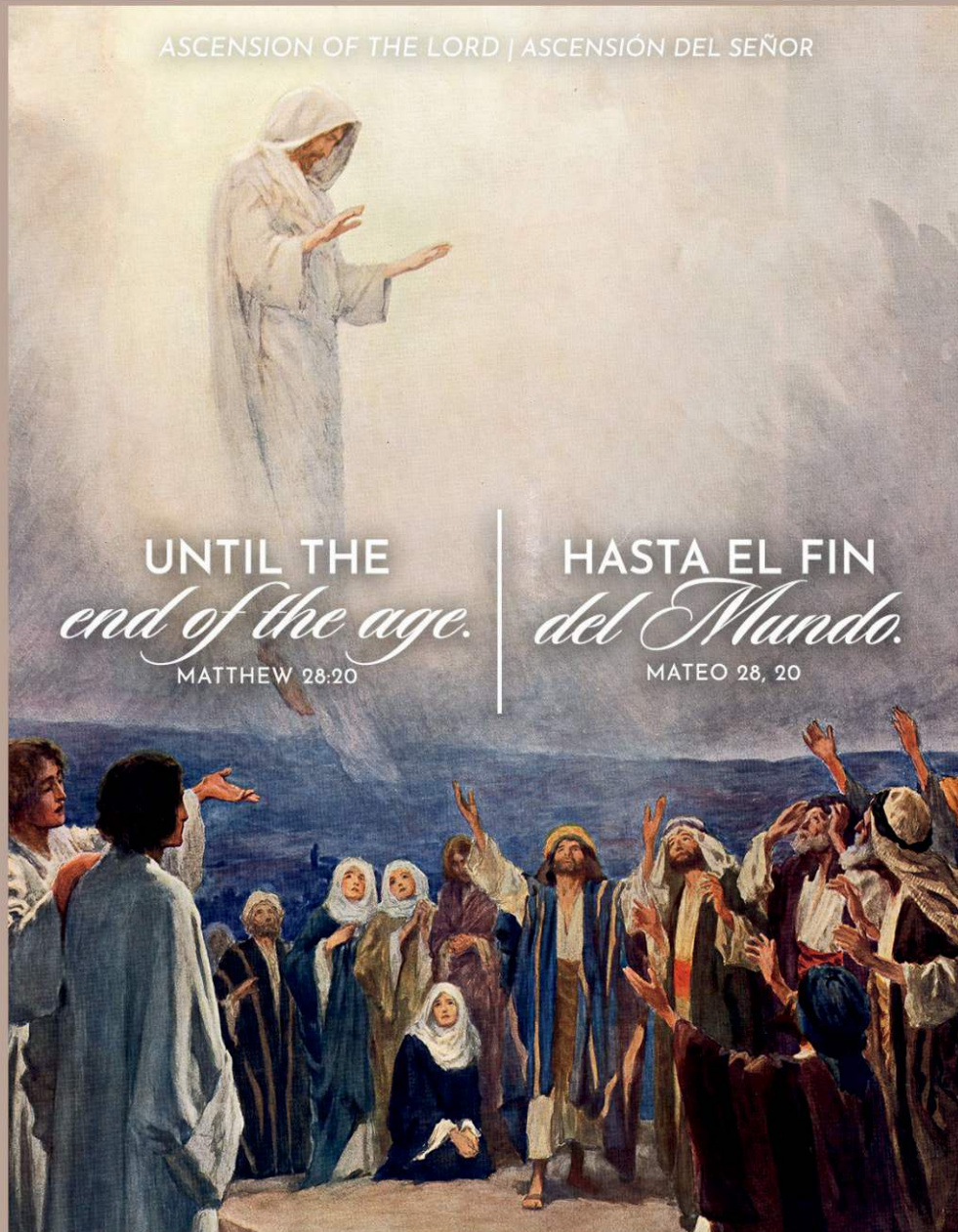

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

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



May 17, 2026
The Ascension of the Lord

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,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. In some parts of the world, the Ascension is celebrated on Ascension Thursday (which is exactly 40 days after Easter Sunday and the Resurrection) and in other places this feast has been transferred to Sunday to make it a greater celebration. Whenever we celebrate this day, we realize that we are only days away from Pentecost Sunday.



