



## 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." - Lk 14:13-14

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST**



# St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church 820 Hickory Street Sebring, FL 33870

Parish Office/Mailing  
882 Bay St., Sebring, FL 33870  
(863)385-0049 Fax: (863)385-5169  
(863)385-6762 (Spanish)  
[www.stcathe.org](http://www.stcathe.org)  
[www.facebook.com/stcathe](https://www.facebook.com/stcathe)

Office Hours  
Monday—Friday 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

CLERGY  
Pastor  
Very Reverend José González, V.F.  
[frjose@stcathe.org](mailto:frjose@stcathe.org)

MASS SCHEDULE  
Weekend  
Saturday: 4:00 PM  
& 6:00 PM (Spanish)  
Sunday—8:00 AM & 10:00 AM  
12:00 Noon (Spanish)

DAILY MASS  
Monday to Friday: 8:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION  
Saturday: 3:00—3:45 PM

ST CATHERINE SCHOOL  
2835 Kenilworth Blvd.  
(863)385-7300

Principal  
Steve Cullipher, M. Ed.  
[cullipher@stcatheschool.org](mailto:cullipher@stcatheschool.org)

Pre-School  
747 S. Franklin St.  
Sebring, FL 33870  
(863)385-7300 Fax: (863)385-7310  
[www.stcatheschool.org](http://www.stcatheschool.org)  
Office hours  
8:00 AM—3:00 PM

### In Defense of the American Dream

For many years the landscape surrounding immigration has loomed over and enshrouded the Sunshine State, a state heavily invested in labor provided by immigrants. As the climate surrounding the hot topic cannot be ignored, the Sunshine State should not solely be known for monikers such as Alligator Alcatraz and Deportation Depot. And Florida's bishops agree upholding human dignity is paramount when discussing the complicated issue.

"Because they are looking for a future of hope they still believe in the American dream." Florida Catholic Media videographer Andres Roza interviewed both Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice and Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami on the topic of immigration, especially on the topic of deportation. The migrant detention facility, known as Alligator Alcatraz for its deliberate placement within the inhospitable environment of Florida's Everglades, is located on the cusp of both the Diocese of Venice and the Archdiocese of Miami.

"Our immigration program has been broken for decades," Archbishop Wenski said. "It's not so much that people are breaking the law, but the law is breaking people." "(The country) is not targeting this correctly," Bishop Dewane said. "It's not humane. And there's nothing proportional about what's happening here."

The bishops of the United States have called for comprehensive immigration reform for decades and Archbishop Wenski reiterated that the responsibility "has to be laid at the doors of Congress because Congress makes the laws and if laws are inadequate then Congress should change address those inadequacies and reform the laws." Relying on an "enforcement-only approach" — such as detention facilities that solely focus on deportation — is not the basis of is not the "optimal approach to address immigration crisis," the archbishop said. And rhetoric in which people are referred to as "illegal," strips those people of their inherent human dignity.

"I think we've missed a whole component of human dignity, and that used to be such a trademark of our country," Bishop Dewane said. "I don't grant anyone human dignity. God gave it to him. ... It's up to me and you and all of our listeners to recognize that in every person."

"They contribute to the economy, in many ways. First, they enter in the exchange of good. Now someone might say, 'Oh that's only tax, and we don't tax too much.' But they (the immigrants) don't set up the structure, they enter into it," Bishop Dewane continued. "I'm not an economist, and I'm not trying to be. But I do speak out

on a moral platform and will continue to speak for the migrants here in this country."

Immigrants come to the United States seeking a better life that does not exist where they live. To them, the United States offers hope, and the archbishop said it is what makes them good workers who offer positive contributions to our society. "Because they're looking for a future of hope they still believe in the American dream," he added.

The video comes at a time when other prelates are commenting on immigration as well. In his bimonthly column, Bishop John Noonan of Orlando wrote that Scripture notes God does not reserve his love for certain people. And the apostles of before and of today are anointed to do the same.

"Today, there are many things and events that unsettle the heart of God. For many years, we have spoken about immigrants, labeling them illegal aliens or aliens, the meaning of which describes someone unsuitable for this earth. Yet, as we read God's Word, we know that we are part of His Body, creating His dwelling place with one another for all time. When we begin to label people, we also begin to separate them from us. The one who is labeled becomes the outsider, unworthy of God's compassion and tenderness," Bishop Noonan wrote. "We are in communion with Christ for our neighbors, not just the ones whom we choose, but all people because God chooses all."

