moms! This is an open house style gathering, so feel free to drop in just to say hi, or stay the whole time!

Now Hiring at St. Augustine

St. Augustine Cathedral School has part-time work opportunities. The school is looking for: Lunchroom supervisor, 10:45-12:45 M-F; Playground supervisor, 11:00 - 1:00 M-F; After School Care Aides, 2:45-6:00 M-F. Please call (269) 349-1945, or email azommers@stakzoo.org, if you are interested to learn more.

Renew Retreat

Singles Late 50s & Above: Looking for a deeper relationship with God and a renewed sense of purpose for your journey through life's transitions? Connect with others and recharge your spiritual batteries on a RENEW retreat! The next weekend is on **Oct 31st - Nov 2nd, 2025** at the St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing). Cost is \$240 for meals and a single room. For more info, call (517) 323-7012, e-mail renewretreat.mi@gmail.com, or visit: <http://bit.ly/4mF0ppO>.

Blood Drive - September

Join us at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church for a Blood Drive on **Tuesday, September 22nd, from 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM!** Your donation can save lives, and we need YOU to help make a difference! Appointments are preferred, so sign up today. The Blood Drive will be in the Stanley Centre Gym. Be sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water to feel your best! Visit donateblood.versiti.org, select "Donate Now," enter zip code 49024 and select St. Catherine of Siena to choose your appointment time.

Fatima Rosary Rally



When people pray the rosary together, it is far more formidable than when one prays alone. On the 2nd Saturday of each month, we pray the rosary outside of St. Augustine Cathedral starting at 9:30 AM. Our next rosary will be **September 13th**. Come and pray with us for the following intentions: Protection of our families, our schools and our church, the courage and strength to build a culture of life and to end abortion, to repulse the attacks and deceptions of the devil, and the conversion of souls, especially those in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. For more info, contact Joe Magalski at (989) 992-6085 or jmagalski@gmail.com

Primetimers



Calling All Primetimers (age 50+) to join us for lunch on **Monday, September 8th, 2025, at 11:30 AM** at Berries Pancake House located at 4311 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008. (Located across the street from the Root BeerStand). 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!

Surviving the Holidays

We invite you to join us for Surviving the Holidays on **Sunday, October 26th at 12:30 - 2:30 PM**. This is a one-time, 2-hour program addressing the issues that arise around the fall holiday celebrations for an grieving person and family. There is a \$10 fee which includes the program booklet, payable at the first session. Registration is online at www.griefshare.org. Questions? Contact Paula White at (269) 330-3762 or pwhitentc@mac.com

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, September 7th, 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.

2025 Celebration and Prayer for Life Rally

Join us on **Saturday, October 12th** at Saint Michael Lutheran Church (7211 Oakland Dr., Portage, MI 49024). Doors open at 4:00 PM and the program begins at 5:00 PM.

In unity, we are seeking God's blessing on all human life, especially the unborn and those at the end of life. This is not a political event.

The program will feature Master of Ceremonies Pastor Paul Naumann (Saint Michael Lutheran Church & School) and Keynote Speaker Pastor Michael L. Brown (Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries), along with speakers Bishop Emeritus Paul J. Bradley, Amber Roseboom (President, Right to Life of Michigan), Christina Madison (Director, Positive Options – Allegan), Dawn Bowen (Director, Pregnancy Helpline of Three Rivers), Rebecca Rouch (testimony on the life of baby Daniel), and Diane Barton (Executive Director, Wings Home).

You can help by bringing donations for Positive Options (Allegan) and Pregnancy Helpline (Three Rivers). **Needed items include:** wipes, baby wash and lotion, diapers (sizes 3–6), clothing (6 months–2T and 12–24 month onesies), and adult shampoo and conditioner.

The Pregnancy Helpline of Three Rivers' ICU Mobile Medical Unit will also be on-site with tours available.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating the sanctity of life!

13-Week GriefShare Program



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 pwhitentc@mac.com.

KofC Mac and Cheese Event



We invite you to join us for the Mac & Cheese event on **Saturday, October 11th at 5 PM** (after the 4 PM Mass) in Marian Hall hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council #6980. Proceeds benefit local charities.

