

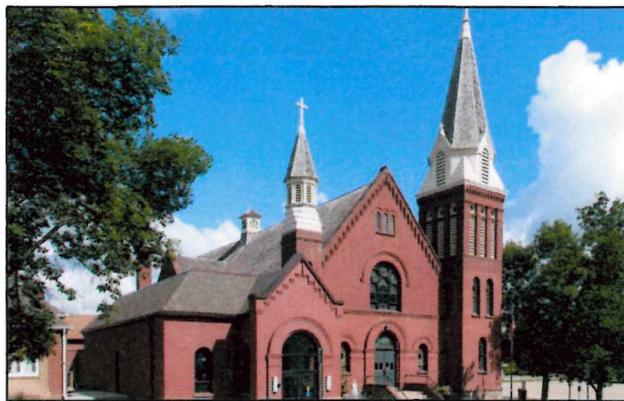
St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish

540 3rd Ave NE - Valley City, ND 58072

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2025

www.catherineofalexandria.org



MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am
Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION:

Monday - Friday 7:30 -7:50 am
Tuesday 8:15 -9:30 pm
Saturday - 4:00-4:45 pm
Sunday - 7:30-8:00 am

Parish Office Hours:

Monday: 8:00am - 3:00pm
Tuesday - Friday: 8:00am - 4:30pm
Closed from 12:00 - 12:30pm everyday

St. Catherine Parish Picnic



Save the Date!!!

Sunday, September 21st



Dacotah Pavilion - Chautauqua Park

Noon to 1:30 pm

Imad Qumsieh

Cell (402) 671-1958

A beautiful collection of **hand carved olive wood religious articles from the Holy Land**, is for sale in the gathering area. They are very beautiful, and they make excellent gifts for first communion, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas, and school's raffle donations.

The profit goes to support the **Catholic Families** who carved these articles in **Bethlehem and Jerusalem**. Supporting the Catholics in the Holy Land is very important at this difficult time because they are protecting the Holy churches for all of us.

I encourage you to stop by and support our **suffering Catholic Families in the Holy Land**.



August Calendar of Events

SUN 24	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time 7:55am Rosary 8:00am Olive Wood Religious Artifacts 8:30am Mass 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass
MON 25	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass
TUE 26	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 8:30am -10:00pm Adoration 8:30am Tuesday Movie 5:30pm REACH Meeting 6:30pm Cemetery Meeting
WED 27	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 6:30pm Catechist Orientation
THU 28	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Quilters
FRI 29	NO MASSES
SAT 30	10:00am Mass – Mercy Hospital 4:25pm Rosary 5:00pm Mass
SUN 31	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass

MASS INTENTIONS August 25 - 31

M	8:00am	Larry Koch
T	8:00am	† Bill Magee
W	8:00am	Connie Rutten
Th	8:00am	Carol & Myron Jabs
F	8:00am	NO MASS
	2:00pm	NO MASS
Sa	5:00pm	Joe Mitzel
Su	8:30am	People of the Parish
	10:30am	† Diantha Scherr

TODAYS READINGS

First Reading — Is 66:18-21
Second Reading — Heb 12:5-7, 11-13
Gospel — Lk 13:22-30

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Mk 6:17-29
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30
Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29;
 Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

PRAYER NETWORK

Remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who are ill or are in need of our prayers:

Warren Ventch	Renita Westerhausen
Larry Doyle	Shelly Differding
Lucille Winkler	Mary Elmore
Marlys Koble	Katie Anderson
Donna Hammond	Maryjo Randle
Jerry Sand	Daniel Gonzalez
Krystal Lemer	Allen Kunze
Linda Hesch	John Snodgrass

EXTRA GARDEN PRODUCE???

St. Catherine School cafeteria would love to take any extra produce you may have, please **NO** tomatoes.

Please **rinse** and **date** your donation when you drop it off.

Mrs. Kennedy, our students and staff
Thank You for your donations!!



