



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and Student Center

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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ October 11, 2026

No Dotted Line Down His Middle

“The glory of God is a human being fully alive,” wrote Irenaeus of Lyons some two thousand years ago. One of the reasons I remain a Christian-in-progress is the peculiar Christian insistence that God is revealed in humankind – not just in human form but in human being. ...

In Jesus, Christians believe, everyone gets a good look at what it means to be both fully human and fully divine – not half and half, as if he walked around with a dotted line down his middle, but fully both, all the time. His full humanity was on display as he taught, healed, fed, and freed people, just as it was when he honored the poor, defied the powerful, and turned the institutional tables along with his own cheek.

When I ask people to tell me how Jesus could be both fully human and fully divine, they often describe a kind of laminating process in which his humanity was encased in divine plastic. The last thing to occur to most of us is that to be fully one is to be fully the other. What is it about “fullness” that we do not understand?

My advice is not to think about this too much, since thinking about it will not only make you crazy but will also take you out of the world where you practice being fully human yourself. Jesus clearly thought this was the best plan. When people wanted him to tell them what God’s realm was like, he told them stories about their own lives. When people wanted him to tell them God’s truth about something, he asked them what they thought. With all kinds of opportunities to tell people what to think, he told them what to do instead. Wash feet. Give your stuff away. Share your food. Favor reprobates. Pray for those who are out to get you. Be the first to say, “I’m sorry.”

For those who took him as their model, being fully human became a full-time job. It became a vocation in itself, no matter what they happened to do for a living.

Barara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*, 2009, pp 118-119

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
John Moellers
Annette Roth
Kristi Ryan

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

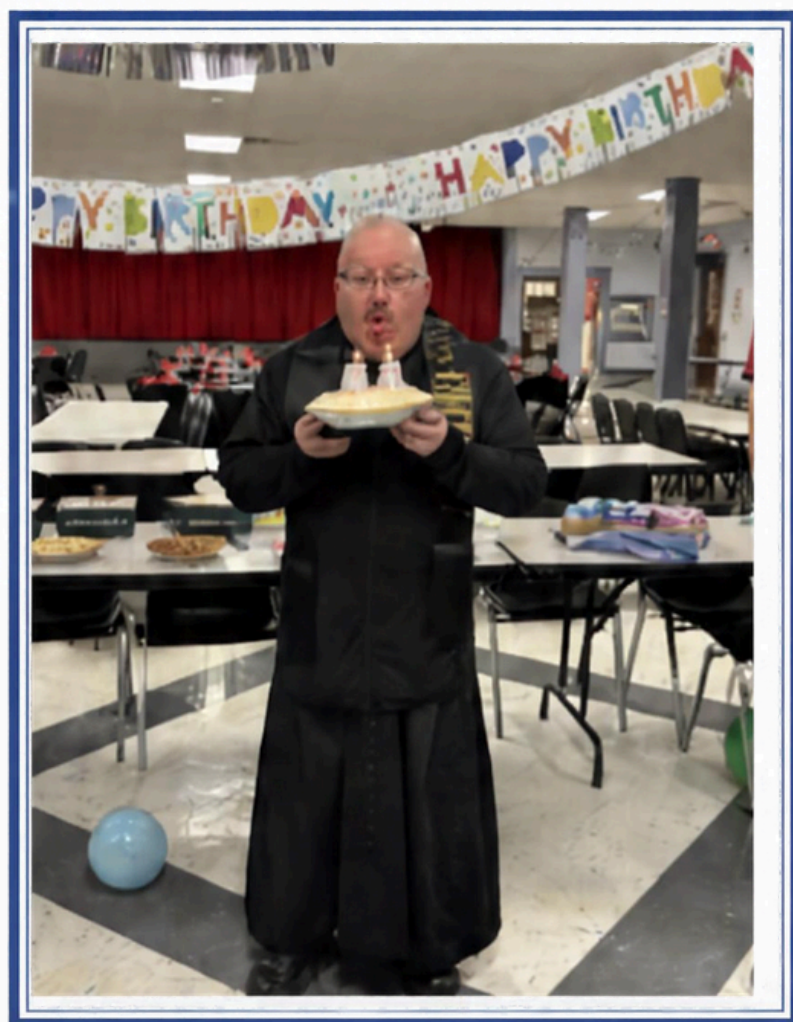
New parishioners and students are invited to register online at scatherinedrake.org or by contacting the parish office. Please notify the parish office when moving or with a change in phone number, address or email.

