

# **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](http://www.stcathe.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/stcathe](https://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](mailto:frjose@stcathe.org)**



## **24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

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

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### **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](mailto:cullipher@stcatheschool.org)**

#### **Pre-School**

**747 S. Franklin St.**

**Sebring, FL 33870**

**(863)385-7300 Fax: (863)385-7310**

**[www.stcatheschool.org](http://www.stcatheschool.org)**

#### **Office hours**

**8:00 AM—3:00 PM**

### GRANDPARENTS: LIVING WITNESSES OF MERCY

This Sunday, September 13, we celebrate the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time and National Grandparents Day. The Scriptures invite us to give thanks for the elders who have helped form our faith—and to receive anew Christ's call to forgive generously.

Grandparents hold a special place in the life of a family and a parish. Through their stories, sacrifices, prayers, patience, and steady love, they often become the bridge between generations. They remind us who we are, where we have come from, and what values are worth passing on.

In today's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus a question that touches every family: "How often must I forgive?" Peter imagines a generous limit—seven times. Jesus answers with a mercy that has no calculator: not seven times, but "seventy times seven." He then tells the story of a servant who receives enormous forgiveness but refuses to offer even a small measure of mercy to another. The message is clear: those who have been forgiven by God are called to become people who forgive.

Many grandparents understand this Gospel not merely as an idea, but as a way of life. Over years of marriage, parenting, work, illness, loss, misunderstandings, and changing family circumstances, they have learned that love must be stronger than resentment. They know that a family cannot flourish if every hurt is kept on record. They have often taught us, by their example, how to apologize, how to begin again, how to pray for someone who has disappointed us, and how to leave the door open for reconciliation.

Sirach tells us plainly: "Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven." The Psalm responds with confidence in the God who is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness." These words offer a beautiful description of the kind of spiritual inheritance grandparents can share: not perfection, but faith; not control, but patient love; not bitterness, but mercy.

Today is also an occasion to remember that not everyone has a living grandparent nearby or has experienced family relationships without pain. Some carry grief for grandparents who have died. Some are estranged from relatives. Some grandparents bear quiet concern for children or grandchildren who have drifted away from the Church, struggled in life, or become distant from the family. The Church holds all these intentions in prayer. God sees every loving heart, every unanswered prayer, and every act of faithfulness offered for another.

To our grandparents and older parishioners: thank you. Thank you for the wisdom gathered through the years, for the prayers you have whispered when no one else knew, for the sacrifices that made opportunities possible for those who followed you, and for your continued presence among us. Saint Paul reminds us today: "Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." Your life belongs to the Lord, and your witness continues to bless the Church.

To children, teenagers, young adults, parents, and grandchildren: take time this week to call, visit, write, listen, and say thank you. Ask an elder to tell a story about their childhood, their faith, a difficult moment God helped them through, or a person who shaped their life. These conversations are more than family memories; they are treasures of faith.



May our parish be a home where every generation is welcomed, valued, and needed. May grandparents be strengthened in their vocation of love and prayer. And may all of us, forgiven so generously by Christ, become more patient, more compassionate, and more ready to forgive from the heart.

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

A recent Fox News opinion article, “America’s Massive Labor Crisis Started in the Classroom, Not the Workplace,” argues that employers are struggling to find young people who possess not only technical skills, but also perseverance, personal responsibility, initiative, humility, reliability, and the ability to accept correction.

For Catholics, this raises a deeper question: What is the true purpose of education?

The Church has never understood education merely as preparation for employment or college. Catholic education is about the formation of the whole human person in Jesus Christ. The Second Vatican Council teaches in *Gravissimum Educationis* that true education seeks the formation of the human person in pursuit of his or her ultimate end and the good of society.

Education, therefore, concerns not simply what a child knows, but what a child loves, chooses, does, and ultimately becomes.

This is why virtue matters.

A child who perseveres through difficult work learns that challenges can be overcome. A child who accepts consequences learns responsibility. A child who receives correction learns humility. A child who serves another discovers that life is not centered on oneself. These lessons cannot simply be taught from a textbook. They must be practiced.

This is central to our transition to Classical Catholic Education at St. Catherine Catholic School. We seek not merely to fill students' minds with information, but to cultivate wisdom and virtue—to teach children to recognize and pursue Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.

Our mission is expressed through The St. Catherine Way:

**PRAY** — to encounter Christ and learn to listen.

**SEEK** — Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.

**SPEAK** — truth with courage and clarity.

**SERVE** — Christ, the Church, and those in need.

**BECOME** — the person, and the saint, that God intends us to be.

That final word—BECOME—is especially important. We are not simply preparing children to become good employees. We are forming future spouses, parents, priests and religious, professionals, tradespeople, business owners, community leaders, parishioners, and citizens.