Come taste a variety of flavors of Mac & Cheese with toppings/mix-ins, yummy desserts, and beverages! Tickets cost \$12 and kids under 12 eat free. You can get tickets in the Narthex after weekend Masses on **September 27th and 28th and October 4th and 5th!**

Children's Baptism

If you have a child or children who have reached their 7th birthday and are yet not baptized, but you desire baptism for them, the Order of Christian Initiation for Children (OCIC) is for them. The OCIC is a two-year program of faith formation classes as required by diocesan policy for unbaptized children age 7 or older. Additionally, those who have received baptism in a non-Catholic Christian community will complete two years of Catholic faith formation through the OCIC. At the completion of the second year of the OCIC, the enrolled children will receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

Contact Director of Children's Faith Formation and OCIA/OCIC, George Dragan, for additional information and arrangements at gdragan@stcatherinesiena.org or call (269) 978-2347.

Want to learn more about the Catholic Church?

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) will formally begin its formation programming on **Tuesday, Sep 23rd from 6:30 PM to 8 PM**. The OCIA is for two main categories of people that desire to become Catholic 1. those who have never been baptized, or 2. those who received a valid baptism in a non-Catholic Christian community. If you are thinking about becoming Catholic and fit into either of these categories, we would love to have you first come to one of our Catholic inquiry nights (**either Sep 9th or Sep 16th, 6:30 PM to 8 PM**). Contact George Dragan for more information at gdragan@stcatherinesiena.org

Volunteer for Youth Group

It takes volunteers to run a successful youth group! If you have a passion for leading youth to Christ, we would love to have you join us so that we can provide an enriching experience to the youth!

Scan the QR code to sign up or visit:

www.stcatherinesiena.org/youth-group



OCIA Sacramental Sponsors needed

Would you like to mentor someone entering the Catholic Church? Consider becoming a sponsor for our OCIA (formerly RCIA) program, which meets **Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 PM starting Sep 23rd**. Sponsors are encouraged to attend regularly to help participants feel welcome and connected. You must be a practicing Catholic in good standing (attending Sunday Mass and living according to Church teachings, be at least 16 years of age, and, if married, living in accordance with the Catholic Church's teachings on marriage). Contact George Dragan for more information at gdragan@stcatherinesiena.org

Youth Group Sign-Ups

If you are a 6-12th grader who likes to have fun, wants to grow in their faith, and hang out with like-minded individuals, we would love you have you join us! Visit www.stcatherinesiena.org/youth-group to register or scan the QR code.



Young Adults Dinner & Discussion

We invite all young adults (ages 18-35) to join us for dinner and discussion on **Sunday, September 21st at 6:00 PM**. We will be fellowshiping while enjoying delicious food at Main Street Pub (7509 S Westnedge 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





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<https://www.stcatherinesiena.org/give> (go to make an online payment, el sitio) or leave your donation with the church office.
Thank you!

For more information, contact Avril: lcustomplbg@aol.com

Caring Network Fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus, Women of the Word, Respect Life Ministry, and Youth Group will host a fundraiser for the Caring Network from **Sept. 27th – Oct. 5th**. Caring Network, part of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, provides free support to hundreds of pregnant and parenting women each year.



We'll be collecting:

- Diapers (sizes 6 & 7), Pull-ups (3T–4T, 4T–5T)
- Pajamas (boys & girls 12–24 mos; girls 3T–5T; boys 5T)
- Girls' pants (3T, 5T), Girls' tops (5T)
- Boys' pants (24 mos/2T)
- Toddler socks
- Toddler toothbrushes
- Children's toothpaste
- Adult shampoo & conditioner



Drop donations in the pack-n-plays in the Narthex anytime **Sept. 27th – Oct. 5th**.

We'll also have a "baby bottle" fundraiser. After Mass on **Sept. 27th and 28th**, take home a baby bottle, fill it with coins, cash, or a check (payable to Catholic Charities Caring Network), and return it the weekend of **Oct. 4th and 5th**.





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

September 7, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

When the news broke about a week and a half ago about a shooting at a Catholic Church and School in Minneapolis, most of us took a pause. We have heard a lot about school shootings in recent years, but this one was much different. Not only did this take place at a Catholic Church, but the shooter was actually attacking during the Opening School Mass. Our prayers continue for the victims and families affected by this tragedy.

