



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



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon." - Lk 16:8b, 13

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI



"Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope"

1 Pet 3:15

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

Pope urges church to listen to sorrows of abuse victims, walk together

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pain must never give rise to violence, and every Catholic needs to learn to safeguard with tenderness those who are vulnerable, Pope Leo XIV said during a prayer vigil dedicated to people experiencing pain and affliction due to illness, bereavement, violence or abuse.

Recognizing that some members of the church "have unfortunately hurt you," the pope said, the church "kneels with you today before our Mother (Mary). May we all learn from her to protect the most vulnerable with tenderness!" "May we learn to listen to your wounds and walk together," he said in his homily Sept. 15, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. "May we receive from Our Lady of Sorrows the strength to recognize that life is not defined only by the evil we suffer, but by the love of God, who never abandons us and guides the whole church."

The pope led the prayer vigil in St. Peter's Basilica Sept. 15 as part of the Jubilee of Consolation, which is "dedicated to all those who are experiencing or have experienced moments of particular difficulty, grief, suffering or hardship in their lives," according to the section of the Dicastery for Evangelization in charge of organizing the Holy Year. During the vigil, two women offered their reflections and experience of losing a loved one to senseless violence and finding consolation, reconciliation and new life through their faith.

Lucia Di Mauro, spoke about forgiving and supporting the young man who was an accomplice in the 2009 murder of her husband, Gaetano Montanino, in Naples, Italy, and Diane Foley spoke about her son, James W. Foley, a U.S. journalist who worked in conflict zones and was kidnapped, once in Libya, then in Syria, where he was ultimately beheaded by members of ISIS in 2014.

Telling the story of his Catholic faith and passion for "giving voice to the voiceless," Foley also spoke of the pain and anguish of finding out "my innocent, good-hearted son was taken at gunpoint, sold and held captive for the 'crime' of being a journalist -- just as our beloved innocent Jesus was condemned to death for our sins," she said, her voice catching with emotion.

"Anger surged within me -- anger at ISIS, at our U.S. government, at those who refused to help. Bitterness threatened to consume me," she said. She found comfort in the Stations of the Cross, and "Jesus and Mary became my constant companions, along with countless earthly angels whose compassion lifted me up." The unexpected happened, Foley said, when Alexandra Kotey, one of the jihadists who had kidnapped and tortured her

son, offered to meet with the family after he pleaded guilty to all eight counts of kidnapping, torture and murder.

"The three days of meeting with Alexandra became moments of grace," she said, as "God gave me the grace to see him as a fellow sinner in need of mercy, like me," and she turned evil into good by establishing the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation, which advocates for the safe return of Americans taken hostage and educates student journalists about safety practices in places of danger.

In his homily, Pope Leo said, "the testimonies we have heard speak of a truth: that pain must not give rise to violence, and that violence never has the final say, for it is conquered by a love that knows how to forgive." "The violence suffered cannot be erased, but forgiveness granted to those who offend us is a foretaste of the kingdom of God on earth," he said.

"Where there is evil, we must seek the comfort and consolation that can overcome it and give it no respite," he said. "In the church, this means never being alone." "Finding someone who cries with you and gives you strength is a medicine that we cannot do without, because it is a sign of love. Where pain is deep, the hope that comes from communion must be even stronger," he added. The pope highlighted the collective anguish of entire peoples "crushed by the weight of violence, hunger and war."

"The true consolation we must offer to those around us is showing that peace is possible," he said, appealing to the leaders of nations to listen to "the cries of so many innocent children and ensure them a future that protects and consoles them." "Even in the midst of so much arrogance, we are certain that God will inspire hearts and hands to provide help and consolation: peacemakers who can comfort those who are in pain and sadness," he said.

Among the many prayer intentions read aloud were pleas for those who are: persecuted for their faith; victims of violence and terrorism; children who are abused and neglected; victims of human trafficking and their captors; abandoned by others; suffering from addiction; and mourning the death of a loved one or child.

At the prayer service, people were given a gift of the "Agnus Dei," a wax medallion depicting the Paschal lamb, a symbol of resurrection and a sign of hope. On the other side was a representation of Rome's Marian icon, the "Salus Populi Romani," ("Salvation of the Roman People"). The medallions were blessed by the pope.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes will be Wednesdays from 6:00—7:30 PM and Sundays from 10:00—11:45 AM. For registration or more information please call (863)385-0049.

VOICES OF HOPE YOUTH GROUP

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



**Eucharistic
Rosary
Congresses**

Our **Rosary Congress** will take place October 3-4. It begins with the celebration of the 8:00 AM Mass on Friday, October 3 and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass. Adoration in the Chapel will be for 24 hours until the 9:00 AM Mass on Saturday, October 4. Five decades of the Rosary are being prayed aloud by the Faithful every hour.

