



# St. Catherine of Siena

## Catholic Church and Student Center

Pentecost Sunday • May 28, 2023

### May Encounter: Franciscan Spirituality

On Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, around sixty members of St. Catherine's came together for the final Encounter of the school year. Encounter is a parish-wide faith formation opportunity for everyone of all ages and stages of life. Encounter is not just faith formation for families with kids; it's for everyone and all are always welcome.

The theme of May's Encounter was St. Francis of Assisi and Franciscan Spirituality. The session opened with the community praying the Prayer of St. Francis together as a group. While they were enjoying their lunch, participants were given a choice of two table activities related to this month's theme. Parishioners could attempt to complete a word search or solve a crossword puzzle, both of which contained words related to St. Francis.

Following lunch, preschoolers and those in elementary school read about the life of St. Francis and his teachings. The children were then able to take their session outside to enjoy an afternoon of pleasant May weather and put what they had learned about St. Francis to use. Using sidewalk chalk, the youngsters drew several colorful creations illustrating their lesson. The middle school & high school group moved to the parish library where they watched a short video about St. Francis and the values of the Franciscans. They also read about St. Francis and the wolf of Guppio. Following the story, they discussed how the story illustrated the path to peaceful solutions of difficult situations. Their session also ended with artwork as they colored a picture of St. Francis. The adults adjourned to the sanctuary area for a presentation by Paulette Chapman from the Diocese of Des Moines regarding St. Francis and Franciscan Spirituality. In addition to presenting at this session, Paulette has been intimately involved in planning Encounter sessions and providing ideas to the committee. Thanks Paulette!

This month wrapped up St. Catherine's first year of Encounter sessions. Following summer break, we will resume Encounter in the fall.

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ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA Catholic Parish and Student Center  
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### PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Protas Okwalo**  
*Pastor*

**Fr. Emmanuel Offiong**  
*Weekend Pastoral Associate*

**Fr. George Komo**  
*On leave*

**Rev. Mr. Rick Condon**  
*Deacon*

**Lyrio Cloma-Read**  
*Office Manager*

**Jan Blessum**  
*Business Manager*

**Erin Smith**  
*Coordinator of Campus Ministry*

**Dennis & Melinda Hendrickson**  
*Music Coordinators*

**Gus and Dee Cordero**  
*Deaf Ministry Coordinators*

**Dave & Sheila Lingwall**  
*Liturgical Coordinators*

**Laura Catherine Carruthers-Green**  
*Faith Formation Coordinator*

### PARISH COUNCIL

**Aimee Beckmann-Collier**  
*Chair*

**John Chesser**

**Gus Cordero**

**Rosemarie Kroner**

**Catherine Lucas**

**Robert Ebow McEwan**

**Mark Schmidt**

**Alexia Simonton**

### FINANCE COUNCIL

**Brendan Comito**  
*Chair*

**Patrick Carruthers-Green**

**Abby Crupi**

**Larry James**

**Annette Roth**

**Kristi Ryan**

### 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

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

**Last chance Mass:** 8 PM

# Welcome to St. Catherine of Siena

Catholic Church and Student Center

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

## Campus Ministry

### 2023 David Robinson Scholarship Recipient—Maddi Cave

By Erin Smith, Campus Minister

The David Robinson Memorial Scholarship is given annually in honor of Dr. David Robinson, a highly respected and renowned Drake Physics Professor. David's wife, Ellen Robinson, of our Parish, affectionately known as "Nellie," established the Scholarship to inspire service and leadership here at St. Catherine's, home to Drake's Newman Community where David worshipped and served for more than 40 years.



Our Faculty Advisor Lindsay Gilbert had this to say about Maddi:

When I first met Maddi, I knew she was not the traditional first year student. She has a maturity and confidence that I truly admire. Through Maddi's leadership during the Drake's Journalism School's First Amendment Celebration Days, I saw her call to live an authentic life in creating a space where students could practice their First Amendment Freedom of religion. We prayed the rosary, for what I believe was the first time at a school sanctioned event, with members of DU Bulldog Catholic. It will forever be one of the highlights of my career at Drake University.

Maddi is a joy to know. She has a beautiful passion for the dignity of human life. I truly believe Maddi will continue to do big things following her time at Drake, and I believe her faith and roots in St. Cate's and DU Bulldog Catholic are the foundation that will help her continue to do her good works in this world.

In Maddi's essay she reflected on her first two years at Drake and said, "My contributions to St. Cate's started small, with playing piano on weekends and my basic secretarial duties. I began delivering the announcements after Student Masses, sending information in our group chat, and coordinating with the leaders of each pillar to maintain a calendar of all the student events going on.

I also stayed a member of the service pillar; I had the opportunity to host my own service event at St. Cate's in October— a homemade baby-blanket drive— for the pregnancy resource center called Mary's

### Campus Ministry continued

Helping Hands. On the leadership team side, we had been brainstorming all semester about how to get St. Cate's students more involved in community service since many do not have cars. We decided to bring a service opportunity to St. Cate's and by the end of the night, we had made three dozen blankets to donate!"

When the Parish Council started hosting the "Parish Conversations" for the Haven Project, Maddi thought it would be helpful to attend and offer a student perspective. She said, "I could feel how passionate everyone was about making me feel welcome and making St. Cate's a better place— so from that time on, I decided to become an active member of the larger parish, too." Maddi also volunteered to represent our students in the interviews to help select the new full-time Campus Minister who will join us this summer.

From Nellie Robinson:

Maddi's accomplishments as a mere sophomore are outstanding. I can't imagine what she will achieve both at Drake and at St. Cate's in the next two years.

From Maddi:

A huge thank you to Nellie Robinson for her generosity and genuine love for St. Cate's and its students. It's wonderful people like her who make me proud to call St. Cate's my home-away-from-home, and I can't wait to find new ways to serve and give back in my remaining years at Drake!



