



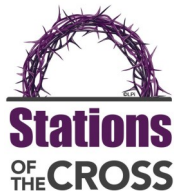
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." - Jn 4:10

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

©LPI

FRIDAYS 6:00 PM



**CONFESSIONS
DURING LENT**



**SATURDAYS
3:00-3:45 PM
SUNDAYS
9:00-9:45 AM**

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
Sunday during Lent: 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

REFLECTION

The story of the Samaritan woman maps very naturally onto a lot of concrete situations of shame, self-protection, and self-preoccupation.

Social shame and avoidance: The woman goes to the well at noon, likely to avoid others; today that looks like the parishioner who slips into the last pew late and leaves right after Communion, or the young adult who watches Mass online out of fear of being judged. Her marital history mirrors messy relationship patterns now: serial cohabitation, divorce, and a sense of being “used up” and no longer worthy of real commitment, especially among those who feel they’ve “broken” the Church’s ideal and are beyond repair.

Breaking boundaries and prejudices: Jesus, a Jewish rabbi, engages a Samaritan woman; in today’s concrete terms, that is like a visibly devout Catholic sitting down to listen, respectfully, to a migrant day laborer, someone in LGBTQ+ circles, or a person with a very public moral failure whom “good church people” prefer to keep at arm’s length. His crossing of ethnic, religious, and gender lines challenges contemporary tribalism: Catholics vs. “nones,” conservatives vs. progressives, Anglos vs. immigrants, and even online echo chambers where believers block or mock those outside their camp.

Thirst beneath addictions and image : Her repeated relationships point to an unsatisfied thirst; today that thirst often surfaces in pornography use, serial hookups via apps, compulsive social media posting for validation, overwork, or substance abuse, all attempts to drink from wells that never satisfy. Jesus naming her truth (“you have had five husbands...”) parallels moments when someone finally hears in confession, spiritual direction, or therapy a hard truth about their patterns—not to humiliate them but to open a path to healing and “living water.”

From self-focus to mission: Initially, she is focused on her own situation and defenses; today that is the parishioner whose interior monologue at Mass is, “What do I get out of this? Does this homily speak to me? Do I feel seen?” rather than “How is Christ asking me to love?”. When she leaves the water jar and runs to the town like a man in recovery from addiction who starts sponsoring others; a divorced Catholic who, after deep healing, quietly accompanies others through annulment and grief; former “Christmas-and-Easter” attendee who now invites co-workers to OCIA or saying, “Come and see.”

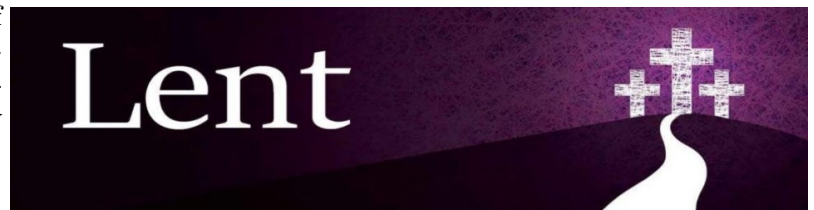
Worship in Spirit and truth today: The dispute over mountains becomes our disputes over “my” spirituality (I go to nature / YouTube / my favorite influencer) versus the living Christ truly present in the liturgy and sacraments; Jesus redirects from winning arguments to adoring the Father in truth. For a today, “Spirit and truth” means letting God name reality—our sins, wounds, and dignity—over against curated online personas, self-branding, and ideological rigidity, then allowing that truth to send us toward those we used to avoid, just as she ran back to the very town that had shamed her.

Conversion and repentance: Her dialogue with Jesus is a gradual conversion story: from suspicion, to curiosity, to faith, to witness, which mirrors the Lenten path from sin and self-protection into truth and trust. When Jesus names her history (“you have had five husbands...”), it models Lenten repentance as letting Christ tell the truth about our lives so that we can move from remorse for the past to responsibility for a different future.

Healing of sin: The woman represents every soul whose hidden patterns are brought into the light so that God can break the power of sin and restore dignity—exactly what Lent seeks through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Worship in Spirit and truth : The dispute about the right mountain becomes a lesson in purified worship: Lent strips away externals so we can worship the Father “in Spirit and truth,” with undivided hearts. This speaks to Lenten interiority: moving from going through the motions to a sincere relationship with Christ who reveals himself as “I am he” in the midst of our ordinary thirsts.

Mission flowing from encounter: After receiving the living water, she leaves her water jar—symbol of her old life—and runs to tell the town; Lent similarly sends the converted back into family, parish, and world as witnesses. Many in the village come to believe “because of her word” and then because of their own encounter, modeling how Lenten renewal should overflow into evangelization and renewed community life at Easter.





