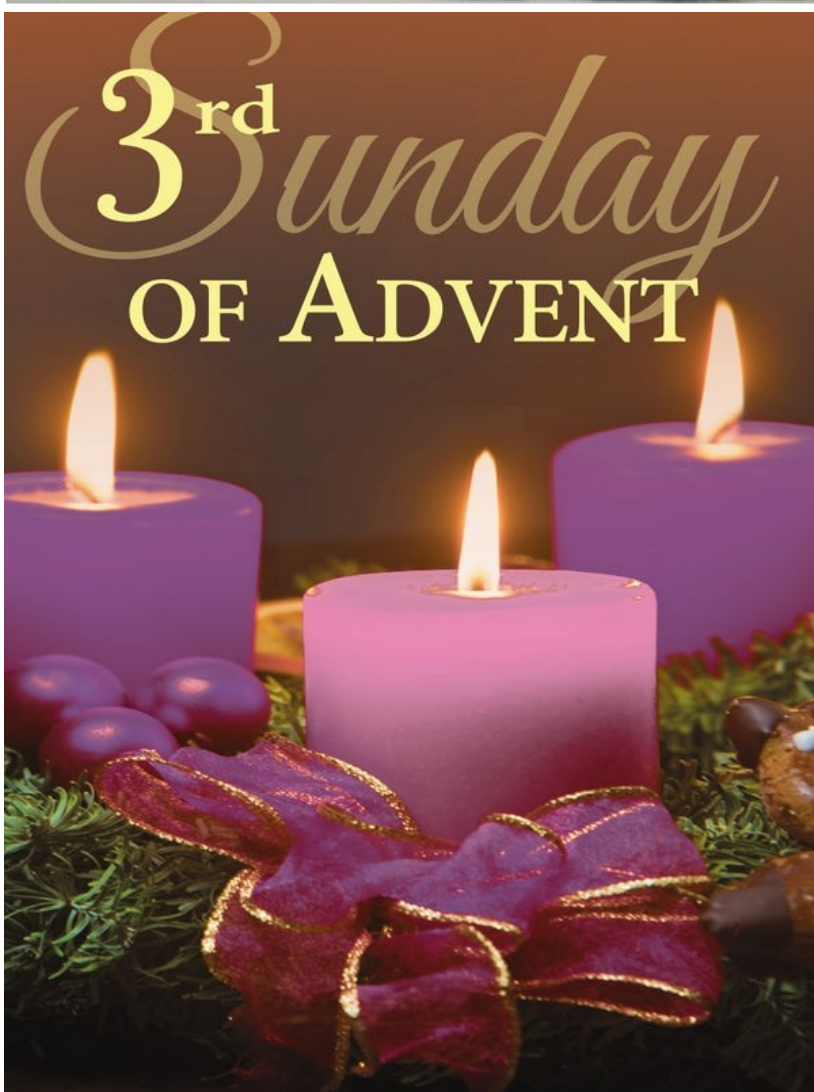




**St. Catherine of Siena
Catholic Church
820 Hickory Street
Sebring, FL 33870**



CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday, December 24th
Eve Mass 4:00 PM
Mid-Night Mass 9:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
Thursday, December 25th
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

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 8:00 AM to 4:00 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 & 12:00 Noon
Saturday: 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00—3:45 PM
Sunday: 9:00—9:45 AM

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

Q: My dad gives up chocolate every year for both Lent and Advent. I always tell him that this is weird and that we're not supposed to give things up for Advent, only Lent. Which one of us is right?

A: Strictly speaking, Catholics aren't required to "give anything up" for Advent. And even while the practice of taking on an additional, personal Lenten penance is a well-established and praiseworthy custom, Catholics technically aren't required to do anything extra for Lent beyond the usual fasting and abstinence from meat (see Canon 1251 of the Code of Canon Law).

However, your dad also isn't being "weird" about deciding to take on an additional penance for Advent. Although it's not as common as a personal Lenten penance, it is still very much in keeping with the nature of the Advent season.

Of course, Advent and Lent are different liturgical seasons with their own distinct meanings. Yet they do parallel each other in many ways. Both seasons are seasons of preparation: in Lent, we prepare for our annual remembrance of Christ's passion, death and resurrection; and during Advent, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of His first coming to earth as man at Christmas. Advent also calls to mind the big-picture need for preparation for Christ's second coming in glory at the end of time, as well as the constant need for readiness to receive him daily into our hearts, minds and souls.

In a similar vein, both seasons are also seasons of repentance. During Lent we recall our sins to be truly sorry for them in memory and gratitude for what Christ suffered to redeem us. And in Advent, we renew our resolve to turn away from sin to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

This Advent theme of repentance is especially present in the Gospel reading for the second Sunday of Advent, wherein we hear how "John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (Mt 3:1-2).

