



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

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

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EPIPHANY

BLESSINGS!

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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 8:00 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**

**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**

Epiphany of the Lord

Pope Francis consistently links Epiphany with **humility**, especially through the Magi's posture of adoration before the Child and their willingness to journey, bow down, and change their route. For him, their humility is not sentiment but concrete conditions for true faith and worship.

Humility as prerequisite to faith

- In a 2022 Epiphany homily, Francis stated that “humility is a prerequisite to faith,” pointing to the Magi who “fell down and worshipped” as a sign of their openness to God’s newness.
- He contrasts this with pride and self-sufficiency, which leave people closed in on their own certainties and unable to recognize God’s surprising ways.

The Magi’s humble worship

- At the Angelus for Epiphany, Francis said the Magi teach that to worship we must first become small, accepting that salvation comes in weakness and littleness, not in worldly power.
- Their prostration shows that their “true wealth” is not status or gifts, but the ability to kneel before God and hand over what they have received.

Finding God in littleness

- In his 2024 Epiphany homily, he emphasized that the Magi sought the “great God” and found a child, urging believers to “find God in flesh and bone, in the faces of those we meet each day, and especially in the poor.”
- He insists that God reveals divine greatness in the “infinitely little,” and that only a humble heart can recognize and adore this hidden presence.

Humility versus spiritual show

- Reflecting on Epiphany, Francis warns against “showing off our virtues in every step of our life,” calling instead for a humble journey that keeps the gaze fixed on the Lord rather than on appearances.
- He notes that the Lord “shuns ostentation,” inviting the Church to reject worldliness and choose the simple, often hidden ways where God waits to be worshipped.

Epiphany as examen of the heart

- Francis repeatedly invites an Epiphany examination: are we centered on ourselves and our pretenses, or willing to become small so that Christ may be at the center?
- He prays that Mary, “servant of the Lord,” would teach Christians their “vital need for humility and the vibrant desire to worship,” so that Epiphany becomes a real shift from self-focus to adoring faith.

Epiphany against self-centeredness

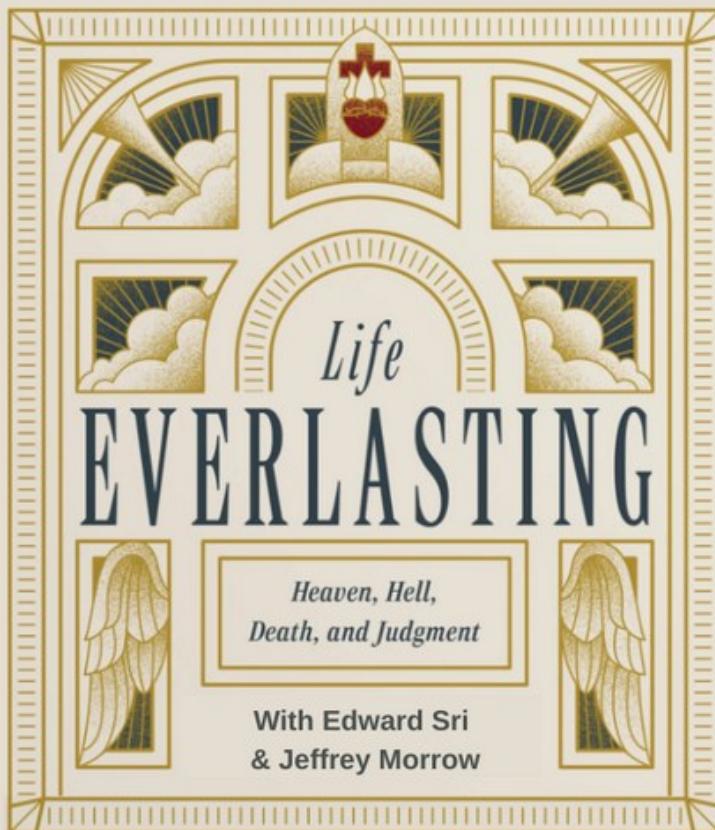
- Pope Francis describes the Magi as men who “do not put themselves at the center, but bow down before the One who is the center,” and who go to the Lord “not to receive, but to give.”
- This stands in direct contrast to an attitude that “makes us idolize ourselves” and think “life is good if I profit from it,” closing us to others and to God.

Herod self-centeredness

- Herod felt threatened by any rival to his power, manipulating others (the Magi), and willing to destroy lives to preserve his fragile “kingdom of self.”
- Francis notes that Herod prefers “the earthly lights of success and power” to the humble light of God, a description that fits the addiction to image, control, and spotlight.

Magi as path out

- The Magi leave their security, endure a long journey, and accept being led by Another’s light; this is the opposite of narcissistic autonomy that refuses dependence or docility.
- Their worship is physical and concrete: they prostrate and offer costly gifts, enacting what Francis calls the move from “our pretentious robes” to the humble posture that lets God be first.



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 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.

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 Students, Parents, Faculty, and Staff,

As we stand at the threshold of 2026, let us pause to thank God for the many graces of the past year and for the gift of our St/ Catherine Catholic School community. The Christmas season reminds us that Christ, the Light of the world, enters our ordinary lives and classrooms, transforming them with His presence and love.