To reserve your hour please call Edward and Cheryl DeCastro (863)264-5720 or (315)264-4153.

GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP YOUTH GROUP

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

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.

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.

YOUTH JUBILEE ADORATION NIGHT

St Catherine Catholic Church

Scan to Register:



www.dioceseofvenice.org/youth

Phone: 941-441-1122

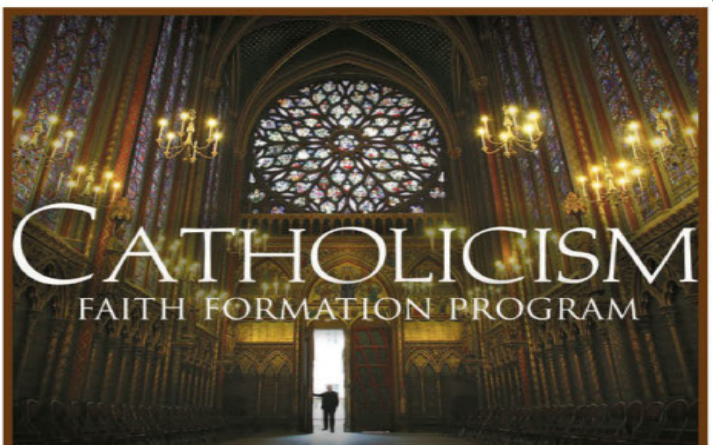
prias@dioceseofvenice.org



820 Hickory St
Sebring, FL 33870

Sept. 26. 2025

6:30 p.m–8:30 p.m.



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

508-333-0483

jms817@gmail.com

Jennifer Lindsey

618-521-8730

jcsjilindsey@yahoo.com

Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Catherine Catholic School,

Palanca Letters for Our Students' Retreat

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. One special tradition of retreats is receiving *Palanca Letters*.

What is a Palanca Letter?

"Palanca" is a Spanish word that means *lever*. A Palanca Letter is a simple note of prayer, encouragement, and support — a way of "lifting up" our students as they grow in faith.

Your Role:

We invite parishioners to write letters to our young people attending the retreat. These notes will be a gift to help them know they are loved by God and supported by their parish family.

What to Write:

- Begin with a warm greeting (e.g., "Dear Friend in Christ,").
- Offer words of encouragement, hope, or advice for living their faith. Tell them what you love about being Catholic.
- Share a favorite Scripture verse, saint quote, or short prayer.
- Close with an assurance of your prayers for them.

Tips:

- Keep letters about 1 page.
- Please avoid heavy topics or personal criticism — these letters are meant to inspire and uplift.

We will have a collection box outside of the admissions office (748 S Franklin St., next to the Church office) where you can drop your letters.

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.



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: Ezr 1:1-6, Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6, Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20, Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5, Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9, Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8, Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8, Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b, Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9, Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4, Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a, Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13, Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7, Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b), 1 Tm 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31



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

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mass Intentions of the Week**
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

MONDAY September 22nd

8:00 AM CHARLIE KIRK † Anonymous

Yesenia Cata (special Intentions) — Imelda Cata

TUESDAY September 23rd

8:00 AM CHARLIE KIRK † Anonymous

JOE RAFFERTY † Rita Vowels

DELIA TUAZON † Clara Tuazon

WEDNESDAY September 24th

8:00 AM FR. DAVID STOKES † Fr. José

THURSDAY September 25th

8:00 AM JIMMY CAPODANNO † Laura & Bill Clay

ROBERT JOHN MARQUARDT † Marlene G. Marquardt

FRIDAY September 26th

8:00 AM MICHELLE VALERIE EUSTACHE † Serge Eustache

PAUL LaBONTE † Craig and Mary Beth Jones

SATURDAY September 27th

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

SUNDAY September 28th

8:00 AM FRANCIS SEMENTILLI † Geraldine Sementilli

FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY † Kim Torres

10:00 AM CHRISTOPHER CONRAD † Craig & Mary Beth Jones

FR. SEAN MULCAHY † Nora Schmidt

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: Special Collection to assist
with humanitarian aid in Gaza**

Next Week: Youth Group

September 14th

Regular Collection: \$4,767

Charity Fund: \$1,540

Weekly Online Giving: \$1,211.00

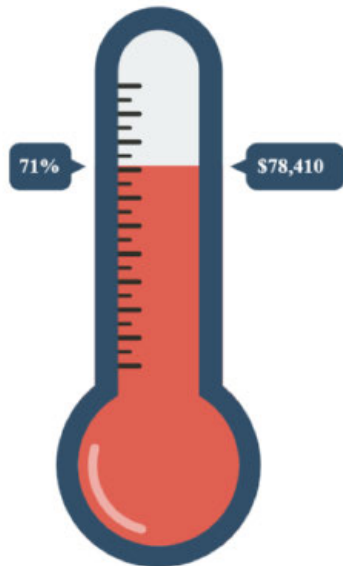
**For Online Giving instructions visit
<https://www.osvhub.com/stcathe/funds>**

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: \$138,006.00

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 137 family members.

