



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and Student Center

1150 28th Street, Des Moines, IA, 50311
Office@stcathrinedrake.org ~ 515-650-8646

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 27, 2026

Next Weekend is Encounter Weekend - Join Us!!

On October 4th after the 10 a.m. mass, the first Encounter for 2026-27 will be held at the Olmstead Center. Encounter is our parish-wide intergenerational faith formation program for all members of the parish, including Drake and other college students, families with young and school-age children and youth, and adult households. All are always welcome. Encounter brings us together for food, prayer, fellowship, and faith-filled conversation.

The theme for this year is – The Saints: Inspiring Everyday Faith in Action. Together, we’ll explore the lives of inspiring saints and holy people and discover how their faith can inspire our own prayer, service, and everyday lives. This year, we’ll explore:

- What it means to be called to holiness through love, charity, service, and justice.
- The meaning of the “communion of saints” and the Church’s recognition of saints in heaven and on Earth.
- The fascinating process of canonization.
- How the lives of particular saints can shape our prayer, spirituality, and mission.

This month our spotlight will be on St. Therese of Lisieux whose feast day the church celebrates on October 1st. For the adults: Fr. McManus will lead the session discussing, what does it mean to be a saint? He will reflect how we are called to be saints who strive to grow in holiness, love, charity, service, and justice to our neighbors in our everyday lives. In separate sessions the middle schoolers and high schoolers will explore the place of saints in the church and the K-5th Graders will discuss what it means to be a saint for them.

Encounter takes place on the first Sunday of the month, October through May. The program includes a shared lunch. The main dish for lunch is provided. Please bring a non-dessert side dish to share. Please note that the Olmstead Center does not have any kitchen facilities for heating your side dish on site. No additional registration is necessary.

Parish Life & More

Priests on Retreat - No Mass

The priests of the Diocese will be away at workshop the last week of September. There will be ***NO DAILY MASS, Confessions or Adoration*** September 28-30th. Regular schedule will resume with Candlelight Mass October 1st.



Thank you!!

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our St. Cate’s community for surrounding me with love and support during my recent recovery from surgery. Your prayers, visits, cards and wonderful meals were a great help and comfort to Dennis and me. I am truly thankful to belong to a community that so beautifully reflects God’s love.

With blessings and heartfelt thanks, Melinda Hendrickson

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. PJ McManus
Parochial Administrator (Pastor)

Very Rev. David Fleming
Pastoral Assistant

Jan Blessum-Business Manager
Megan Schultz-Campus Minister
Rachelle Watters-Office Manager

Director of Music
Dennis & Melinda Hendrickson

Director of Liturgical Ministries
Margaret Hanson

Deaf Ministry Coordinators
Gus and Dee Cordero

Ministry of Servant Leaders
John Chesser—CHAIR
Margaret Cavanagh
Gus Cordero
Melinda Hendrickson
Larry James
Robert Ebow McEwan
Mark Schmidt
Megan Schultz
Alexia Simonton

Ministry of Stewardship
Brendan Comito—CHAIR
Josh Beck
Patrick Carruthers-Green
Larry James
Annette Roth
Kristi Ryan
John Moellers

Ministry of Faith Formation
Laura Catherine Carruthers-Green

Ministry of Community Formation
Melinda Hendrickson

Ministry of Service
Margaret Cavanagh

Family and Children’s Ministry
Laura Catherine Carruthers-Green

Development Committee
Patrick Carruthers-Green

Hospitality Committee
Jan Wise

Communication Team
Brian Gongol

Safety Committee
Annette Roth

St. Catherine Dialogue Series
Mary-Claire Uselding

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

Cultivate a spiritual home for students alongside other members to become who God called them to be and set the world on fire with Christ’s love.

Welcome to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and Student Center

New parishioners and students are invited to register oline at stcatherinedrake.org or by contacting the parish office. Please notify the parish office when moving or with a change in phone number, address or email.

Campus Ministry

Prayer & Parties
MeganSchultz, Campus Minister

This week I've been sitting with the importance of celebrating. Between a birthday, a going-away party, and a pick-up pickleball night, I've noticed how the community I surround myself by doesn't simply maintain itself. It's tempting to take a step backwards when things get busy and hectic, but in doing so, we strip ourselves away from the opportunities that can bring consolation into an otherwise difficult stretch of time.

