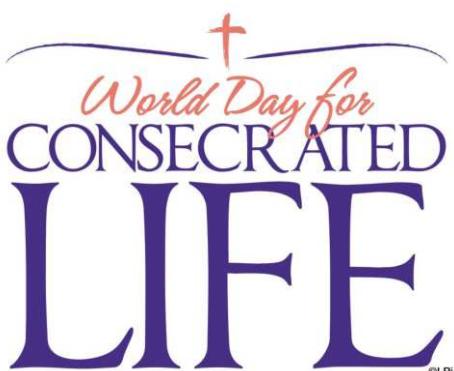




4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." - Mt 5:10-12a



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

THE BEATITUDES TODAY

The Beatitudes expose how a cultural style of grievance, domination, and fear contradict Jesus' upside-down Kingdom, while also giving language to call people beyond contempt into conversion and peacemaking.

1. Basic contrast: campaign logic vs. Beatitudes

-Parts of our culture runs on winning, grievance, and restoring lost greatness to “our people,” which assumes power is taken and held over enemies.

- The Beatitudes bless poverty of spirit, meekness, mercy, and persecution suffered for righteousness, which assumes God’s power is received in weakness and shared for the sake of enemies.

We can ask ourselves today: “If the Beatitudes were a campaign speech, how many votes would they win?”—precisely because they undercut the normal incentives of power.

2. Beatitudes read against some cultural impulses

- “Blessed are the poor in spirit”: the rhetoric that promises restored strength, wealth, and dominance; Jesus blesses spiritual poverty, dependence, and repentance, not exceptionalism.

- “Blessed are the meek”: where we valorize “toughness,” humiliation of opponents, and contempt for the weak, Jesus blesses those who refuse domination and entrust their cause to God.

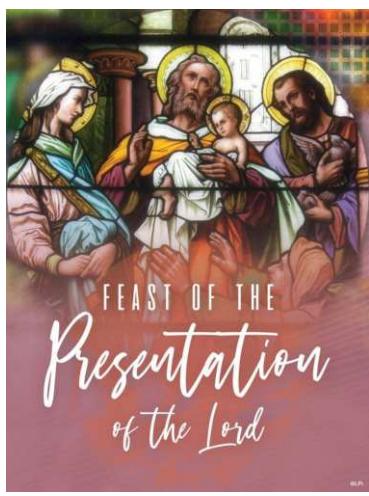
- “Blessed are the merciful”: some people often mock mercy as weakness, especially toward people perceived as “undesirables,” whereas the Church insists on the dignity of every person and rejects cruelty.

- “Blessed are the peacemakers”: Christian discipleship rejects violence and calls believers into costly peacemaking, not outrage, culture-war escalation, and sometimes approval of violence.

Any movement—left or right—that normalizes contempt, cruelty, or dehumanization is out of step with the Beatitudes, even if it uses Christian symbols.

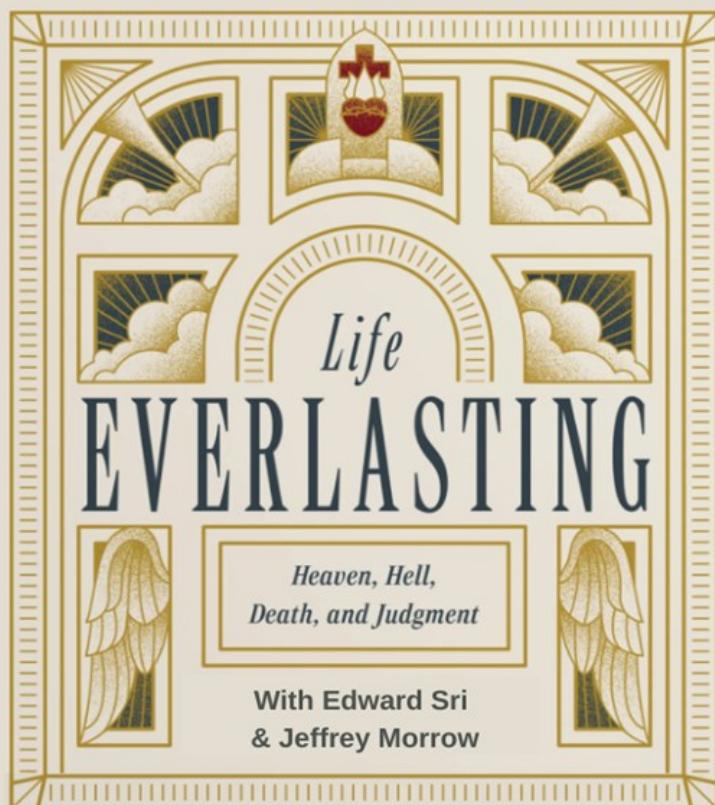
When any social movement asks us to sacrifice truth, mercy, or the dignity any human being, it’s asking us to betray the Beatitudes of Jesus.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



