



# St. Catherine of Siena

Catholic Church and Student Center

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 11, 2024

## February Encounter: The Liturgy of the Word



St. Catherine's latest installment of Encounter was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 10:30 mass. Encounter is St. Catherine's intergenerational faith formation program and is held on the first Sunday of each month. The entire parish is invited to a potluck lunch followed by an educational session regarding some aspect of the Catholic

faith. The theme for this year is the Mass and this month featured the last session focusing on the Liturgy of the Word.

Following lunch, participants participated in the traditional Catholic activity of Bingo but with a twist. Each space on the bingo card was filled in with an answer to a Bible trivia question. Greg Bellville served as Bingo caller and winners were awarded a coveted Encounter sticker.

Father Okwalo kicked off the adult session by showing a scene from a TV series where Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well to showcase his preferred question and answer guided conversational or engaging homilies. The adults then moved to the sanctuary where Father continued his discussion on homilies by explaining what guides his homilies. He concluded by referring to the video and engaging homilies, saying that a homily is successful when listeners, like the Samaritan woman, get to know Christ, love others more and go out to call others to join team Jesus.

At the same time as the adult session, the kindergarten through fifth graders met in the classroom for Bible questions and a scavenger hunt. The middle schoolers and high schoolers continued their discussion regarding the Liturgy of the Word, including a comparison of the Old and New Testaments along with some readings regarding the approaching season of Lent.

Each parishioner will receive the Faith-At-Home newsletter. This newsletter is available in print form after Encounter and is also sent out by email. The print version has a QR code to scan for access to all the links in one document or the digital newsletter has the links embedded in it. We encourage you to use this valuable resource at home! The next Encounter session will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA Catholic Church 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*

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

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

**Jan Blessum**  
*Business Manager*

**Megan Schultz**  
*Campus Minister*

**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

**John Chesser**  
*Chair*

**Gus Cordero**

**Catherine Lucas**

**Robert Ebow McEwan**

**Mark Schmidt**

**Alexia Simonton**

**Alex Sperry**

### FINANCE COUNCIL

**Brendan Comito**  
*Chair*

**Josh Beck**

**Matthew Bell**

**Patrick Carruthers-Green**

**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

Student Mass: 5 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

**Intentional with Lent** by Megan Schultz, Campus Minister

With Ash Wednesday quickly approaching, it's easy to panic and say to ourselves, 'I'll just give up what I did last year'. While giving up chocolate is a sacrifice, it may be time to be more intentional with lent and ask ourselves, 'How can I grow in holy habits to grow closer to Christ?' Pope Francis describes lent as an opportunity for "learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to 'devour' everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts."

How do we fill up the 'emptiness' Pope Francis describes, that I know we've all experienced? A deeper relationship with Jesus. Jesus himself says on the cross, "My God My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). We have a savior who knows the emptiness that Pope Francis describes. The challenge of this lent may be to find ways to unite our fasting to Jesus' suffering, and use this practice to grow deeper in friendship with him as we get to know him better.



### Parish Life & More

#### Ministry of Faith Formation

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is so much more than the part of Mass where we receive Communion! Join us for Encounter on March 3rd after 10:30 Mass as we begin to explore the Liturgy of the Eucharist as a community. Encounter is our parish-wide faith formation for all ages and stages of faith. No registration is necessary and please bring a non-dessert side dish to share at lunch.

#### Ministry of Liturgy, Music, and Prayer

##### Volunteers Needed for Easter Vigil

We are in need of volunteers to help set up and host Easter Saturday Vigil reception. Please see Sheila Lingwall.

##### Ash Wednesday Masses and Soup Supper

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday, February 14. Mass will be held at 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. An ASL interpreter will be made available for the 5:30 p.m. mass. A Soup Supper will follow after the 5:30 p.m. mass.

##### Holy Week Mass Schedule

Our mass times are:

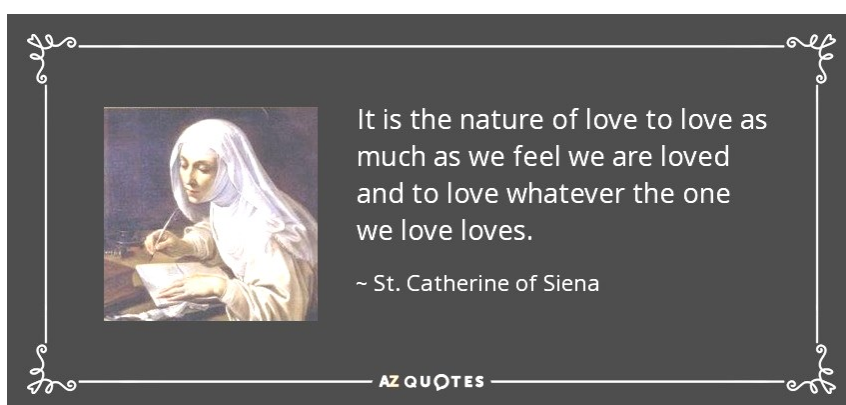
Holy Thursday – 7 p.m.