In this new year, our desire is to grow as a "family" of faith in which every child is known, loved, and formed as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We will continue to pursue academic excellence rooted in the Gospel, helping our students to seek truth, goodness, and beauty in all things as they discover God's plan for their lives.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated teachers and staff, whose work is truly a vocation, and to our parents, the first educators of their children, for partnering with us in this mission. Together, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the protection of Our Lady, we will strive to make 2026 a year of growth in faith, learning, and service to others.

May the Lord bless you and your families with health, joy, and deep peace in this new year. Know of my daily prayers for each of you and let us keep one another in prayer as we begin 2026 with hope in Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. José
Pastor

**New Painting Adorns Wall at St. Catherine Catholic School
PHOTO BY CATALINA COSTA**

It began with a random email to St. Catherine Principal Steve Cullipher. It ended with a Tony Rosa painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe placed on the hallway wall leading to the lunch doors.

Tony is also assisting our 8th grade students with their legacy project, decorating Campo San Jose. Campo San Jose was renovated a few years ago and the school has been using it for weekend retreats for our students. The students decided to leave their mark by creating and acquiring Catholic memorabilia to enhance the experience for everyone who has events at Campo San Jose.

Parish Hall Upgrade

If you haven't been to the parish hall for a while, you're in for a treat. We solicited bids to have the hall painted in preparation for the Gala in March 2026. Lo and behold, a group of volunteers agreed to do the work if the school would provide the paint and materials. It was a deal we couldn't refuse!

"Special thanks to the following volunteers who did a terrific job painting the Parish Hall so that we are "Gala-ready."

Adults:
Joe Schmitz
Anthonay Fontanes
Zack Williams
Priscilla Schmitz
Mary & Jeff Alexander
Amelia Alexander

St. Catherine Students:
Sophia Schmitz
Hannah Fisher
James Carrero
Saira Gomez
Joaquin Ramos

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 Jn 3:22-4:6, Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a, Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10, Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, Mk 6:34-44

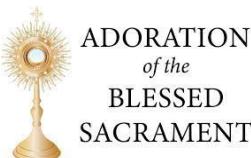
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18, Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13, Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4, Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17, Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13, Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20, Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21, Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b, Jn 3:22-30

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7, Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10, Acts 10:34-38, Mt 3:13-17



*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 Epiphany of the Lord**Mass Intentions of the Week****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 January 4th

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

10:00 AM PAUL COOK † Claudia Spradlin

EDD VOWELS † Rita Vowels

MONDAY January 5th

8:00 AM Fr. Jose and Parish Staff (in thanksgiving) — Kathy & Dennis Berard

12:00 PM ED & RUTH TOMEK † Becky Johnson

TUESDAY January 6th

8:00 AM EZEQUIEL RAMOS † Magdalena Animas Ruiz

12:00 PM THOMAS DUNN † Marge Rafferty

WEDNESDAY January 7th

8:00 AM FRANK & DAVID BAILEY † Ann Bailey

12:00 PM Grace Morales (Health) — Grandmother

THURSDAY January 8th

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for God's Blessing — Rose

12:00 PM For the Religious Vocations — Fr. José

FRIDAY January 9th

8:00 AM For the gift of life — Fr. José

12:00 PM For peace in the world and freedom from violence — Fr. José

SATURDAY January 10th

9:00 AM OSVALDO LASANTA † Lynett Lasanta

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

SUNDAY January 11th

8:00 AM ROBERT HERNANDEZ † Olivia Rowe

DON ROWE † Olivia Rowe

10:00 AM HANNY SEMMA † Bernadet Khalaf

THOMAS TIRDIL † Katherine Tirdil

BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

OFFERINGS

Second Collections

This Week: Vocations/Seminary Support
Next Week: Insurance

December 21st Collections

Regular Collection: \$8,397:00
Youth Group: \$1,708:00

Christmas and December 28th

Will be reported in the next Bulletin

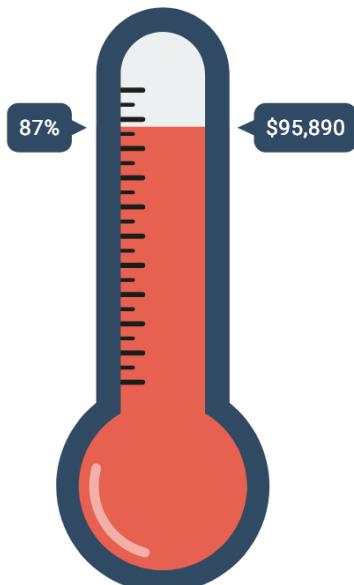
For Online Giving instructions visit
<https://www.osvhub.com/stcathe/funds>

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: \$164,638.33

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>



Parishioners who wish to receive a statement of financial contributions to St. Catherine in 2025 for tax purposes are asked to fill in the information below and deposit it with the weekend collection or return it to the Parish Office.

Those of you that contributed to the Catholic Faith Appeal will receive their statement of contributions directly from the Diocese.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Envelope #: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Last week we served 44 visitors/shoppers with 144 family members.

We received food donations from four Parish families. Eleven Vincentians/Volunteers operated the food pantry.

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

We would appreciate donations of Cereal.

If you would like to join us or have a need we are open every Tuesday at 10 AM. For more information please call at (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 los 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](#) 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 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.

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 315-264-4153 (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, 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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