Most importantly, we are forming Christian disciples and future saints.

And this mission extends beyond one parish. St. Catherine Catholic School serves families from St. Michael's Parish, Our Lady of Grace, St. Catherine Parish, and St. James Parish. Our school is an apostolate serving the wider Catholic community and an investment in the future of the Church throughout our region.

The children sitting in our classrooms today will someday fill our churches, raise families, operate businesses, serve their neighbors, and assume the responsibilities we carry today.

That is why I invite parishioners from all four parishes to support our Guardian Angel Program. A Guardian Angel gift is more than financial assistance. It is an investment in forming the next generation of Catholics.

America needs dependable workers. Our communities need responsible citizens. Our families need faithful mothers and fathers. Our parishes need committed disciples.

**And our Church needs saints.**

That is ultimately why St. Catherine Catholic School exists.

**PRAY. SEEK. SPEAK. SERVE. BECOME.**

That is The St. Catherine Way.

God Bless,

Steven Cullipher, M. Ed.

Principal

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2026—2027****Classes for First Communion and Confirmation**

Classes Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:30 PM and Sunday from 10:00 to 11:45 AM in the Parish Hall. For registrations or more information please call (863)385-0049.

**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 OCIA sessions.

Classes Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Building #300. For more information, or to register for classes, please call Juana at (863)385-0049.

**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/](http://dioceseofvenice.org/) for further information.

**FLOCKNOTE**

**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](http://www.Isaiah11.com)  
Contact: Jennifer Lindsey 618-521-8730 (voice/text)  
Jonathan Spence 508-333-0483 (voice/text)

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

<https://stcatherineofseeb.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.

**GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP YOUTH GROUP**

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

**YOUTH GROUP****YOUTH GROUP — BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 25TH**

**Calling all 8th–12th graders!**

Youth Group will begin on September 25th at 6:30 PM on the Youth Center. Come join us for faith, fellowship, fun, and growing closer to Christ together.

• Youth Center

920 US-27 N

Sebring, FL 33870

Open to all 8th–12th grade students. For more information, contact the Youth Group coordinator: Anthony Fontanes (863)235-1500.

**DIOCESE OF VENICE**  
IN FLORIDA

The Venice Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites you to join them in celebrating

**PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY 9|27|26**

Let's honor our priests! Donate to the Seminarian Fund and specify "In honor of . . . (name your priest)." A card will be sent to your priest letting him know of your support. Donations of any size are gratefully accepted, and will thank and honor our current priests and support the education of our future priests. The Diocese of Venice currently has 21 seminarians in formation!

Send your donation for an "In honor of . . ." card to:

Cornelia Zanetti  
Seminarian Fund Guardian  
5808 Gulf Drive, #204  
Holmes Beach, FL 34217

Checks should be made payable to the **VDCCW Seminarian Fund.**

**COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**  
DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

**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](mailto:office@stcathe.org).

**SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK**

Monday: Nm 21:4b-9, Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38, Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a, Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5, Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13, Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22, Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11, Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28, Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20, Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15, Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49, Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14, Lk 8:4-15

Sunday: Is 55:6-9, Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18, Phil 1:20c-24, 27a, Mt 20:1-16a

**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](http://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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME****MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK****SATURDAY September 12th**

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

**SUNDAY September 13th**

**8:00 AM** DENNIS SIMINIAK † Mary Tucker

Shawn Newman (for health) - Chet Furgala

**10:00 AM** MARGARET MARY PRIVITT † Jennie Lah

Peter & Carol Kent (64th Wedding Anniversary) -  
Carol Kent

**MONDAY September 14th**

**8:00 AM** CAROLE ERICKSON † Rosaleen Marlow

SARA GRIFFIN † Rosaleen Marlow

**TUESDAY September 15th**

**8:00 AM** MAURICIO GARCIA † Paola Garcia

FUNDADOR VAZQUEZ-RODRIGUEZ † Marilyn  
Celestina

TERESA VEGA-GALARZA † Marilyn Celestina

**WEDNESDAY September 16th**

**8:00 AM** KEN & MARILYN RANDAZZO † James Bolan

**THURSDAY September 17th**

**8:00 AM** ROBERT LeFILES † Rosaleen Marlow

**FRIDAY September 18th**

**8:00 AM** MARCELINA REYES † Candida Reyes

**SATURDAY September 19th**

**4:00 PM** CHARLES & CATHARINE RITCHEY † Madonna  
Williams

JACK H. WILLIAMS SR. † Madonna Williams

**SUNDAY September 20th**

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

**10:00 AM** DENISE MORALES † Mother

NANCY BRZUSZEK † Gerald Brzuszek

Shawn Newman (for health) - Chet Furgala

**RED MEMORIAL CANDLES**

Are in the back of the church adjacent to the Chapel. A Memorial Candle is lit and remains lighted at all times for one year in memory of a person who has passed away. You may commemorate a loved one by lighting a candle for one year with a donation of \$150.

