



St. Catherine of Siena

Catholic Church and Student Center

First Sunday of Advent • November 27, 2022

Upon Reflection...

a semi-regular series from some of the world's finest spiritual writers

Standing Under Divine Love

Because our available understanding of love is almost always conditioned on "I love you if" or "I love you when," most people find it almost impossible—apart from real transformation—to comprehend or receive Divine Love. In fact, we cannot understand it in the least, unless we "stand under" it, like a cup beneath a waterfall. When we truly understand Divine Love, our politics, our anthropology, our economics, and our movements for justice will all change.

If we are to believe the biblical revelation, it seems that God does not love the people Israel if they change (as they first imagine), but so that they can change. Divine Love is not a reward for good behavior, as we first presume it to be; it is a larger Life, an energy and movement that we can participate in—and then, almost in spite of ourselves—we behave differently. The prophet Hosea tells the people of Israel poetically and succinctly, "I will love Unloved: I will say to No-People-of-Mine, 'You are my people,' and then you will answer back, 'You are my God'" (Hosea 2:24). For some reason, we think that if we love God, God will love us. When, in reality, it is because God loves us that we can return the compliment.

*Richard Rohr, Daily Meditations, November 17, 2022,
meditations@cac.org*

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA Catholic Parish and Student Center

1150 28th St., Des Moines, IA 50311
office@stcatherinedrake.org • 515.650.8646

Parish Staff

Rev. Protas Okwalo
Pastor

Fr. Emmanuel Offiong
Weekend Pastoral Associate

Fr. George Komo
Campus & African Community
Ministries Associate

Lyrio Cloma-Read
Office Manager

Jan Blessum
Business Manager

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Laura Catherine Carruthers-Green
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Catherine Lucas

Robert McEwan

Alexia Simonton

Finance Council

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Chair

Jan Blessum

Patrick Carruthers-Green

Brendan Comito

Annette Roth

Mass times

WEEKDAYS

Monday: 5:15 PM
(Communion Service)

Tuesday-Thursday: 5:15 PM

Friday: 12 NOON

WEEKENDS

Saturday: 5 PM

Sunday: 10:30 AM

Student Mass: 5 PM 8PM

African Mass: 2 PM
3rd Sunday in English;
other Sundays in Kiswahili

Last chance Mass: 8PM

Bulletin announcements are due by Wednesday by noon each week. Submit to: office@stcatherinedrake.org

Welcome to St. Catherine of Siena

Catholic Church and Student Center

New parishioners and students are invited to register online at stcatherinedrake.org or by contacting the parish office. Please notify the parish office when moving or with change in phone number, address or email.



**Introducing
Alex Sperry**

Chair of Service
Pillar

My name is Alex Sperry, and I am the service pillar chair for Bulldog Catholic. I have held this position for the second year in a row and had a great time in this role. I am from Rochester, Minnesota, and at Drake, I am double majoring in Marketing and Management and Organizational Leadership. I am also a part of the Drake Outdoor Leadership Club and play in various intramurals at Drake. I also hold an internship position with the Iowa Wild this semester. I am also heading abroad to Sydney and Rome for the Spring 2023 semester and will hand off my leadership position to Chase after this semester. If I am not working, doing schoolwork, or doing extracurricular activities, you will find me watching or playing sports, being outside, hanging with friends or family, watching tv/movies, or listening to music.

I have always had a calling to go and serve others. Our pillar has grown from me alone in the Fall 2021 semester to seven current student leaders. We strive to provide three to four big volunteer opportunities to Bulldog Catholic, St. Cate's, and the entire Drake campus. We also provide other opportunities off campus open to everyone! So far, some service projects we have done are making baby blankets, cleaning up Drake's campus, volunteering at Catholic Charities, Meals from the Heartland, Mary's Helping Hands, and so much more! Please reach out to me at alex.sperry@drake.edu if you have any questions.

Campus Ministry

Blessing of the Brain with Bishop Joensen by Kayla Hartman



Last Sunday, Bishop Joensen celebrated Mass on Sunday evening with students. After Mass, he offered the Blessing of the Brain which is a tradition that happens each semester near finals. Students and whoever else would like a blessing, receive one from the Bishop. Photo shows Kara Werth receiving a blessing from Bishop Joensen.

Spiritual Friendship Bracelets by Kayla Hartman

After Student Supper last Sunday, students talked about spiritual friendships while making friendship bracelets. Students were able to learn about Saints who were friends during their life and also talked about how to live spiritual friendships well now. The photo on the right shows Emma Rose Buhman-Wiggs, Formation Pillar Chair, making a friendship bracelet while discussing friendships with others. Emma Rose and her pillar worked hard to put this event on for students. They provided students with information about friendships between Saints.



Kate Anderson, Alexia Simonton and Matthew Bell make friendship bracelets.

Ignite! Campaign –

Ignite! Q & A: What happens if our parish doesn't reach the goal?

Our parish will not be assessed if we do not reach our fundraising goal. Our goal is simply to invite all registered families to participate. Participation can include volunteering, praying for the effort, making a gift, or all of the above!

You can pledge online at: dmdiocese.org/giving/ignite/give-now

On Further Review

Reflection from Loyola Press

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know *that* our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

Donations

Please assist St. Kate's by mailing a check to the office or giving online by clicking on the DONATE button on our website or by completing an ACH form for automatic withdrawals..

Thank you for your generosity.

Around the Diocese

Catholic Youth Camp

Catholic Youth Camp is a summer camp that combines faith and fun to help campers aged 8-18 engage in their faiths, create memories, and build lifelong friendships. At CYC, they hire 22-24 college-aged individuals each summer to be their Summer Staff team. They are faith-filled young adults that help campers stay safe, have fun, and grow deeper in the faiths. At the same time, the staff are able to grow in their own faiths and develop valuable leadership and working skills. To apply, go to <https://stmcenter.com/summer-staff>.

Man-Up West, December 2022: "Catholic Answers Live" Host, Cy Kellett Joins Man-Up West

Cy Kellett, author, and host of "Catholic Answers Live", will be this month's speaker. Fellowship and Program will begin at High Noon, Friday, December 9th at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church-7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Lunch will be offered by Chick-fil-A. Due to possible space limitations, please register for this event at: www.iowacatholicradio.com.



OUR MISSION

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center is a spiritual "home away from home" for resident parishioners and Drake students alike. We strive, through worship, prayer, fellowship, study, and service, to be disciples of Jesus today, so that we will be the leaders of the Catholic Church and Community tomorrow.