Candlemas Day is another name for the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Forty days after His birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple for the rites of purification and dedication as prescribed by the Torah. According to the Book of Leviticus (12:1-4), when a woman bore a male child, she was considered “unclean” for seven days. On the eighth day, the boy was circumcised. The mother continued to stay at home for 33 days for her blood to be purified. After the 40 days, the mother and the father came to the temple for the rite of purification, which included the offering of a sacrifice — a lamb for a holocaust (burnt offering) and a pigeon or turtle-dove for a sin offering, or for a poor couple who could not afford a lamb, two pigeons or two turtle-doves. Note Joseph and Mary made the offering of the poor (Lk 2:24).

As we consider the feast of the Presentation, we remember that our parents presented us at church for our baptism. We were dedicated to God, and given the name, “Christian.” We, too, received a lit candle from the paschal candle, at which the priest said, “You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as a child of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your heart. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet Him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom” (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Therefore, as a light, each of us must bear witness to Our Lord. We must be the beacon that guides others to Christ. Also, we must realize that we, too, will be “a sign that will be opposed.”



Video Series & Discussion

Join us Thursdays at 6:00 PM

January 8 - February 5

Building S200 (corner of Hickory & Lakeview)

Contact: Jennifer Lindsey 618-521-8730 (voice/text)

Jonathan Spence 508-333-0483 (voice/text)



Something New for the New Year

Break open the Word of God every Tuesday at 12:30 PM for the following Sunday's Gospels. Prepare your heart for the Sunday readings and learn how Lectio Divina can help you to a deeper relationship with God. No need to register, just come to the church. If you have questions, contact Janet Patterson at gracesmop@yahoo.com or by calling 260-452-6012.

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.

2026 Diocese of Venice Eucharistic Missionary Conference

After a three-year effort to reignite faith in, and reverence for, the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, it is time for us to look at another dimension: that of becoming more fully Eucharistic Missionaries. Join us for the Diocese of Venice Eucharistic Missionary Conference on **Saturday, February 7**, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, at Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord, 8121 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered by Bishop Frank J. Dewane. Nationally recognized Catholic presenter, best-selling author, and radio host, Jon Leonetti, will be our speaker for this event. His presentations are entitled: 1) *Sacrament Most Holy, Sacrament Divine* and 2) *Saints and the Eucharist*. There will also be food and fellowship.

The conference will conclude with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

There is **no cost**, but **registration is required!** Space is limited, register today at this link <https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/2026-eucharistic-missionary-conference>.

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 Nava at (863)385-0049.



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.

International Food Festival Celebrates Culture, Community, and Catholic Identity

Dear Friends and Families of St. Catherine Catholic School,

Our school and parish community came together last Saturday for a joyful and delicious International Food Festival, celebrating the rich cultural diversity of our community. Families, students, and staff shared traditional foods from around the world, transforming the parish hall into a vibrant showcase of global flavors, colors, and traditions.

The festival was more than just a culinary experience—it was a living expression of our Catholic values. As we gathered around shared tables, we were reminded that the Church is universal, embracing people of every nation, language, and culture. Through food, conversation, and fellowship, we practiced hospitality and gratitude, recognizing God's gifts reflected in one another.

Students had the opportunity to learn about different countries, customs, and family traditions, deepening their appreciation for the global community we are part of. The event also highlighted the generosity of our families, whose time, talents, and recipes made the festival such a success.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to making the International Food Festival a meaningful and memorable event. Moments like these strengthen our school community and remind us that, united in faith, we truly are one family in Christ.

Yours in Christ,



Mr. Steven Cullipher, M. Ed.
Principal



CAR RAFFLE

St. Catherine Catholic Church Inc. will be holding a **Car Raffle** to pay the insurance necessary to maintain our ministries and ongoing needs of the parish.

Tickets are available now at the parish office and after all weekend Masses; all proceeds will benefit St. Catherine Catholic Church Inc., and its charitable works.

Please note: The grand prize winner is responsible for all fees associated with licensing, registration, insurance, and taxes (including income tax, luxury tax, special taxes, shipping, and all title and sales taxes). The grand prize winner may, alternatively, elect to receive a cash prize in the amount of \$15,000.00.

The raffle regulations are posted on our website, at the entrance of the Church and the Parish Hall.

Thank you for your generous support of St. Catherine Catholic Church Inc., through this fundraiser that helps sustain our worship, formation, and outreach.

