



THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man." For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. - Jn 3:13, 17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD.

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**The Exaltation
of the Holy Cross**

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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

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

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

Pre-School

747 S. Franklin St.

Sebring, FL 33870

(863)385-7300 Fax: (863)385-7310

www.stcatheschool.org

Office hours

8:00 AM—3:00 PM

THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Today we celebrate the Exaltation of the Precious Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ. But what does it mean to exalt the Cross? And how do we exalt it? How do we exalt the Cross spiritually in our heart and entire life? In order to understand what it means to exalt the Cross in this way, it is necessary to understand what the Cross itself is. Christ says to us all: "If you will come after Me and be My disciple, deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Me."

Christ bore His Cross daily throughout His entire life on earth, not just at the time of His Crucifixion. Christ, the Son of God and God from heaven, humbled Himself and became a man, subject to pains, weariness, sorrows, unjust sufferings, torture, and a shameful death. Why did He do this? God created us for life, joy, peace, light, love, goodness, bliss, spiritual pleasure, and eternal rest in Him. But we have introduced sin, suffering, and death. As soon as man was created, he set up the Cross and crucified God upon it; he obliterated God from his own presence within him through sin.

Every sin is a crucifixion of Christ. Sin is turning away from God and falling away from living in Him and as Him. We crucify Christ when we hate someone. We crucify Christ when we judge or slander someone. We crucify Christ when we lust after someone. We crucify Christ when we elevate ourselves in arrogance against someone. We crucify Christ when we blaspheme, or swear, or grumble, or complain against others and God. How many times a day do we crucify Christ! The physical crucifixion of Christ is familiar to us from the Gospel. But do we perceive the *spiritual* crucifixion of Christ? Do we understand how much He suffered and still suffers from us? When He was insulted and blasphemed by the people, what was His reaction? Surely, He was pained beyond belief in His human heart. But He was not pained on His own account. He did not recoil in self-pity and depression. Rather, He was pained and tormented by the fact that His tormentors were mad, God-hating, self-destructive beasts. His pain was for them, not Himself. And this is still how it is. Christ is tormented by our sins, our hatred, our judgment, our slander, our filthy desires, our pride, our darkness, our enslavement to demonic influence. He suffers for us! By forsaking Him, we forsake ourselves and that is beneficial and salvific for us. By crucifying Him, we kill our *own* souls.

But thanks be to God for Our Lord Jesus Christ! It is against Him alone that we sin. It is He alone Whom we have crucified and pained by our sins. But it is He alone Who still loves us and desires our salvation far greater than we can ever do so for ourselves or even imagine. Christ on the Cross manifests the greatest image of the Loving Father. What words do we hear from Christ Cru-

cified? What judgment or condemnation or harsh criticism or terrifying curse do we hear from Him, while He is crucified, suffering, tormented by thirst, sorrowing unto death, in agony, blasphemed, mocked, insulted, slandered, betrayed by an intimate, abandoned by His friends? What thunderous word does He utter? None but this: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" Nothing but forgiveness, long-suffering patience, love, and mercy.

This is our boldness. This is our encouragement. This is our salvation. This is the beginning of our repentance. This is the only place we can start. This is the only place we can receive remission of sins—from Christ on His Cross, whose love for us cannot be conquered, not by our sins, not by this world, not by the devil, not by death, not by anything at all! Therefore, we must follow Him if we desire to live in Him. We must seek repentance—Now! At this very moment! We must cast off our delusion, our division, our worldliness, our party spirit, our unjust opinions. We must "judge not lest we be judged; condemn not lest we be condemned; forgive that we may be forgiven; do unto others as we desire them to do unto us; love our enemies, bless those who curse us, pray for those who abuse us, and do good to those who hate us."

