

Pastor Rev. Stef Bankemper, sbankemper@stcatherineofsiena.org Deacon Brian Cox Deacon Barry Henry CRE – John David Kimes jdkimes@stcatherineofsiena.org

Masses for Sunday: Saturday: 4:30 p.m.; Sunday: 9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.-6:45 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: \*5:30-6:30 p.m.(\*verify schedule in bulletin under "This Week") Saturday: Following the 8:00 a.m. Mass; Anytime by Appointment.

#### Marriage:

One member of the couple must be a registered parishioner of St. Catherine Parish. Call Parish Office at least six months prior to setting a wedding date.

> Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Communion to the Sick: Call Parish Office.

New Parishioners: Please call the Parish Office. Notification when leaving the parish is appreciated.

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. Drop off copy at parish or send via e-mail.

**Baptism:** Baptism is a joyful event "by which men and women are freed from their sins... are configured to Christ by an indelible character, and are incorporated into the Church." (Canon 849 of the Code of Canon Law). People can be baptized as adults or infants. The preparation for adult baptism takes place in the process of the catechumenate, commonly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. Any adult desiring baptism may call the office to begin this process. Preparation for infant baptism happens in baptism classes, generally held on the fourth Thursday evening of each month in the Parish Office. No child will be baptized at St. Catherine unless both parents have attended one of these classes in the last five years. Baptism of adults generally takes place on Holy Saturday night, while baptism of infants can take place on any Sunday. Since baptism "incorporates one into the Church," it is appropriate that the infant be baptized during a Sunday liturgy when the local Church is gathered. There are legitimate reasons for not wanting to have the baptism during a Sunday liturgy; in those cases, baptisms may be scheduled for a Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

### Parish Membership – Requires an Active Response

Active members of St. Catherine of Siena Parish have registered and provided the Parish Office with the information needed to complete the census forms. Active members regularly participate in the Saturday evening or Sunday Liturgy at St. Catherine of Siena Parish. Active members invest themselves in the parish by participating in the annual Stewardship Program pledging and contributing time, talent and treasure as God calls them. Active members hold the parish in their daily prayers.

# MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

TUESDAY – December 12th 8:00 a.m. B.J. McCarthy WEDNESDAY – December 13th 5:30 p.m. Diane Detzel THURSDAY – December 14th 8:00 a.m. Steve Eilerman FRIDAY – December 15th 8:30 a.m. Robert, Juanita & Tom Schroder SATURDAY – December 15th 8:00 a.m. Joanne New 4:30 p.m. Members of the Parish SUNDAY – December 17th 10:00 a.m. Peggy Cordray

# EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION December 16th & 17th

4:30 p.m. Cup: Catherine Meisenhelder, Sarah Meisenhelder, Heather Shultz
Host: Diane Hamberg
10:00 a.m. Cup: Carol Little, Dan Little, Doug Powrie, Linda Powrie
Host: Brooke Holbrook, Nathan Holbrook, Logan Holbrook

### LECTORS December 16th & 17th

**4:30 p.m.** Jennie Cox **10:00 a.m.** Debbie Rolf

### SERVERS SCHEDULE December 12th-17th

8:00 a.m. – Tuesday Keegan Collopy, Colin Desmond 5:30 p.m. – Wednesday Ellery Browning, Ben Fassler 8:00 a.m. – Thursday Ava Hamberg, Owen Marx 8:30 a.m. – Friday Rachel Burkart, Cora Hill, Alison Wagner 8:00 a.m. – Saturday Joseph Hicks, Silas West 4:30 p.m. – Saturday Josie Messmer, Michael Zechella, Sub Needed 10:00 a.m. – Sunday Greta Hansbauer, Otto Hansbauer, Selma Hansbauer

# GREETERS SCHEDULE December 16th & 17th

**4:30 p.m.** Barb Venable **10:00 a.m.** Chris & Kristen Gerrein & Family, Martie Iker

# SUNDAY COLLECTION RECAP

	<u>11/26/2023</u>		<u>11/</u>	<u>11/27/2022</u>	
Weekly Offering	\$	9,261	\$	9,135	
Fiscal YTD Offerings	\$	305,716			
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$	512,969			
Fiscal Annual Budget 2023/24	\$	1,260,000			
Number of registered families		371			
Tuition Assistance awarded for 2023	/24	4 \$0			
Tuition Assistance donations FYD		\$277			
2023 DPAA <u>Goal</u>		<b>Pledged</b>		<u>Over!</u>	
(as of 9/30/23) \$79,100		\$90,645		\$11,545	

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### **THIS WEEK**

TODAY Meet the Author Event, 11:30 a.m., LIB Jesse Tree Gifts Due

### MONDAY

American Heritage Girls, 6:30 p.m., McCrystal Hall

### TUESDAY

Mass, 8:00 a.m. Exposition, 8:30 a.m. Kenosis, 3:30 p.m., PCMR Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Benediction, 6:45 p.m. Rosary, 7:00 p.m. Parish Council, 7:00 p.m., PCMR

> WEDNESDAY Mass, 5:30 p.m.