Please come to the Parish Office (863)385-0049 to make arrangements for a Memorial Candle which will be accompanied by a small plaque with the name of the person.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Mass Intentions forms are available at the Parish Office or online, at <https://web4ucorp.com/massintentions/catherinesnebring>

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.

## BOOKKEEPERS CORNER OFFERINGS

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

Collected September 6th: \$6,258.00

**Deficit: \$3,742.00**

Insurance: \$1,993.00

Weekly Online Giving: \$919.00

Flocknote August: \$4,529.00

### Second Collections

This Week: Catholic University of America

Next Week: Insurance

For Online Giving instructions visit

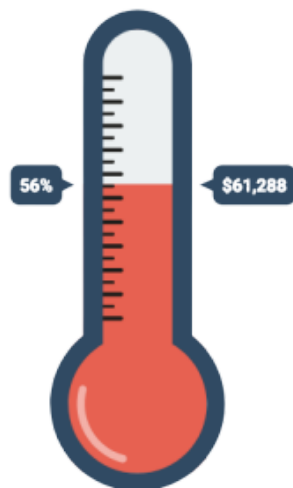
<https://www.osvhub.com/stcath/funds>

For Online Flocknote Giving visit

<https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com/fundit/give>

## INSURANCE FUND 2026

**GOAL: \$110,000**



### Remember St. Catherine's in Your Will

A bequest is a wonderful way to express gratitude to God for a lifetime of blessings! The gift you give establishes a lasting legacy of love for others by helping the St. Catherine Church to continue our Catholic heritage through its many ministries. The following is possible wording for including a bequest in your will:

"I bequeath the greater of \$\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_% of the residue of my estate to Bishop Emilio Biosca, (or his successor), Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida, a corporation sole, whose principal office is located at 1000 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34285, "For the benefit of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, in Sebring, FL."

The actual wording in your will should be determined by you and your attorney. If you have any questions or wish to consider a gift annuity or trust for St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, please contact Fr. José González at (863)385-0049.

## CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2026

**Our assessment for 2026 is \$123.00.00**

**We have received \$128,041.99**

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/](https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/)

### 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



## SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We would appreciate donations of rice and dry beans, cereal and peanut butter. You can place the items in the Ministry room 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 863-835-0571



**ORGANIZATIONAL 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 Spradlin.....991-3271

**OCIA:** Juana Nava.....385-0049 navaj@stcathe.org  
**Religious Education:** Rose Hall...385-0049  
 rose@stcathe.org  
**Respect Life:**.....385-0049  
**SVPD:**.....835-0571  
**Ushers:** Mike Flood.....471-6381

**MINISTRIES & 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 jcsjlindsey@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 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. 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!"** Catholic Men's Program Featuring Dr Scott Hahn, Fr Dave Pivonka, And many more! Video presentation followed by group discussion. Two groups forming: Tuesday 6:00 PM - Starts Tues 9/15 Saturday 9:30 AM - Starts Sat 9/19. Both meeting in Building S300. For more information, call or text: Ed DeCastro 315-264-4153 Ken Lindsey 618-559-8192.

**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.

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**THE GIVING HAND WALK-A-THON**

**September 26th, 2026**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
(Start Time & Duration)

**Saint Catherine Catholic Church**  
[Address, 820 Hickory Street]  
Sebring, Florida

**FOOD TRUCK! RAFFLES! PRIZES FOR KIDS! COMMUNITY SUPPORT!**

**Purpose**  
A non-competitive walk to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Catherine Conference. All proceeds help provide non-perishable food and financial assistance to local neighbors in need.

**Registration & Donations**  
Register online or in person  
\$10 individual/\$20 Family  
Donations appreciated

[stcatherineofseeb.flocknote.com/give/56700](https://stcatherineofseeb.flocknote.com/give/56700)

**SPONSORED BY THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SAINT CATHERINE CONFERENCE**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

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[mkeim@lakeplacidhrc.com](mailto:mkeim@lakeplacidhrc.com) • [lakeplacidhrc.com](http://lakeplacidhrc.com)

**TANIA BOBE, CRS, ABR, CREA**  
Broker Associate/Team Owner/  
LPT Corporate Mentor  
LIC# BK3342106 • 863.270.8484  
[Tania@mbnarealty.com](mailto:Tania@mbnarealty.com)  
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**IF YOU LIVE ALONE**  
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**HEALTH INSURANCE**  
Santos De La Rosa Parishioner  
**PH 863-382-3119**  
[hipoteca1@comcast.net](mailto:hipoteca1@comcast.net)  
NPI 9074185

**Heartland**  
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