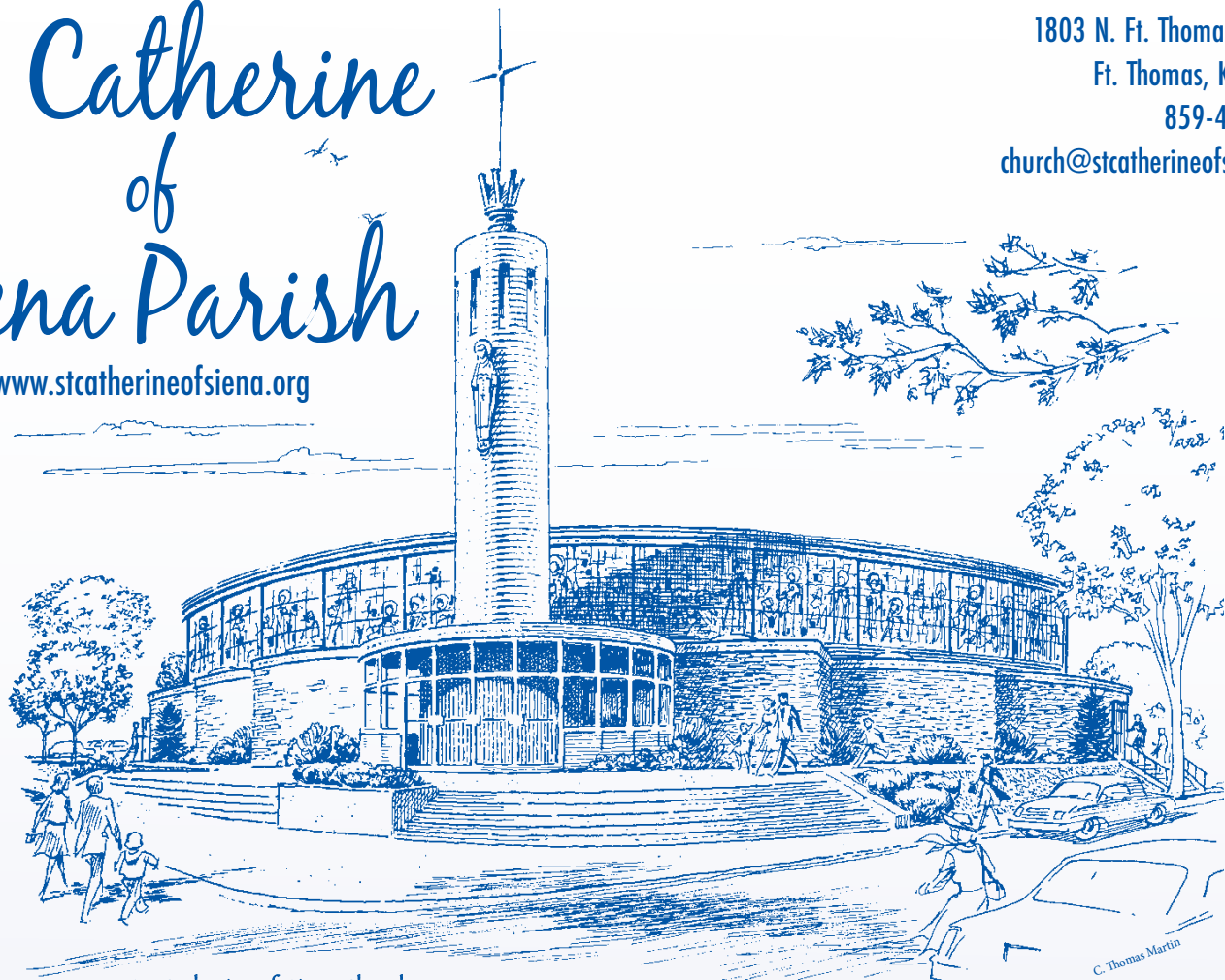


St. Catherine of Siena Parish

www.stcatherineofsiena.org

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church@stcatherineofsiena.org



St. Catherine of Siena Church • FORT THOMAS, KENTUCKY

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 5th
8:00 a.m. Barbara Chamberlin
WEDNESDAY – December 6th
5:30 p.m. Liz Hamberg
THURSDAY – December 7th
8:00 a.m. Our Diocese
FRIDAY – December 8th
8:00 a.m. Jim & Joyce Rolf
7:00 p.m. Betty Gerrein
SATURDAY – December 9th
8:00 a.m. Don Hamberg
4:30 p.m. Al Melching
SUNDAY – December 10th
10:00 a.m. Members of the Parish