# THURSDAY

Mass, 8:00 a.m. Directory Pictures, 3:00 p.m., McCrystal Hall Children's Choir Rehearsal, 3:45 p.m., Church Choir, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY Mass, 8:30 a.m. Directory Pictures, 2:00 p.m., McCrystal Hall

SATURDAY Mass, 8:00 a.m. Confessions Immediately following Mass Directory Pictures, 9:00 a.m., McCrystal Hall Mass, 4:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY Mass, 10:00 a.m. Ministry Group Pictures, 11:30 a.m., Church

# Please Pray For Our Sick

Bev Stegman, Barb Venable, Mary Kay Glaser, Tom & Mary Ann Ferring, Sherry Milleck, Peter Defoe, Kay Grothaus, Mary Vieth, Ann Basham, Bob Rulli, Cris Bear, Mary Kohrs, Larry Beiting, Mary Hoffman, Bette Riedmatter & David Garner. Also, remember all of our parishioners in nursing homes as well as those confined to their homes in your prayers.

# Please Pray for the Following Soldiers Serving Our Country

William Pikar, Luke Norman, Jay Blinn, Michael Beiting, Joe Fitzgerald, Brian Clayton, Adam Beiting, Michael Dunn, Trent Moeves, James Taft III, Drew Cecil, Zack Hehman, Adam Kramer, Wolfgang Davis, Clint & Sarah Brandt, Mark Marten, Zachary Dunn and Fr. Bill Appel.

# **IN OUR PARISH**

# PARISH JESSE TREE PROJECT

If you purchased a gift(s) for the Jesse Tree, please be sure to return them by today, **Sunday, December 10th**. Please note that gifts should NOT be wrapped. Thank you to all who have participated in this program. Your generosity is much needed and appreciated.

# STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our campaign is ending, so if you haven't already done so, please prayerfully consider what you are able to give financially to the parish. Complete a pledge card and return it to the Parish Office, or go to our website and enter your pledge there. Please be sure to submit your pledge in one of these ways, even if you are giving your pledge online via WeShare. Thank you for your participation in this campaign.

### UPCOMING HOLY DAYS/HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24th – 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day, December 25th – 10:00 a.m. Solemnity of Mary, Vigil Mass, December 31st – 4:30 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, January 1st – 10:00 a.m.

# LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SPREAD JOY THIS CHRISTMAS?

You can sign up to be a greeter at one of our Christmas Masses! It's the perfect opportunity to wish many of your fellow parishioners, as well as a good number of visitors, a Merry Christmas. If you are interested in being a Christmas greeter or if you would like to be a greeter at the weekly Sunday Masses, please contact the Parish Office.

# **PRO-LIFE THOUGHT**

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn how at <u>respectlife.org/support-her</u>.

- USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

# CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR FR. STEF AND OUR DEACONS

We will once again be collecting for a group donation for Fr. Stef as well as Deacon Barry Henry and Deacon Brian Cox. Cash donations or checks are both fine, but all checks must be made out to the individual, not St. Catherine. Please put cash/check in an envelope marked "Christmas gift" and be sure to include your family name as well as for whom the gift is intended. Donations can be turned into the Parish Office (can also be put through the mail slot) December 27th. If you have any questions, contact the Parish Office at 441-1352.

# NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

If you haven't done so already, please be sure to sign up to have your picture taken for our new parish directory. Pictures will be taken December 14, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30 and January 4. We are hoping these dates will allow any college students to be included in the family photos. To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www. ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter "ky415" in the Church Code field and enter "photos" in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have six or more in your family please use two consecutive time slots. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. We are in need of people to help with this project in several ways, so please contact the Parish Office if you are willing to help.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS

We are in need of people to help sign in families as they arrive to have their picture taken for the new directory. We are going to need two people per two-hour shift on all of the days pictures will be taken. (See above paragraph for dates.) If you would be willing to help with this, please sign up using the link that was in the parish email, or contact the Parish Office at 441-1352.

# PREPARE THE WAY

Reflection on Mark 1:1-8

The scholar, Huston Smith, observes that at every time in human history, and in every place, people have found themselves faced with three inescapable questions: How to win food and shelter, which is the problem that the physical world poses; How to get along with one another, which is the social problem; and, How to relate themselves to the total scheme of things, which is the religious problem. (see Why Religion Matters: The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief).

Whether we look far or near, we will see hunger and homelessness, division and acrimony, confusion and clashing religious views. To place these questions in the context of our Catholic sensibility, Christ is still present in the needs of the least among us, Christ's body is still divided, and Christ still hangs on the cross. Such is our present landscape, the wilderness in which we live together.

