



Saint Catherine of Siena Parish of Bay City

2956 EAST NORTH UNION ROAD | BAY CITY, MICHIGAN 48706

WELCOME

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Closed for lunch from

12:00 - 1:00 PM

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

5:00 PM

Sunday

8:30 AM | 11:00 AM

Tuesday

6:30 PM

Wednesday

12:00 PM

RECONCILIATION

Saturday

4:15 PM and by appointment.

PARISH STAFF

Sister Christine A. Gretka

Director of Parish Life

Rev. James Wm. Bessert

Sacramental Minister

Kim Germain

Parish Secretary/Receptionist

Lori Marsh

Director of Faith Formation

James Rabideau

Music Minister

Joseph Stanolis

Coordinator of Pastoral and
Liturgical Ministries

Debbie Knox

Parish Bookkeeper

Judy Kram

Faith Formation Secretary

Dan Velasquez

& Chance Stodolak

Maintenance

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish of Bay City is a welcoming and empowering community built on faith and centered around the celebration of the Eucharist, hearing and responding to the voices around us, providing for all spiritual and material needs as graciously as we can. We pray that our patron, Saint Catherine of Siena, will intercede for and assist us in fulfilling our mission.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IS IN YOUR MIDST,
A MIGHTY SAVIOR;
HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH GLADNESS,
AND RENEW YOU IN HIS LOVE.

—ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD. ©LPI



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office@scsparish.com



(989) 684-1203



@stcatherineofsienaparishbaycity

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

TUESDAY, DEC. 14—6:30 PM

Sacristan

Sr. C. Gretka

Lector

J. Piggott

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15—12:00 PM

Sacristan

J. Stanolis

Lector

Sr. C. Gretka

EM of Holy Communion

K. Asch

Cross Bearer

D. Velasquez

SATURDAY, DEC. 18—5:00 PM

Sacristan

Sr. C. Gretka

Lector 1 Lector 2

S. LaBo T. Sullivan

EM of Holy Communion

J. & D. Stanolis

Ministers of Hospitality

M. & D. Knox, C. Peters

Cross Bearer

D. Knox

Candle Bearers

Needed

SUNDAY, DEC. 19—8:30 AM

Sacristan

Sr. C. Gretka

Lector 1 Lector 2

B. Yahn J. Penkala

EM of Holy Communion

H. Gill, B. MacMillan

Ministers of Hospitality

T. Buchalski, B. & D. Callaghan

Cross Bearer

B. Collier

Candle Bearers

R. & S. Collier

SUNDAY, DEC. 19—11:00 AM

Sacristan

M.A. Cole

Lector 1 Lector 2

A. Herm N. Rivet

EM of Holy Communion

G. McCann, D. Rivet

Ministers of Hospitality

D. & S. Hamel, L. Mena

Cross Bearer

R. Grzergorczyk

Candle Bearers

L. & E. Majdecki

WEEKLY PARISH SCHEDULE & SCRIPTURE READINGS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12—3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

8:30 AM † Mass—For the intention of our Parish Homebound
9:30 AM CGS / Faith Formation
11:00 AM † Mass—For the intention of Leo and Lynn Thiel
12:00 PM Youth Ministry

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

10:00 AM ASAP Knitting Ministry
10:30 AM SVDP Society Meeting
4:30 PM Faith Formation Commission Meeting
6:30 PM † Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

12:00 PM † Mass—For the intention of Albin Reder
3:30 PM Worship Commission Meeting
6:30 PM Altar Society Meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30

6:30 PM Choir Practice

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

7:00 PM—11:30 PM Christian Coffee House

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18—VIGIL: 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

5:00 PM † Mass—For the intention of Ken Moore

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19—4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Giving Tree Ends

8:30 AM † Mass—For the intention of Dorothy Tithof and Sharon Rau
9:30 AM CGS / Faith Formation
11:00 AM † Mass—For the intention of the Saint Catherine of Siena Parish Family
12:00 PM Youth Ministry

STEWARDSHIP

DECEMBER 5, 2021

\$15,115.00

FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE

\$258,200.10

BUDGETED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$255,415.00

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you for your generosity!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for our homebound and sick, including Larry R. Duchane, Sally Duchane, Betty Gladden, Rita Korinek, Becky Kruzell, William Korinek, Helen Loughner, Charlene Miller, Terry Stevens and Laurie Watts.

