

St. Catherine of Siena History Timeline

August 10, 1966	St. Catherine of Siena Parish established, Fr. James Schmitt named pastor
August 28, 1966	First mass at Portage Central Junior High
October 19, 1966	Moved into new rectory
November 1966	Purchase of Siena House
November 14, 1966	First mass in rectory chapel
May 14, 1968	Groundbreaking for convent
August 19, 1968	Sisters of Notre Dame arrive
April 30, 1969	Groundbreaking for church center
December 7, 1969	Cornerstone laid for church center
April 30, 1970	Dedication of new church-center
June 1971	Fr. John Grathwohl named new pastor
June 1974	Fr. Peter Gregor ordained to the priesthood
1976	Marianist priests and brothers arrived to serve the parish
August 1976	Fr. Lee Sciarrotta, S.M., Fr. Edwin Rauscher appointed pastor, associate pastor
August 1981	Fr. Tom Stanley, S.M.
June 20, 1986	Groundbreaking for new Marian Hall addition, new entrance to church
1991	Parish celebrates 25th silver anniversary, approx 1400 registered families
1992	Stanley Centre youth building completed and named in honor of Fr. Tom Stanley Fr.
August 15, 1996	Fr. John Klobuka, S.M. installed as new pastor by Bishop Alfred J. Markiewicz
1999	Marianist priests and brothers departed
July 1, 1999	Fr. Bob Flickinger appointed as new pastor by Bishop James Murray
1999	Fr. John Grathwohl, senior pastor in residence
Spring 2001	Community of El Sitio, El Salvador adopted as sister parish mission project
July 2003	Fr. Kevin Covert appointed as new pastor by Bishop James Murray
Spring 2006	Dedication of renovated Church and Facility
August 30, 2009	Fr. John Fleckenstein installed as pastor by Bishop Paul Bradley
July 2011	Fr. Chris Ankley named pro-tem Parochial Administrator
August 2011	Fr. Robert Creagan appointed as pastor by Bishop Paul Bradley
April 28, 2012	Dedication of Trinity Chapel and windows
2016	Fr. Ken Schmidt appointed pastor by Bishop Paul Bradley
July 1, 2019	Fr. Mark J. Vyverman, appointed pastor by Bishop Paul Bradley
March 2020	Covid-19 pandemic closed the parish to in-person attendance All in-person programs and activities cancelled for the near future
March 2020	Livestream the Sunday masses in March of 2020 due to the pandemic and the shutdown
May 31, 2020	Masses began to be offered in person with pandemic restrictions in place. In-person parish activities were slowly offered again over the next couple of years
November 2021	Marian Hall reopened after major renovations completed
February 2024	Newly renovated Marian Hall bathrooms re-opened to the public
May 7, 2024	An F2 tornado did significant damage to the parish buildings and our surrounding Portage community. Parishioners and others helped to clean up the damage after the tornado.