This is the path of Christ. This is the path of crucifixion, of salvific self-denial. This is the path God walked when He dwelt on this earth. Shall we remain proud and think we can walk a different and better path than Him? Sorrows and pains and misunderstandings and disappointments and death will never be far from us if we live on this earth. Therefore, we must learn to follow Christ so that we might become invincible to this world's influence. We will never learn to exalt the Cross in spirit while we are judging and hating. We will never live truly in Christ when we are obsessed with politics, when we divide ourselves, when we think ourselves better than others, when we identify Orthodoxy with a political party, when we arrogantly despise those who are astray. For the Lord says: "My Kingdom is not of this world; if it were, then would My servants fight." We see atrocities all around us: wars, persecutions, abortions, divisions, riots, murders, unspeakable blasphemies, perversions of nature, deformities of children, confusion of gender, racism.

What is our reaction? Do we detest these things? Good! But do we detest those led astray by the devil? Then we are no better than they are. In fact, because we have the truth and the law of Christ, which is love for enemies, we are far worse! It is the will of this Father, and His Son Jesus Christ, and the All-Holy Spirit to save us, to transform us, to heal us, and to deify us forever. Let us continually pray that the will of God be done in us for all ages.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CLASSES WILL BE WEDNESDAYS FROM 6:00—7:30 PM AND SUNDAYS FROM 10:00—11:45 AM

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 17th with a family meeting at the White House located next to the church. Grades 7th and 8th 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

FOLLOW US!

 @stcatherinevoh

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.

YOUTH GROUP

VOICES OF HOPE YOUTH GROUP

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

YOUTH JUBILEE
ADORATION NIGHT

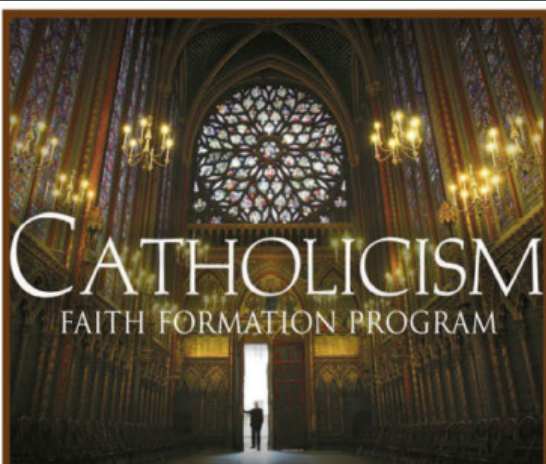
St Catherine Catholic Church

820 Hickory St
Sebring, FL 33870
Sept. 26. 2025
6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Scan to Register:



www.dioceseofvenice.org/youth
Phone: 941-441-1122
prias@dioceseofvenice.org

JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD
AND DEEP INTO THE FAITH

Join us as we watch and discuss
Bishop Robert Barron's
CATHOLICISM VIDEO SERIES

Every Thursday at 6:00 PM
From Sept. 18 to Nov. 20

Building S200 (corner of Hickory & Lakeview)

Contact:

Jonathan Spence Jennifer Lindsey
508-333-0483 618-521-8730
jms817@gmail.com jcsolindsey@yahoo.com

RITE OF CHRISTIAN
INITIATION 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 be Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Building S300. For more information, or to register for classes, please call Juana at (863)385-0049.

COME & SERVE
THE LORD

We are in need of more
volunteers to serve as
Liturgical Ministers

ALTAR SERVERS
LECTORS
SACRISTANS
USHERS & GREETERS

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the Parrish Office at (863) 354-0049.

Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Catherine Catholic School,

This past week we had the privilege of honoring our grandparents. Grandparents joined us for a special Mass on Friday and then we migrated to the parish hall for coffee and pastries. We were excited to see how many grandparents were able to attend and show their love and support for the students. Preschool students entertained with a few songs and elementary students presented their grandparents with special crafts to honor them. I encourage students, parents, and grandparents to plan quality multigenerational time with each other. Grandparents have so much to share with our children.