Email: office@scsparish.com or call: **684-1203**

Prayer Line: **call or text Janet Dine 493-4546**

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office if you would like to be strengthened by this sacrament.



As of December 3rd we have received
55% of our pledges for a total of \$53,870.80.
Thank you!

Please help us reach our goal of \$97,421.00

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. It is also called *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for "rejoice." The theme of joy is quite evident in the scripture reading from Zephaniah and the passage from Saint Paul to the Philippians, prescribed for today's Eucharist. **It is always on this Sunday of Advent that the pink candle is lit on the Advent wreath because it signifies joy.**

The Presider has the option of wearing rose-colored vestments. And, on the Third Sunday of Advent, flowers are permitted to be placed in the sanctuary. **Today's Gospel passage from Saint Luke highlights John the Baptist and his teachings.**

We may forget that he had disciples. In last week's Gospel, John was proclaiming a baptism for the repentance of sins as he called upon the people to "*prepare the way of the Lord.*"

In today's Gospel passage, we actually learn some of the teachings of John, some of the ways he tells them how they must enter into conversion.

He says that whoever has two cloaks or whoever has food should share with those who have none. He tells tax collectors: "*Stop collecting more than is prescribed.*" As for soldiers, they are neither to practice distortion nor falsely accuse anyone, and they are to be satisfied with their wages. **Then John tells all of them, who are filled with expectation at the coming of the Messiah, that "One mightier than I is coming," and "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."**

That certainly is a cause for rejoicing. We know that Jesus has come into our world, and it has made a difference in the lives of innumerable people throughout the centuries. **As Christians, we have many reasons to rejoice in the Lord.** As we rejoice today, let us also consider how we can best prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord this Christmas. Let us reflect upon this question: What is Jesus asking of me this Advent Season as the celebration of his nativity draws near?

This Sunday, we are having the Blessing of the *Bambinelli*, the figure of the baby Jesus placed in our Nativity sets. Each year on the Third Sunday of Advent, the pope celebrates this Italian Custom. The prayer that will be used was written by Pope Benedict XVI.

Last week, the question I posed was: If you had to name a patron saint or saints for Advent, who would they be? Why? Here is my short answer: John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth. Next week I will share my reasons for choosing them.

Blessings on your Advent Season!
Sister Chris Gretka, CSJ

PARISH & MINISTRY NOTES

GIVING TREE

Our parish Giving Tree will be located in the gathering space of church until December 19th. Please select a tag from the tree and purchase a gift for the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission or the Bay County Foster Closet. Return your item, unwrapped with the tag attached, by noon on December 20. Gifts may be placed under the tree or brought to the parish office during the week.

ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

December 15th at 6:30PM there will be a short meeting in the Parish Center followed by the showing of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!* Please remember to bring your \$3-5 Kris Kringle exchange gift. Refreshments will be served. Our December Community Service Collection is for feminine hygiene items to be given to the Women's Shelter. If you have not yet come to a meeting, please consider joining us for a bit of holiday cheer! **It is highly recommended by the CDC, because of the high rise in Covid cases and the upcoming flu season, that masks be worn in indoor public spaces.** If you have questions or wish more information, please call Ilene Dowling: 989-684-7863 or Flo Willard: 989-686-5532.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

When Delta College is closed due to inclement weather the Saint Catherine of Siena Parish Office will be closed. Mass and all other events will also be cancelled. When the Bay City Schools and/or Bangor Schools are closed, please check TV5 and 25NBC for possible parish meeting cancellations.

2021 CONTRIBUTIONS

Year end contributions must be received in the parish office by December 30th or placed in the stewardship basket at one of the weekend Masses, December 25th -26th. Thank you!

DIOCESAN NEWS

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

A special basket is located near the baptismal font for the Religious Retirement Fund. Your gift helps to provide funds for medications, nursing care, and more. Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests by giving generously to this special collection. A flier is located in the gathering space with more information.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

A preparation class for parents is required prior to Baptism. Please call Joe Stanolis or Sister Chris Gretka in the parish office for more information.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish office at least six months prior to wedding date to begin preparation.

TO BECOME CATHOLIC

To inquire into the Catholic faith, please contact Sister Chris Gretka in the parish office.



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