Of course, the Apostles didn't know that they were anticipating Pentecost Sunday and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In their minds and hearts, they were still sorting out the celebration of Easter Sunday and what had just happened at the Ascension. It didn't make sense to them that Jesus had left them a second time.

Yet each one of these days became a stepping stone to the next level of faith. If Jesus had not done it this way, introducing these events and days one at a time (Easter, the Ascension, and Pentecost), the Apostles, and in fact any one of us, would have been overwhelmed. When we step back, and view this 2,000 years later, it makes a bit more sense why it had to happen this way.

As we celebrate Ascension, we see how faith is truly a lifelong process. We discover that our faith is something that we have to work on each day. It's not automatic, nor should it be taken for granted. Faith needs to be a part of the daily "ins and outs" of life.

Yesterday, one of our seminarians became one step closer to becoming a priest as he was ordained a transitional deacon. As we say a prayer of thanksgiving today for Hector Albeiro Saldarriaga Cavadid, thank you everyone for your support of our seminarians through the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your support helps create the future of our diocese so that the work of the Church can continue.

We continue to get closer to finishing our goal for this annual appeal. If you still have not turned in your pledge card, or pledged online at the Diocese of Kalamazoo, please help our St. Catherine parish support the work of the Church in this way. As I have mentioned earlier, if we exceed our goal this year, the money will come back to the parish to help pay down our loan debt for the renovations and additions to the church building that we finished 20 years ago.

Thanks for reading!
Fr. Mark

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



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Stewardship

April 27, 2026 - May 3, 2026	Envelopes & Loose Donations	\$25,086
	Electronic Giving	<u>\$6,900</u>
		\$32,986
 April 28, 2025 - May 4, 2025	 Envelopes & Loose Donations	 \$19,974
	 Electronic Giving	 <u>\$7,750</u>
		 \$27,724
2025 - 2026 Year to Date	\$1,346,880	
2024 - 2025 Year to Date	\$1,383,870	

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, May 17, 2026

7:30 am	Mass, Church
8:30 am	Rosary, Trinity Chapel
9:00 am	First Communion, Church
9:00 am	Mass, Church
10:00 am	Benedictine Oblate, GLP
10:15 am	Choir Warm Up, Choir Room
11:00 am	Mass, Church
12:00 pm	Exemplifications KofC, Trinity Chapel
5:00 pm	Mass, Church

Monday, May 18, 2026

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
7:00 pm	Catholic Men's Fellowship, Offsite

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
9:45 am	Rosary, Trinity Chapel
6:30 pm	GriefShare, Room 9/11

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

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

Thursday, May 21, 2026

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

Friday, May 22, 2026

9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
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Saturday, May 23, 2026

7:30 am	Catholic Men's Fellowship, Room 9/11
8:00 am	SVdP Interviews, Stanley Centre
9:15 am	Daily Mass, Trinity Chapel
11:00 am	Reconciliation, GLP, Trinity Chapel
3:30 pm	Rosary for Life, Church
4:00 pm	Mass, Church

Reflection on the Readings

Both the first reading (the beginning of Acts) and the Gospel reading (the end of Mark's Gospel) give accounts of Jesus' ascension. In both readings, Jesus commissions His disciples to carry on His work. In Acts, Jesus promised the disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit and that they would be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In the Gospel passage, Jesus tells the disciples that "all power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"...the inference being that He is passing His authority on to them so that they can continue His mission. Yet in both readings, we also see that the disciples still don't completely understand. In the reading from Acts the disciples asked Jesus when He was going to restore the kingdom to Israel, and then as He was ascending they continued to stare up to heaven until asked by two angels why they continued to just stand there... and Matthew simply says "they worshipped, but they doubted." The doubt and uncertainty remained with them until they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

As followers of Jesus, we've been given the same mission as the first disciples. We are to be His witnesses in the world today. Although the risks are different than those faced by the first disciples (it's unlikely that any of us will be called upon to become a martyr), the task is still difficult. We live in a world where in many cases Jesus' teachings are ridiculed as silly, impractical, or downright stupid...a world that tells us to put ourselves first at all costs. If we were alone in this, it would indeed be impossible...but we are not alone! We also have been given the Holy Spirit, and the readings we've heard from Acts since Easter leave no doubt about the change that receiving the Spirit made in the disciples...it was truly life-altering. Furthermore, we have Jesus' promise to us..."and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." So let us joyfully and confidently embrace the mission that Jesus left us, safe in the knowledge that He will never leave us alone.

