



**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 8:30 AM to 3:00 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

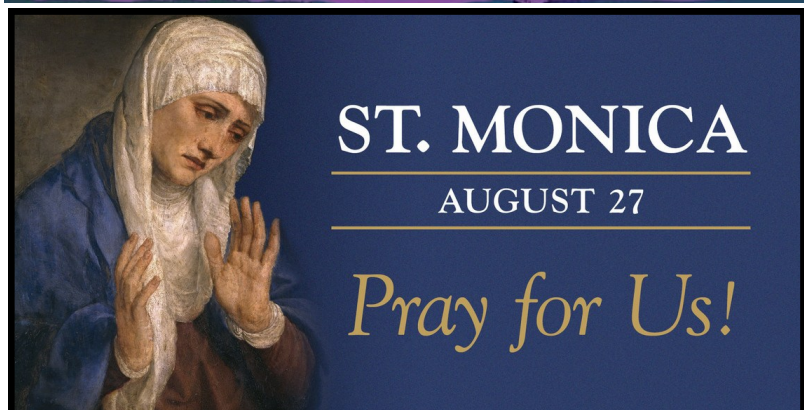
Principal
Steve Cullipher, M. Ed.
cullipher@stcatheschool.org

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



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God." - Mt 16:15-16



ST. MONICA
AUGUST 27

Pray for Us!

Who Is at the Center?



On the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus asks his disciples a question that reaches into every human heart: “Who do you say that I am?”

It is a question that frees us from one of the most persistent spiritual temptations: making ourselves the center of everything.

In its ordinary form, making ourselves the center of everything is not necessarily loud or dramatic. It can appear quietly in a constant need to be appreciated, consulted, praised, or proven right. It can surface when we resent another person’s attention, when we keep score of what we have done for others, or when our disappointments become the main subject of every conversation. Even good things—faith, ministry, suffering, knowledge, or service—can become occasions for self-importance if they are used to draw attention back to ourselves.

Jesus redirects Peter’s attention. He does not first ask Peter, “What do you think of yourself?” Nor does he ask, “What position do you want?” He asks, “Who do you say that I am?”

Peter’s answer is the foundation: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Only after Peter confesses Christ does Jesus tell him, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.”

There is a beautiful order here. First comes Christ; then comes Peter. First comes faith; then comes mission. First comes the recognition that Jesus is Lord; then comes the discovery of our own calling.

We often reverse that order. We begin with ourselves: Why was I overlooked? Why did no one thank me? Why was I not included? Why do others not do things my way? A self-centered life, however, easily becomes anxious, resentful, and lonely. We were not created to carry the burden of being the center. Only God can bear that place.

The readings remind us that every responsibility is a trust. In Isaiah, authority is given not for self-display but for the care of God’s people. In the Gospel, Peter receives the keys of the kingdom not as a personal prize, but as a sacred duty to serve the Church. Every gift, role, influence, and responsibility we possess is meant to help others encounter Christ.

This week, we might prayerfully ask:

- Do I seek recognition more than I offer gratitude?
- Do I rejoice when someone else is honored or successful?
- Do I use my gifts to serve, or to be noticed?
- When I am hurt, do I bring my pain to Christ—or make it the center of every relationship?
- Can I apologize, forgive, and let go of the need to be right?

The remedy for self-absorption is not self-rejection. It is to place Christ at the center. When Jesus is Lord, we can serve without applause, love without controlling, and forgive without keeping score. We can receive our identity not from attention or achievement, but from the love of the One who calls us by name.

May Peter’s confession become our own: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.” — Mt 16:15-17

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

In his August 16 article in the **Highlands News-Sun**, David Dunn-Rankin offered a sobering reflection on the lack of civic engagement among Floridians. His concern challenges us not only as citizens, but also as Catholics and parishioners.

Civic engagement involves more than voting. It means staying informed, volunteering, supporting institutions that serve the common good, and accepting personal responsibility for the well-being of our neighbors. The same principle applies within the Church.

