

### THE HOLY FAMILY

He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth,  
so that what had been spoken through the  
prophets might be fulfilled. - Mt 2:23

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

### THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST  
& FRIDAY JANUARY 2ND



### THE HOLY FAMILY

©LPI

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

Parish Office/Mailing  
882 Bay St., Sebring, FL 33870  
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(863)385-6762 (Spanish)  
[www.stcathe.org](http://www.stcathe.org)  
[www.facebook.com/stcathe](http://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](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 & 12:00 Noon  
Saturday: 9:00 AM

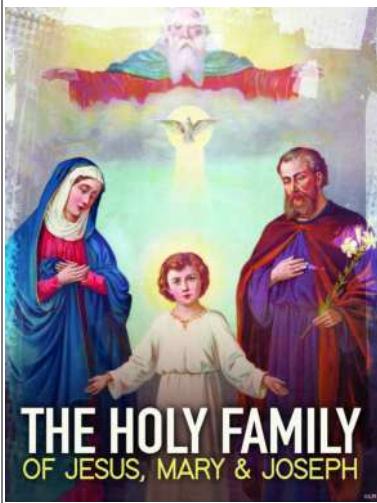
**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
Saturday: 3:00—3:45 PM

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

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

Pre-School  
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Sebring, FL 33870  
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[www.stcatheschool.org](http://www.stcatheschool.org)  
Office hours  
8:00 AM—3:00 PM

## MOST HOLY FAMILY



The Holy Family models humility by receiving everything from God, obeying His will in concrete, costly ways, and embracing simplicity, obscurity, and mutual self-gift in ordinary family life. Their humility is not sentimental; it is expressed in obedience, poverty, and perseverance through suffering, which becomes a pattern for every “domestic church.”

**Jesus: obedient Son in Nazareth**

- Jesus is described as being “obedient” to Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, growing in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and people, which explicitly link to humility as the foundation of all virtues.
- His choice to be born in a poor stable and live in an ordinary carpenter’s home is presented as a deliberate embrace of hiddenness and lowliness, challenging both worldly status and materialism.

**Mary: humble fiat and persevering presence**

- Catholic reflection repeatedly highlights Mary’s fiat as humility in action: she accepts God’s plan in unique and difficult circumstances, trusting rather than controlling, and becomes the pathway by which Christ enters the world.
- Her presence at the cross, where she “humbly and lovingly” embraces foretold suffering, is held up as a model of quiet, steadfast fidelity rather than self-assertion or escape.

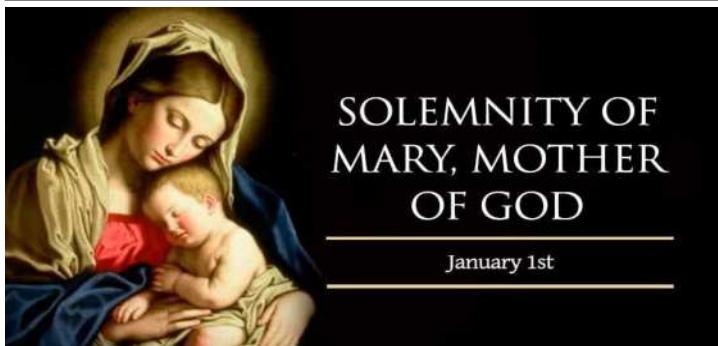
**Joseph: hidden, responsible service**

- Joseph’s decision to take Mary as his wife and protect the Child, despite misunderstanding and danger, is described as “total self-surrender” and profound obedience to God’s will.
- Leading his family into exile as poor refugees and then back to a hidden life in Nazareth shows humility expressed as responsible service, not dominance or demand for recognition.

**The family: simplicity, obedience, mutual love**

- The Holy Family lived in “simplicity in Nazareth,” where work, prayer, and mutual love formed a school of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
- They are the “perfect model” for family life, where humility is lived concretely through obedience to God, mutual respect, admitting faults, granting forgiveness, and trusting God’s plan in daily struggles.

**Prayer:** *Most Holy Family of Nazareth, you were a true school of love in which the perfection of family love grew strong. Please bestow upon me, my family, and families everywhere the grace needed to more fully imitate the love you shared, so that families everywhere will continue to be the fundamental building block of the world. Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us and have mercy on all. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