SCAN HERE!



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: Mal 3:1-4, Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10, Heb 2:14-18, Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3, Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17, Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7, Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12, 1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd, Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11, Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51, Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13, Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Is 58:7-10, Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 1 Cor 2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16



ADORATION
of the
BLESSED
SACRAMENT

*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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**Mass Intentions of the Week****SATURDAY February 31st**

9:00 AM For Pope Leo XIV — Fr. José

4:00 PM FRANCIS & SUSAN PLESKOVIC † Mark & Barbara Walczak
 CHARLES & CATHARINE RITCHHEY † Madonna Williams

SUNDAY February 1st

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

10:00 AM NANCY BRZUSZEK † Gerald Brzuszek

MONDAY February 2nd

8:00 AM THE MARLOW FAMILY † Mackie Boone

12:00 PM Abby Walters & unborn child (for health) — Grandmother

TUESDAY February 3rd

8:00 AM THE GRIFFIN FAMILY † Mackie Boone

12:00 PM CHUCK MAY † Bob Babik

WEDNESDAY February 4th

8:00 AM ERNESTEIN THOMPSON † Sharon Lenhardt

12:00 PM SAMUEL COLUMBUS "SKIP" JACKSON JR. † Wife Maria Collazo & Family

THURSDAY February 5th

8:00 AM For the Morales Family — Mother

12:00 PM ESTELLE CROGLIO † B. Walters

FRIDAY February 6th

8:00 AM EZEQUIEL RAMOS † Magdalena Animas Ruiz

12:00 PM NANCY DeBERGALIS † Sister

SATURDAY February 7th

9:00 AM BONITA PORRAS † Doreen Jeanjaquet

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

SUNDAY February 8th

8:00 AM DORA HERNANDEZ † Olivia Rowe

LESLIE MARIE ROWE † Olivia Rowe

10:00 AM ELEANOR ROACH † Gary & Rosaleen Marlow

Mackie Boone (for health) — Mackie Boone

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: Catholic Faith Appeal

January 25th

Regular: \$7,577.00

School Support: \$2,096.00

Weekly Online Giving: \$2,026.00

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

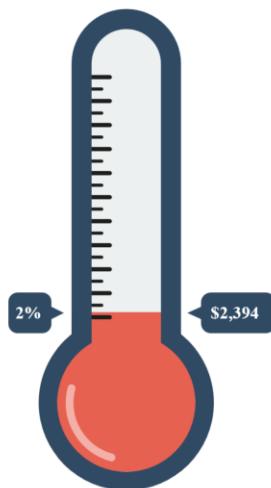
Flocknote January: \$ 2,015.00

For Online Flocknote Giving visit
<https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com/fundit/give>

INSURANCE FUND 2026

St Catherine Church is responsible each year for a significant insurance premium that protects our church buildings, parish hall, offices, and all who worship and serve here.

To meet this obligation without cutting ministries, a special Insurance Fund has been established, and parishioners are invited to help as they are able. If you can make an extra gift to the "Insurance Fund" (by envelope or online), your sacrifice will directly help the parish meet this essential stewardship responsibility. Thank you for your continued generosity and for the many ways you care for our parish family.

GOAL: \$110,000



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 38 visitor/shoppers with 133 family members.

We received 3 food donations from Parish families. 12 Vincentians/Volunteers operated the food pantry.

We visited 7 patients in the hospital and shared prayer and Holy Communion. We would appreciate donations of rice and dried beans. We are in Urgent need.

If you would like to make a monetary donation you can make a check payable to St. Vincent de Paul and place it in the Poor Box at the Church entrance.

If you would like to join us or have a need we are open every Thursday at 10:00 AM.

We appreciate your generosity and support.

Our phone number is 863-835-0571

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 385-0049	OCIA: Juana Nava..... navaj@stcathe.org	385-0049
Arts and Environment: Gloria Fontanes.....385-0049	Religious Education: Rose Hall..... rose@stcathe.org.	385-0049
Altar Servers: Manuel Gomez & Dulce Diaz....464-9458 ddiaz8558@gmail.com	Respect Life:..... 385-0049	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 jcsoljindsey@yahoo.com.

GRIEFSHARE GROUP

Many of us have recently lost a loved one, life continues; for those of us who grieve, the hurt stays with us. God doesn't intend us to grieve on our own. We might be tempted to keep our pain inside and not share it with others in our Church family, but God's Word says that the healing comes in community, within the Church. Romans 12 says: "We're one body and we belong to one another."

Meeting first Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM in the Building S200, together, we will pray, share and support one another in our grief. Continuing the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM. For information text or call Marge Rafferty (863)214-3312.

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 Steve Ashley 863-414-4169. 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



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