



PTO: PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

CONTACT: pto@stcatherineofsiena.org

Our St. Catherine faculty and staff have worked tirelessly this year to provide a safe learning environment for our kids. This week, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, Principal Scherer asked the PTO to help her express our gratitude by putting together a Thankful Tree. The response was astounding. We collected over 250 messages of appreciation from our St Catherine families! Thank you to everyone who participated. Our tree is as full as our hearts!



In-School Volunteer Updates

Drinks and pre-packaged snacks were provided for our teachers during parent-teacher conferences in October.

A big thank you to **Alison Schwalbach** and **Monica Hess** for organizing, and to all who contributed!!!

In light of the current climate, will hold on making plans for Catholic Schools week.

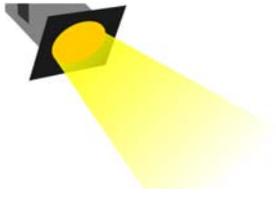
Fundraising Update:

Our current year-to-date funds raised is \$2,250.65. Thank you for your support!

We are still pending dollar amounts from our Frisch's and Jimmy John's Dine-to Donate.

Thank you to all of the families that participated in the first Box Tops for Education turn-in of the year. Please continue to use the app to scan your receipts, and contact Amy Muench (amymuench@yahoo.com) to make sure your family gets credit for participating. There will be another turn-in in February.

Teacher Spotlight with Ms Finke:



There's a new teacher in 1st grade this year. Get to know Ms Finke!

In May, Ms Finke graduated from Northern Kentucky University with degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education with a focus on Learning and Behavior Disabilities. While at NKU, she ran cross country and track, and she is currently a cross country coach for Ursuline Academy in Cincinnati. For the past 5 summers, she worked at Stepping Stones, a camp for kids and young adults who have developmental disabilities. "I have always wanted to be a teacher, and I truly feel that it is what I was called to do in this life".

The first graders had some burning questions for Ms Finke:

Do you have any siblings? I have one brother who is a year older than me.

What time were you born? I was born at about 9:30 PM

What is your favorite hobby? One of my favorite hobbies is running

Have you ever run the flying pig or run across the country? I have never ran the flying pig or across the country, but I am planning on running the flying pig in May

What is your favorite type of music? My favorite type of music depends on how I am feeling that day, but I usually listen to pop, rock, and some country.

What is your favorite color? My favorite color is yellow.

What is your favorite food? My favorite foods are bacon, french fries, and donuts (very healthy:)

We are so happy to have Ms Finke at St Catherine!

Christmas Shopping?

Please remember to use **AmazonSmile!**



It's very simple to set St. Catherine as the charity you want your purchases to benefit. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and search for St. Catherine of Siena Church. There will be several options so scroll until you see St. Catherine Fort Thomas, KY. At no additional cost to you, Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases back to St. Catherine. It doesn't sound like much, but it does add up!

New this year is the ability to set up AmazonSmile on your Amazon app! If you update to the latest version of the Amazon app, there is now an option to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

Here is a link with simple instructions:

<https://www.amazon.com/b?node=15576745011>

Need some baked goods or sweet treats for Christmas morning or some gifts for neighbors and family? We have partnered with **Busken Bakery** to pre-order some select items. With each item ordered, St. Catherine of Siena will get back \$4. This fundraiser will start the week after Thanksgiving, we will have 2 weeks for ordering. Items will be available for pick up around the 22nd. See flyer attached for details. More info to come!

Save the Date!

Our next Dine to Donate is **Dec 2nd** with LaRosa's Pizza!

School Committee Updates

The St. Catherine Board of Catholic Education met on October 6th. The Nov 10th meeting was canceled due to low attendance. The next meeting will be on **December 1st**.

The School Lunch Program (which is allowing for free lunches and snacks) has been extended through December or until the federal money is gone. This program allows for community food options too for those in need. Contact the cafeteria if you know of anyone that is in need for food options and has children younger than 18 years old.

Technology:



The Wifi within the school has been upgraded!!

Federal CARES money was to be used for new Chromebooks. This money is now on hold from the federal government, but Ms. Scherer is working on a Technology Wish List that includes asking for money from the parish to help pay for new Chromebooks, Smartboards/Projectors. This request will go to the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

Middle School:

A middle school committee is being developed with Ft.Stef, our PR/Marketing Committee within the Board of Catholic Education to continue improvements to our middle school program.

PR/Marketing Committee:

Our PR/Marketing committee has begun to put a small snippet of information in our church bulletin where the parish is informed of positive things happening in our school and include student responses to questions.

PTO Website:

- Don't know who your child's room parent is?
- Can't recall what you volunteered to bring to the Valentine's Day Party?
- Need more gym shirts for your kids?

Check out the PTO website for new links! **Coming soon: St Catherine 101!**



[PTO FAQs >>](#)

[EVENTS >>](#)



[ROOM PARENTS >>](#)

[SPIRIT WEAR >>](#)