



# St. Catherine of Siena

## Catholic Church and Student Center

Third Sunday of Easter • April 14, 2024

### April Encounter

On April 7, our parish intergenerational faith formation program, Encounter, provided an opportunity for parishioners to enjoy food and fellowship, followed by age-appropriate learning about the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Our year-long focus has been on developing a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the Mass as the centerpiece of our Catholic Christian faith. Because our worship is liturgically based, it is easy to take some of the rituals and prayers of the Mass for granted or to tune out, since there are a number of predictable parts of our Sunday celebration. This year's Encounter sessions have called us to "go deeper" in learning about the origins and context of the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, all in an effort to assist St. Catherine's parishioners of all ages to engage in communal worship more meaningfully.

Last Sunday was the second of a two-part focus on the Liturgy of the Eucharist. After our shared meal and prayer, all participants enjoyed ordering the various parts of the Mass. It was a competitive group and several tables were inspired to "get it right" in order to win the popular Encounter stickers! Following that activity, we split up into three age groupings (young children, through grade 5; junior/senior high school students; adults) for three different explorations of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The young children enjoyed reenacting Mass in their own words and actions, junior and senior high school students engaged in a craft project while discussing the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and adults were privileged to learn about the Eucharistic Prayer from Paulette Chapman, who serves as a consultant to our parish and others, courtesy of the Diocese. Adults particularly enjoyed the small group discussions that closed the session.

Encounter 2023-24 will finish on May 5, when we will consider the "Go, the Mass is ended" statement and dismissal rite, which sends us forth to illustrate how our communal worship makes a difference in the way we live our daily lives. The May session will focus on ways we can improve our relationship with God and work for the common good during the summer months.

Please note that all parish households, not just those who attended the April Encounter, have received the Faith At Home newsletter, which contains links to valuable resources for all ages. This month's newsletter contains features related to the Easter season, stewardship of the land (Earth Day is right around the corner), and wise use of social media, among other topics.

#### PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Protas Okwalo**  
*Pastor*

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

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

**Lyrío 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

**Last Chance Mass:** 8 PM

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA Catholic Church and Student Center

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## 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

#### Confirmation Retreat by Megan Schultz, Campus Minister

This past Sunday, eight students and I had the opportunity to help serve our greater Des Moines Diocese by joining in on a confirmation retreat led by St. Joseph's Catholic School. After I shared a testimony, the high school students were led in small group discussion by our Drake students. This was the clear highlight for the teens and our Drake students, and it was a joy to watch everyone grow in relationship with each other. Faith grows best when led by example, and I was so proud to see our leaders support young students in this way. After the discussion part of the evening, we all had the gift of praying together at the St. Ambrose Cathedral, and we participated in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as one community. It was exciting to spend time with our future church, and I'm grateful for our students and their willingness to serve.



#### DU Bulldog Catholic Crew Necks for Sale

Support DU Bulldog Catholic with a crewneck designed by our very own students! Know of any alumni, friends or family who have been a part of St. Catherine of Siena? Send them a sweatshirt! Fill out the link below to order.

Orders due by April 18. [https://](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pG3FP9yLOHDEyopflx0h2xt1VpQoDPmktZtLpt1Rvkk/viewform?edit_requested=true)

[docs.google.com/forms/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pG3FP9yLOHDEyopflx0h2xt1VpQoDPmktZtLpt1Rvkk/viewform?edit_requested=true)

[d/1pG3FP9yLOHDEyopflx0h2xt1VpQoDPmktZtLpt1Rvkk/viewform?](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pG3FP9yLOHDEyopflx0h2xt1VpQoDPmktZtLpt1Rvkk/viewform?edit_requested=true)

[edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pG3FP9yLOHDEyopflx0h2xt1VpQoDPmktZtLpt1Rvkk/viewform?edit_requested=true)



### Parish Life & More

#### Ministry of Faith Formation Encounter

Save the date for our next Encounter on Sunday, May 5th after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Encounter is our parish-wide intergenerational faith formation program. All are welcome!

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

#### Easter Flower Offering



Easter flowers were offered in honor of Nellie Robinson from Jim and Jeanne O'Halloran.

#### 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.

#### Bring a Nurse to Church

Join us for Mass at 5:15 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church on April 29, the Feast Day of St. Catherine of Siena, Patron Saint of Nurses, to pray with and pray for nurses. Let us give thanks for all they do for our communities. All nurses and friends of nurses of all denominations are welcome! Refreshments following at 6:00 pm.

