



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Mt 3:17

BAPTIZED

"I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

MARK 1:8

**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



Jesus' baptism is an act of radical self-emptying: the sinless Son places himself among sinners, accepts a rite he does not need, and publicly submits to the Father's will for the sake of our salvation. It reveals humility, solidarity, and mission, not self-focus, self-promotion, or grasping at status.

What John's baptism meant

John's baptism was explicitly "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins," meant for people confessing their guilt and seeking conversion. Jesus, however, is without sin and does not need repentance, which is why the tradition stresses that "Jesus did not need to be baptized as did the Israelites who came to John as a confession of their sins."

Because he is sinless, Jesus' choice to undergo a sinner's baptism cannot be self-serving; he gains nothing he lacks. Instead, the act only makes sense as self-gift on behalf of others.

Solidarity, not self-promotion

Catholic theology emphasizes that in the Jordan Jesus "chose to join the ranks of sinners" and be "numbered among them," though he is the Holy One without sin. This is described as an act of **solidarity**: he places himself with those in need of forgiveness, to draw them into communion with God.

Rather than seeking to stand apart from others as superior, Jesus deliberately stands with the guilty, foreshadowing how he will later bear the sins of humanity on the cross. Jesus moves toward the weak and identifies with them.

Humility and kenosis

The Catechism presents Jesus' baptism as his "acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's suffering Servant," an anticipatory sign of his coming passion and death. By going down into the water, he symbolically "loads all mankind's guilt upon his shoulders" and carries it into the depths, anticipating the descent of his death and the rising of his resurrection.

This is a concrete expression of kenosis: the Son who is publicly proclaimed "my beloved Son" chooses the path of humiliation and service, not self-exaltation. Christ uses his divine Sonship to stoop down and save.

Obedience to the Father

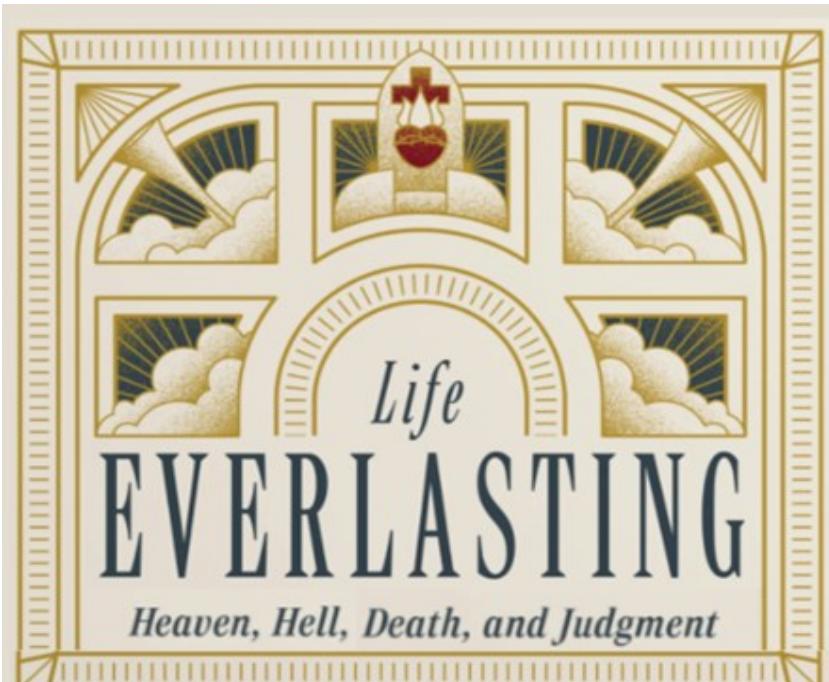
When John hesitates, Jesus answers, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness," pointing to obedience to the Father's saving plan rather than to a personal need. "Fulfilling all righteousness" means freely aligning his human will with the Father's design to justify sinners, even when it involves misunderstanding and humiliation.