Good Friday – 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil – 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday – 10:30 mass

African Mass – 12:30 p.m.



## Ministry of Service



### Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 11

Please give what you can to the DMARC Food Pantry to fight hunger in our community. Donations will be collected at the doors after 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please put money in the pots so others can have soup in their bowls.

### Lenten Almsgiving Cross

A cross will be in our gathering space during the Lenten Season. On it are hung tags with suggestions on ways to give alms during Lent. Please take tags throughout the Lenten Season and help people in need.

### Cookie Collection

The next Cookie Collection for the Central Iowa Shelter will be the weekends of February 24-25 and March 2- 3 for dinner on Thursday, March 5. Please bring your freshly baked or store-bought cookies to the cookie storage bin on those weekends. St. Catherine assists St. Mark Episcopal Church with this project by supplying the dessert for the meals they prepare. Thank you!

### Household Items & Furniture Needed

If you have household items or furniture, including beds and bedding, that you would like to donate, [please click here](#) to contact Margaret. We may be able to find a home for them.

### Did You Bring a Can in each Hand?

Food insecurity continues to be a problem in the metro in 2024, especially during these cold, winter months. Let's help our neighbors in need by bringing a can in each hand to Church each Sunday. With your support, we can make a difference.



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

## Around the Diocese

### Area Reconciliation Services

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Parish</u>
Tuesday, February 20	7:00 pm	St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines
Wednesday, February 21	7:00 pm	Sacred Heart, West Des Moines
Wednesday, February 28	6:00 pm	St. Joseph, Des Moines
Wednesday, February 28	6:30 pm	Assumption, Granger
Sunday, March 3	2:00 pm	St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines
Sunday, March 3	4:30 pm	St. John, Adel
Wednesday, March 6	6:30 pm	St. Augustin, Des Moines
Sunday, March 17	4:00 pm	St. Pius X, Urbandale
Wednesday, March 20	6:30 pm	St. Theresa, Des Moines
Thursday, March 21	7:00 pm	Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, Ankeny
Thursday, March 21	7:00 pm	Ss. John and Paul, Altoona

Additional Reconciliation Times for Parishes not having a communal service

Sat 3-3:30 pm, Wed during Lent, 6-7 pm, All Saints, Des Moines

Sat 3:30-4:15 pm, Sun after 9 am Mass, Tue after 9 am Mass: St. Elizabeth Seton

Saturdays, 2:45-3:45 pm Basilica of St. John





## Upon Further Review

From The Word Among Us

*A leper came to Jesus. (Mark 1:40)*

Jesus' disciples must have recoiled when they saw the man approaching. Everyone feared the dreaded disease that he was obviously suffering from. Sure, showing signs of leprosy would make someone ritually unclean (Leviticus 13:46). But it was also deadly and thought to be very contagious. That's why the Book of Leviticus had so many regulations to keep those suffering from leprosy isolated from society. No one wanted to risk contracting the disease!

So why did Jesus reach out to touch this man? Why didn't he shrink back or turn aside? Because he was not afraid of the disease or the uncleanness. He could not be harmed or made unclean by any infirmity. Quite the opposite: Jesus had come to heal and restore all people. He could see beyond the disease and reach out to cleanse this beloved child of God. And by healing him, Jesus brought the man back into society.

Jesus isn't afraid to reach out to us, either. While we might not be afflicted with leprosy, there is something that can cut us off from God and isolate us from other people: our sin. But on the cross, Jesus took on himself our sins and those of the whole world. By his resurrection, he destroyed the power of sin and death. Sin has no hold on him, and he does not fear it. Each time we come to him in repentance, seeking healing and restoration, he replies to us as he did to the man with leprosy: "I do will it. Be made clean" (Mark 1:41).

So come to Jesus with your sins. Bring to him your isolation and suffering. He won't pull away from you. He is the pure One who removes all of your impurity. He is the holy One who takes on your sin and strips it of its power over you. Like the man suffering from leprosy, don't be afraid to approach Jesus. Let him bring you restoration and healing!

*"Jesus, in my weakness and need, I come to you! Cleanse me and make me whole."*

### 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.***

Around the Diocese continued

### Marriage is a Journey

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pazazz to your journey. Whether you've been married 1 year or 50, a Marriage Encounter Weekend may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. For more information call contact Denise and Greg – 563-920-9419 or to register go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

**Upcoming dates:** February 16-18 in Marshalltown, April 12-14, 2024 in Epworth, September 27-29 in Dubuque and November 8-10 in Holstein, IA.

### The Chosen

The first three episodes of the new season of The Chosen is now in theaters, but only thru this coming weekend ! After that, the next episodes will be released.. again to the theaters.



### 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 "home away from home."