Pastor's Page

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

O.C.I.A.

The Catholic Church has been around a long time - some 2,000 years now. And it's been bringing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the parts of the world since then - and not just to the "parts of the world", but to *any individual* who wishes to take it in. The Gospel of Our Lord includes the truths He wishes us to know, understand, and believe (the doctrine), the proper way to live out the Gospel message as His follower (the moral code), the grace that is freely given to make that living it out possible (the sacramental system in particular), and the relationship we are to have with Him and His Father and the Spirit as children of God (liturgical and devotional and personal prayer). It's a lot, right? Well . . . perhaps it may seem that way. Of course, most of us are more than willing to spend twelve-plus *years* (and up to 30 hours each week during that time) learning about the things of this world in what we call schools . . . so I guess we shouldn't think the Lord and His Church is overwhelming us when it comes to the supernatural life and our living in it and what we would need to know and believe in order to do just that.

Being "Catholic" is not just a label - it's a way of living. One doesn't just "sign up" for this - one needs to commit to it. The Church has long had a "process" for preparing people for, and catechizing them, about living a Catholic life. At this time in history it is called OCIA - and you see what that acronym means above. I have been teaching OCIA for pretty much my entire priestly life, and I have never tired of it. I truly enjoy letting people in on what Our Lord has to offer, and what He asks of us so that we can actually accept it. And this coming year now will be no exception.

I will begin this year's OCIA sessions on **Thursday, September 11, at 7:00 pm in the parish Conference Room**. I have long taught OCIA on Thursday evenings, but we can be flexible with that if the group is able to manage that. Who is invited to come?

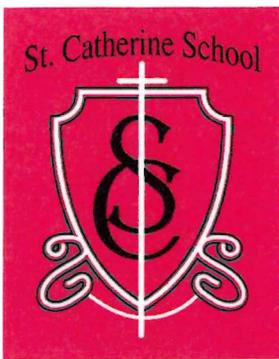
- > Those adults who are *not baptized*
- > Those adults who are baptized in a non-Catholic denomination who wish to look into the possibility of joining our Catholic Church community
- > Those Catholic adults who have not yet been confirmed and wish to be
- > And if possible, a Catholic friend (and possible sponsor?) who would like to accompany them to the sessions during the year to support them and make the journey with them

Perhaps you have been thinking about this - come and see. Perhaps you know someone who has been thinking about this - have them come and see (and perhaps with you accompanying them). There is *no commitment* that would be needed before coming to actually get baptized, or to join the Catholic Church, or get confirmed. That will be decided for themselves as the year progresses. It is always at Easter that the sacraments happen, and so OCIA runs for most of the school year - from September to April. Yes - there is a commitment to come if one wishes to learn and discern, but the final decision is one's own.

September 11 is two and a half weeks away. Don't discern too much about coming if there is a need there - the discernment comes when one decides whether or not to take this "Catholic thing" in as the year goes by.

I would appreciate knowing in advance - at least as best I can - who will be coming. Contact me if you have any questions, and/or if you know you will be attending. Don't miss the first one! - September 11 - all the sessions are important if one wants to get a good notion of what this "Catholic thing" is all about.

Fr Duchscher
Pastor



Principal's Page

All Things Through Christ

This first week of school has been such a powerful reminder of how **good God truly is**.

I saw His goodness in so many places:

- In a family making the next step in their faith journey.
- In an older student's genuine excitement about spending time in Adoration.
- In our whole community as we gathered to celebrate Mass in our chapel.
- In the projects nearly completed around the school, showing the faith-filled investment of this parish.
- In the faces of new families walking through our building for Circle of Friends Preschool Open House, commenting on how beautiful the space has become.

Each of these moments was a visible sign of God's hand at work in our school.

There was genuine joy in our teachers and staff this week, and I could feel the energy and excitement in the building. Our children came back with smiles, ready to learn and grow. New families entered with a sense of belonging, and returning families brought a sense of trust and confidence in our mission. As principal, I cannot ask for more.

