



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church 820 Hickory Street Sebring, FL 33870

Parish Office/Mailing

882 Bay St., Sebring, FL 33870

Tel: (863)385-0049 **Fax:** (863)385-5169

Tel: (863)385-6762 (Spanish)

Web: www.stcath.org

www.facebook.com/stcath

E-mail: office@stcath.org

Monday—Friday 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

CLERGY

Pastor

Very Reverend José González, V.F.

frjose@stcath.org

Parochial Vicar

Reverend Pawel Kawalec (863)385-3993

Deacons

Reverend Mr. Max M. Sévère

Reverend Mr. James R. McGarry (Ret.)

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend

Saturday: 4:00 PM

& 6:00 PM (Spanish)

Sunday—8:00, 10:00 AM

& 12:00 Noon (Spanish)

DAILY MASS

Monday—Friday 8:00 AM

Saturday: 9:00 AM

Mass Celebrations

Available in our YouTube channels

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00—3:45 PM (in the Chapel)

ST CATHERINE SCHOOL

Principal: Dr. Christine Higgins

2835 Kenilworth Blvd.

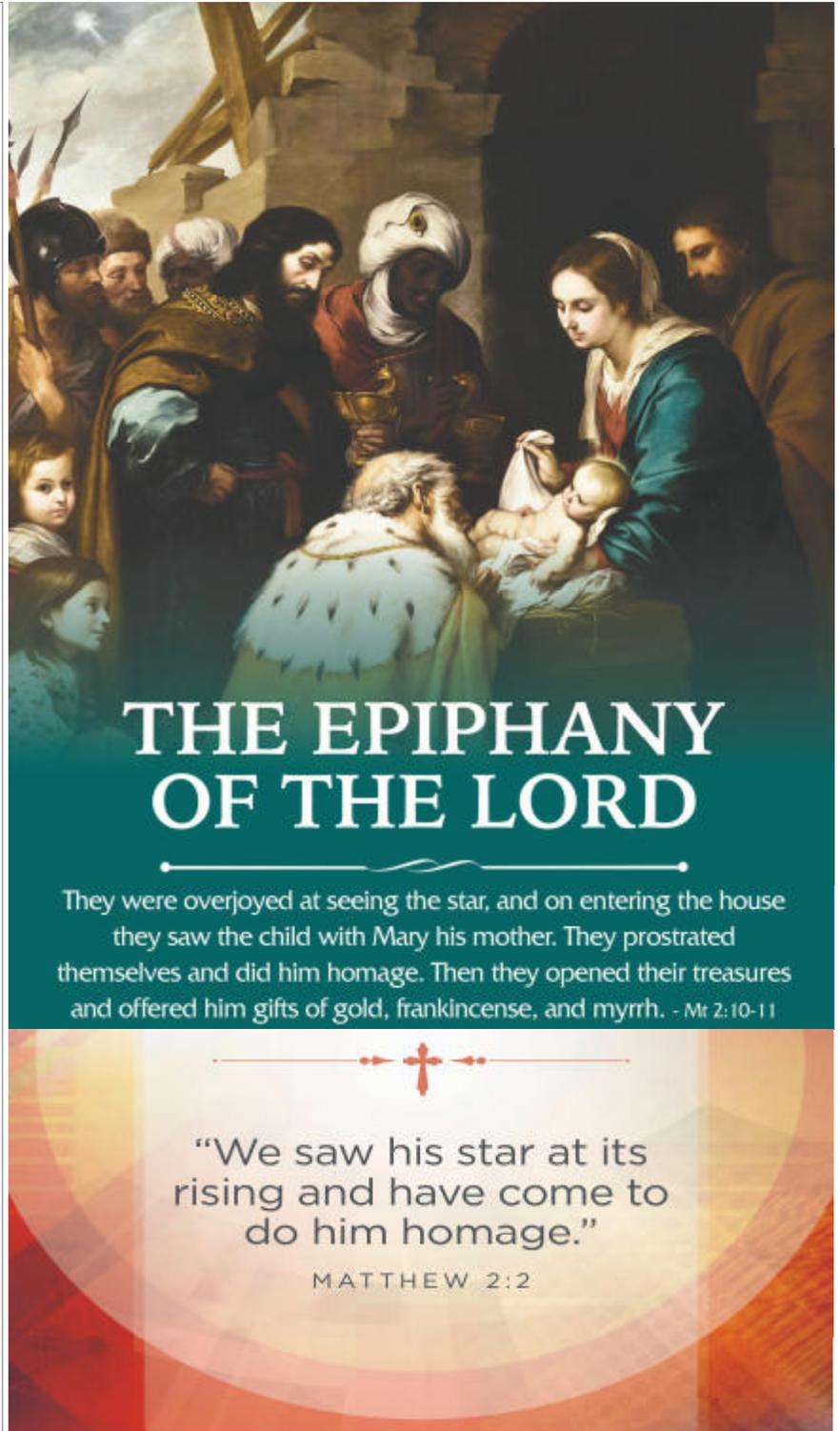
Pre-School 747 S. Franklin St.

