



# St. Catherine of Siena

## Catholic Church and Student Center

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 4, 2024

### Reading the Bible with Black Women

*Although many themes in African-American women's history correspond with many themes in Hagar's story in the Bible [Genesis 16 and 21], nothing links the ... women together more securely than their religious experiences in the wilderness. African-American slave women have left behind autobiographies telling how they would slip away to the wilderness or to "the hay-stacks, where the presence of the Lord overshadowed" them.*

*In the biblical story, Hagar's experience happened in a desolate and lonely wilderness where she—pregnant, fleeing from the brutality of her slave owner, Sarai, and without protection—had religious experiences that helped her and her child survive when survival seemed doomed. For both Hagar and the African-American women, the wilderness experience meant standing utterly alone, in the midst of serious trouble, with only God's support to rely upon.*

*As a result of these hard-time experiences and the encounters with God, Hagar and many African-American women manifested a risk-taking faith. Many African-American women (slave and free) have taken serious risks in the black community's liberation struggle. Harriet Tubman, with a price on her head, dared to liberate over three hundred slaves. She is said to have relied solely upon God for help and strength; she had no one else to look to. We can speak of Hagar and many African-American women as sisters in the wilderness struggling for life, and by the help of their God coming to terms with situations that have destructive potential.*

**Delores S. Williams, *Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God-Talk*, pp.96-97, cited at cac.org, 8 Feb 2023. Lightly edited for length.**

---

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

**Adoration** by Megan Schultz, Campus Minister

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m., we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament of Jesus at St. Catherine's (please join us!). And while it's always a gift to spend time with Jesus, this semester on most Tuesday's, we'll also have the privilege of hearing a short reflection by one of our students to begin adoration. This Tuesday, Elijah Hillaker, our chair of our faith formation ministry, shared a beautiful reflection about the verses John 21: 15-19. I want to share these verses and his reflection for all who weren't there, so that you too can reflect on Elijah's thoughtful words.

"There is a lot to get out of this reading [John 21:15-19], and I encourage you to spend time with it. But what really stood out to me is how this reading shows how reconciliation with God really works. Often, we think it's just us going to Jesus in Confession, and while that is true, it's actually the second step. Up to this point, as far as the Gospel shares, Peter hadn't approached Jesus about his denial. It's Jesus that initiates reconciliation, He asks the question. And all He asks is "Do you love Me?" That's all He needs to work with. Jesus isn't just indifferently standing there, like if you go to confession nice, if not, your loss. He's actively seeking you out even when you try to go back to old habits or run away. He reminds us of the importance of relationship even when we try our hardest to live our lives without him. Tonight, let's lean closer into His presence, and receive the gift of his love as He rests on the altar." - Elijah Hillaker



### Parish Life & More

#### Ministry of Faith Formation

February 4th after 10:30 Mass: All are invited to Encounter (parish-wide intergenerational faith formation). The theme will be the Liturgy of the Word, Part 3 (not a prerequisite to have attended Parts 1 and/or 2). Read John 4:4-42 before mass. Come grow in your faith while in community!

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

##### Adoration Hours

The Chapel is open for adoration on the following days and times:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays — 9 - 10 a.m.

Tuesdays — 7 - 8 p.m.

Thursdays — 8 - 9 p.m.

Please join us.

##### Ash Wednesday Mass 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.

## Ministry of Stewardship

Financial Blessings Ending December 31, 2023	
YTD Actual Collection Plate -----	\$109,530
YTD Budget Collection Plate -----	\$100,000
Dec. YTD collection plate was up -\$ 9,530	
YTD Net Cash Flow -----	\$3,758

### Solidarity Fund Collection - February 4

This newly established fund will help the Diocese of Des Moines, in partnership with Catholic Charities, respond to the immediate needs in our community in the aftermath of any unfortunate disaster-related event. This fund strives to meet critical needs in our local and at times, global communities, regardless of religious, social or economic backgrounds.