Alligator Alcatraz is being used as a model for other states to set up similar facilities. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announced plans to open a "Deportation Depot" at Bakersville Correctional Institution in North Florida — a facility located within the territory of the Diocese of St. Augustine. Days before that announcement, Bishop Erik Pohlmeier of St. Augustine released his second statement on immigration in 2025, urging Catholics to approach the issue through the lens of the Gospel.

"Many individuals held in detention are not hardened criminals. Some have legal protections, are awaiting hearings, or have come here seeking safety and a better life. They still deserve fair treatment, compassion, and due process under the law," Bishop Pohlmeier said. "Our starting point must be to see the person first, then work for just solutions that uphold both the common good and the sanctity of every life."

**To view the video on immigration, visit**  
<https://youtu.be/6A8-QvKBaGU>

**OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2025—2026  
BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 10TH**

Registrations are available in the Church vestibule. You also may complete the paperwork at the Church office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM—3:00 PM. For more information please call (863)385-0049.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**

**GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP YOUTH GROUP**

Join us every Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm for Middle School Youth Group!

We will begin September 17<sup>th</sup> with a family meeting at the White House located next to the church. Grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and their parents/guardians are invited!

For more information feel free to contact middle school youth group coordinators:

Kathy (863) 452-7679  
or Ken Bruce (863) 273-6822

*Let us “encourage one another and build each other up”*

1Thessalonians 5:11

**YOUTH GROUP**

**VOICES OF HOPE YOUTH GROUP**

Join us every Friday from 6:30—8:00 PM for Youth Group!

We will start September 5<sup>th</sup> and will be meeting at the white House located next to the church. Grades 9 -12 are invited!

For more information feel free to contact Youth Group coordinator:  
Jose Rodriguez (863)245-7597.



**"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."**  
Isaiah 40:31

**Calling All Men! *That Man is You!***



On September 9, 2025, at 7:00 PM there will be a one-hour information session on *That Man is You!* (TMIY), at St. Catherine Parish, Sebring. TMIY is a Catholic program that honestly addresses the pressures that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. Since its inception, approximately 100,000 men have been involved in TMIY.

The transformative effects in participants have been most evident in helping men become better husbands and fathers, strengthening them in virtue, and in increasing parish participation. This information session is open to all men, whether you are a member of St. Catherine's or another parish. It is being promoted by the Evangelization Department of the Diocese of Venice and is endorsed by Bishop Dewane. Come to the information session on September (Date) and find out more!

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INTIATION OF ADULTS**



The RCIA process is now called OCIA, reflecting a closer translation of the process by which adults are initiated into the Catholic faith, specifically our Roman Catholic tradition, and become initiated into the life of our Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith, about becoming Catholic or in need of the Sacraments, please extend an invitation to them to come to the RCIA sessions.

These classes will begin in September 10th in the Parish Hall. For more information, or to register for classes, please call Juana at (863)385-0049.



Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Catherine Catholic School,

We are gearing up for our 8th Grade Sunrise Breakfast on Thursday. As these students' final year dawns, we want to celebrate their accomplishment on reaching their senior year at St. Catherine Catholic School. We will offer our prayers for their success this year and beyond.

We would like to invite the grandparents of all of our students to join us in the Parish Hall after Mass on Friday, August 29th for refreshments and a brief program by our youngest Warriors. There may also be some surprise treats for grandparents produced by some of our elementary students.

Plans are in the works for our first ever 6th & 7th Grade retreat on September 6th at Campo San Jose in Lake Placid. Anthony Fontaines from our parish and Andres Prias from the Diocese of Venice will be leading our students as we explore Living Our Faith: Where is Christ in Your Life? Coincidentally, this retreat falls on the day before the Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint,

who continued to show others Christ in his life, even in the face of his own death as a teenager.

We are still searching for a music teacher and a PE teacher. If you, or someone you know, might be interested, please contact me, [cullipher@stcatheschool.org](mailto:cullipher@stcatheschool.org). Either position can be part-time or full-time and we can assist with the necessary qualifications. Please pray that the Holy Spirit moves someone's heart to join our purpose of guiding our students to sainthood.

I ask that you keep St. Catherine Catholic School, including our students and teachers, in your prayers. I invite you to join our Guardian Angels in supporting our mission of sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the world. More information can be found on our website [www.stcatheschool.org](http://www.stcatheschool.org) and clicking on the Giving/Guardian Angel tab at the top of the page. You can also contact our advancement associate, Toni Joyce, at 863-385-7300 if you have any questions.

May God Bless You and God Bless St. Catherine Catholic School.

St. Catherine of Sienna, Pray for Us!