Sebring, FL 33870

Tel: (863)385-7300 **Fax:** (863)385-7310

Office Hours: 8:00 AM —3:00 PM

Web: www.stcathschool.org



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

— ✕ —
“We saw his star at its
rising and have come to
do him homage.”

MATTHEW 2:2

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

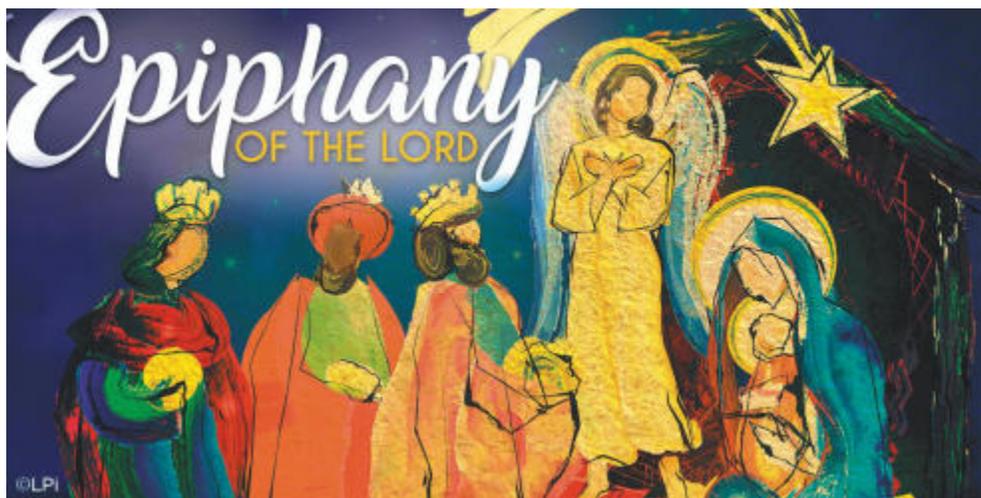
The “Great Conjunction” also called the “Christmas Star” was on December 21, 2020 and still visible in many parts of the world for some days afterward. On this day, Jupiter and Saturn came closest together than they have in 400 years. It is predicted that it will not occur again until March 15, 2080. Some have speculated that this could have been the heavenly phenomenon which led the magi to the Christ child. Whether it was or not is less important. The “great conjunction” of more importance is the coming together of the magi’s search and the Christ child’s glory. When that “great conjunction” happened, it was time to celebrate! And celebrate the magi did, kneeling and offering their gifts.

2020 has been darker than a hundred midnights for so many. Many have found themselves searching for answers, cures, comfort, peace, and reassurance. Others have been searching for purpose, work, security, and justice. Their journeys may be long. The nights may be cold. We tend to rush to December 25th. We put all our energy into Christmas Day and abandon the twelve days of the Christmas Season. The wise men journeyed and searched; they got there to Jesus and his parents a good time after his birth; but, despite the length of time and the delay, they got there, and they encountered the light of Christ and God’s great glory.

Did you find in 2020 that for which you were searching? Do not give up! Search, seek, follow God’s call even in 2021. Epiphany comes on January 6th liturgically. It reminds us that God’s revelation does come. It may not come when we want it or how we want it or through whom we expect it. Yet God is faithful to answer and reveal. The revelation of Christ meets and answers our search and longing. This is the greatest conjunction! This is reason to be overwhelmed with joy!