Narcissism resists any path that involves self-emptying obedience; Jesus' baptism manifests loving submission to the Father's will for the sake of others.

Manifestation for our sake

The Jordan event is also an epiphany: the Spirit descends like a dove and the Father's voice declares Jesus the beloved Son, revealing him publicly as Messiah and Son of God. This manifestation is not Jesus grasping at honor, but the Father's free confirmation that the one who lowers himself among sinners is precisely the Son in whom he is "well pleased."

Thus, the whole scene teaches that divine glory is revealed in humble, self-giving love, not in self-assertion—and Christian baptism will conform believers to that same pattern of dying to self and living for God and others.



Video Series & Discussion
Thursdays 6:00 PM - Building S200

Life Everlasting: Heaven, Hell, Death, and Judgement

Video Series & Discussion - Thursdays at 6:00 PM

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 beginning this 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.

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://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.

When you register, you will be able to choose whether you would like to receive notes by email, text, or both, and the ministries you would like to join. To make changes, you can access your account at any time by using your email or phone. You can receive the weekly bulletin, the schedule of Masses, daily Gospel reflections, emergency information about the Parish... You can also join different ministries in the Parish and receive information from them.

Simplify your tithing! Giving to St. Catherine is easier and more secure than ever before. Visit

<https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com/give> to set up recurring giving, with no login or password required. You can get started in just a few minutes, and never have to worry about envelopes, stamps, or writing checks again. It's as easy as online shopping!

OCIA

These classes will be Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the Building S300.

For more information please call Juana at (863)385-0049.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes Wednesday at 6:00 PM and Sunday at 10:00 AM.

For more information please call (863)385-0049.

Dear Friends and Families of St. Catherine Catholic School,

We need your help. We have three sets of playground equipment at the main campus for varying age groups. Two of the sets were existing when the building was purchased and are estimated to be 15-20 years old. The 3rd and smallest set was moved from the preschool to the main campus and is estimated to be 10-15 years old. The main playground set has rusted completely through and is no longer useable. I expect the 2nd set isn't far behind. There was never a budget set aside to replace this equipment, so we find ourselves with the main playground closed while we monitor the others.

Elementary school playground equipment offers numerous evidence-based benefits for children's holistic development, supporting physical health, social skills, emotional well-being, and cognitive growth during a critical stage of childhood.

Playground activities like climbing, swinging, sliding, and running promote moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, essential for building gross and fine motor skills, strength, balance, coordination, and cardiovascular health. Equipment enhances upper-body strength, grip, and agility, while active play helps combat childhood obesity by improving heart rate, muscle development, and overall fitness. Studies show that well-designed playgrounds encourage more movement, with children spending significant recess time in active play, contributing to daily physical activity recommendations.

Playgrounds foster unstructured social interaction and help children practice cooperation. Outdoor play also reduces stress, improves mood, and supports mental health by providing a break from structured classroom settings. Activities like navigating climbers or creating games enhance brain development, focus, and even academic performance, as physical activity readies the brain for learning. Research links active recess to improved concentration and cognitive skills in areas like planning and strategy.

We have received several proposals to replace the current playground equipment and the cost for all three is about \$150,000. Again, there has never been a budget set aside to replace this equipment, so we are asking for your help. If you would like to donate, please send your check to St. Catherine Catholic School, 2835 Kenilworth Blvd., Sebring, FL 33870. Please note Playground in the note on your check.

Thank you and God Bless,

Mr. Steven Cullipher, M. Ed.
Principal

Part of the Proposed Playground Equipment:



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: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

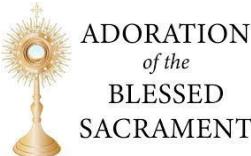
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34