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
 OF HOLY COMMUNION
 December 8th, 9th & 10th**

8:00 a.m. Cup: Karen Little, Louise Roth, Betsy Stegner
Host: Peggy Birkenhauer
7:00 p.m. Cup: Brian Dinkelacker, Caroline Kaelin, Tom Kaelin
Host: Diane Hamberg
4:30 p.m. Cup: Kelly Hergott, Catherine Meisenhelder,
 Heather Shultz
Host: Jolien Garlich
10:00 a.m. Cup: Nathan Holbrook, Brooke Holbrook, Jen Kirst,
 David Sower
Host: Martie Iker, Elise Rulli, Dana Ruwe

**LECTORS
 December 8th, 9th & 10th**

7:00 p.m. Sarah Meisenhelder
4:30 p.m. Joe Fischer
10:00 a.m. Mike Ruwe

**SERVERS SCHEDULE
 December 5th-10th**

8:00 a.m. – Tuesday
 Tommy Burkart, Selma Hansbauer
5:30 p.m. – Wednesday
 Connor Stacey, Ryan Stacey
8:00 a.m. – Thursday
 Grant Desmond, Reese Desmond
8:00 a.m. – Friday
 Adelise Bozeman, Carden Bozeman, Michael Hicks, Joseph Hicks
7:00 p.m. – Friday
 Matilda Faust, Alex Muench, Molly Muench, Wren Twehues
8:00 a.m. – Saturday
 George Josten, T.J. McSorley
4:30 p.m. – Saturday
 Tim Garlich, Morgan Kremer, Maggie West
10:00 a.m. – Sunday
 Natalie Kirst, Emily Kirst, Nathan Kirst

**GREETERS SCHEDULE
 December 9th & 10th**

4:30 p.m. Dee Macke
10:00 a.m. Bob & Elise Rulli, Rick Schmidt

SUNDAY COLLECTION RECAP

	<u>11/12/2023</u>	<u>11/13/2022</u>
Weekly Offering	\$ 10,695	\$ 31,134
Fiscal YTD Offerings	\$ 276,886	
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$ 464,780	
Fiscal Annual Budget 2023/24	\$ 1,260,000	
	<u>11/19/2023</u>	<u>11/20/2022</u>
Weekly Offering	\$ 19,569	\$ 16,414
Fiscal YTD Offerings	\$ 296,455	
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$ 464,780	
Fiscal Annual Budget 2023/24	\$ 1,260,000	
Number of registered families	371	
Tuition Assistance awarded for 2023/24	\$0	
Tuition Assistance donations FYD	\$ 277	
School Registration for 2023-24	116	

2023 DPAA	Goal	Pledged	Over!
(as of 9/31/23)	\$79,100	\$90,645	\$11,545

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

THIS WEEK

TODAY
 First Sunday of Advent
 Potluck/Advent Program, following 10:00 a.m. Mass

MONDAY

TUESDAY
 Mass, 8:00 a.m. – Exposition, 8:30 a.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Benediction, 6:45 p.m. – Rosary, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
 Mass, 5:30 p.m.
 Loreto, 6:30 p.m., McCrystal Hall

THURSDAY
 Mass, 8:00 a.m.
 Children's Choir Rehearsal, 3:45 p.m., Church
 Choir, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 Mass, 8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
 Parish Office Closed – No School

SATURDAY
 Mass, 8:00 a.m.
 Confessions Immediately following Mass
 Mass, 4:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY
 Mass, 10:00 a.m.
 Meet the Author Event, 11:30 a.m., LIB

Please Pray For Our Sick

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 in your prayers all of our parishioners in nursing homes as well as those confined to their homes.

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

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses that day will be at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – Our Annual Stewardship Campaign, “Stepping Out In Faith,” is underway. Every parish family should have received something in the mail explaining our parish goals/needs for this year, along with a pledge card. We ask that you prayerfully consider what you are able to give financially and then please complete a pledge card and return it to the parish office ASAP. Please complete a pledge card, even if you are giving your pledge online via WeShare. The brochure also will list ways in which you can help build and support our parish by sharing your time and talent. Thank you in advance for your participation in this Campaign.

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.

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 also will 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 (email garrett_wade_smith@hotmail.com or call/text 859-816-2145).

PARISH JESSE TREE PROJECT

We are again offering a virtual option for our Jesse Tree this year. You can purchase ANY of the material items listed below and drop them off in the back of church without needing to take a tag. Thank you in advance for your participation and generosity. All gifts must be received by Sunday, December 10th and should NOT be wrapped.