Last Saturday, we hosted our 6th and 7th graders at Campo San Jose for a day retreat. We had great discussions about opening our eyes to see Christ in our everyday lives with the theme, "Who Am I in God's Story?" A very special thank you to Anthony Fontaines from St. Catherine Parish and Andres Prias from the Diocese of Venice for engaging our students in the quest to live their best lives in God's story. Also thanks to Mrs. Costa for organizing the retreat, parents for donating gift cards for food, and Fr. Jose for offering the sacrament of reconciliation.



On September 27-28, the eighth graders will have an overnight retreat at Campo San Jose where they will be immersed in our theme of finding our place in God's story. We are planning to have several guest speakers to do a deep dive into the little things in our lives that make us Unapologetically Catholic.

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. 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 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

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 Tm 2:1-8, Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9, Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13, Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6, Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16, Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16, Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10, Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12, Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20, Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16, Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5, Lk 8:4-15

Sunday: Am 8:4-7, Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b), 1 Tm 2:1-8, Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



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

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

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Mass Intentions of the Week
SATURDAY September 13th

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

SUNDAY September 14th

8:00 AM CHARLES BRADY † Robert & Stacey Barone

ELIZABETH ANN PADEN BARINA † Richard M. Barina

10:00 AM TODD & EDD VOWELS † Rita, Laurie, Tim & Susan

Peter & Crol Kent (63rd Wedding Anniversary) — The Kent Family

MONDAY September 15th

8:00 AM KENNETH RANDAZZO † J. Bolan

Jerry & Jean Lesniak (Wedding Anniversary) — Jerry & Jean Lesniak

TUESDAY September 16th

8:00 AM JOSEPH RAFFERTY † MTY

WEDNESDAY September 17th

8:00 AM Digna Collado (for health) — Enibelkis Ameneiro

Digna Collado (for health) — Enibelkis Ameneiro

THURSDAY September 18th

8:00 AM GEORGIA QUIRK † Fr. José

FRIDAY September 19th

8:00 AM OLIVA ACEVEDO † Familia Alba

VICENTE ALBA † Familia Alba

Alcira Alba — Familia Alba

SATURDAY September 20th

4:00 PM DAVID NUTTER † Mary Nutter

CHARLES & CATHARINE RITCHEY † Madonna Williams

JACK H. WILLIAMS SR. † Madonna Williams

SUNDAY September 21st

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

10:00 AM JEANNE LESNIAK † Becky Johnson

RANDY WALTERS † B. Walters

Dominga Morales — Nivea Morales

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: Charity Fund
Next Week: Special Collection to assist
with humanitarian aid in Gaza

September 7th

Regular Collection: \$6,191.00
Catholic University of America: \$981.00

Weekly Online Giving: \$3,416.00

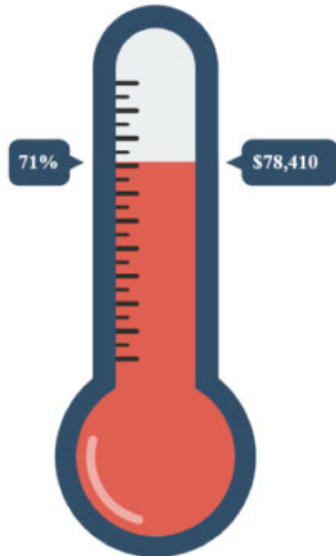
For Online Giving instructions visit
<https://www.osvhub.com/stcathe/funds>

Flocknote August: \$2,900.00

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: \$137,369.00

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 27 visitors/shoppers with a total of 100 family members. 11 volunteers operated the food pantry.

We received 3 food donations from 3 Parish families. This week we invite you to donate rice and dried beans if possible.

We visited and shared Holy Communion with 7 patients and their family at the hospital.

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)** for further information.

ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

Pastor: Very Reverend José González, V.F	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 Spradlin991-3271	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 jcsolindsey@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.

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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Parish members receive \$250 off



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www.4lpi.com/careers

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