



**St. Catherine of Siena
Catholic Church
820 Hickory Street
Sebring, FL 33870**

Parish Office/Mailing

882 Bay St., Sebring, FL 33870

Tel: (863)385-0049 **Fax:** (863)385-5169

Tel: (863)385-6762 (Spanish)

Web: www.stcathe.org

www.facebook.com/stcathe

E-mail: office@stcathe.org

Monday—Friday 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

CLERGY

Pastor

Very Reverend José González, V.F.
frjose@stcathe.org

Parochial Vicar

Reverend Pawel Kawalec (863)385-3993

Deacon

Reverend Mr. Max M. Sévère
Reverend Mr. James R. McGarry (Ret.)

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday—8:00, 10:00 AM
& 12:00 Noon (Spanish)

DAILY MASS

Monday—Friday 8:00 AM
Sat. 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00—3:45 PM
In the Chapel

ST CATHERINE SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Nicole Loseto

2835 Kenilworth Blvd.

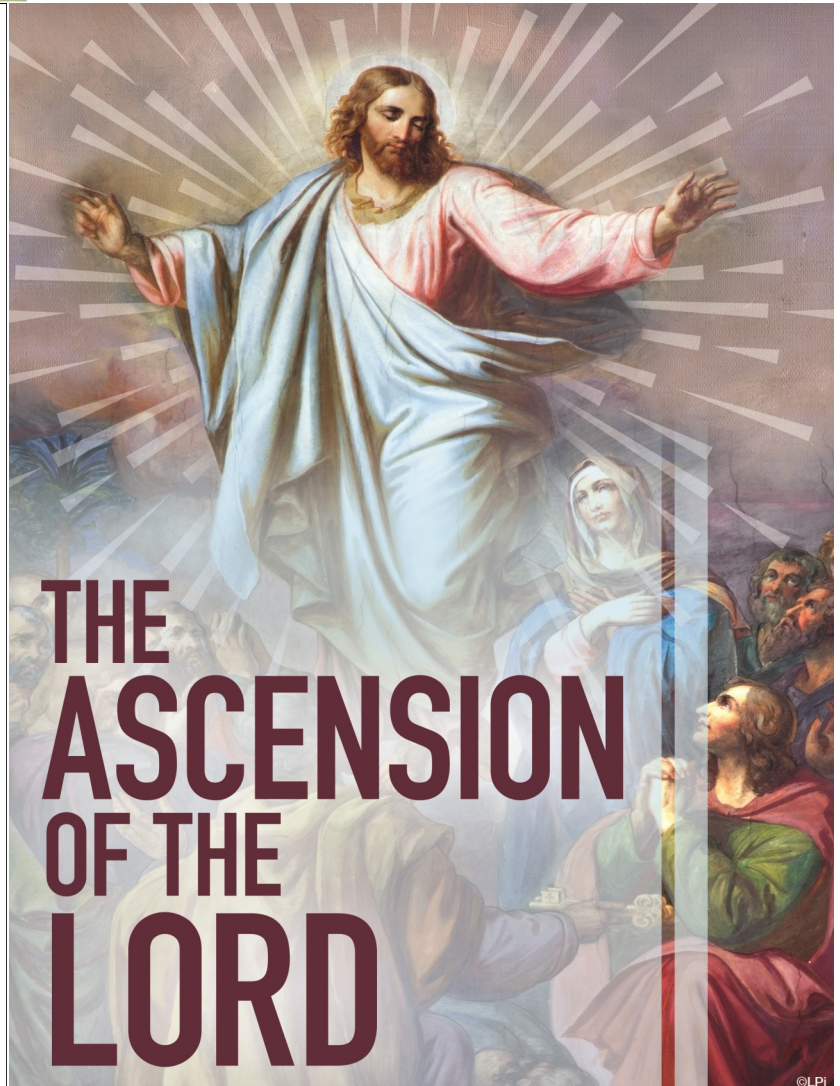
Pre-School 747 S. Franklin St.
Sebring, FL 33870

Tel: (863)385-7300 **Fax:** (863)385-7310

Web: www.stcatheschool.org

Mass Celebrations

Available in our
YouTube channels



**THE
ASCENSION
OF THE
LORD**

**“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
—Mt 28: 18:b-19**

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY MAY 25
IN OBSERVATION OF MEMORIAL DAY.**

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor's Update, May 23-24, Returning to Mass

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your patience and prayer during the pandemic lockdown. Your support has been a powerful witness to me and to our whole community of the grace and strength of our shared faith.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane has now issued guidelines for our return to Mass.