Material Needs:

- Toys for Boys & Girls of All Ages
- Diapers Sizes 1-7
- Baby wipes
- Baby wash and lotion
- Paper towels
- Laundry detergent
- Kroger/Walmart Gift Cards
- \$20 Gas gift cards

PRO LIFE THOUGHT “The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end – precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

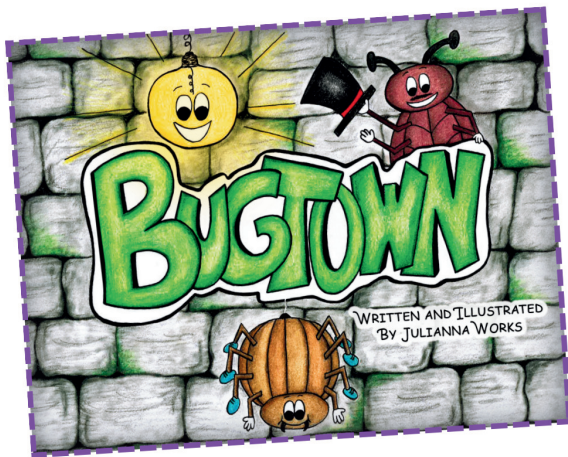
– USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities,
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

PARISH WEEKLY RAFFLE WINNERS

The winner for the week of November 20th was Karen Massaron. The winner for the week of November 27th was Carol Kessling. Congratulations!

Meet the Author

Julianna Works



SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH

11:30AM-1PM

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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 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 CONCERT – The Angelico Project and The Catholic Leadership Institute present an Advent Concert, featuring Sarah Kroger. Sarah is an internationally renowned Catholic singer and songwriter, passionate about sharing the message that, even in the midst of chaos, confusion, pain, suffering, and sin, we can always find hope in Jesus! This concert is free and open to the public! Join us at either performance! Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Mother of God in Covington and Thursday, December 7th at 7:30 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Cincinnati. Reserve your seats today at www.AngelicoProject.org.

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. to 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 and “Love Them Both” Rally. The program will begin with Mass at Good Shepherd Parish in Frankfort, followed by a rally at the State Capitol. The event will end with a procession to the Cemetery of the Innocents in the historic 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.

PARISH KITCHEN NEEDS YOUR HELP! Parish Kitchen is in need of new sleeping bags and new blankets for their guests. Many of our brothers and sisters spend these long winter nights in unheated spaces or even sleep outdoors. Your gift of new sleeping bags and blankets will not only warm their hearts and souls but may even save their lives. Thanks for your warm support for those in need! Donations can be dropped off at Parish Kitchen, 1561 Madison Avenue (Corner of 16th & Madison), Covington, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday. Any questions contact Parish Kitchen at 859-581-7745.

SAINT AMBROSE

Feast Day: December 7

Patron Saint of: Beekeepers

One of Ambrose's biographers observed that at the Last Judgment, people would still be divided between those who admired Ambrose and those who heartily disliked him. He emerges as the man of action who cut a furrow through the lives of his contemporaries. Even royal personages were numbered among those who were to suffer crushing divine punishments for standing in Ambrose's way.

In his disputes with the Emperor Auentius, he coined the principle: “The emperor is in the Church, not above the Church.” He publicly admonished Emperor Theodosius for the massacre of 7,000 innocent people. The emperor did public penance for his crime. This was Ambrose, the fighter sent to Milan as Roman governor, and chosen while yet a catechumen to be the people's bishop.

There is yet another side of Ambrose—one which influenced Augustine of Hippo, whom Ambrose converted. Augustine found the oratory of Ambrose less soothing and entertaining but far more learned than that of other contemporaries. Ambrose's sermons were often modeled on Cicero, and his ideas betrayed the influence of contemporary thinkers and philosophers.

His sermons, his writings, and his personal life reveal him as an otherworldly man involved in the great issues of his day. Humanity for Ambrose was, above all, spirit. In order to think rightly of God and the human soul, the closest thing to God, no material reality at all was to be dwelt upon.

Ambrose exemplifies for us the truly catholic character of Christianity. He is a man steeped in the learning, law, and culture of the ancients and of his contemporaries. Yet, in the midst of active involvement in this world, this thought runs through Ambrose's life and preaching: The hidden meaning of the Scriptures calls our spirit to rise to another world.

Read the full article: “Saint Ambrose” Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-ambrose/>. (Accessed November 21, 2023).

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