## 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.

### Des Moines Catholic Worker Donations

Thank you to all who brought items for the Catholic Worker House. We were able to take a pickup full of items to help people stay warm this winter.

### 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.

### Recycled Plastic Containers Needed

Please bring plastic containers to church and put them in the bin under the coat rack by the office. The containers will be taken to the Catholic Worker House to use for food to go. Cottage cheese containers, containers from restaurants, anything bigger than a yogurt container works. Thank you.

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

## Around the Diocese

### St. Ambrose Cathedral Hosts Monthly Healing Service

On Saturday, February 10, all are invited to attend a Healing Service at St. Ambrose Cathedral beginning with Mass at 4:00 PM followed by the Healing Service at 5:30 PM. *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

### Man-Up West - February 9 Lent 2024

Fr. Nick Smith, Parochial Vicar at Christ the King in Des Moines, a Des Moines native, and host of the daily Gospel reflection on Iowa Catholic Radio, will provide us with disciplines we can adopt as we prepare for the season of Lent. Fr. Nick, the oldest of 7 children was ordained to the Priesthood in 2022.

Lunch from Chick-fil-A is available for a free will offering. Program: High Noon, Friday, February 9th, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church- 7075 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Register for this event at: [www.iowacatholicradio.com](http://www.iowacatholicradio.com)

### Monthly Rosary for our Country

Join fellow Iowans on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month to pray a monthly rosary for our country at the West Steps of the Iowa State Capitol at 1:30 P.M. Next date is February 18. For questions, call Jeff Pierick at 515-778-6087.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

When all the hustle-bustle of the holidays are over, don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? If you agree then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more info, contact Denise and Greg – 563-920-9419. 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 .

### Respect for Life—Recycle

Recycle as much as possible. EPA figures show recycling aluminum cans saves 95% of the energy used to make new ones from raw materials. The energy saving is as much as 70% when recycling steel and tin cans, 60% for paper and almost 33% for glass and plastic.

## Upon Further Review

From The Word Among Us

*If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured. (Mark 5:28)*

So often, we judge by appearances. We focus on how people look and draw a conclusion about their need for God. We even think about ourselves in a similar way!

In today's Gospel, the two people who came to see Jesus could not have looked more different. One was wealthy, influential, and a respected leader of the synagogue. The other was an outcast, sick, and deemed ritually unclean (Mark 5:22, 25-26). Yet they both found themselves in a strikingly similar position: suffering and in need of help. What can we learn from these two people as they sought out Jesus?

We may experience seasons when life is challenging, and we feel discouraged, much like the suffering woman. Maybe we have exhausted all other options and are losing hope that God cares about our pain. At these moments, we can remember the woman's perseverance and tenacity as she pushed her way through the crowds to reach out to Jesus. We can trust that God does hear our cries. He will give us the strength we need.

In other seasons, we may appear to have it all together. Life may be going great, our parish is thriving, and our family life is fulfilling. However, Jairus serves as a sobering reminder that no matter how secure we may feel, our lives remain fragile. No matter what we look like, we all need God's tender care. Comfort or wealth can blind us to that need. Jairus came to a realization of his need amid tragedy, but his need for Christ was no less after his daughter was healed. So it is for us: even when everything appears secure, we still need Jesus. We need his love, his care, and his presence.

Jairus and the hemorrhaging woman sought out Jesus because of the circumstances in their lives. They needed him that day by the Sea of Galilee, and they would always need him. And so will we. This is why Jesus came.

### 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.***

### 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."

### Upon Further Review continued

Whatever your current circumstances, go to the Lord today and confess your need for him. In that honest place, he will always meet you.

*"Father, I need you. I know that if I reach out my hand to you, you will lift me up."*

### Around the Diocese continued

#### St. Boniface

St. Boniface Parish is currently seeking applicants for the position of fulltime accounting/bookkeeper. To view the full job description, please click [HERE](#). If you are interested, please send a cover letter and resume to Cathy Bellis: [cbellis@stboniface-church.org](mailto:cbellis@stboniface-church.org).



#### 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.