Mr. Steven Cullipher, M. Ed.  
Principal

### Grandparents



The purpose of Grandparents Day in Schools is to offer grandparents quality time with their grandchildren, while providing grandchildren an opportunity to share the history of their family. Additionally, grandchildren are encouraged to gain new wisdom from--and affection for--older people.

The tasks were designed so that all students can pick something at which they can be successful using their strengths and abilities as well as their available resources. There is also enough variety in the tasks to allow enjoyable choices for students who do not live in close proximity to their own grandparents.

Grandparents Day in Schools can also be used to encourage the visitation of senior citizens in nursing homes; students can adopt a senior citizen to complete their task or pick a known senior in their community. Some adjustments in the process may need to be made so that it is more appropriate for younger students.

**SACRAMENTS****RECONCILIATION**

This sacrament is available every Saturday from 3:00—3:45 PM or by appointment with a Priest.

**Anointing of the sick, Baptism & Marriage**

For questions or more information (863)385-0049 or e-mail at office@stcathe.org.

**SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK**

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18, Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13, Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11, Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14, Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: Col 1:1-8, Ps 52:10, 11, Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: Col 1:9-14, Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6, Lk 5:1-11

Friday: Col 1:15-20, Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5, Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: Col 1:21-23, Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8, Lk 6:1-5

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b, Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1), Phlm 9-10, 12-17, Lk 14:25-33



**ADORATION**  
of the  
**BLESSED**  
**SACRAMENT**

**Every Friday from 8:30**  
**to 11:45 AM**  
**in the Chapel**

**WELCOME TO ST. CATHERINE PARISH**

We invite you to register with us or if you have changed any of your contact information, please fill out this form.

Visit the Parish Office during open hours.

- Mail the Parish Registration or Update Form to the Parish Office.
- Drop the Parish Registration or Update Form into the weekend collection basket.
- Register online at [www.stcathe.org](http://www.stcathe.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY**

☐ New Registration

☐ Moving out of the Parish

☐ Up-date information

☐ Need contribution envelopes

**Twenty-Second in Ordinary Time****Mass Intentions of the Week****SATURDAY August 30th**

4:00 PM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

**SUNDAY August 31st**

8:00 AM DONALD ROWE † Becky Johnson

10:00 AM ELIZABETH (Betsy) HULSEBOSCH † Charles Hulsebosch

LINDA JACKSON † Jim & Eileen Jackson

**MONDAY September 1st**

8:00 AM JOSEPH MEYERHOFER † Daughter

**TUESDAY September 2nd**

8:00 AM JOSEPH RAFFERTY † Becky Johnson

**WEDNESDAY September 3rd**

8:00 AM For Religious Vocations — Fr. José

**THURSDAY September 4th**

8:00 AM Lenny Hall (Special Intentions) — Mother

**FRIDAY September 5th**

8:00 AM David Hall (Special Intentions) — Mother

**SATURDAY September 6th**

4:00 PM EZEQUIEL RAMOS † Magdalena Animas Ruiz

EDD VOWELS † Rita, Laurie, Tim & Susan

TODD VOWELS † Rita, Laurie, Tim & Susan

**SUNDAY September 7th**

8:00 AM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

10:00 AM ALICE DAUGHERTY † Pat Israel

FOR THE MAYS & HOLLENBERG FAMILIES † Pat Israel

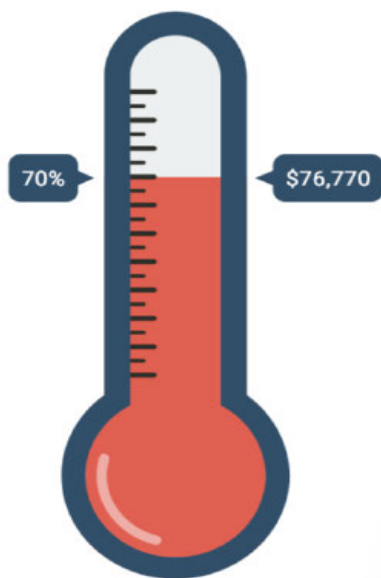
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Mass Intentions forms** are available at the Parish Office or online, at

**<https://web4ucorp.com/massintentions/catherinesebring>**

Return Mass Intention forms at Parish Office or drop it in the weekend collection. The usual donation is \$10.

Please specify whether the person is living or deceased. *Mass Intentions must be made a minimum of 10 days prior to the date of the intention.*

**BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER****OFFERINGS****Second Collections****This Week: Youth Group****Next Week: Catholic University of America****August 24th****Regular Collection: \$6,424.00****Charity Fund: \$1,357.00****Weekly Online Giving: \$1,746.00****For Online Giving instructions visit****<https://www.osvhub.com/stcathe/funds>****Flocknote July: \$2,493.00****For Online Flocknote Giving visit****<https://stcatherineofseeb.flocknote.com/fundit/give>****Thank you for your help with insurance bill****GOAL: \$110,000****CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2025****Our assessment for 2025 is \$115.00.00****We have received: \$132,439.00**

Please make checks payable to CFA and in the Memo write "St. Catherine".