The penitential nature of Advent is reflected in other aspects of our liturgy. For example, as in Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple, which signifies sorrow for sin and repentance. Although the Third Sunday of Advent has the specific theme of joy at the closeness of Christ's coming -- it is often called "Gaudete Sunday," from the Latin word for "rejoice" -- the liturgical color is rose, which communicates a more restrained and subdued joy than the white used for the full rejoicing proper to the Christmas and Easter seasons.

Likewise, during Advent, church decorations are to be pared down, as per the "General Instruction of the Roman Missal": "During Advent the floral decoration of the Altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord" (GIRM, No. 305). And at Advent Sunday Masses, the joyful "Gloria" prayer is omitted (GIRM, No. 53).

There is a venerable Latin saying that I think applies here: "lex orandi, lex credendi," which roughly translates to "we pray as we believe." This means that our liturgy represents the truths of our faith, which we are to strive to interiorize ever more deeply.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us specifically with respect to Advent: "When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming" (CCC, No. 524).

So, on a practical spiritual level, taking on some additional penance for Advent -- whether this be making a sacrifice, taking more time for prayer or spiritual reading or committing to additional works of charity -- can be an excellent way to enter more deeply into the spirit of the season.

Jenna Marie Cooper, Florida Catholic, December 3, 2025

GAUDETE SUNDAY

During the season of Advent, we await the celebration of Christ's birth and His coming again at the end of time. Over four weeks, we prepare our hearts for Christmas in penitential reflection. But in the middle of the season, Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice in hope!

What is Gaudete Sunday?

What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent? On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.

Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." This celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy. Today's Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, reflects this joy: "Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

Advent – the coming of Christ. Oh, what a wonderful message of joy. This is our calling. It's what we as Catholics are so excited for. Take this day, Gaudete Sunday, to find the joy in our anticipation. And rejoice!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes Wednesday from 6:00—7:30 PM and Sunday from 10:00—11:45 AM. For more information please call (863)385-0049.

OCIA

These classes will be Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Building S300. For more information please call Juana at (863)385-0049.

ANOINTING MASS

Anointing the sick

parishioners.

Wednesday, December 17 during a 10:00 AM Mass we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for our homebound and sick

Through the Sacrament of Anointing, Christ strengthens the faithful who are afflicted by illness, providing them with the strongest means of support. Jesus showed great concern for the bodily and spiritual welfare of the sick and commanded his followers to do the same. The celebration of this sacrament is an opportunity for the deepening of the faith of the community who are able to witness the faith and devotion of those being anointed.

ADVENT CONFESSION

Advent is a particularly good time to do this. If, like most of us, you hurry to clean your homes in preparation to receive guests, wouldn't you like to also clean your soul in preparation to receive The Guest, the Christ Child, who comes to us at Christmas?

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:00 to 3:45 PM

Sundays of Advent: 9:00 to 9:45 AM

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

St. Catherine, Sebring

Thursday, December 18

Our Lady of Grace: Avon Park

Tuesday, December 16

All Services 6:30 PM

VOICES OF HOPE YOUTH GROUP

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 contact Youth Group coordinator: Jose Rodriguez (863)245-7597.

GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP YOUTH GROUP

Every Thursday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm for Middle School Youth Group! Clases will be on the "White House" located next to the Church. Grades 7th and 8th and their parents/guardians are invited!

For more information contact middle school youth group coordinators: Kathy (863) 452-7679 or Ken Bruce (863) 273-6822.

Dear Friends and Families of St. Catherine Catholic School,

This week our students were able to participate in both the Sebring Christmas Parade and the Wauchula Christmas Parade. Special thanks to Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Susdorf, Mrs. Berryman, Ms. Rivera, and Mr. Medina for decorating the float and/or supervising the students. Also a special thank you to Cullipher Management LLC (my son Will) for customizing the trailer, including welded handrails, for the safety of our students. We managed to forgo the usual commercial secular influences on our float and simply represented angels and the Holy Family. We are very proud of our students for their commitment to preserving the birth of Jesus as the true meaning of Christmas.



Mr. Steven Cullipher, M. Ed.
Principal



GALA RAFFLE

Members of the 2026 Gala Planning Committee will be selling raffle tickets for a Queen size quilt, donated by our Parishioner, DeeDee Bedard. Tickets are \$5.00 each.

Please contact Toni Joyce at St. Catherine Catholic School toni.joyce@stcatheschool.org (863) 385-7300 ext. 231 if you would like to purchase tickets.

PARISH DIRECTORY

We're excited to continue with our new Parish Directory, and we need your help! The directory will be a wonderful way to connect with one another and build a stronger sense of community.

We invite all parishioners to take part by having your photo included. Whether you're a long-time member or newer to the parish, we want you in the directory!

- **When:** Thursday, January 15, 2026 from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Friday, January 16, 2026 from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- **Where:** Parish Hall
- **How:** You have to options to schedule your appointment

By participating, you'll not only be a part of the directory, but you'll also help others get to know you better. If you have a family, feel free to bring everyone for a group photo

If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach Claudia Spradlin at 863-385-0049

We look forward to seeing your smile!