I often say, *"I get to do this."* It is my way of reminding myself how blessed I am to serve in this role. But the truth is even deeper: *"I was granted the opportunity to serve as the leader of St. Catherine School."* This role is not something I earned on my own—it is something entrusted to me by God. He has provided what I needed, when I needed it, and I trust that He will continue to guide me as we move forward together.

St. Paul's words have been echoing in my heart this week:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

— Philippians 4:13 (NAB)

It is Christ who gives us the strength to teach, to learn, to serve, and to grow together. He is the **true leader** of our school.

A Charge to Families

As we begin this new school year, I want to leave you with a simple invitation: please continue to pray with us and for us. Pray for our children, that they may grow in wisdom and holiness. Pray for our teachers and staff, that they may teach with patience, joy, and faith. Pray for our parish, that it may always have the courage to support Catholic education. And finally, pray for our school families, that they may be strengthened in their vocation as the first and most important teachers of their children.

When you support St. Catherine School—through prayer, volunteering, donations, or simply spreading the word—you are helping to **build up God's kingdom**. Each child who walks through our doors is a reminder that this mission matters.

Welcome back, families! I am filled with gratitude and hope for the year ahead. Let us walk together, with Christ at the center, trusting in His grace every step of the way.

In Christ,

Nick Lee

Principal, St. Catherine School

St. Catherine's Parish Team

Parish Office 845-0354

Summer Hours:

Monday 7:30am - 3:00pm
Tuesday - Thursday 7:30am - 5:00pm
Friday 8:00am - 12:00pm

Pastor: Very Rev. Paul Duchschere
e-mail: paul.duchschere@fargodiocese.org

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Joe Leitner Rev. Mr. Tom Vanorny

Parish Office Administrator: Jessica (Jess) Storhoff
e-mail: stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

Liturgy Coordinator:
e-mail: st.catherine.liturgy.schedule@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Carol Jabs
e-mail: stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com

Lay Directors: Jeff Bopp & Rhonda Fairfield

Parish Council:

Steve Jorissen Doran Chandler
Larissa Musgrave Mark Oberlander
Joe Zubrod

St. Catherine School..... 845-1453

Principal: Nick Lee

Office Assistant: Terra Giesen

Little Saints Childcare 490-3800

Director: Beth Nadelin

Sexton: Deacon Joe Leitner 840-7429

Cemetery Gate Hours: 7:00am to 9:00pm

Rectory 845-0725

Fax 845-0556

Nearly Nu Store..... 845-1022

Baptisms: Contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Contact the Pastor at least 7 months prior to the wedding.

Home Bound Eucharist: Darlene Kerzman, 701-721-1899

Bulletin Deadline: 3 PM on Wednesdays

If you have an announcement for the bulletin, please email Jess:
stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

Newcomers: WELCOME! Please register at the Parish Office or use the registration form on our website.

FINANCIAL REPORT: August 17, 2025

	Regular Parish Income		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Last Week	\$14,736.75	\$10,434.62	\$4,302.13
Year to Date	\$58,691.10	\$73,042.34	(\$14,351.24)
Registered Families	464		
Adult Envelopes			\$13,135.00
Children			\$1.00
Plate			\$627.75
Assumption			\$973.00
Total Collection			\$14,736.75

Thank you for your generous gifts!!

Online Giving Available @

www.catherineofalexandria.org

Prayer Quilts/Shawls Available

Some of our parishioners may be dealing with some very challenging physical, mental, spiritual or emotional situations/needs (a terminal illness, treatments, an accident, severe depression, a miscarriage) To convey the prayers & support of our parish family, Prayer Quilts/Shawls are available for all parishioners who will need them. To request a Prayer Quilt/Shawl contact: Georgia, 840-2737 or Lela, 840-8352.



