



St. Catherine of Siena

Catholic Church and Student Center

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time • August 13, 2023

Upon Reflection...

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

Making Ourselves Miserable

The Prodigal Son

As the parable begins, the father sees that his son could not be talked out of his foolish insistence on making himself miserable. And so, the father, as an act of love, lets the son go off so he can discover, in the process of exhausting his own resources, the loving home he was so determined to leave.

The same is true of us. Seeing how we cannot be talked out of our ignorance, love sets up a kind of obstacle course that provides the ego with spiritual goals it can attempt to achieve. "Here, try this," love says. "See if you can sit present, open, and awake as a way of being open to my presence in your life." The sincere ego self, still dominated by the ignorance of imagining there is something to achieve or attain, takes up the challenge. The ego self struggles in its efforts until it exhausts completely all its own means of overcoming its inability to realize the oneness with God it desires.

Then, just as all seems lost, we look up to see God running toward us with open arms. Suddenly we realize there is no place within us that is not encountered, embraced, and made whole in a love that does not even care to hear our litany of shortcomings and regrets.

James Finley, *Christian Meditation*, pp. 281-282.

PARISH STAFF

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Weekend Pastoral Associate

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Laura Catherine Carruthers-Green
Faith Formation Coordinator

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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

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA Catholic Parish and Student Center

1150 28th St., Des Moines, IA 50311

office@stcatherinedrake.org • 515.650.8646

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.

Campus Ministry

Welcome back DU Bulldog Catholics Ministry of Liturgy, Music & Prayer Chair — Gabe Waz



Gabe Waz is a junior studying accounting with minors in data analytics and biology. He is the President of the Drake Swim Club and Beta Alpha Psi, an honors accounting society. He is also a member of Tribetam, an honors biology organization and the Drake Outdoor Leadership Club.

His favorite part of St. Catherine's is Father's accessibility and the people he has met through St. Catherine's. Gabe led the ministry of liturgy, music and prayer last year and will continue as the ministry chair. His duties include getting lectors and eucharistic ministers for student masses, finding prayer opportunities for students and leading the stations of the cross during Lent. He is excited and ready to come into the upcoming school year with a positive attitude.

Sign-Up for Student Supper Now

Students will be back on campus on the last week of August. We have scheduled our first Student Supper on August 27. It's our Welcome Week Cookout. We are looking for families or groups who can prepare a meal for 40-70 students and host the student supper each Sunday after the 5 p.m. mass. Financial contributions are also welcome.



Dates available to sponsor student suppers are as follows:

September 3 — Pizza after mass

September 10, 24

October 1, 8, 22 & 29

November 5, 12, 19

December 3 & 10

Sign up now at the table in front of the office! For questions, contact Megan Schultz at campusminister@stcatherinedrake.org or call the Parish office at 515-650-8646.

Sponsor Couple Training

Interested in Helping Young Couples Prepare for Marriage?

Register to attend the Diocesan Sponsor Couple Training

Saturday, **August 26**, 9:00-11:30 am at OLIH

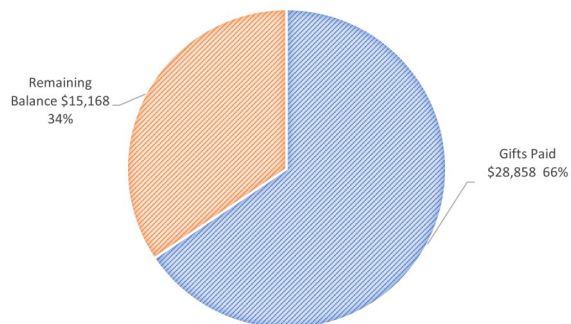
This training equips sponsor couples to use a tool called FOCCUS



(Facilitate Open, Caring Communication, Understanding and Study). In a series of three to five meetings with the engaged couple, FOCCUS prompts discussions on a myriad of important issues couples face throughout their lives together: communication, family of origin, commitment, sacramentality, finances, raising children, and more. It fosters a deeper understanding of marriage and a deeper appreciation of each other. It helps engaged couples identify and navigate the kind of challenges that every couple faces.

If this appeals to you and your spouse, sign up for the training class online at www.olih.org under 'Parish Events'. This training requires the attendance of both husband and wife and that they must have been married for at least 5 years.

Parish Life & More

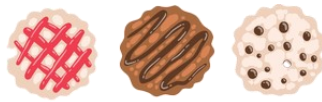


ADA 2023

As of July 28, 2023, our donations total remains at \$28,858. We have \$15,168 left to reach our goal.

Cookie Collection in August

The next Cookie Collection for the Central Iowa Shelter will be the weekends of August 20th and 27th for the dinner on Thursday, the 31st. Please bring your freshly baked or store-bought cookies to the cookie storage bin on those weekends. St. Catherine's assists St. Mark Episcopal Church with this project by supplying the dessert for the meal they prepare. Over 180 homeless enjoyed every cookie you donated last month. Thank you!