Reflection by Parishioner John Ceglarek

News Around St. Catherine and the Diocese

He is Risen!



Creative Connections

The next Creative Connections virtual gathering for persons with disabilities will be on **Sunday, May 17th from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**. We will catch up with each other, have a brief reflection on the Sunday's scripture passage, and end with prayer. Join us for fellowship. A Zoom link will be sent to you prior to meeting. Contact: Veronica Rodriguez at (269) 349-8714 x1240 and vrodriguez@diokzoo.org. To register, you can visit: diokzoo.org/personswithdisabilities

Circle of Friends

Join us on Wednesday, **May 27th 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

Corpus Christi Procession



You're invited to attend the Corpus Christi Procession! It will take place on **Sunday, June 7th** at St. Catherine **following the 11 AM Mass**.

We will meet in the Narthex for instructions of where the procession will take place. Everyone is welcome. If you go to a different Mass please arrive **before 12:00 PM**.

We are seeking volunteers to help usher the congregation and control traffic. Please contact John Byrnes at (269) 779-3669. We appreciate those of you considering to volunteer!

Bishop's Annual Appeal



We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported the Bishop's Annual Appeal this year. Thanks to your generosity, as of **May 7th, 2026**, we have **\$110,016** of our goal **\$245,829**. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this year's appeal. Thank you for your continued support and faithfulness! Scan the Qr Code in order to give online toward our goal for 2026.

Seeking: Ushers

Do you want to serve others? We are seeking Ushers for our **Sunday Masses at 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM**. Ushers do the important work of welcoming parishioners, helping them find seats, guiding the Communion procession and more. Get in touch with Elizabeth Dangel at edangel@stcatherinesiena.org for more information if you're interested.

Jail Ministry Info Session

"I was in prison and you visited me." — Matthew 25:36
You're invited to join us for the Catholic Jail Ministry Information Session on **Friday, June 5th at 10 AM - 12 PM** in St. Joseph Church Bennett Building Room 17 (936 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49001)

You will learn about serving in the Kalamazoo County Jail Ministry. Volunteers visit twice a month on Fridays (1 - 3 PM) offering: • Bible study • Cell visits • Reconciliation arrangements • Centering Prayer (coming soon)
Qualifications: • Practicing Catholic • Compassionate attitude • Friday availability • Willingness to share the faith. Safe & established: 40 years with no issues.
Unable to attend but interested? Please email: jailministry@ccdok.org

St. Monica's Euchre Tournament



St. Monica Parish's Young Adult Ministry, Third Place, will host a Euchre Tournament on **Friday, June 19th, 2026, from 6:30 - 9:30 PM**. This will be a Swiss Style Tournament with no eliminations, a cash prize and food available for purchase. Check-in will begin at **5:45 PM**. All ages are welcome to join, but parents must accompany anyone under 18 years old. Tickets cost \$20 per team (2 players) and can be bought at the link below!
stmonicachurchkzoo.com/euchre-tournament-registration

Congratulations to those we welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil!

Baptized, First Communion, and Confirmed

Dan Carpenter
Tim Carlisle
Grant Jensen
Haley-Ann Marschall
Christopher Marsh
Peggy Napier
Jonathon Wood

Profession of Faith, First Communion, and Confirmed

James Curtis
Emily Harrant
Jeffrey Nordquist
Koen Suender
Jodi Michelle
Brinker Tsapyak

First Communion, Confirmed

Joan Carpenter

May God bless you as you grow in your Christian journey!

New Members

Delynne Andres
Dan & Joan Carpenter
Anson & Angela Mannes
Brian McConnell
Andrea Mellendorf
Madeline Redding

Baptisms

Hugo Hendy
Son of Dylan & Lauren
Lyla Mayer
Daughter of John & Mallory
Kristian Smith
Son of Kyle & Edjola

Remembrance

Jack Matthews
Mary Mire
Frank Unger



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH NIGHT AT THE GROWLERS!

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OUT AT THE BALLPARK!

**DATE
CHANGE!**

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

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FIRST PITCH 6:35 PM GATES OPEN: 5:35 PM

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Scan the QR Code or visit growlerstickets.com and enter Promotion: **Siena26** to access your group tickets page. Alternatively, visit or contact the front office to purchase a physical ticket!