Our Lord wishes for us to be whole, body, mind and soul. To be healed, to be complete. There is a group of individuals from the deanery

that are offering to pray with you, for healing. We would be willing to come to pray with you as an individual, at your home or parish church. Confidentiality is assured. The St. Catherine's Healing Prayer Group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church our next prayer meeting is Monday, August 25, 2025. We are also asking for individuals who would like to be involved in this healing ministry from around the deanery to join us. We have gotten permission from the priests in the deanery so please visit with your pastor. If you are interested, please contact one of the individuals listed below for more information.

Doran Chandler 701-840-1257

Deacon Jim McAllister 701-840-1473

**St. Catherine's Religious Education
Grades K-8, 6:30 pm**



It is time to register students for the 2025-2026 Religious Education Program. The opening Mass will be Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 in the church.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact DRE Carol Jobs at stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com

"Actions speak louder than words. Let your words teach and your actions speak"
St. Anthony of Padua

St. Anthony of Padua, pray for us.

**St Catherine's Teen Corner
Grades 9-12, 7:00 pm**

September 3: Opening Mass, 6:30 p.m., NOTE TIME

September 10: 7:00 p.m. Opening Picnic Potluck: Brats, Buns, Condiments & Lemonade furnished. Bring some food item to share. Come & have some fun clean fun in a Catholic setting and see what this year has in store for you to go deeper in your faith journey. Meet Deacon Tom and the new co-leader for Wednesday evening learning. See how much trivia you know about these two leaders!!!

Classes will be from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., unless noted in teen corner. All youth, grades 9-12 are invited to come, have fun and learn about their Catholic faith. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Deacon Tom Vanorny 701-210-0640.

**Prayer - Fellowship - Quilting
Join the Fun!**



St. Catherine Quilters make quilts for those in need in our area every

Thursday 1-4:30pm & 6:30-9pm next to the school cafeteria. Everyone is welcome for any length of time. No experience necessary & supplies provided.

Questions call:
Christine, 840-2580 or Lela, 840-8352.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Gerard # 2518

Meet Monthly 2nd Monday



SAVE THE DATE:

CDA is hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, September 11th from 12:00pm to 6:00pm in the Church Social Hall

Tuesday Morning Movies

Please join the Tuesday Morning Movie Group, each Tuesday morning after the 8:00am Mass in the Sacred Heart Room for a movie, muffins and mighty good fellowship. Showing this week: "Work Which is Still Unknown" (The life and ministry of St. Jeanne Jugan, the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor). All are welcome!

August Serving Information:

Co-Chairpersons are:

Sheila Larson: 701-840-2881; Tara Glandt: 701-840-0664; No activities planned at this time. If an event is scheduled, please volunteer.

September Serving Information:

Temporary Chairperson:

Margaret Doyle: 701-840-0142; No activities planned at this time.



OCIA



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

- **For:** Those unbaptized and baptized Christians who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith and perhaps joining the Catholic Church community
- **When:** Thursdays at 7:00pm, beginning September 11th
- **Contact Fr. Duchscher** for more information and questions

Catechist Retreat: Friday, September 5 at Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City.

Come away for a day of retreat at Maryvale, Valley City where Fr. Andrew Jasinski will direct a retreat with a series of talks reflecting on the Jubilee theme, "Hope does not disappoint". These retreats are primarily for those involved in catechesis, however, all are welcome.

The day will begin at 9:00am and end at 4:00pm. Cost: \$25 per person. Deadline to register for these retreats is Wednesday, August 27. Please register on-line at

<https://www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat>

call Mary Hanbury for info, 701-356-7809.



JOHN PAUL II Healing Center
Transformation in the Heart of the Church

Undone Women's Retreat

Thursday, November 20th, 6:30pm - 10pm

Friday, November 21st, 6:30 - 10pm

Saturday, November 22nd, 9am - 3:30pm

In person or via livestream

For more info, visit fargodiocese.net/undone or use the QR code.