Thank you for your generous support to St. Catherine's and the CFA. To contribute online go to **<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/>**

To watch the video go to **<https://vimeo.com/1052376784>**

**Tax Smart Giving****Fulfill Your Required Minimum Distribution**

If you reached age 73 in 2024, your second Required Minimum Distribution is due by December 31, 2025, based on your account balance on December 31, 2024.

Did you know that you can direct your Required Minimum Distribution to St. Catherine Catholic Church and avoid increasing your taxable income by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution? You can request your IRA Administrator to send a check payable to St. Catherine Catholic Church to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution.

Please check with your professional advisors for more information on this beneficial giving option.

St. Catherine Catholic Church does not provide legal tax, or financial advice. When considering gifting options, seek the advice of your own legal and/or financial professionals.

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

This week we served 37 visitors / shoppers with a total of 146 family members. 11 volunteers/Vincentians operated the food pantry. We received donations from 4 Parish families.

We shared Holy Communion and prayer with 8 patients and their family members at the hospital.

This week we would appreciate donations of rice and dried beans.

We invite anyone interested in joining or learning more about our efforts to join us in the food pantry at 10:00 am every Tuesday.

We thank you for your generosity and support. For more information please call 863-835-0571.

**Food Pantry****For the Needy & Poor**806 Hickory Street  
Sebring, FL

(white house adjacent to St. Catherine Catholic Church)

Open  
Tuesdays  
10 am -  
11 am**Despensa de Alimentos**Para las Necesitados  
Los Martes**Safe Environment Training**

As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice requires that all employees and those volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and complete online training in Safe Environment prior to beginning employment or volunteering. Please visit the **[Diocese of Venice website](https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/)** for further information.

## ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

<b>Pastor: Very Reverend José González, V.F</b>	OCIA: Juana Nava.....385-0049
.....385-0049	navaj@stcathe.org
Arts and Environment: Gloria Fontanes.....385-0049	Religious Education: Rose Hall.....385-0049
Altar Servers: Manuel Gomez & Dulce Diaz....464-9458	rose@stcathe.org.
ddiaz8558@gmail.com	Respect Life:.....385-0049
Liturgical Ministries: Diane Sochacki.....835-2523	SVDP: .....835-0571
Ministry to the Sick: Claudia Spradlin .....991-3271	Ushers: Mike Flood.....471-6381

## MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

**COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

Women of our parish, come join us and see how St. Catherine's Council of Catholic Women can enrich your life. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 4:30 P.M. with a social time starting at 4:00 P.M. Meeting is at building S200 Hickory Street. For more information please call Mrs. Jennifer Lindsey at (618) 521-8730 or email jcsjlindsey@yahoo.com.

**GRIEFSHARE GROUP:**

For more information please call (863) 385-0049.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Council Member Business Meetings** are held on the first Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM in Building S200 on Hickory Street with the Rosary being said starting at 6:30 PM. **Fourth Degree Assembly Meetings** are held on the first Monday of **every other Month** at 7:00 PM in Building S200. **New Members and Transfers are ALWAYS welcome!** Any questions please contact Grand Knight Donald Israel (239)691-4777. Thank You!

**LEGION OF MARY**

Meetings are Wednesdays at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall, Room #17. For more information please contact Mary Ann Buckley (863)385-1386.

**PRAYER CHAIN**

For questions or more information please call Claudia Spradlin at (863)991-3271 or email [claudia@stcathe.org](mailto:claudia@stcathe.org).

**ROSARY**

The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 9:30 AM each Sunday in the Chapel.

**Raffle: You Can't Win if You Don't Play**

To help us achieve our goal of \$100,000 to pay the cost of our insurance, we offer you the opportunity to participate in a raffle with your donation of \$10. The raffle will take place November 16th in the Parish Hall. For \$100 you can receive 11 tickets (\$10 each, ONE FREE) to win any of the following prizes.

**1st Prize : \$3,000      2nd Prize: \$1,500      3rd Prize: \$500**

The proceeds will go to help the Parish offset the price of our Insurance Premiums.  
**Time to move the thermometer!**

**BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS NOW:** <https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com/give/33806> and we will send your tickets by regular mail.

For those who wish to enter personally (rather than electronically) raffle tickets will also be available:

- At the Parish Office
- After Masses



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