St. Catherine Catholic School is not a separate organization that merely carries the parish name. It is one of the parish's most important ministries—a work of evangelization that helps parents form children intellectually, morally, and spiritually. Therefore, the school belongs to the entire parish, not only to families with children currently enrolled.

Catholics do not support parish ministries only when they benefit personally. Young adults sustain ministries for seniors. Healthy parishioners assist the sick. Those who are financially secure help families in need. Likewise, parishioners whose children are grown—or who have never had children in the school—share responsibility for Catholic education.

The Church reminds the faithful of their obligation to provide for the Church's worship, charitable works, and apostolates. Catholic education is one of those apostolates. Financial support helps compensate dedicated teachers, maintain safe facilities, provide instructional materials, and keep a Catholic education accessible to families who could not otherwise afford it. A recurring gift, support for the Guardian Angel program, participation in fundraisers, or a legacy gift can make a lasting difference.

The school also needs parishioners' time and talents. Retired educators can tutor. Business owners and professionals can mentor students. Musicians, artists, tradespeople, and members of parish organizations can share their gifts. Everyone can pray, attend school events, encourage teachers, recommend the school to families, and speak positively about its mission.

Our Classical Catholic Education program seeks to form young people who recognize truth, appreciate beauty, choose goodness, and serve others courageously. These students will become tomorrow's parents, parish leaders, teachers, business owners, volunteers, and citizens.

If we are concerned about declining civic engagement, we must support the institutions that form responsible citizens. Not everyone can contribute in the same way, but everyone can do something. Supporting St. Catherine Catholic School through prayer, service, advocacy, and financial sacrifice is not someone else's responsibility. It is our shared mission and an enduring investment in the future of our Church and community.

God Bless,
Steven Cullipher, M. Ed.
Principal

A Prayer for the School Year

Loving God,

Our creator, our savior, our companion,
bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake today.

Refresh our souls and renew our spirits
as we embrace the beautiful ministry you have called us to.

We welcome those who are new to this community and
ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them.

Lord, make our hearts pure as we prepare for the return of students to this school,
and may you guide them to return with open hearts and minds eager to learn.

We ask this in Your name,
Amen

2026—2027

**Religious
Education
Registration**



**Our Religious Education program for the year 2026—2027
begins in Wednesday September 9 & Sunday September 13**

**Registrations Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00—7:00 PM in the Parish Hall
Sunday August, 30 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Parish Hall**

Registration are for Pre-Communion, First Communion, Post Communion and Confirmation 1 & 2.

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. 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: Anthony Fontanes (863)235-1500.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION 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.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE
Your Journey Through the Bible

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)

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Pancakes and sausage will be available in the Parrish Hall after the 8:00 and 10:00 AM 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.



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.

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: Rv 21:9b-14, Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18, Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17, Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13, Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18, Ps 128:1-2, 4-5, Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9, Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25, Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11, Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31, Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21, Mk 6:17-29

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9, Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, Rom 12:1-2, Mt 16:21-27

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

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mass Intentions of the Week

4:00 PM **SATURDAY August 22nd**

GERALD HASTINGS † Pat LeFiles

CHARLES & CATHARINE RITCHEY † Madonna Williams

JACK H. WILLIAMS SR. † Madonna Williams

ANNE YOHAM † The Yoham Family

SUNDAY August 23rd

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

10:00 AM Rev. Angelo Henry Camacho O.P. — Jeffrey Kindler
Shawn Newman (health) — Chet Furgala

MONDAY August 24th

8:00 AM DORLI, NELLIE and ANGELO † Ian Arnan
Dorothy Pierczchnowski (special intentions) —
Barbara Tuthill

TUESDAY August 25th

8:00 AM ROBERT LEFILES † Knights of Columbus
TOM LEWIS † Dulce Díaz

WEDNESDAY August 26th

8:00 AM Dorothy Pierczchnowski (special intentions) —
Barbara Tuthill

THURSDAY August 27th

8:00 AM Mairin Ogle's birthday (special Intentions) — John &
Tina Haley and Family