We are Hiring

Store Cashier/Clerk needed

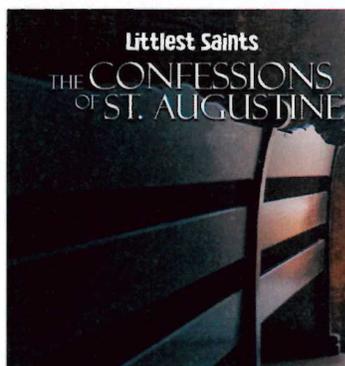
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays,
10:00am to 5:00pm

Please stop in the store to inquire about this position or to apply.

Store hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm

Monday - Saturday

Phone Number 845-1022



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A child, a sinner, a saint. Join us as we share the story of St. Augustine, tailored to our children, as he wrestles with God and comes to the faith.

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Upcoming Retreats

1. Diocese of Fargo Jubilee Collectable Coins & Pilgrim Guide



There are six Jubilee sites in the Diocese of Fargo and the faithful are encouraged to visit these sites and gain the Jubilee Year Indulgence. At each site the faithful are welcome to collect a coin unique to that site as a reminder of their pilgrimage. Make sure to find the Jubilee poster at each site with a QR code for pilgrims to log in their visit. If you visit all six sites, you can receive the Diocese of Fargo coin. There are brochures about the coins at each site. A free will donation is requested for the coins. In addition, there is an on-line pilgrim guide available as a PDF and eBook. <https://www.fargodiocese.org/jubilee-pilgrim-guide>



2. Diocese of Fargo Prairie Pilgrimage [August 25-26, Maryvale Retreat Center](https://www.fargodiocese.org/prairie-pilgrimage)

Come join us on a two-day pilgrimage to the six Jubilee sites in the Diocese of Fargo. We will begin at Maryvale, Vally City, and end back at Maryvale. All meals and overnight lodging included. The cost is \$285 per person, double occupancy; or \$385 for a single room. Overnight stay at the Jasper Hotel downtown Fargo. Includes reserved seating for the Man of the Shroud presentation at Mary's Cathedral on Aug 25. For registration and more information: <https://www.fargodiocese.org/prairie-pilgrimage>



3. Young Men's Retreat with Bishop Folda [September 5-7, 2025, Maryvale Retreat Center](https://maryvalend.org/young-mens-retreat)

This retreat is for men ages 21-38 wanting to deepen and strengthen their faith with the Lord. What is your purpose in life? Can you persevere with all the distractions of the world? Do you feel sometimes you simply do not know what to do? Come...walk with me...to be a follower of Christ! Bishop Folda will lead young men in pursuing the answers to these important questions. Find the full schedule and register at <https://maryvalend.org/young-mens-retreat>.

4. On Retreat with St. Therese of Lisieux: Women's Silent Retreat [September 12-14, 2025, Maryvale Retreat Center](https://maryvalend.org/9-12-25-st-therese-of-lisieux)



In this retreat, Ashley Njaa (wife, mother, DRE, and spiritual disciple of St. Therese of Lisieux) will help women unpack some of key pieces of this French spiritual giant's wisdom on living a life of complete trust, confidence in God, and cultivating a spiritual childhood. The retreat will include conferences, Mass, adoration, confession, and spiritual direction, as well as time to pray, rest, and enjoy the beautiful grounds of Maryvale. All details available at <https://maryvalend.org/9-12-25-st-therese-of-lisieux>.

5. Women's Reading Retreat [October 17-19, 2025, Maryvale Retreat Center](https://maryvalend.org/3-30-25-gods-bucket-list-1)



This weekend-long reading retreat is filled with group and silent reading times, small large group discussions, prayer time, daily Mass, adoration, evening social, and the building of lasting friendships. Participants will be reading and discussing *God's Bucket List* by Teresa Tomeo. Details and registration available at

<https://maryvalend.org/3-30-25-gods-bucket-list-1>.