14 Vincentians/ Volunteers operated the food pantry. We received donations from 4 Parish families.

We shared Holy Communion and prayer with 5 patients and their families.

We would appreciate donations of rice and dried beans.

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



**JEAN-PIERRE
LAW P.A.**
**Estate Planning
& Immigration Law**
1225 US Highway 27 S
Suite 209, Sebring FL 33870
863-614-0039
<https://jean-pierrelaw.com>

Parish members receive \$250 off



RJB
ROBERT BIERNOT, PT
Director of Physical Therapy
Lic #: PT4952
(863) 314-9991
(863) 314-0057-fax
5901 US Highway 27
Suite 10
Sebring, FL 33870
Cardiac & Physical Rehabilitation, Inc.

**MILLER'S
CENTRAL AIR, INC.** Rick Miller †
863-382-8488 Sales • Service • Duct Cleaning

ADT-Monitored Home Security
Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust
• Burglary • Flood Detection
• Fire Safety • Carbon Monoxide
ADT Authorized Provider SafeStreets **833-287-3502**

STEPHENSON NELSON
Funeral Home, Inc.
Since 1925 C.T. Nelson, L.F.D. 385-0125
4001 Sebring Parkway Sebring

Pepper
NATURAL HEALTH & WELLNESS
Drs. John & Kelly Pepper ~ Parishioners
2827 Alternate U.S. 27 South Lakeside Town Center
386-4325
• Chiropractic
• Acupuncture
• Massage

**LAKE PLACID HEALTH
& REHABILITATION CENTER**
WELCOME HOME
Providing Quality, Compassionate Care
Short Term Rehab • Secure Memory Care
Long Term Care • Wound Care • Respite
Physical/Occupational/Speech Therapy
125 Tomoka Blvd S, Lake Placid, FL 33852
Ph: 863-465-7200 • Fax: 941-499-1596
mkeim@lakeplacidhrc.com • lakeplacidhrc.com

IF YOU LIVE ALONE
MDMedAlert!™
✓ Ambulance/Police As Low As
✓ Family/Friends \$19⁹⁵/mo.
✓ GPS & Fall Alert
CALL NOW! 800.808.9294
* md-medalert.com

WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!
They allow us to print
this bulletin. Thank you!

SHORT STAFFED?
Place an ad here to find new local talent for your business.
CALL 800-477-4574

Griffin's
CARPET MART, INC.
560 US Hwy 27 N
Sebring
www.carpetpatioblinds.com
Flooring - Patio Furniture - Window Coverings
Griffin Family - Parishioners

"The Rooftop Pros"
Statewide Coverage
ZENITH
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC
Licensed & Insured CCC1332988
Financing Available Hablamos Español Free Roof Estimates
IGNACIO VEGA 863-241-0855
Owner/Sales Rep ZenithCSLLC@gmail.com

ADVANCED AIR SYSTEMS
Air Conditioning & Heating Specialist
863-385-2665
316 Maple Ave. • Sebring, Florida 33870
JEFF & MARGIE GOURLEY, PARISHIONERS
State Licensed CAC035572
Since 1987 • Celebrating 30+ Years
**AUTHORIZED
HOME DEPOT
SERVICE PROVIDER**

Heartland
PERIODONTICS, PA
4660 Lakeview Drive • Sebring, Florida 33870-2033
863-382-8878 Fax 863-382-8021
www.heartlandperiodontics.com

**SUPPORT
OUR PARISH**

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!
CONTACT ME
Trey Hill
thill@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2613

catholicmatch®
Florida
CatholicMatch.com/FL

WE'RE HIRING!
AD SALES EXECUTIVES
BE YOURSELF.
BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.
• Paid training
• Some travel
• Work-life balance
• Full-Time with benefits
• Serve your community
Contact us at
careers@4lpi.com or
www.4lpi.com/careers

**NEVER MISS
OUR BULLETIN!**
SUBSCRIBE
Have our bulletin emailed
to you every week.
Visit www.parishesonline.com

**Place Your Ad Here and
Support our Parish!**
Instantly create and
purchase an ad with
**AD
CREATOR
STUDIO**
4lpi.com/adcreator

**DOES YOUR NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION NEED
A NEWSLETTER?**
Engaging, ad-supported
print and digital newsletters
to reach your community.
Visit lpicommunities.com

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!