## Ministry of Service

### Cookie Collection for Homeless Shelter

The last collection for the Central Iowa Homeless Shelter is the weekend of April 20-21. Please bring your homemade or store-bought cookies to the cookie bin in the Gathering Space those weekends. Last month, over 250 individuals attended the dinner and enjoyed the cookies you donated! Thank you for your continued generosity towards this ministry.

### Catholic Worker House

In the past few weeks, we have received many wonderful donations for the Catholic Worker House. Much thanks to you who have donated shoes, pillows, personal hygiene items, men's t-shirts, a tent, blankets and so much more. Please keep them coming for the need never goes away.

### Spring Clothing Drive

Please bring gently used shoes and clothing to the church on May 18/19.

Children's clothes are especially needed. Thank you.



### Respect for Life—Reuse

Try to eliminate single use plastics in your life by:

Using water bottles instead of buying bottled water.

Taking your own container to restaurants for your take home box.

Use your own coffee cup at work.

Buy eggs and ice cream that are in cardboard containers.

Take reusable bags to stores, especially grocery stores.

Use bar soap and bar shampoo.

## Around the Diocese

### Eucharistic Revival Preacher Coming

Father Luke Spannagel from Peoria, Illinois, will be coming to St. Theresa Parish in Des Moines this month. Opportunities open to the public to hear this Eucharistic Revival preacher are at the 6:30 a.m. Masses on April 24, 25 and 26. Also, there will be a talk scheduled for April 25 at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact St. Theresa Parish at 515-279-4654.

### Bishop Drumm Garage Sale

The Bishop Drumm Garage Sale will be held from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Thursday from May 2-September 26th at the Bishop Drumm campus at 5837 Winwood Dr., in Johnston. Donations of good household items, furniture and clothing will be accepted on the days of the sale. Please contact Helen Thull at 515-669-4621 for large, donated items.

### Women's Evening of Recollection

Women of all ages are invited, (including high school and college students) on Monday, May 13, 2024, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to spend a brief time away from the world to be with Our Lord. The Evening is designed to help you spend time alone with God, to look at your life from His perspective, and find practical ways to serve God amid your ordinary work and family life. Location is St. Augustin Church (enter the north door on the east side of the Church), 545 42nd Street, Des Moines.

A priest will present two meditations based upon the spirituality of St. Josemaria Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei. There will be time for personal prayer, reflection, and confession. The evening will conclude with Benediction.

- Confession available starting at 6:30, as well as between meditations
- First meditation starts at 7:00
- Get together and fellowship after

The Women's Evenings of Recollection will take place on the 2nd Monday of each month except in December. Questions: Terry McFarland (630-885-0246). [terryannmcfarland@gmail.com](mailto:terryannmcfarland@gmail.com)

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

## Upon Further Review

From The Word Among Us

*He opened their minds. (Luke 24:45)*

What a traumatic three days the disciples had just been through—from the Last Supper through Gethsemane, Judas' betrayal, Jesus' arrest, and Peter's denial, all the way up to Jesus' crucifixion! Everything they had staked their lives on had fallen to pieces—and they themselves had failed Jesus completely.

So it's no wonder that Jesus' first words when he appeared to the disciples were "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36). How they needed that peace! Then, just as he had done for the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he "opened their minds" to help them make sense of all they had just been through (24:45). Walking them through the Scriptures, he showed them how his death had been part of God's plan all along. He helped them see that it was not a tragedy but a triumph. It was not the end of all their hopes but the beginning of a glorious new future.

Have you ever felt the way the disciples did? Maybe you're in the midst of a painful situation right now that has you feeling confused, betrayed, or lost. Maybe a traumatic experience in the past still haunts you. Or maybe the guilt of some past sin continues to weigh you down.

Whatever your situation, Jesus longs to do for you what he did for his disciples. He longs to open your mind to his mercy so that you can be set free from guilt or shame. He longs to reveal his love so that you can see your past—especially the painful parts—through his eyes of love and compassion. He longs to give you new insight into his wisdom so that you can look to your future with hope and trust.

Quiet your heart today so that you can hear Jesus speak to you. Let him "open your mind" and show you how he looks at you. Let him give you his peace.

*"Jesus, help me to see with your eyes, to hear with your ears, and to love with your heart."*

### 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

### 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 April 21. For questions, call Jeff Pierick at 515-778-6087.

### Executive Director Job Opening

Catholic Charities is seeking a dynamic and visionary leader to serve as the Executive Director of Catholic Charities. This individual will provide strategic direction, foster collaborative relationships, and oversee the day-to-day operations of the organization. To apply: click [here](#).

### St. Pius Catholic School Job Openings

St. Pius has openings for substitute teachers, classroom associates, food service workers and full-time maintenance. Visit their website [here](#) to learn more.

### OUR VISION

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

### 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.