Campus Ministry

Halfway Through the Semester!

MeganSchultz, Campus Minister

This week brings us to fall break for our Drake students, and it's crazy to think that we've already passed midterms! The year has been flying, and I'm so proud of the community for finding the joy amidst the chaos of this school year. Our FOCUS team will be leading a fall break trip to Arkansas River State Park, so please pray for safe travels for our students! We still have several big events for our students before fall ends, with our Orchard Outing next weekend, and then the Koinonia Retreat bringing October to a close. Thank you to Margaret and Rachelle for donating pies for our birthday party for Father Pj on Monday evening. We had



over 20 students, as well as the joy of Father's family and many priest friends who joined us. I believe in this birthday month, so let's keep celebrating and thanking Father Pj for his presence and zeal that he brings to our community.

Building Community

PROGRESS IS HAPPENING

We are moving forward together—with faith in God and excitement about St. Catherine's future.

While there is still much work ahead—and no timeline for returning to our building—we are making progress.

Measurements have been taken of our building—an important step in beginning the design process for our renewed parish home.

Under the leadership of Fr. PJ McManus, our parish and student community continue to worship, pray, serve, learn, and gather together.

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 October 11

Lector - Jenlee Mace & Brendan Comito

Sacristan - Ann Gernes

Eucharistic Minister - Tricia Wisniewski

Money Counter - Patrick Carruthers-Green

Greeters - Barb James & David Collier

Coffee/Donuts -

ASL Interpreter - Amanda Gallant

Music

#305 - Gather the People

#419 - Drawn to You

#338 - The Supper of the Lord

#559 - Thanks Be to God

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 - 8:30am 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.

A Word from Fr. McManus

I don't know about you, but I get uncomfortable when Jesus starts talking about "sending in troops" and "burning their city."

This does not sound much like the Jesus who lives in my head: the Jesus who welcomes everybody, eats with sinners, looks for the lost sheep, and, in this very parable, sends his servants into the highways and byways to invite everyone they can find, "bad and good alike."

And as someone who has never taken fashion especially seriously, I really don't like the bit about the wedding garment. I'm pretty sure I'd be in trouble myself.

But maybe the tension is the point.

We often imagine that welcome and conversion are opposites. Either everybody is invited, or something is expected of us.

Jesus says both.

The invitation is astonishingly broad because grace is astonishingly broad. We are not a club for people who already have their lives together. We can welcome the sinner, the confused, the wounded, and the messy because we know that we were not invited because we were already good.

We know what it is to be forgiven. We know what it is to have our minds changed, our habits challenged, our sins named, and our lives reordered.

Or at least we should.

We do not say, "Come in, because nothing about you needs to change."

We say, "Come in, because Christ has changed us too."

That is why the wedding garment matters. The invitation is free, but it is not meaningless. Grace welcomes us as we are, and then begins the work of making us new.

This Sunday's Collect says it beautifully: may God's grace "go before us and follow after."

Grace goes before us to invite us in.

Grace follows after to change us once we arrive.

And perhaps most importantly, we are only able to invite in those who are not already among us precisely because of the constancy of God's grace.

God invites us to share in the salvation of the world.

Ministry of Faith Formation



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.

Kenya Scholarships

We are currently giving scholarships to 5 children in Kenya. It will cost an average of \$800 for each student to return when their new school year starts in January. They can only return with your help. Please make out your check, in any amount, to St Catherine's with Kenya Scholarships in the memo and put them in the collection basket or send them to the office. Thank you.



OCTOBER 25

"Surrendering to God's Plan for Human Life"



Amy Harryman
Outreach Coordinator for Pulse Life Advocates

Amy, who has a background in nursing, has a passion for life advocacy that is deeply rooted in her faith, believing in God's perfect plan to begin and end life naturally—on His time.

Amy will share her story of how assisted suicide affected her own family, and also a life-threatening incident that together, instilled a renewed appreciation of the value of human life.

OCTOBER 25
SPEAKER
7:30-8:30PM
Feel free to get there ahead of time to eat and socialize.


THE KING'S HEAD
Next to Magee's Irish Pub
1610 SW Main St. | Ankeny

Sponsored by Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church



Help Fill our Free Little Food Pantry!!