Lord of All Nations, We longed to see your face, to hear your voice, to perceive your presence. We kept the faith, and reached out in prayer; but, too often, we failed to find you. And then, one day in time, you placed yourself within reach in the person of a child as vulnerable as any of us. King and peasant beheld you--man and woman, slave and free, Jew and Gentile, for you had come for all.

“Epiphany,” we called it. A living manifestation of the God we call upon. We have since known other epiphanies. We have met you in the faces of our brothers, the grace of our sisters, the hand that reaches out, the heart that weeps for the other, in the strength of one who protects, in the gentleness of one who forgives. We have seen your face. We have heard your voice. We have perceived your presence. As broken as we are, as scared and hollowed and sinful, may others see something of you in us. May they hear your voice. May you be revealed to all nations, all peoples on earth, and may epiphanies abound. Be born in us, O Lord. AMEN



Dear:

Pornography is one of the leading causes of addictions, abuse, adultery, divorce, and even human trafficking: it is, in short, a pervasive evil inflicting grave wounds on our families. Pornography creates unsafe environments for children and confuses proper formative attitudes towards sex and marriage. It is clearly a moral issue that needs to be addressed. Together we can address this issue by teaching those who have been entrusted to our care about pornography's effects and to share resources with them.

March 7, 2021 has been designated as **Safe Haven Sunday** in the Diocese of Venice. This awareness day provides an opportunity to address the harmfulness of pornography in marriages, families, and culture, while providing helpful resources to both individuals and families. For a 2-minute informational video explaining the purpose of **Safe Haven Sunday**: <https://vimeo.com/257563006/6ebaea7d44>.

In preparation Ryan Foley from Covenant Eyes will visit the Diocese to speak and answer questions. Ryan joined Covenant Eyes in 2012 and is now applying his passion for security in support of families, working to protect them from Internet pornography

Please plan to attend the following presentation being offered. Due to space limitations, RSVP is required. Participants may contact Carrie Harkey in the Family Life Office at 941-484-9543, ext. 3019 harkey@dioceseofvenice.org.

Monday January 11th — 3:00 PM – St. Catherine, Sebring

Thank you for your assistance in this initiative. The marriages and families in the Diocese of Venice will be blessed through this effort.

Sincerely in Christ,
Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of Venice

SAVE THE DATE

Event: Women's Emmaus Retreat

Hosted by Epiphany Cathedral Parish

Date: February 26-28, 2021

Location: Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Retreat Center Venice, Florida

**More information will be published
closer to the retreat.**

For questions or more information

contact Donna Vodraska

at [donnavodraska@aol.com](mailto:donavodraska@aol.com) (941)496-4464.

ST. CATHERINE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Dear St. Catherine Families and Friends,

The Faculty & Staff wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year! We know that the coming months will be challenging as we continue to deal with the effects of the pandemic on our families and employees. As we begin 2021, we have new hope that there are better days ahead. Our children have been such a blessing to us with their resilience and strength throughout this time.

School reopens on January 4, 2021. One additional area of focus this semester will be “STREAM”, which means Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. These topics are incorporated throughout the curriculum, across grade levels. Through our Title IV funding, St. Catherine’s has received a 3D printer that will allow students hands-on experiences with technology and engineering, but mostly, it will give them the opportunity to be creative! Our after-school STREAM club will also begin in January for students interested in these areas.

Amazon Smile

Also, remember to use Amazon Smile and select “St. Catherine Catholic School” when you are doing your holiday shopping on Amazon. This is a great way to support our students and teachers!

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support St. Catherine School every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to St. Catherine School.

Here's how to sign up for AmazonSmile

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose St. Catherine Catholic School, Sebring FL to receive donations.
4. Start shopping!
5. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. Thank you for your continued support of our school!

Please continue to pray for each other and for our school community.

God bless,
Dr. Higgins
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Classes Wednesday from 6:00 —7:30 PM and Sunday from 10:00—11:45 AM in the Parish Hall. For more information please call Rebecca Lazo. (863)991-3346 or rlazo@stcatheschool.org. The groups are reduced, maintaining social distance and wearing a mask.

