



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." - Mt 13:23

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

©LPI

“A SOWER
WENT OUT TO
SOW.”

MATTHEW 13:3

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

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

Soil of the Heart

This Sunday we hear Jesus' Parable of the Sower, a story many of us have known for years. Jesus speaks of a farmer who scatters seed generously, almost recklessly, across all kinds of ground: the hard path, rocky soil, thorny patches, and rich earth. The same seed is sown everywhere, but the results are dramatically different. In the end, Jesus explains that the seed is the Word of God, and the soil is the hidden condition of each human heart.

The parable invites us to move from simply admiring the story to quietly asking a personal question: "What kind of soil is my heart today?" It is not enough to say, "I go to Mass" or "I hear the readings." The Lord is asking us about the depth of our listening, the sincerity of our response, and the space we allow His Word to occupy in our decisions, relationships, and daily choices.

One of the "thorny" conditions of the heart in our time is the spiritual and moral habit of living with myself at the center: my needs, my opinions, my hurts, my image. When this pattern takes root, it becomes like a ring of thorns around the heart, quietly choking the life of grace.

It may look like:

- Needing to be the focus of every conversation.
- Turning most stories back to myself.
- Holding onto resentments because my pride was wounded.
- Reacting defensively to correction or advice.
- Making even small decisions primarily about my preferences and control.
- Treating others as an audience instead of persons to be loved.

These habits can coexist with outward religiosity. We may attend Mass faithfully, receive the sacraments, and support the parish, but still allow the inner landscape to be dominated by self. When that happens, the seed of God's Word falls into soil that is already overcrowded. The Word is heard, but it is not given room to transform our reactions, soften our judgments, or reorient our priorities toward love of God and neighbor.

The good news of the parable is not only that God speaks, but that He never stops sowing. The Divine Sower does not give up when He sees hardened paths, rocks, or thorns. He continues to cast the seed of His Word into our hearts week after week, hoping we will finally allow Him to prepare the soil. The patience of God is itself a sign of His mercy. He sees our narcissism more clearly than we do, yet He keeps drawing near.

How can we cooperate with this patient work of grace?

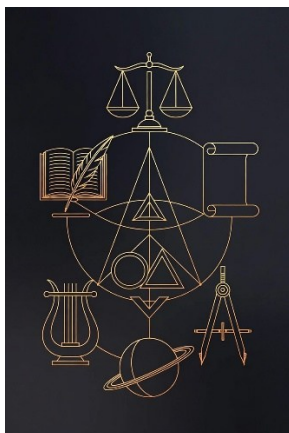
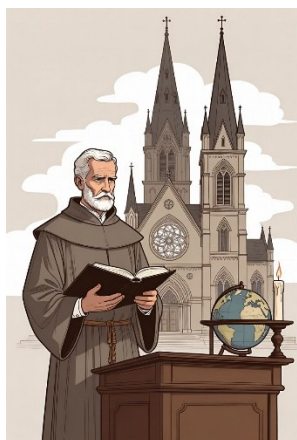
First, by honest recognition. It is spiritually healthy to admit: "There are areas of my life where I tend to put myself at the center." We can ask the Holy Spirit to show us specific patterns rather than vague feelings. Perhaps He will bring to mind a relationship defined by control, a recurring conversation where we do not truly listen, or a family wound we interpret only in terms of our own hurt.

Second, by bringing these patterns to prayer and, when needed, to confession. Naming our self-centered habits before the Lord breaks their hidden power. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we do more than feel guilty; we surrender the thorns and let Christ begin to clear them away. Over time, grace can soften what has become hard and open what has grown closed.

Third, by choosing small, concrete acts of self-forgetful love. Grace usually works through simple steps: a quiet listening without steering the conversation back to us; an apology offered without excuses; a hidden service done without seeking recognition; a decision to let someone else's preference prevail in a minor matter. These seemingly small actions are ways of turning the soil, making space for the seed to sink deeper.

This week, as we listen to the Parable of the Sower, let us ask: "Where have thorns of narcissism begun to choke the Word in me?" Then let us invite the Lord to do what only He can do: to change the soil of our hearts so that His Word may bear the fruits of kindness, patience, humility, and charity. In a world that constantly tells us to "put ourselves first," Jesus quietly calls us to a different way, where God and neighbor come before our pride—and where true joy finally begins to grow.

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



Continuing from the previous introduction to Classical Catholic Education, I would like to emphasize why we are making this transition and why Classical Catholic Education is more important now than ever.

Why the Transition Now?