In a stretch of doom scrolling, I heard this quote from Bishop Michael Martin, "When I feel myself deflated or drained, 9 times out 10, the rationale for that is because I've been too focused on me! ...It's not about you, get out of yourself". I think the remedy for this inward preoccupation (that only makes us feel worse about ourselves or our situation) is celebrating others. It takes a sincere act of will to prioritize the other when we ourselves find life challenging. And so we need to do this more often. How am I bringing joy to my coworkers? My family? The person I walk past often, but don't know the name of?

In terms of joy, if you want a chance to celebrate, join us for adoration on Monday, Oct. 5th from 7-8 pm. Immediately following our prayer, we'll eat pie at the Basilica in honor of Fr. Pj's 44th birthday. Come pray and celebrate with us.

Ministry of Faith Formation

Encounter - Growing in Community & Faith

Encounter is coming up on Oct. 4th! Encounter is our parish-wide faith formation. St. Catherine's believes that faith formation is an ongoing journey and doesn't just end with childhood. Our Encounter program is for everyone and you're invited! Join us this upcoming Sunday after 10 am Mass for lunch and the program itself. Our theme for Encounter this year focuses on the lives of the saints and learning from their examples of everyday holiness.

Important note: No refrigeration or heating available this year! The main dish is provided for lunch after Mass and Encounter participants are encouraged to bring a non-dessert side dish to share. Due to our location change this year, we will not have refrigeration or heating available for the items brought. Please plan accordingly.

The Dorothea Project



The Dorothea Project is a growing movement of Catholic women called to live our faith out loud. Formed by the wisdom of the Church and fueled by a deep desire for justice, we exist to empower communities to defend human dignity, and respond to injustice with courage and love. A Des Moines chapter of this national organization was started right here in our parish recently. We'd like to invite all women to join us for our next meeting on Saturday, October 17th at 10:30am at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart in Ankeny. If you have any questions, ask Laura Catherine Carruthers-Green, Anna Lee, or Margaret Cavanaugh.

Donations

You can make a donation to St. Catherine's by mailing a check to the office, 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!

Ministry of Liturgy, Music & Prayer

Liturgy Schedule September 27
Lector - Aimee Beckmann-Collier & Michele Whitty
Sacristan—Margaret Hanson
Eucharistic Minister— Janet Holms
Money Counter— Patrick Carruthers-Green
Greeters— Jane Brenny & TJ Johnsrud
Coffee/Donuts— Ted & Whitney
ASL Interpreter - Barb Mitchell

Music
#573 - Come, Christians, Join to Sing
#422 - Christ Be Beside Me
#626 - The Cry of the Poor
#389 - God Has Chosen Me

Mass Times

WEEKDAYS
Monday—12pm Mass at St. John's Basilica and 7pm adoration at St. John's Basilica

Tuesday—5:30pm Mass at Sussman Theater, Olmsted Building

Wednesday—5:30pm Mass at at Sussman Theater, Olmsted Building

Thursday—8:30pm Candlelight Mass at Sussman Theater, Olmsted Building, THAM fun and games to follow

Friday—12pm Mass at St. John's Basilica

Saturday—8am Mass at St. John's Basilica

Sunday—10am Mass at Sussman Theater, Olmsted Building (with ASL Interpreter) and 5pm Student Mass at Sussman Theater, Olmsted Building

Reconciliation Times

Monday—during Adoration

Tuesday to Thursday—1/2 hour before Mass

Saturday—9-10am at the Basilica (following the 8:30 Mass)

Mass Intentions
If you would like to schedule a Mass Intention, call the parish office at 515-650-8646.

† **Sunday, September 27**
10:00am Ann & Raymond Brenny Family

A Word from Fr. McManus

As I mentioned last week, I won't be with you this weekend. Partly that is because I'm coordinating and presenting the major portion of the conferences for this year's priest workshop in Coralville, and partly because I'll be both at Christ Our Life and several other parishes trying to connect with college students in the area who don't attend St. Catherine of Siena. It's very important for me that you know, however, that whenever I am absent from the parish on a Sunday that my Mass is offered for the people of the parish. That's not only the Church's universal law, but a way of holding each other accountable—we always meet first, principally, and most importantly, at the altar.

Thanks to everyone who attended or helped make possible last Sunday's events with Dr. Diana Butler Bass. A great many people gave their time, hospitality, labor, and prayer to the day: those who planned and promoted it, prepared and served food, welcomed visitors, arranged the spaces, provided music and technical support, and stayed afterward to clean everything up. I am especially grateful to all of you who came willing to listen, ask questions, and enter into conversation, even when that was sometimes difficult.