YOUTH GROUP

Meetings will be on Wednesdays at 806 Hickory St. from 6:30—8:00 PM. For questions or more information please contact Doroteo Rodríguez at (305)726-1089 or rodriguez@stcatheschool.org.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the way adults come to learn about and experience the Christian life, specifically our Roman Catholic tradition, and become initiated into the life of our Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith, about becoming Catholic or in need of the Sacraments, please extend an invitation to them to come to the RCIA sessions.

These classes will be on Thursdays at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall and will continue every Thursday at same time until Easter. For more information, or to register for classes, please call Juana Nava at (863)385-0049.

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

This sacrament is available in the chapel, 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@stcath.org

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6, Ps 2:7bc-8, Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10, Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18, Ps 72:1-2, Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4, Ps 72:1-2, 14, Lk 4:14-22a
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13, Ps 147:12-13, Lk 5:12-16
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, Jn 3:22-30
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7, Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, Acts 10:34-38, Mk 1:7-11

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.stcath.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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY January 2nd

9:00 AM CARLOS NAZARIO † Cesar Nazario
 4:00 PM For all living and deceased Parishioners — Fr. José

SUNDAY January 3rd

8:00 AM ELIZABETH ANN PADEN BARINA † Richard Barina
 PATRICIA SICKINGER † Greg and Lynn Sickinger
 10:00 AM MARY BABIK † Bob Babik
 Mackie Boone (Health) — Gary & Rosaleen Marlow
 CHRIS PIERSON † Ann Roehm

MONDAY January 4th

8:00 AM DIANE MOGDIS † Denny & Sharon Bledsoe

TUESDAY January 5th

8:00 AM For the gift of life — Fr. José

WEDNESDAY January 6th

8:00 AM For peace in the world and freedom violence — Fr. José

THURSDAY January 7th

8:00 AM For those who care for sick — Fr. José

FRIDAY January 8th

8:00 AM JOSEPH MCLEAN † Patti McLean
 Mike & Ginny Hay (Health) — Gary & Rosaleen Marlow

SATURDAY January 9th

9:00 AM For Souls in Purgatory — Fr. José
 4:00 PM WILLIAM TUOHY † Dianne Tuohy

SUNDAY January 10th

8:00 AM For all living and deceased Parishioners — Fr. José
 10:00 AM MARY SEVIGNY † Judy Nugent

MASS INTENTIONS FORMS

Return Mass Intention forms at Parish Office or drop it in the weekend collection. The usual donation is \$10—\$20.00.

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.*

RED MEMORIAL CANDLES are in the back of the Church adjacent to the Chapel. A Memorial Candle is lit and remains lighted at all times for one year in memory of a person who has passed away. You may commemorate a loved one by lighting a candle for one year with a donation of \$150.



Please come to the Parish Office to make arrangements for a Memorial Candle which will be accompanied by a small plaque with the name of the person.

CARES Act

Around the world and here at St. Catherine, we are witnessing incredible acts of kindness, faith and generosity. People are helping one another, praying for each other and supporting those in need during these unprecedented times. We are so grateful that even during an economic crisis, individuals and families continue to support St. Catherine Parish and School.

As many people are aware of, the Federal Government recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). However, most people are not aware that the CARES Act provides some additional tax benefits to those who donate to churches and other charitable organizations in 2020.

One of the new tax benefits will make it possible to take an above-the-line deduction for qualified charitable contributions up to \$300 for the 90 percent of taxpayers who do not claim itemized deductions on their federal income tax returns.

The CARES Act also relaxes some of the limits on charitable contributions. There are not many people with the ability to donate most of their income to charities, but for those that do, they can now get an increased federal income tax deduction for qualified charitable contributions. The deduction limit has been increased from 60 percent of their Adjusted Gross Income to 100 percent for 2020. In addition, the limitation on corporate donors has been increased from 10 percent to 25 percent of taxable income. Corporations can also increase their food donations from 15 percent to 25 percent of taxable income.

These income tax changes were included by the Federal Government to help individuals and families continue their support during this pandemic for the charitable organizations about which they care most, including St. Catherine Church and School.

To learn more about the CARES Act or how to support St. Catherine Church and School, please contact Claudia Spradlin at (863)991-3271 or by email at claudia@stcathe.org. You can also visit our website at www.stcathe.org.