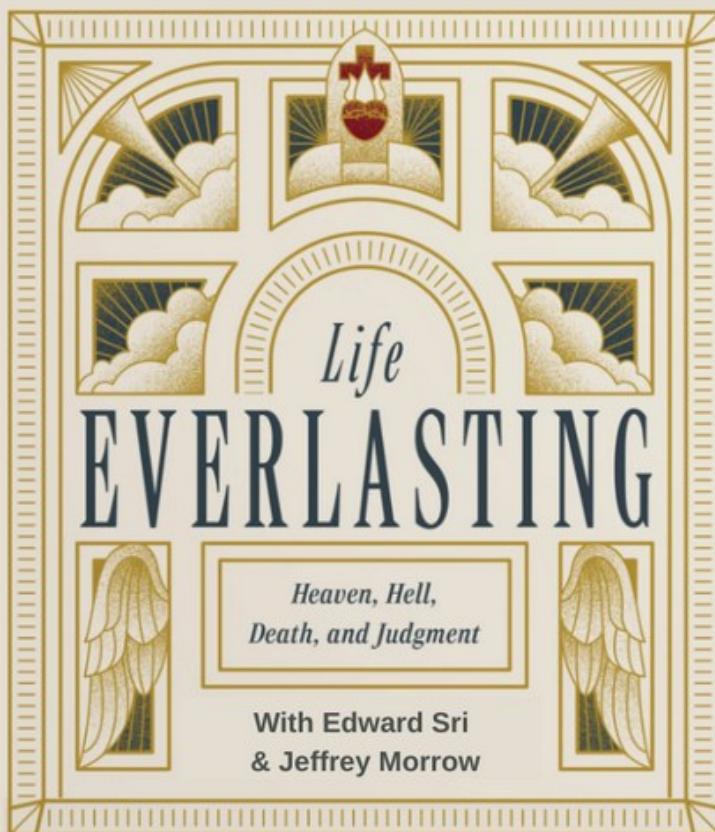
**Wednesday, December 31st Vigil Mass 4:00PM**

**Thursday, January 1st Masses 8:00**

**& 10:00 AM**

**The priests, and staff of St. Catherine Church  
and St Catherine School wish you a**





### Video Series & Discussion

Join us Thursdays at 6:00 PM

January 8 - February 5

Building S200 (corner of Hickory & Lakeview)

First meeting on January 8 - *Introduction*

Contact:

Jennifer Lindsey 618-521-8730 jcsojlindsey@yahoo.com

Jonathan Spence 508-333-0483 jms817@gmail.com



St. Catherine Catholic Parish utilizes a system called "Flocknote" to keep in touch with members. By signing up for this service at <https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com>, you will receive text messages for any urgent information (such as weather cancellations or last-minute event details). You can also send the text message STCATHE to 84576 to automatically sign up for your Flocknote. Don't worry, we're not going to send you spam.

When you register, you will be able to choose whether you would like to receive notes by email, text, or both, and the ministries you would like to join. To make changes, you can access your account at any time by using your email or phone. You can receive the weekly bulletin, the schedule of Masses, daily Gospel reflections, emergency information about the Parish... You can also join different ministries in the Parish and receive information from them.

*Simplify your tithing! Giving to St. Catherine is easier and more secure than ever before. Visit <https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com/give> to set up recurring giving, with no login or password required. You can get started in just a few minutes, and never have to worry about envelopes, stamps, or writing checks again. It's as easy as online shopping!*

### VOICES OF HOPE YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group meeting will be January 9th from 6:30—8:00 PM 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! Classes will be on 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 contact middle school youth group coordinators: Kathy (863) 452-7679 or Ken Bruce (863) 273-6822.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes Wednesday at 6:00 PM and Sunday at 10:00 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.

Dear Friends and Families of St. Catherine Catholic School,

Merry Christmas!

This week I would like to share a few excerpts from our new school news magazine, The Warrior Times. A special thanks to Mr. Saenz and our writing club for working diligently to document some of the highlights of life at St. Catherine Catholic School.

### School Celebrates Our Lady of Guadalupe



ABOVE: Los Guadalupanos dance and drum team perform their celebratory dance in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Friday, Dec. 12, before crowds on both sides in the parking lot of St. Catherine Catholic Church at Sebring. St. Catherine Catholic School produced the celebration in partnership with key parents. BELOW: Students Joaquin Ramos (L) and Ian Morales lead the procession of St. Catherine student dancers into the sanctuary of St. Catherine Catholic Church. //STAFF PHOTO.

### STAFF REPORT



St. Catherine Catholic School and Church celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Friday, December 12 amid dancing, drumming, colorful vestments, and Holy Mass.

The Feast commemorates the appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Juan Diego during December of 1531 at Tepeyac Hill while Mexico was still part of the Spanish Empire.

That memory, and the desire to honor “our Mother,” sparked the colorful parade of St. Catherine Warriors in a police-led escort down Kenilworth Boulevard, Ridgewood Drive, and Hickory Street to the church. Male students wore festive Mexican folk shirts and the females flowing dresses that could be fanned out sideways.

The Guadalupanos, a local group of dancers and drummers directed by Brisa and Guadalupe Luevano, joined the student procession clothed in Aztec native vestments and headdresses in traditional colors.

At Mass after the procession to the church, Fr. José Gonzalez explained the significance of the drummers’ beats during his homily.

“It’s the heartbeat of the mother,” he said, alluding to the Virgin and her unborn son, “and the heartbeat of the child.”

A sizable crowd looked on the procession to the church, attended Mass, and viewed the spectacle afterward in the church parking lot. It was the first time the school put on the event.