Good dialogue does not require us to pretend that our differences do not matter. Quite the opposite: worthwhile dialogue begins when we care enough about the truth—and about one another—to speak honestly, listen carefully, and disagree lovingly. I'm especially proud of the way several of our students acquitted themselves at the gathering Sunday evening: they voiced their disagreements respectfully and forthrightly, and Diana told me herself that she was leaving with some new things to think about. Sometimes, by the grace of God, we can all change our minds.

That phrase appears twice in this Sunday's Gospel.

Jesus tells of a father who sends two sons to work in his vineyard. One says no, but later changes his mind and goes. The other gives the proper and respectful answer—"Yes, sir"—but never actually goes. Jesus' point is not difficult to understand: the Father is not impressed by religious words that never become religious lives.

There is hope in that—and also a warning.

The hope is that our first answer does not have to be our final answer. We may have resisted God, neglected his invitation, misunderstood what he was asking, or wandered very far from the vineyard. None of that prevents us from changing our minds and going to work today. Conversion remains possible. The warning is that saying yes is not the same as living yes. It is possible to know the prayers, hold the correct opinions, and appear thoroughly respectable while remaining safely outside the vineyard. Christianity is not merely the ability to give God the right answer. It is the decision to follow Christ when he sends us somewhere we did not expect to go.

Perhaps that is the invitation for all of us this week: to ask where our courteous "yes" has remained only a word—and where God may be giving us the grace to reconsider an old "no."

The Father is still sending laborers into his vineyard. We can still change our minds. And today is still a good day to go.

—Fr. PJ

Ministry of Service

Kenya Scholarships

Five years ago, our St. Catherine's community began supporting the education of 10 children in Kenya through scholarships. We are grateful to share that five of those students have now graduated from high school!

We now have five students remaining who still need our help to continue their education. Approximately \$800 per student provides the opportunity to attend private school in Kenya. Would you consider helping one of these children continue their education and build a brighter future? Every contribution makes a difference.

To donate, please make your check payable to St. Catherine's and write "Kenya Scholarships" in the memo line. Checks may be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the parish office. Thank you for helping give these children the gift of education and the opportunity to reach their full potential!

Catholic Worker House

The Catholic Worker House is in desperate need of basic clothing and household items. They are currently completely out of socks, blankets, hoodies, and towels, and their supply of clothing is very limited.

If you have even one shirt or other item you no longer need, please consider bringing it this Sunday. Every donation, big or small, can make a difference for someone in need.

A donation bin will be available at the front door of Olmsted for your convenience. Please help if you can. Thank you for your generosity and for caring for our neighbors in need!

Help Fill our Free Little Food Pantry!!

Items most needed are canned protein, fruits, vegetables, soup in pop top cans, peanut butter, and cereal. Please give what you can. Email Margaret Cananagh to sign up - cavanaghmargaret1@hotmail.com.



Upon Further Review

From The Word Among Us

... united in heart. (Philippians 2:2)

Isn't it amazing to live in such a connected world? You can so easily search the internet to find answers to any question you have and to learn all about the latest events happening anywhere in the world. Yet we all know that there are challenges related to this quick access to information, and one of them is the quick access to opinions. And, as we often see, opinions lead to arguments, and arguments lead to divisions.

So when we hear St. Paul calling us to be "of the same mind" and "united in heart," it can seem almost impossible (Philippians 2:2). It's hard enough staying civil and polite, but to actually be united in heart and mind? Can we even do that? Paul seems to think we can. So let's consider how we can apply his words to our lives today.

Consider Paul's audience: the Christians in Philippi. Paul isn't writing to the entire city. Why does that matter? Because we are called to a special kind of unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our Church is diverse, and that's part of its beauty. But unity in the midst of diversity means that our opinions, as important as they may be, should not supersede our call to reveal the love of Christ through our unity: "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

So how can we embrace this calling? One way is to ask yourself if you should be spending less time taking in the news, political commentary, or celebrity gossip and more time serving God. The simple act of putting your energy toward listening to God and being among his people will bring down dividing walls and empower you to follow Jesus' command to love all of your brothers and sisters.

So enjoy the benefits of our connected world, but remember to guard the true, lasting unity of your family in Christ.

"Jesus, help me to hear your call to unity and respond with love."

Ministry of Stewardship



HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

We have reached 77% of our goal and are now just \$9,373 short of our assessed \$40,548 goal. Every gift helps us to inch toward the finish line and do our part to support the vital ministries and services! Thank you to those who have given so far!!