*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

The Baptism of the Lord**Mass Intentions of the Week****SATURDAY January 10th**

9:00 AM OSVALDO LASANTA † Lynett Lasanta

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

SUNDAY January 11th

8:00 AM ROBERT HERNANDEZ † Olivia Rowe
DON ROWE † Olivia Rowe

10:00 AM HANNY SEMMA † Bernadet Khalaf

THOMAS TIRDIL † Katherine Tirdil

MONDAY January 12th

8:00 AM Safe Journey for the Chazhicattu Family — Sharon & Denny Bledsoe

12:00 PM For peace in the world and freedom from violence — Fr. José

TUESDAY January 13th

8:00 AM For our school, teachers and students — Fr. José

12:00 PM JOHN RYAN † Janet & Tom Patterson

WEDNESDAY January 14th

8:00 AM Dave Walks (86th Birthday) — Carrie Walks

12:00 PM For the aged and those who suffer from lineless — Fr. José

THURSDAY January 15th

8:00 AM For the Morales Family — Mother

12:00 PM Linda Sansores (Health) — Sister

FRIDAY January 16th

8:00 AM For our Parish and their Families — Fr. José

12:00 PM For our Men and Women in Military — Fr. José

SATURDAY January 17th

9:00 AM Pope Leo XIV — Fr. José

4:00 PM GEORGE MAYHEW † Madonna Class of '70

TODD VOWELS † Rita Vowels

JACK H. WILLIAMS SR. † Madonna Williams

SUNDAY January 18th

8:00 AM TONY HERNANDEZ † Olivia Rowe

10:00 AM For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

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: Insurance

Next Week: For the Church in Latin America

Christmas: \$7636.00

Insurance: \$3,290.00

December 28th

Regular: \$6,861.00

Weekly Online Giving: \$941.00January 1st

Solemnity of Mary: \$ 3,592.00

January 4th

Regular: \$8,229.00

Vocations/Seminary Support: \$1,739.00

Weekly Online Giving: \$836.00For Online Giving instructions visit
<https://www.osvhub.com/stcathe/funds>

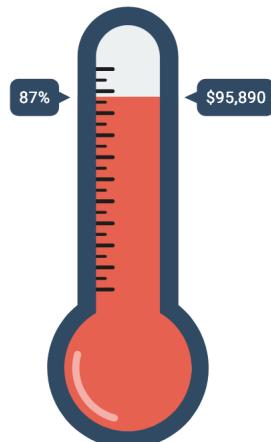
Flocknote December: \$1,775.00

For Online Flocknote Giving visit

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

Thank you for your help with insurance bill

GOAL: \$110,000



CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2025

Our assessment for 2025 is \$115.00.00

We have received: \$165,338.33

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



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 35 visitors/shoppers with 112 family members.

We received food donations from ten Parish families. Ten Vincentians/Volunteers operated the food pantry. We would appreciate donations of rice and dried beans.

If you would like to come by or have a need please join us Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM.

Our next formal meeting is Tuesday January 20th in room #13 at the Parish Hall at 11:00 AM.

Our phone number is 863-835-0571



Food Pantry
For the Needy & Poor

806 Hickory Street
Sebring, FL
(white house adjacent to St. Catherine Catholic Church)

Open
Tuesdays
10 am -
11 am

Despensa de Alimentos
Para los Necesitados
Los Martes

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

GRIEFSHARE GROUP:

For more information please call (863) 385-0049.

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 Grand Knight Donald Israel (239)691-4777. 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)

PARISH DIRECTORY

■ **Session dates are approaching**, and appointments are filling quickly.

■ Every participating household receives a complimentary directory and 8x10 picture.

Please don't miss this opportunity, register as soon as possible to secure your slot.

Appointments are now available:

- **When:** Thursday, January 15, 2026 from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Friday, January 16, 2026 from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

- **Where:** Parish Hall

How: You have to options to schedule your appointment.

You can do it online at www.ucdir.com, click in the box to the right that says **"photography appointment scheduling login"**, enter **FL1043** in the **Church Code** field, enter **Photos in the Church Password Code** field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. Also you can fill out the forms located in the vestibule of the Church.

Thank you for being an important part of our parish family. We look forward to seeing you!

Church Directory Photography
Schedule your appointment today!