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

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Lent is the time to turn to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also known as Confession. God is right there to bring us the deep healing and forgiveness we all crave. Let's face it, we're all hurt, and we're all hurting others. Sometimes we carry these wounds and inflict wounds on others for years. But God NEVER gives up and tries to draw closer to us

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

OUR 2026 PENITENTIAL SERVICE

St. Catherine: Thursday, 26th at 6:00 PM

St. James, Lake Placid
Monday, March 23rd at 6:30 PM

Our Lady of Grace, Avon Park
Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30 PM

St. John Paul II once said, "The greater the misery of the penitent, the greater the gift of God's mercy." God awaits you to listen to you, to absolve you and to celebrate your return to Him.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

An invitation is extended to all couples celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or more years) to join Bishop Frank J. Dewane for an Anniversary Mass in your honor.

The Mass is **Saturday, March 14**, at St. Thomas More Parish at 11:00 AM. 2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota. A luncheon will follow the Mass. Photos with Bishop Dewane will also be provided for each couple.

To register for this Mass, please office at 863-385-0049 no later than one week before the Mass. For additional information contact [Jim Gontis](mailto:Jim.Gontis@stcatherineofsebs.com), 941-484-4754.

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.

For information call Marge Rafferty (863)214-3312.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes Wednesday at 6:00 PM and Sunday at 10:00 AM. For more information please call (863)385-0049.

GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP YOUTH GROUP

Every Thursday from 6:00 – 7:30 pm Clases will be on the in the 806 Hickory Street "White House" located next to the Church. For more information contact middle school youth group coordinators: Kathy (863) 452-7679 or Ken Bruce (863) 273-6822.

VOICES OF HOPE YOUTH GROUP

Meeting every Friday 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.



St. Catherine Catholic Parish utilizes a system called "Flocknote" to keep in touch with members. By signing up for this service at <https://stcatherineofsebs.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.

Dear St. Catherine Catholic School Families, Faculty, Staff, and Parish Community,

Last weekend, our 7th and 8th grade students participated in an enriching overnight retreat at Campo San José Retreat Center. The retreat centered on the themes of Lent and the Sacraments, providing a meaningful opportunity for spiritual growth during this holy season. On Saturday morning, we were honored to welcome Father John Belmonte, S.J., Superintendent of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Venice, who delivered an inspiring presentation on Lent and practical ways to allow this season to deepen and enrich our spiritual lives.



We were also privileged to attend the convalidation ceremony of our art and technology teacher, Mrs. Alexander, at St. James Parish in Lake Placid. The students were deeply moved to witness and celebrate this sacred sacrament, sharing in this significant milestone in their teacher's faith journey. Saturday afternoon featured a thoughtful discussion about the Sacraments, led by St. Catherine parishioner Anthony Fontanes, followed by Eucharistic adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Jose.

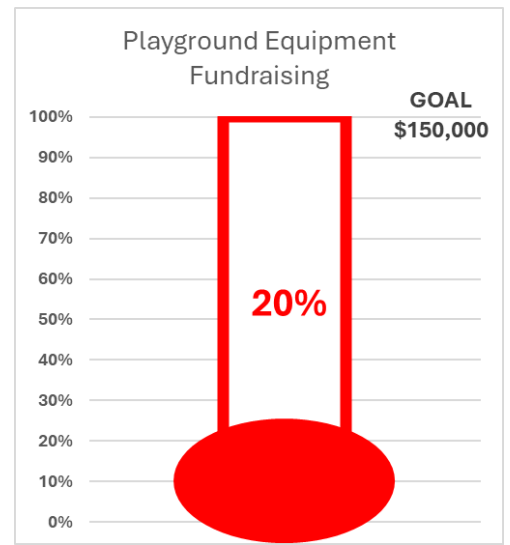


On Sunday morning, the group returned to St. James Parish for Mass, concelebrated by Monsignor Marc and Father Vincente, with the homily delivered by Father Simeon Gallagher. Following Mass, we were blessed by the presence of author Deacon Roger Filips, who offered a profound exploration of the celebration of the Mass and the transformative power of prayer. He concluded with an engaging "Stump the Deacon" question-and-answer session, during which our students posed insightful questions about vocational and ordained life.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated individuals who generously gave of their time and weekend to ensure the retreat's success: Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Blake, Ms. Lazo, Mr. Saenz, and Mrs. Schmitz. Their commitment and service were instrumental in making this experience possible. As I often share, it is a profound blessing to witness the hand of God at work each day within our St. Catherine Catholic School community. The presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit were especially evident throughout this retreat, and I remain deeply humbled to be part of such grace-filled moments. May the fruits of this retreat continue to bear abundant spiritual growth for our students and our entire community.