SCAN HERE!



QUESTIONS? | FRONT OFFICE | 269.327.5165 | COMMUNICATIONS@STCATHERINESIENA.ORG

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 13-17 | 9 AM-Noon



Register!



At VBS Rainforest Falls, 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 Johnna Makuch!



Donate!



VBS is taking donations to make Rainforest Falls 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 Johnna Makuch!



Johnna Makuch: jmakuch@stcatherinesiena.org



Confirmation 2026

Congratulations to those who were confirmed on April 29th, 2026!

We pray that the peace coming from the Holy Spirit
be upon you now and forever.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sean Carlin | Henry Musser |
| Hayden Carlisle | Noah Newby |
| Morgan Corder | Maddie Panse |
| Kathleen Criter | Erin Peterson |
| Jaxson Damm | Sabrina Ramos-Rivera |
| Katherine Duckworth | Chloe Recoco |
| Emma Everett | Elizabeth Roosa |
| Eleanor Ford | Victor Sa Leitao |
| Jacob Freed | Erin Skelton |
| Kylie Giddings | John Stamm |
| Ethan Gifford | Liam Thomas |
| Claire Gillespie | Myah VanderEnde |
| Frederick Grunert | Matthew Williams |
| Patrick Hemingway | Darek Zielonka |
| Kelton Homan | Connor Peyerk |
| Addison Kennedy | Julia Veronique Po |
| Owen Kingston | Elias Shomali |
| Julien Laird | Madison Earing |
| Graham Mason | Pam Glines |
| Callan McCarthy | Abigail Nadaud |
| Aiden McCollum | |



First Holy Communion 2026

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.

Brooklynn Babel
Emilia Bradfield
Angelu Buenaflor
Sawyer Chase
Henry Criter
Nora DeMonbrun
Michael Holysz
Evelyn Ingram
Kira Kenworthy
Ellie Koch
Colton Koch
Michael Kordella
Charlotte Lake
Josephine Lake
Sam Lake
Calvin Malsbary
Matthew Miller
Oliver Mogan
Joannah Mu
Kaelyn Murphy
Kayden Murphy
Emery Newby
Connor Nolan
Hayes Nordquist
Nolan Pease
Sutton Peer
Mason Rose

Palmer Schroer
Bobby Soper
Claire Stachelski
Gabe Stamm
Freddie Thick
Joey VanTassel
Sammy VanTassel
Cordell Wilder
Josephine Akatugba
Renata Alvarado-Juarez
Maya Eskander
Magdalene Gendreau
Elise Guajardo-Cardenas
Asher Homan
Emma Leonowicz
Alex Lim
Jayden Nguyen
Ava Nilges
Sia Shu Kin So
Una Thomas
Vivian Wright
Emilia Zolp
Zachary Smith
Chloe Recoco



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY: May 16, Vigil of the Ascension of the Lord

4:00 pm Darrell † and Margaret † Adair

SUNDAY: May 17, The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

7:30 am Doyle Schmittler †

9:00 am George † and Mary † Heinze

11:00 am Barbara Sine †

5:00 pm People of the Parish

MONDAY: May 18, Saint John I, Pope and Martyr

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

9:15 am Rose Maronto †

TUESDAY: May 19, Easter Weekday

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

9:15 am Michael Patrick O'Donnell †

WEDNESDAY: May 20, Saint Bernadine of Siena, Priest

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

9:15 am Max Walter †

THURSDAY: May 21, Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

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

9:15 am Jeffrey Scheuer

FRIDAY: May 22, Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious

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

9:15 am Barbara Sine †

SATURDAY: May 23, Easter Weekday

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

9:15 am Dolores Golightly †

SATURDAY: May 23, Vigil of Pentecost Sunday

Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37: 1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

4:00 pm Mary Wroblewski †

SUNDAY: May 24, Pentecost Sunday

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

7:30 am Carol Vaseleski †

9:00 am People of the Parish

11:00 am Dolores Golightly †

5:00 pm Mary Ann Evans †

Staff Contacts

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Gary Townsend

Blake Maxwell

Clergy Contacts

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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

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A man gets on an airplane and sees a nun praying fervently beside him.

"Are you afraid of flying?" he asks.

"Flying, no. Crashing, yes."



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