In a time of deep cultural confusion, technological disruption, political polarization, and declining trust in institutions, Classical Catholic Education offers a compelling antidote. It is not a nostalgic retreat but a forward-looking formation that equips individuals to think clearly, live virtuously, and contribute meaningfully to the common good.

Modern society often promotes a fragmented view of reality: truth as subjective, beauty as personal preference, and goodness as whatever feels right. This leads to confusion, especially among young people facing mental health challenges, identity crises, and a loss of purpose.

Classical Catholic Education rejects relativism. It teaches that **truth, goodness, and beauty** are objective realities grounded in God—the source of all three. Students study the Great Books, Scripture, the Church Fathers, and Western civilization not as relics, but as living wisdom that helps them understand human nature, moral order, and the consequences of ideas. This cultivates **intellectual and moral virtues**—prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance, faith, hope, and charity—essential for healthy individuals and societies.

By forming people who can reason rigorously (through the Trivium) and appreciate the ordered cosmos (through the Quadrivium and sciences), it produces graduates less susceptible to manipulation by ideology, propaganda, or fleeting trends.

Forming Wise Citizens for a Free Society

Democracies and free societies depend on citizens who can deliberate, discern truth from falsehood, and prioritize the common good over self-interest. Classical education has historically been the training ground for such citizens. It emphasizes **rhetoric** (persuasive and truthful communication), **logic** (clear thinking), and a deep knowledge of history—lessons from Rome's fall, the saints' witness, and Christendom's achievements.

In contrast to narrow vocational training or skills-focused models, it develops the whole person. Research on classical Christian school graduates shows higher rates of civic engagement, stable families, church involvement, and optimism—outcomes that strengthen communities. Catholic classical education adds the fullness of faith, producing “leaven in society”: people who serve with charity, lead with integrity, and defend human dignity.

Addressing the Failures of Modern Education

Many recognize a crisis in contemporary education: stagnant or declining outcomes despite increased spending, struggles with basic literacy and numeracy, and a loss of joy in learning. Progressive models often prioritize self-expression and job readiness over wisdom and virtue, sometimes at the expense of transmitting cultural inheritance.

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Classical Catholic schools frequently report strong academic results alongside deeper formation. They emphasize wonder, memorization of beautiful things, Socratic discussion, and mastery of content—methods proven over centuries. In a world of AI and information overload, the ability to think critically, write clearly, and pursue lifelong learning is more valuable than ever.

Renewing Civilization from Within

Catholic classical education immerses students in the civilization inspired by the Gospel—one that built universities, hospitals, cathedrals, and the framework for human rights. It does not idolize the past but draws wisdom from it to innovate responsibly in the present. Issues like bioethics, technology's impact on humanity, family breakdown, and social justice demand more than technical solutions—they require moral clarity and a transcendent vision.

Graduates are primed to be leaders in every sphere: business, law, medicine, arts, politics, and the Church. They are grounded in the past, engaged with the present, and hopeful for the future. We are proud to be making this transition to Classical Catholic Education because it produces better-formed students who are not only academically capable but also wise, virtuous, and rooted in their faith—preparing them to be leaders who think clearly and live faithfully. Our students are our future, and we are blessed to have the opportunity to help them realize the intentions that God has for them.

God Bless,

Steven Cullipher, M. Ed.
Principal

Our Religious Education program for the year 2026—2027 begins in September. The registrations are available now

2026—2027

**Religious
Education
Registration**



Registrations are available in the Church vestibule. You also may complete the paperwork at the Church office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM—3:00 PM.

Classes will be Wednesdays from 6:00—7:30 PM and Sundays from 10:00—12:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

Registration are for Pre-Communion, First Communion, Post Communion and Confirmation. For more information please call (863)385-0049.

GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP YOUTH GROUP

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

VOICES OF HOPE YOUTH GROUP

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

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INTIATION OF ADULTS



The RCIA process is now called OCIA, reflecting a closer translation of the process by which adults are initiated into the Catholic faith, specifically our Roman Catholic tradition, and become initiated into the life of our Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith, about becoming Catholic or in need of the Sacraments, please extend an invitation to them to come to the RCIA sessions.

These classes will begin in September. For more information, or to register for classes, please call Juana at (863)385-0049.