FRIDAY August 28th

8:00 AM MARVIN KALEKY † B. Walters
In Thanksgiving for God's Blessings — Maye Del
Castillo

SATURDAY August 29th

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

SUNDAY August 30th

8:00 AM DENNIS SIMINIAK † Jim Duvall/Mary Tucker
Shawn Newman (health) — Chet Furgala

10:00 AM MICHAEL CASON † Patrick Cummins
Linda Lucas (health) — Kathy Berard



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 August 16th: \$5,885.50

Deficit: \$4,114.50

Assumption of Mary: \$385.00

Insurance: \$1,690.00

Weekly Online Giving: \$1,179.00

Second Collections

This Week: Charity Fund

Next Week: Youth Group

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

Flocknote July: \$3,375.00

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

CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2026

Our assessment for 2026 is \$123.00.00

We have received \$124,975.36

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.

To contribute online go to

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

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Last week we visited 3 patients in the hospital and shared prayer and Holy Communion.

We served 43 visitors/shoppers with a total of 155 family members.

12 Volunteers/Vincentians operated the food pantry. We received 8 donations from Parish families.

We would appreciate donations of spaghetti, rice and dry beans. 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. You could also donate using the QR code included below.

If you would like to join us or have a need we are open every Thursday at 10AM. Our address is 806 Hickory St. We are in need of volunteers to make home visits. If you are interested in becoming one please call our phone number bellow.

You are also invited to our monthly meeting on August 27, at 11:00 AM at our pantry.

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

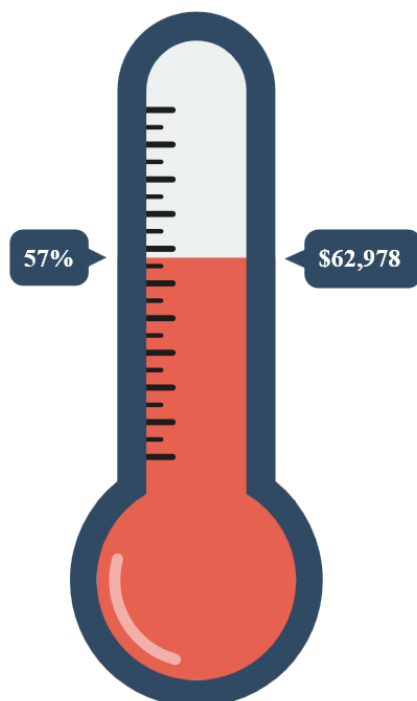
You are helping restore hope to those that face hunger in our community.

Our phone number is 863-835-0571.



INSURANCE FUND 2026

GOAL: \$110,000



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 web-site: 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: Dulce Diaz.....464-9458
 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.

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 Tuesday 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. Welcoming new Knights Tyler Senecal, Charles Kuhn, Jonathan Spence & Frankie Hernandez. Knight of the month: Joe Schmitz. Family of the month: Ken and Jennifer Lindsey. 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.

ORA ET LABORA (Men's Group)

Join for Brotherhood, Prayer, and Stewardship. Every Friday at 8:00 PM at the S300 building. See Joe Schmitz for more information at (863) 840-1145 (text preferred).

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.

Raffle: You Can't Win if You Don't Play

To help us achieve our goal of \$110,000 to pay the cost of our insurance, we offer you the opportunity to participate in a raffle with your donation of \$10. The raffle will take place December 20th 2026 at 2:00 PM in the Parish Hall. For \$100 you can receive 11 tickets (\$10 each, ONE FREE) to win any of the following prizes.

1st Prize : \$3,000

2nd Prize: \$1,500

3rd Prize: \$500

The proceeds will go to help the Parish offset the price of our Insurance Premiums.

Time to move the thermometer!

BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS NOW: <https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com/give/54994> and we will send your tickets by regular mail.

For those who wish to enter personally (rather than electronically) raffle tickets will also be available:

- **At the Parish Office**
- **After Masses**



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Parish members receive \$250 off



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