In Christ,

Steven Cullipher, M. Ed.
Principal



SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

This sacrament is available every Saturday from 3:00—3:45 PM & Lent Sundays: 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: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab, Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4, Lk 4:24-30
 Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43, Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9, Mt 18:21-35
 Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9, Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20, Mt 5:17-19
 Thursday: Jer 7:23-28, Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9, Lk 11:14-23
 Friday: Hos 14:2-10, Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17, Mk 12:28-34
 Saturday: Hos 6:1-6, Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab, Lk 18:9-14
 Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a, Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 8-14, Jn 9, 1-41 o 9, 1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

***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 Lent

Mass Intentions of the Week

SATURDAY March 7th

- 9:00 AM For Pope Leo XIV — Fr. José
- 4:00 PM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

SUNDAY March 8th

- 8:00 AM JOHN AMOS MATTINGLY FAMILY † Angela Scharfenberger
 FR. ROGER BONIFAS † Fr. José
 DYLAN R. LEVESQUE † Grandparents Robert & Anne Young
- 10:00 AM Becky Johnson (for health) — Kathy Berard
 Mrs. Linda Lucas (for health) — Kathy Berard

MONDAY March 9th

- 8:00 AM VICTORIA ZAMBRANO † Elsie Hudson
 The Recovery of Don Brewington — Anonymous
- 12:00 PM PETER MURPHY † Patrick Cummins

TUESDAY March 10th

- 8:00 AM FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY † Kim Torres
- 12:00 PM Reeni Zimmerman (for health) — Angela Scharfenberger

WEDNESDAY March 11th

- 8:00 AM CHUCK ANDREWS † Mark & Barbara Walczak
 Terry Murphy (good health) — Rosaleen Marlow
- 12:00 PM For the Morales Family — Mother

THURSDAY March 12th

- 8:00 AM For peace in the world and freedom from violence — Fr. José
- 12:00 PM ROLANDO † Patrick Cummins

FRIDAY March 13th

- 8:00 AM ASTOR SANGALANG ASIS † The Asis Family
 FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY † Kim Torres
 Jose & Zoraida Rodriguez (64th Wedding Anniversary) — Denny & Sharon Bledsoe
- 12:00 PM In Thanksgiving — Anonymous

SATURDAY March 14th

- 9:00 AM VICTORIA ZAMBRANO † The Roque Family
- 4:00 PM DICK PETROSKY † Mark & Barbara Walczak
 TONY SALCEDO † Shelly & Riley
 JACK H. WILLIAMS SR. † Madonna Williams

SUNDAY March 15th

- 8:00 AM MIRNA & BARTOLOME SANTOS † Jose & Gloria Santos Lopez
- 10:00 AM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

OFFERINGS

Second Collections

This Week: Black & Indian Missions
Next Week: Insurance

March 1st


Regular: \$9,829

Charity: \$2,519

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

Flocknote February: \$2,993.00

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



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.

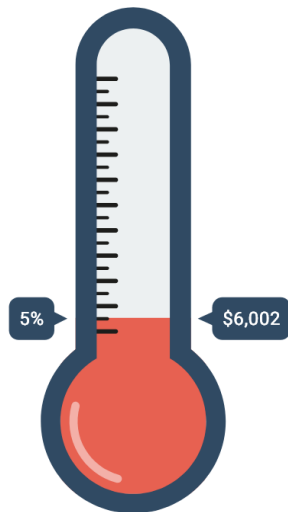
Those of you that contributed to the Catholic Faith Appeal will receive their statement of contributions directly from the Diocese.

Name: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Envelope #: _____
 Address: _____

 Email _____

INSURANCE FUND 2026

GOAL: \$110,000



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Last week we served 33 visitors /shoppers with 100 family members.

We received 4 food donations and 1 monetary donation. 13 volunteers/ Vincentians operated the food pantry.

We visited 9 patients in the hospital and shared prayer and Holy Communion.

We would appreciate food donations of Cereal.

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. We thank you for your generosity and support.

If you would like to join us or have a need we are open every Thursday at 10AM in the 806 Hickory Street.

Our next meeting is Thursday March 19th at 11:00AM in room 13 in the Parish Hall. Our phone number is 863-835-0571

CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2026

Our assessment for 2026 is \$123.00.00

Please make checks payable to CFA and in the Memo write "St. Catherine". All donations in excess of our assessment will be returned to the Parish.

Thank you for your generous support to St. Catherine's and the CFA.

Watch the video of Bishop Dewane:
<https://vimeo.com/1158620553?fl=pl&fe=cm>

To contribute online go to
<https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/>

ATTENTION

LENT 2026 BULLETIN DEADLINES

Bulletin "Palm Sunday":

Deadline Thursday March 19th

Bulletin "Easter Sunday":

Deadline Thursday March 26th

Articles have to be submitted to carmen@stcathe.org.

Any question please call 863-385-0049

ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

Pastor: Very Reverend José González, V.F
.....385-0049
Arts and Environment: Gloria Fontanes.....385-0049
Altar Servers: Manuel Gomez & Dulce Diaz....464-9458
ddiaz8558@gmail.com
Liturgical Ministries: Diane Sochacki.....835-2523
Ministry to the Sick: Claudia Spradlin991-3271

OCIA: Juana Nava.....385-0049
navaj@stcathe.org
Religious Education: Rose Hall.....385-0049
rose@stcathe.org.
Respect Life:.....385-0049
SVDP:835-0571
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 jcsojlindsey@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. 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. 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)

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.



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