Items most needed arecanned 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.



Ministry of Stewardship



HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

We have reached 77% of our goal and are now just \$9,223 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://dmdioocese.org/giving)

Help the Hungry and Gather With Our Local Community

The World Food Prize Foundation is bringing the community together for an unprecedented effort to fight hunger: packaging 600,000 meals in one hour in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the most hunger relief meals packed in one hour.

In partnership with Meals from the Heartland, volunteers will work side-by-side to surpass the current record and to provide nutritious food to people facing hunger in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, and communities in eight other countries. But this is about more than a world record.

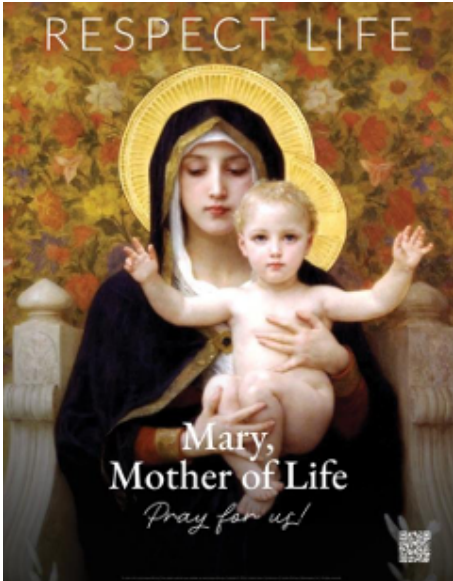
This is about what happens when a community comes together with a shared purpose. Every meal packaged will help provide nourishment to children and families facing food insecurity, both close to home and around the world. Since 2008, Meals from the Heartland has distributed over 290 million around the globe. This effort will take place during the World Food Prize events.

Details:
Tuesday, October 20, EMC Expo Center at the Iowa Events Center
5:30 - volunteer check-in, instructions, and gear
6:30-7:30 - meal packaging

To register: go to
<https://www.worldfoodprize.org/worldrecord>

Around the Dioceses

Join thousands of Catholics praying a Respect Life Month novena Thursday, October 22 – Friday, October 30. Get daily prayers, reflections, and more. Sign up at respectlife.org/celebrate



FROM THE
ALTAR
TO THE
STREETS

OCTOBER — RESPECTING LIFE, SUPPORTING FAMILIES

“A human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development.”
— POPE FRANCIS, *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 213

Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God and has infinite worth from the moment of conception. A culture of life, therefore, protects the unborn and surrounds the mothers, fathers, and families with the support, love, and hope they need to choose life.

THIS MONTH'S INVITATION:
Look for a pregnant mother, single mother or father, or family with children in your parish who may be facing difficulties. Offer *one concrete act of support* for what they need.

LEARN MORE
Scan to learn how you can support Catholic Charities' Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter, which provides safety, hope, and support for women and children.

SCAN HERE

RECEIVE CHRIST. BE CHRIST. SERVE CHRIST IN OTHERS.

Job Opportunity St. Thomas More Center

The St. Thomas More Center, home of Catholic Youth Camp, is looking for an executive director, a camp director, and a facilities manager. Be part of a mission to help youth and young people grow in their faith and have fun! The deadline to apply is Nov. 6. For more information on each position and to apply visit www.dmdioocese.org/careers and look under Catholic Organizations.

Dominica I. in Quadragesima.

Fr. Trevor Chicoine
Vicar of Divine Worship,
Des Moines Diocese

Emily Schmid
Director of Music and Liturgy,
St. Francis of Assisi, West Des Moines, IA

FINDING THE VOICE OF LENT

Join music directors, cantors, accompanists, singers, and instrumentalists as we explore the Church's musical traditions for this season.

We will look at prayer, simplicity, and character of the Lenten liturgy.

QUESTIONS: CONTACT
DESMOINESIA@NPM.ORG

17 OCT
9AM-12:30PM

Diocese of Des Moines
CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS IN CHRIST

Des Moines Chapter

Catholic Schools

FAITH. EXCELLENCE. COMMUNITY. VALUE.

Diocese of Des Moines
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Still enrolling for **2026-2027**. Apply today.

The deadline for bulletin announcements is noon on Tuesdays. Submit to: office@stcatherinedrke.org.