I write this letter to the parish this weekend to address safety issues and concerns at St. Catherine. After the shooting took place in Minneapolis, Bishop Lohse sent out a directive asking schools and parishes to make sure that we are doing what we can to keep everyone safe. He expressed the need to take a look at what we can do to keep safety and security in mind, especially when our youth are in the buildings. Over the past couple years, our staff and St. Catherine clergy have already been talking about this very subject and have some things in place. Two years to three years ago, we already implemented more security cameras in both buildings (inside and out) and have changed the door locking schedule for the main building during the work week and for the weekends. We no longer can leave the doors open all day long. I know that this hasn't always been a popular thing to do. It's a hard thing to balance time for people to stop by and pray and to ensure the safety of parishioners, students and staff when they are in the building. Knowing that people still need access to the building, even though the doors may be locked sometimes; however, if you can see a light in the office during office hours, we are open. Please use the doorbell in the narthex (main) entry to have a staff person assist you. Our faith formation programs involve a large number of students as well as our summer Vacation Bible School. We need to keep looking at ways to keep everyone safe.

After the tornado, many of our fences were torn down and we have been replacing them. In fact, when the City of Portage was onsite and doing inspections during our rebuilding, they told us that we needed to fence in our property and restrict access from the neighborhood. Those who have been around for a while know that there used to be an exit at the northern end of the property, right by the Stanley Centre, that allowed people to exit into the neighborhoods off of Schuring Road. Most of the road that went to that exit is no longer visible and posts were placed in front of the old entrance so that vehicles could no longer enter the property this way. Pedestrian access is still possible, and a number of people come through that area each day. With the request of the Bishop to make our campuses safer, the next thing that needs to be done is to FULLY close off that area so that pedestrians can no longer access our property from Schuring. Plans are underway to make that happen.

Yes, times have changed. I never imagined we would need to talk and think about things like this, especially at a church! Please be patient as all these things are a work in progress and our staff continues to value your safety and make improvements as necessary when you are on the St. Catherine Church campus.

Thanks for reading!

Rev. Mark J. Vyverman
Pastor

1150 West Centre Avenue, Portage, MI 49024 • Phone: 269-327-5165 • Fax: 269-327-7266
FrontDesk@stcatherinesiena.org • <https://stcatherinesiena.org/>

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: September 6, Vigil of the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm Karl † and Jean † Anderson

SUNDAY: September 7, The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

7:30 am Gerald † Patricia † Kroehn

9:00 am People of the Parish

11:00 am Deacon Ed Feltes' † Ordination Anniversary

5:00 pm Jan Shockley †

MONDAY: September 8, The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

9:15 am Rose Marie Coy's Birthday

TUESDAY: September 9, Saint Peter Claver, Priest

Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19

9:15 am Soul of Teresa Tran †

WEDNESDAY: September 10, Weekday

Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26

9:15 am Debra Gaugier †

THURSDAY: September 11, Weekday

Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38

9:15 am Tim Kilmartin †

FRIDAY: September 12, The Most Holy Name of Mary

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Lk 6:39-42

9:15 am Chester † and Angie † Kolbasa

SATURDAY: September 13, Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Tm 1:15-17/Lk 6:43-49

9:15 am Deacon Ron's Ordination Anniversary

SATURDAY: September 13, Vigil of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

4:00 pm Theresa † and Peter † Betchik

SUNDAY: September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

7:30 am People of the Parish

9:00 am Max Walter †

11:00 am Gary Kordella †

5:00 pm Grandma Chibuzor Julianna Titi Onwochei †

NOTE: Correction of name on Monday, September 1st at 9:15 am: Cheryl Caron † (Last bulletin)

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Blake Maxwell

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Fr. Joseph Abraham

Deacon Brian

Deacon Ron

Deacon Doran

fathermark

fatherjoseph

deaconbrian

deaconronald

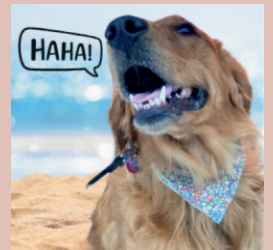
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All clergy contacts are @stcatherinesiena.org

**After-hours emergency, death or danger of death,
call for a Priest: (269) 598-0357**

**Why wouldn't Pharoah
let the Hebrews go?**

He was in de-Nile.



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



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