"Preparing the way of the Lord" in this wilderness involves not only our own personal repentance and conversion, but also, as Isaiah suggests, some major road construction: creating a highway through the desert, filling in valleys and leveling mountains, smoothing rugged land and rough country. In other words, mindfully and intentionally "bringing comfort to God's people" through our efforts at caring for the most vulnerable, bringing understanding and reconciliation to relationships broken and in discord, and heroically evangelizing to prepare the world for the Prince of Peace. ~ Fr. Jav





# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### Sunday, December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

### Monday, December 11, 2023

Weekday Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 Lk 5:17-26

#### Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Judith 13:18bcde, 19 Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

### Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 Mt 11:28-30

### Thursday, December 14, 2023

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab Mt 11:11-15

# Friday, December 15, 2023

Weekday Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Mt 11:16-19

### Saturday, December 16, 2023

Weekday Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

> Access Daily Readings from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) online at https://bible.usccb.org

# SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS

Feast Day: December 14 Patron Saint of: Mystics

John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross." The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery – through death to life – strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest. Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely – to experience the dying of Jesus – as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God. Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment, John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John's spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the Spiritual Canticle.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his Ascent to Mt. Carmel, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. Uniquely and strongly, John underlines the Gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly "of the Cross." He died at 49 – a life short, but full.

In his life and writings, John of the Cross has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, comfortable. We shrink even from words like self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline. We run from the cross. John's message – like the Gospel – is loud and clear: Don't – if you really want to live!

Read the full article: "Saint John of the Cross" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-of-the-cross/. (Accessed November 28, 2023).

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# **MINISTRY GROUP PHOTOS**

Next Sunday, December 17th at 11:30 a.m., we will be taking photos in church of the following groups for the new directory: EMHC, lectors, servers, choir, greeters, ushers, sacristans, rosary group, bereavement committee and Divine Mercy messengers. If you participate in one or more of these ministries, please let the Parish Office know whether or not you will be able to be there.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS! JANUARY 27th WE ARE GOING TO MEXICO!

Our winter fundraiser will be held on January 27th at the Ft. Thomas Mess Hall. Our destination theme is Mexico. As usual, we will have plenty of food, drinks and music to celebrate. We will also be raffling off chances for an all-inclusive trip to Cancun, Mexico!! More details will be forthcoming. If you would like to join the committee planning the event, please reach out to Wade and Tina Smith at garrett\_wade\_smith@hotmail.com or call/text 859-816-2145.

# PARISH WEEKLY RAFFLE WINNER

The winner for the week of December 4th was Bill Sodini. Congratulations!

# **END OF YEAR GIVING**

If you are over age 70-1/2 and required to take a distribution from your IRA, you can circumvent the tax law change and still, in effect, deduct your charitable gifts to St. Catherine by giving to St. Catherine directly from your IRA. This gift would count as a part of your required distribution, yet would not count as income to you, so effectively giving you a deduction you might not otherwise get. If this sounds like an option for you, consult your tax advisor for a detailed explanation.

# Sponsor of the Week

FT. THOMAS FLORIST Flowers For All Occasions 441-8049

# **ST. BERNARD PANTRY**

The pantry is always in need of any nonperishable food items, (peanut butter, cereal, pasta and sauce, canned soup, beans, etc.) paper products and hygiene items for their clients. Additionally, they need clean, plastic bags for food distribution purposes to their clients. All donations are gratefully accepted and can be dropped off in the box at the Rossford entrance or Parish Office. Please be mindful of the Expiration Date or the Best Used by Date when considering your donation. If each family donated just one food item per month, what a difference we could make!

# IN OUR DIOCESE

# **ADVENT HARP CONCERT**

St. Augustine Parish, Covington, invites the faithful to join them for a Sacred Music Concert featuring music for the Season of Advent. Featuring Diane Schneider on the Harp on Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. – 1839 Euclid Avenue, Covington.

# BAMBINELLI AND CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING

Bishop John Iffert invites Diocesan families and friends to attend the second Annual Bambinelli and Christmas Tree Blessing on Sunday, December 17th from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Park and the Diocesan Curia (Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium). Come see the blessing and lighting of the Diocesan Christmas tree, listen to live parish and school choirs, enjoy homemade cookies and hot cocoa, and hear the story of Bambinelli Sunday. Bring the Baby Jesus figure from your home Nativity to receive a special blessing from Bishop Iffert and be part of a Catholic Advent tradition! No RSVP required. All are welcome!

# **KENTUCKY MARCH FOR LIFE**

Save the Date – Join other Pro-Life Kentuckians on Tuesday, January 23rd for the 2024 Kentucky March for Life & "Love Them Both" Rally. The program will begin with Mass at Good Shepard Parish in Frankfort, followed by a rally at the State Capital. The event will end with a procession to the Cemetery of the Innocents in the historical Frankfort Cemetery. The Pro-Life office will be organizing buses that will leave from Northern Kentucky. If you are interested in traveling with other parishioners from the Diocese, please contact the Pro-Life Office for more information at 859-392-1500.