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: Is 1:10-17, Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23, Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9, Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8, Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16, Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15, Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19, Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21, Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8, Is 38:10, 12abcd, 16, Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5, Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14, Mt 12:14-21

Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19, Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16, Rom 8:26-27, Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

***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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**Mass Intentions of the Week****SATURDAY July 11th**

4:00 PM ANGELA ELLIS McCLELLAN † Pat LeFiles
TONY SALCEDO † Shelly & Riley
JACK H. WILLIAMS SR. † Madonna Williams

SUNDAY July 12th

8:00 AM FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ † Luz Rodriguez
GEORGE & ROCHELLE KOSHKO † Jody Gastovich & Denise Dunn
DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ZITELLI FAMILY
† Gladys Zitelli
10:00 AM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

MONDAY July 13th

8:00 AM Shawn Newman (health) — Chet Furgala
RETA SMITH † Connie Riley

TUESDAY July 14th

8:00 AM TOMMY DALTON † Patrick Cummins

WEDNESDAY July 15th

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for all God's Blessings — R

THURSDAY July 16th

8:00 AM ANTONIO GONZALEZ † Fr. José
BERTHA RUIZ GARCIA † Magdalena Animas Ruiz

FRIDAY July 17th

8:00 AM ALAIN DURDEN † Jayden & Kirsten

SATURDAY July 18th

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

SUNDAY July 19th

8:00 AM Shawn Newman (health) — Chet Furgala
Gerald Schommer parents and children — Jennifer & David Roush
10:00 AM LIA AYALA † Teresa Ayala
MARIA LOPEZ † Kelly Hernandez



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

**Budgeted for First Collection Weekly
from 07/01/2026 to 06/30/2027: \$10,000**

Collected July 5th: \$7,139

Difference (\$2,871.00)

**Youth Group: \$1,628.00
Weekly Online Giving: \$984.00**

Second Collections

This Week: Insurance

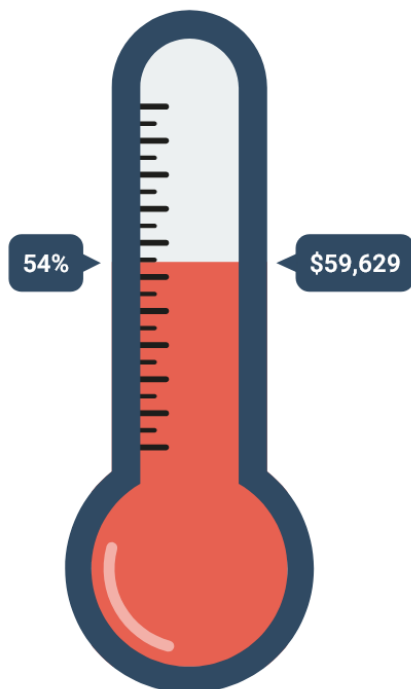
**Next Week: Solidarity Fund for the
Church in Africa**

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

**Flocknote June: \$4,757.00
For Online Flocknote Giving visit
<https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com/fundit/give>**

INSURANCE FUND 2026

GOAL: \$110,000



CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2026

Our assessment for 2026 is \$123.00.00

We have received \$102,629.50

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
dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Last week we visited 7 patients in the hospital and shared prayer and Holy Communion. We served 35 visitors/shoppers with a total of 113 family members.

10 Volunteers/Vincentians and 3 students operated the food pantry. We received 15 donations from Parish families.

We would appreciate donations of cereal and canned chicken, soup and tuna. You can place the items in the Ministry room at the Church entrance.

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 10AM. Our address is 806 Hickory St.

Thank you and may God bless you for your generosity and support.

You are helping restore hope to those that face hunger in our community.

Our phone number is 863-835-057

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: dioceseofvenice.org/](https://dioceseofvenice.org/)
for further information.

ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

Pastor: Very Reverend José González, V.F
385-0049

Arts and Environment: Gloria Fontanes.....385-0049

Altar Servers: Doroteo Rodriguez.....305-726-1098

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 jcsolindsey@yahoo.com.

GRIEF SHARE 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. Family of the month "The Schmitz family". Knights of the month, "Anthony Fontanes and Steve Cullipher". Any questions please contact Don Israel 239-691-4777.

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)

SOMETHING NEW Break open the Word of God every Monday after the 8:00 AM Mass 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. Information call Marge Rafferty (863)214-3312.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Pancakes and sausage will be available in the Parrish Hall after the 8:00 and 10:00 Masses each Sunday until August 30.

Asking for a minimum donation of 5.00 for each plate. Prepared for you by the Knights of Columbus and the CCW.

The Bible Timeline
The Story of Salvation

Jeff Cavins
 &
 Fr. Mike Schmitz

Thursdays at 6:00 PM - Starting June 18
 Building S200 - Hickory St & Lakeview Dr

Videos, Schedule, & more: www.Isaiah11.com
 Contact: Jennifer Lindsey 618-521-8730 (voice/text)
 Jonathan Spence 508-333-0483 (voice/text)

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