Fall Clothing Drive

The Fall Clothing Drive will be held after Masses on Sept. 10. Please bring fall and winter clothing to Mass on Sat. Sept. 9 or Sun. Sept. 10. We especially need school clothes, shoes and boots, and winter coats, hats and gloves. Clothing will first be offered to our parishioners and any left will be taken to St. Vincent de Paul.



Save the Date!

Sunday, September 17, 10:30 am – All-parish Mass and picnic at Colby Park in Windsor Heights, sponsored by our new Community Formation Ministry. Mass will take place in the air conditioned pavilion, rain or shine. Stay tuned for detailed information as the date nears.

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

Around the Diocese

St. Ambrose Cathedral Hosts Monthly Healing Service

On August 16, all are invited to attend a healing service at St. Ambrose Cathedral beginning at 5:30 PM. *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

Join the Diocesan Eucharistic Procession

Join the diocesan Eucharistic procession on Aug. 19! Mass is at 9 a.m. at the grotto at St. Anthony Church followed by Eucharistic procession to St. Ambrose Cathedral. Lunch will be served at the Catholic Pastoral Center; transportation back to St. Anthony's provided. RSVP not necessary but appreciated to help us with lunch orders – please use the QR code. All are welcome!



Bishop's Celebration of Catholic Schools

This year's event is on Aug. 26 at St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines. The keynote speaker is Dowling Catholic alumna Anne Nizzi Clark '87. Anne and her husband, Brent, chose St. Francis of Assisi and Dowling Catholic for their three children Blake '18 (Iowa State), Caitlin '20 (University of Iowa), and Colin '23 (Creighton University). Anne will share her experience with the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools as a student and as a parent. The Clark family will discuss how Catholic education helped position each for success in the classroom and beyond. Purchase tickets at dmdiocese.org/giving/Bishops-Celebration-of-Catholic-Schools.

Job Opening - Director of Faith Formation

St. John the Apostle Parish in Norwalk, IA is hiring a full time Director of Faith Formation for preschool through High School programs. This would include sacramental preparation, family, and youth activities and forming catechists. St. John's is an active and vibrant parish just south of Des Moines. For more information contact Father Dan Kirby @ dkirby@dmdiocese.org or 515-981-4855. To apply for the position, send a resume with recommendations to jmahoney@stjohnsnorwalk.org.

Upon Further Review

From The Word Among Us

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)

Mary was immersed in the Hebrew Scriptures, so it's no surprise that her beautiful prayer, the Magnificat, echoes the prayer of another Jewish woman, Hannah. In Hannah's hymn of thanksgiving to God after the birth of her son Samuel, she announced, "He raises the needy from the dust ... to seat them *with* nobles and make a glorious throne their heritage" (1 Samuel 2:8).

The idea that God favors the poor and the poor in spirit can be found throughout Scripture. In Psalm 138:6, we read that "The LORD ... cares for the lowly," and in Matthew 5:3, Jesus calls "blessed" those who are "poor in spirit." Mary's assumption into heaven, which we celebrate today, is a wonderful realization of this truth. She, the humblest of creatures, is lifted up, body and soul, into heaven and crowned as queen of heaven and earth.

In what ways can we follow our Blessed Mother in choosing lowliness and poverty of spirit? We can imagine Mary pondering God's words in prayer, listening attentively for his voice and direction amidst the many challenges she experienced. When unexpected change makes us anxious, we can ask her to help us keep our focus fixed on the Lord in prayer.

We can also imagine Mary withholding judgment of her neighbors who may have been gossiping about her unexpected pregnancy. Her example can help us as we face fears of what others may think of us.

And when we see how Mary said yes to all that God asked of her, we can find the courage to say yes to the Lord in whatever he is calling us to do.

As we celebrate Mary's assumption today, we honor the one who most perfectly embodies lowliness and humility. We honor the one who gave a wholehearted yes to God's plans—even the most unexpected and painful plans. Mary's life affirms God's promise: he will lift us up and reward us when we embrace a spirit of humility and obedience. *"Blessed Mother, teach me to embrace humility so that I can be lifted up with you."*

Donations

Please assist St. Catherine'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.

Faith Formation

Save the date of Sunday, October 1st as we kick off Encounter for the year! Encounter is St. Catherine's intergenerational faith formation program. Encounter meets after the 10:30 Mass every first Sunday of the month and is open to everyone in the community from all stages and ages of life and levels of faith. Our theme for each monthly session this year is learning about Mass. Look for more information to come soon! Contact Laura Carruthers-Green lauracatherine.green@gmail.com for more information.

Family Ministries

Households with children are invited to join St. Catherine's Family Ministry for the following:

Monday, August 21st at 6 pm: Back-To-School BBQ at the Lucas' house

Saturday, September 9th-Sunday, Sept. 10th: Camping trip to Walnut Woods State Park (you can camp for whatever portion works for your family or just come for playing and food without the overnight)

Contact Laura Carruthers-Green lauracatherine.green@gmail.com for more information.

OUR MISSION

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and Student Center at Drake University is an inclusive and supportive community of resident parishioners and students striving through liturgy, community, service, and faith formation to grow as servant leaders for the Catholic church and broader community.

OUR VISION

St. Catherine of Siena, a Newman community, is an inclusive spiritual "home away from home."