SCAN THE QR CODE OR
VISIT [DMDIOCESE.ORG/GIVING](https://dmdiocese.org/giving)

Building Community

THE CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE

Our building is empty, but St. Catherine is anything but that! We continue to celebrate Mass, gather in prayer, serve our community, and offer opportunities to grow in faith.

We are especially grateful to **Drake University and St. John's Basilica** for helping provide temporary homes for our worship and ministry.

Under Fr. PJ McManus' leadership, we continue to be the St. Catherine community wherever we gather.

There is no timeline for returning home yet. Until then, we will continue moving forward together.

Different spaces. Same faith. Same mission. Same St. Catherine.

Around the Dioceses

Volunteer at Catholic Charities

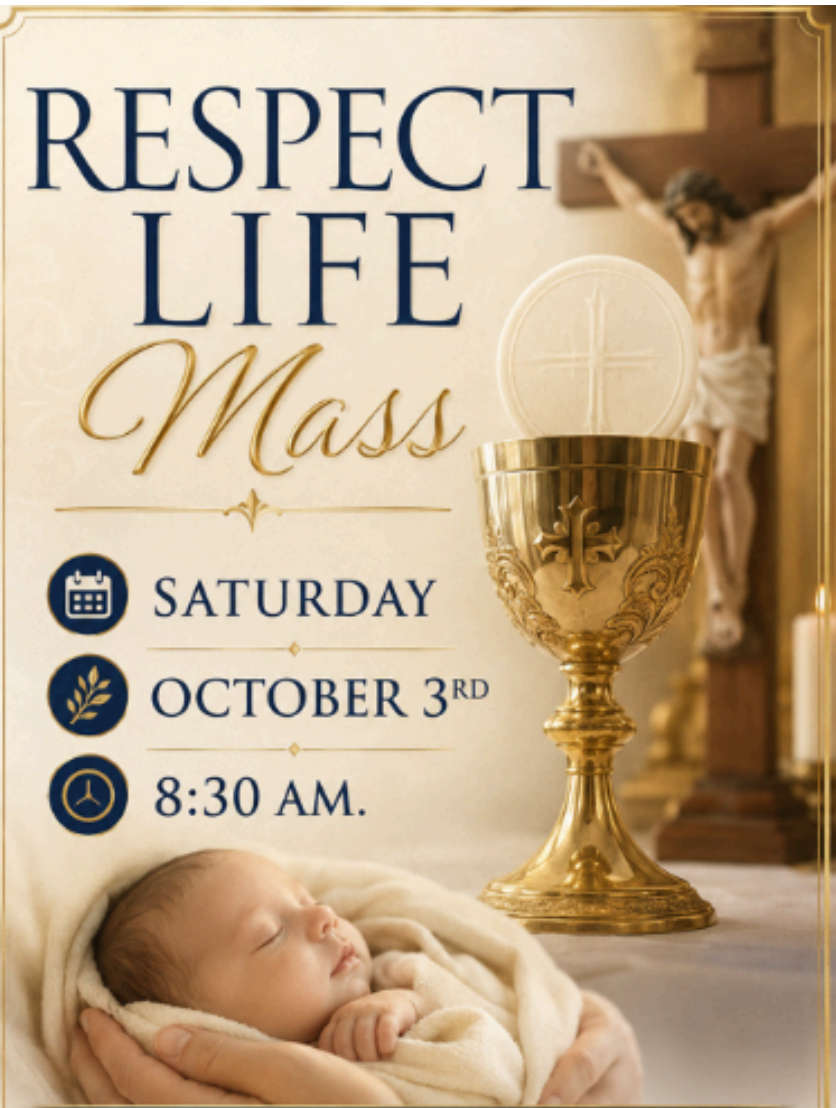
We have opportunities for all ages, including youth-friendly ways to give back. Love being outside? Help care for our community gardens at the Catholic Charities Food Pantry! Prefer to clean and organize? Support our guests by organizing donations at the Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter! Need a group service project? Consider holding a donation drive to benefit those in need! For more information, visit catholiccharitiesdm.org/volunteer

RESPECT LIFE Mass

 SATURDAY

 OCTOBER 3RD

 8:30 AM.



 ST ANTHONY CHURCH

CHERISH • PROTECT • DEFEND • LOVE

EVERY LIFE IS A GIFT

The deadline for bulletin announcements are noon on Tuesdays. Submit to: [office @stcatherinedrke.org](mailto:office@stcatherinedrke.org).