## Parish Life & More

### Haven Project Update

Forty parishioners were present to hear the Haven Project summary and learn about the strategic planning process & concluding recommendations. More than 100 ideas emerged from parish conversations, in-depth personal interviews, and Core Team discussions. The Core Team prioritized and forwarded to the appropriate ministries nearly 30 ideas. In the process, a new Community Formation Ministry emerged, the Liturgy & Prayer Ministry expanded to include Music, and a Communication Team was formed. Presently 44 parishioners are serving St. Catherine's in various ministries and 16 have said 'yes' to serving on the new Community Formation and the Communication Team. We learned parishioners & students value and take pride in quality music, relevant homilies, faith formation for all ages, life long learning, service and social justice initiatives. Broad themes for improvement included parishioners' desire for better parish communications, membership retention/growth, physical environment updates, and a desire to improve hospitality to communicate a greater sense of welcome. Fr. Okwalo welcomed the concept of moving forward on a few 'quick win' decisions to use as examples to parishioners of improvements to the physical environment. Finance Council approved purchase of new furniture for the gathering space with the understanding the money would be raised through a 'Wish List' fund. To date \$560 has been contributed. Photos of the furniture and the Wish List can be viewed on a display board near the gathering space. More communications will be forthcoming in the next two weeks to keep you informed on progress. We are grateful for the insights, feedback & participation of parishioners throughout the Haven Project.

### Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to handle coffee and donuts, and church linens. We are also in need of Eucharistic Ministers. Please contact [office@stcatherinedrake.org](mailto:office@stcatherinedrake.org) or sign up at the table in front of the office.



## Around the Diocese

### Annual Memorial Day Mass

The annual Memorial Day Mass at Glendale Cemetery will begin at 10 a.m. Celebrants are Fathers Nivin Scaria, of St. Ambrose Cathedral, and Father Raphael Assamah, of St. Theresa Parish. If it rains, the Mass will be celebrated at St. Theresa Church at Merle Hay Road and University Avenue.

### Umeri Concert

The Drake University alumni choir, Umeri, conducted by Aimee Beckmann-Collier, will present *The Sacred Veil* by renowned composer Eric Whitacre on Saturday, June 3, 7:30 pm at Sheslow Auditorium. *The Sacred Veil* is a powerful 53-minute work, scored for choir, cello, and piano, that explores themes of love, loss, compassion, resilience, and finding meaning in the midst of suffering. In collaboration with the Richard Deming Cancer Center at MercyOne and Above and Beyond Cancer, Umeri will also present a pre-concert talk at 6:00 pm given by Dr. Deming and Charles Anthony Silvestri, who wrote the texts for *The Sacred Veil*. Both the concert and pre-concert event are free of charge.

[Parish Life & More continued](#)

### Cookies for the Homeless Shelter



This is the last weekend for Cookie collection for the Central Iowa Shelter. Please bring your store bought or homemade cookies to the Cookie Bin in the gathering space on May 27th and 28th. These cookies will be shared with the shelter dinner participants on May 31st. Thank you for your generosity.

### Drake Little Food Pantry

The community of St. Catherine's stocks the little food pantry on the south side of church every day. We invite you to bring items each week. The need is great.



Bulletin announcements are due by noon of Wednesday each week. Submit to: [office@stcatherinedrake.org](mailto:office@stcatherinedrake.org)

Parish Life and More continued

### World Youth Day with Pope Francis

We have three Pilgrims from our African Mass who will be attending the World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, this July.

Organized through the Diocese of Des Moines, the Pilgrims will be traveling with Bishop Joensen and other pilgrims from the Diocese. This pilgrimage is a huge opportunity for the youth around the world to evangelize and not only strengthen their faith but the faith of the parishes they come from as well. Your support in helping these pilgrims to travel will ignite their faith and that of others for years to come. If you would like to help finance this trip for these three members of our community, please make out a check to St. Catherine's with "World Youth Day" in the memo and send it to the office. For further information go to: <https://www.dmdiocese.org/filesimages/Young%20Adult%20Ministry/WYD/WYD23%20flyer%20full.pdf> or contact Margaret Cavanagh at [cavanaghmargaret1@gmail.com](mailto:cavanaghmargaret1@gmail.com).

### Poole Recital

Samantha and Adam Poole, long-time singers here at St. Cate's, will be having a recital to celebrate Adam's medical school graduation. The program will include a variety of solo and duet performances, both vocal and piano. You won't want to miss it! Their recital will be on Saturday, June 3rd at 1:30 p.m. right here at St. Catherine's. Free to attend, no tickets required, and refreshments to follow.

Around the Diocese continued

### Job Opportunities at St. Joseph Parish

St. Joseph Parish in Des Moines has an immediate opening for a part-time business manager (20 hours per week) and a 3/4 time Maintenance Manager (30 hours per week). The hourly rate is \$25/hr for each position. Benefits available. To apply, send your resume by 6/23/23 to David Ortega at [dortega@stjosephcatholicdsm.org](mailto:dortega@stjosephcatholicdsm.org) or call 515-402-4734 for more information.

#### 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.***

## Family Ministries

Let's work together to stock the Little Pantry with much-



needed food items for the community. Families with children are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 8th at the Fareway on Grand Avenue in West Des Moines to shop together for food to donate. We'll go to Black Cat Ice Cream afterwards together. All families are invited!

Always,  
Laura Catherine



In observance of Memorial Day, the Church office will be closed.



Around the Diocese continued

### Man-Up West, - June 2023

Hear Fr. Daniel Adjei speak about his journey from Ghana to the US on June 9 at noon at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church- 7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Lunch from Chick-fil-A.

## 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.