RED MEMORIAL CANDLES are in the back of the church adjacent to the Chapel. A Memorial Candle is lit and remains lighted at all times for one year in memory of a person who has passed away. You may commemorate a loved one by lighting a candle for one year with a donation of \$150.

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BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER**OFFERINGS****Second Collections**

This Week: Vocations/Seminary

Next Week: School Support

December 20th

Regular Collection: \$8,448.97

Second Collection: Charity Funds: \$1,807.00

Online Giving: \$1,546.00

December 27th

Will be reported in the next Bulletin

For Online Giving instructions visit

<https://www.osvhub.com/stcathe/funds>

CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2020

Our assessment for **2020** is **\$110,000.00**. We have received pledges of **\$108,036.42**. We are at **98.21%** of our goal! Please make checks payable to CFA and in the Memo write "St. Catherine". Thank you for your generous support to St. Catherine's and the CFA.

DO YOU HAVE A RETIREMENT ACCOUNT?

The owner of an IRA or 401k names a beneficiary. One way to avoid taxes on your inheritance altogether is to designate St. Catherine Parish as your beneficiary. When you name a charity as a beneficiary to receive your IRA or other retirement assets upon your death, neither you and your heirs nor your estate will pay income taxes on the distribution of the assets. Changing the beneficiary of a retirement account is a simple process and does not generally require a change to your will or trust.

Another way to avoid taxes if you are required to take a minimum distribution from your retirement plan would be to consider making a qualified charitable distribution, naming St. Catherine as the eligible charity.

Please contact Claudia Spradlin in the Parish Office at (863)385-0049 or claudia@stcathe.org and we can provide you with details and instructions.

Thank you for your support of St. Catherine Parish. Our parishioners are our only source of funds and your contributions keep the lights on, enable parish ministries, and support our outreach to the poor.

Florida Catholic

Florida Catholic has suspended print production. However, their ministry will continue as they are offering an e-edition free of charge. Visit the link below each Friday to view a new, free e-edition of the Florida Catholic. <https://venice.thefloridacatholic.org/>

ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

Pastor: Very Reverend José González, V.F
.....385-0049

Parochial Vicar: Reverend Paul Kawalec
.....385-3993

Arts and Environment: Gloria Fontanes.....385-0049

Altar Servers: Bekki Rose.....414-1523

Confirmation: Rebecca Lazo.....991-3346
rlazo@stcatheschool.org.

LifeTeen:.....385-0049

Edge:.....385-0049

Eucharistic Ministry: Janet Patterson....(260)452-6012

Lector Ministry.....Linda Sherman (317)582-1190

Liturgical Ministries: Diane Sochacki.....835-2523

Ministry to the Sick: Bob & Carol Ushka.....385-8301

Music Ministry: Rob Gillmore.....414-1843

RCIA: Juana Nava.....385-0049

navaj@stcathe.org

Religious Education K-5: Rebecca Lazo.....991-3346

rlazo@stcatheschool.org.

Respect Life: Marge Rafferty.....214-3312

mrafferty@stcathe.org

SVDP: Licet Collado.....(786)326-9768

Ushers: Mike Flood.....471-6381

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

For more information please contact our Grand Knight, Mr. Louis Hughes at (863)273-4442

PRAYER CHAIN

For questions or more information please call Claudia Spradlin at (863)991-3271.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The heart of the Vincentian Ministry is the visitation of the poor in their homes...whether an ordinary dwelling place, a hospital, a nursing home, a prison or even the street. Home Visits has been emphasized as the primary method of our works of charity since our Society was founded in 1833. St. Catherine's SVdP Ministries' include: Home Visitations, a Prison Ministry for Women, Friendship and Hospitality, Fund Raising and Membership, and Prayer and Spirituality. For more information please call at (863)835-0571 and leave a message or e-mail lcollado@stcathe.org. One of our volunteers will call back.

Safe Environment Training

As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice requires all employees and volunteers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and trained in Safe Environment. For more information, visit www.dioceseofvenice.org/safeenvironment.

Report any abuse against minors to the Florida Department of Children and Families at (800)962-2873. To report abuse by Diocesan personnel or volunteers also notify the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Susan Benton, at (941)416-6114.



Visit our YouTube channels for the Masses

English: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1fpujFBktT54tD9izamb1g>

Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCedY-_ApTbYDwTq6ieIcXJQ



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