During the appearances to Juan Diego, the poor man’s faith was stretched. To help a dying friend, he broke an appointment with Our Lady and later shied away from her to find a priest to hear his friend’s last confession.

Yet Mary found Juan Diego anyway. She gently rebuked his lapse of faith.

“Am I not here,” she is reported to have said, “I who am your Mother.”

Juan Diego’s friend did not die but recovered.

**SACRAMENTS****RECONCILIATION**

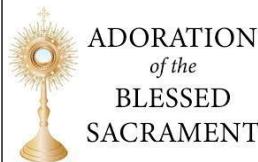
This sacrament is available every Saturday from 3:00—3:45 PM or by appointment with a Priest.

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

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

**SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK**

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11, Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6, Lk 2:22-35  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17, Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, Lk 2:36-40  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21, Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13, Jn 1:1-18  
 Thursday: Nm 6:22-27, Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21  
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28, Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, Jn 1:19-28  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6, Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6, Jn 1:29-34  
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13, Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12



*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

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
Mass Intentions of the Week****SATURDAY December 27th**

9:00 AM SOULS IN PURGATORY † Sol Capulong  
 4:00 PM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

**SUNDAY December 28th**

8:00 AM SOULS IN PURGATORY † Kim Torres  
 DONALD ROWE † Kathy Berard  
 10:00 AM MARGARET MERCURE † Rosaleen Marlow  
 DONNA DAVEY † Theresa Oliver

LEONICIO ENCARNACION JR. † Raphael Minardo

**MONDAY December 29th**

8:00 AM DENISE MORALES † Family  
 12:00 PM JOSE B. COLÓN † Jennie Lah  
 Angelica Teissere (special intentions) — Lucia Hynek

**TUESDAY December 30th**

8:00 AM For our community leaders — Fr. José  
 12:00 PM HUNG DINH PHAM † Lucia Hynek

**WEDNESDAY December 31st**

8:00 AM DOROTHY MEYERHOFER † Daughter  
 12:00 PM For the Morales Family — Mother  
 4:00 PM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

**THURSDAY January 1st**

8:00 AM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José  
 10:00 AM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

**FRIDAY January 2nd**

8:00 AM For Peace in our hearts — Fr. José  
 12:00 PM For trusting in God's will — Fr. José

**SATURDAY January 3rd**

9:00 AM For Pope Leon XIV — Fr. José  
 4:00 PM GEORGE MAYHEW † Ellen Burne  
 JOE RAFFERTY † Marge Rafferty  
 TONY SALCEDO † Shelly & Riley

**SUNDAY December 4th**

8:00 AM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José  
 10:00 AM PAUL COOK † Claudia Spradlin  
 EDD VOWELS † Rita Vowels

**THE HOLY FAMILY**

## BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

## OFFERINGS

Second Collections

This Week: Charity Fund

Next Week: Vocations/Seminary Support

December 14 th Collections

Regular Collection: \$8,380.00

Retirement fund for Religious \$1,658.00

Weekly Online Giving: \$1,651.00

December 21st

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://stcatherineofseb.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: \$160,088.33

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

Last week we served 37 visitors with 90 family members.

We received six food donations from Parish families. We thank you for your generosity and support. We would appreciate Pasta and Sauce donations.

Eleven Vincentians/Volunteers operated the food pantry with two students.

We visited five patients in the hospital and shared prayer and Holy Communion.

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



**Food Pantry**  
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806 Hickory Street  
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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](#) 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 jesojlindsey@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](mailto: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)

**PARISH DIRECTORY****Help Us Complete Our Parish Directory!**

Our Parish Directory is more than a book of photos; it's a way to strengthen our sense of family and connection within the Parish. We invite every parishioner and family to participate by scheduling a photography appointment.

Each participating household will receive a complimentary Parish Directory and a portrait as our thank-you.

Please take a moment to schedule your session and be included in this important parish project.

Appointments are now available:

- **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. You can do it online at [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click in the box to the right that says **"photography appointment scheduling login"**, enter **FL1043** in the **Church Code** field, enter **Photos** in the **Church Password Code** field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. Also you can fill out the forms located in the vestibule of the Church.

Thank you for helping us grow closer as one parish family. We look forward to seeing you!

**Church Directory Photography**  
*Schedule your appointment today!*



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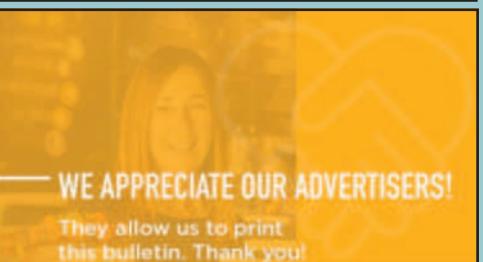
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Sebring, FL 33870

— COPLEY & HARGADEN, P.A. —  
Attorneys at Law

**Brett P. Hargaden, Esquire** Ph: 863.385.8740  
[brett@copleyfamilylaw.com](mailto:brett@copleyfamilylaw.com) Fax: 863.385.4627



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