SACRAMENTS**RECONCILIATION**

This sacrament is available every Saturday from 3:00—3:45 PM and Advent Sundays from 9:00—9:45 AM 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: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a, Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9, Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13, Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23, Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10, Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17, Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8, Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19, Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a, Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17, Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14, Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6, Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: Is 7:10-14, Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b), Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1:18-24



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

Third Sunday of Advent
Mass Intentions of the Week
SATURDAY December 13th

9:00 AM ANTONIO CAPULONG SR. † Sol Capulong

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

SUNDAY December 14th

8:00 AM JOHN HERNANDEZ † Olivia Rowe

FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY † Kim Torres

10:00 AM ENRIQUE MORALES † Nivea Morales

JOANN WALZ † Kathy Berard

Charles Hulsebosch (92nd Birthday) — From his kids

MONDAY December 15th

8:00 AM Jeff Jenerou (special intentions)— Dave & Kelli Eggebrecht

Erin Wright (Special Intention) — Marilyn Lower

12:00 PM ANTONIO GONZALEZ † Isis Capote

TUESDAY December 16th

8:00 AM Jeff Jenerou (special intentions) — Dave & Kelli Eggebrecht

12:00 PM ANTONIO GONZALEZ † Isis Capote

WEDNESDAY December 17th

8:00 AM PAUL COOK † Sharon & Denny Bledsoe

Jeff Jenerou (special intentions) — Dave & Kelli Eggebrecht

12:00 PM For Peace in our hearts — Fr. José

THURSDAY December 18th

8:00 AM FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF JOHN MUNDA — Dada Munda

Danielle Eggebrecht (special intentions) — Dave & Kelli Eggebrecht

12:00 PM CHANTELLE VAGT † Tim & Marilyn O'Connor

FRIDAY December 19th

8:00 AM Danielle Eggebrecht (special intentions) — Dave & Kelli Eggebrecht

12:00 PM In thanksgiving for all our volunteers — Fr. José

SATURDAY December 20th

9:00 AM ANTONIO CAPULONG SR. † Sol Capulong

Danielle Eggebrecht (special intentions) — Dave & Kelli Eggebrecht

4:00 PM DENISE MORALES † Mother & Brother

CHARLES & CATHARINE RITCHEY † Madonna Williams

JACK H. WILLIAMS SR. † Madonna Williams

SUNDAY December 21st

8:00 AM WILLIAM & MADALYN PLESKOVIC † Mark & Barbara Walczak

THOMAS TIRDIL † Katherine Tirdil

10:00 AM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

OFFERINGS

Second Collections

This Week: Retirement for Religious

Next Week: Youth Group

December 7th Collections

Will be reported in the next Bulletin

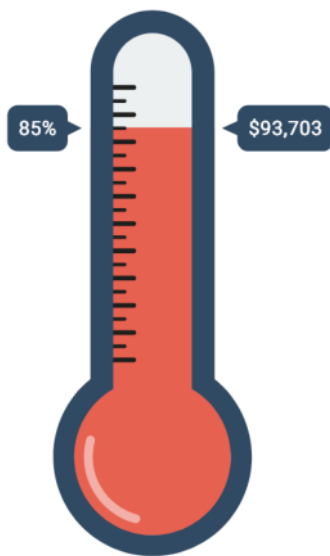
For Online Giving instructions visit
<https://www.osvhub.com/stcathe/funds>

Flocknote November: \$2,965.00

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: \$157,278.33

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 43 visitor/ shoppers with 156 family members.

We received Ten Donations from Parish families. 13 Vincentians/Volunteers operated the food pantry.

We visited Five Patients and their family at the hospital and shared prayer and Holy Communion.

We thank you for your generosity and support.

If you would like to join us or have a need we are open every Tuesday at 10 am.



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 11 am

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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://www.dioceseofvenice.org/) for further information.

ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

| | |
|--|---|
| Pastor: Very Reverend José González, V.F | O CIA: 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 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 9:00 AM each Sunday in the Chapel.

"That Man Is You!" "TMIY" is a **Catholic men's program** built to transform men and form authentic leaders capable of transforming their families and society. It's **FREE!**

We gather every Saturday from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM in Building S300. No registration is required, just come every Saturday. For more information call Edward DeCastro 315-260-4153 (decastroem70@gmail.com)

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

**HOLIDAY
DEADLINES**

For the bulletin December 28th is Thursday, December 19th

For the bulletin January 4th 2026; Thursday, December 23rd

Articles have to be submitted to carmen@stcathe.org. Any question please call 863-385-0049.

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Attorneys at Law
Brett P. Hargaden, Esquire Ph: 863.385.8740
brett@copleyfamilylaw.com Fax: 863.385.4627

**2026
Catholic
Calendar**
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with faith!
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