Remember that, although there is now some relaxation of the pandemic lockdown, the COVID-19 virus is still present, and it is deadly. It is necessary for all of us to abide by the regulations given for the protection of ourselves and our families, but also for the protection of the most vulnerable among us. I should not need to remind you that many in our congregation are elderly and are therefore among the most vulnerable.

The first thing to keep in mind is that **your obligation to attend Mass on Sunday has been suspended until June 28, 2020**. If you are sick stay home. If you have underlying health issues that put you at risk you should not attend Mass. If you are elderly or feel anxious about attending Mass you do not need to come to Mass. It is not a sin to miss Mass in these circumstances. However, you should not use the suspension of obligation to just skip Mass! You should desire to return to Mass and we are working with you to make that possible.

Secondly, please note that the sacraments may be celebrated, but all other church activities are still suspended. When you do come to Mass do not congregate and socialize before or after Mass.

Mass Times: We are celebrating daily Mass in the Church every weekday at 8:00 AM with the exception that the Saturday Mass is at 9:00 AM.

Weekend Masses resume this weekend of May 23-24, and Mass times remain the same: 4:00 PM on Saturday, 8:00 and 10:00 AM on Sunday morning and 12:00 noon in Spanish.

We may only admit 50% of our building's seating capacity. In order to accommodate everyone, we ask that you plan to attend Mass once a week. Attending one of the daily Masses should be your first choice, since there is no obligation to attend Sunday. This will allow more room for those who can only attend weekend Masses. We ask, therefore that you plan your Mass attendance in advance.

However, **for weekend Masses we ask that you use the survey that we will send you every week through Flocknote. That way, we can have an idea of how many people will be attending that weekend and we can plan for it.** You do not need to sign up to reserve a place: it is only helpful for us to get organized.

Cont...

Behaviors at Mass Here are some extra guidelines as we return to Mass:

- The church will be cleaned and sanitized before each Mass.
- To keep our distance, admission to church and dismissal will be done by small groups in an orderly manner as directed by the ushers.
- Holy water fonts are removed.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the vestibule. We advise you to carry your own.
- Bring your own face masks. Wearing a face mask is strongly recommended.
- Pew missals are removed.
- Only immediate family members may sit together.
- There is to be no physical contact in the exchange of the Peace or holding hands during the “Our Father”.

Baskets will be in the vestibule for you to make your offering as you enter or leave church.

Receiving Absolution

Individual confession will be in the chapel from 3:00 to 3:45 PM Saturday or by appointment.

Receiving Communion

- When celebrating, the priest will take every precaution to keep the sacred host at some distance on the altar while still close enough to consecrate.
- The priest and deacon will thoroughly cleanse and sanitize hands before celebrating Mass and will repeat before administering communion.
- Communion will be administered in the hand by the priest coming to you in your pew.

For health reasons or simple anxiety about transmission of disease, it is permissible to attend Mass, but refrain from receiving communion.

Extra Assistance One of the crucial aspects of opening but still managing worship safely will be our ushers and greeters.

Unfortunately, many of our ushers are themselves, within the vulnerable age group. They may wish to step down from serving as ushers at this point.

At the same time, the need for ushers to be fully informed and able to assist the public is greater than ever.

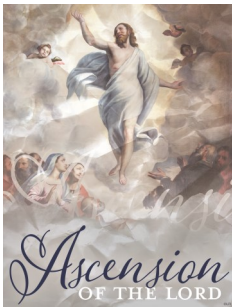
Therefore, if you are under the age of sixty and would be willing to serve as an usher or greeter please be in touch. We will need ushers and greeters for both the weekend and weekday Masses, and before you get started, we will give you all necessary training and instruction.

To volunteer to be a greeter or usher, please be in touch with Diane Sochacki at 863-835-2523 or diane@stcathe.org until the beginning of June.

Thank you for your patience during this difficult time and for your cooperation as we seek to return to worshipping the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Your pastor,
Fr. Jose

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



The Ascension of Our Lord, which occurred 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter, is the final act of our redemption that Christ began on Good Friday. On this day, the risen Christ, in the sight of His apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven.

The reality of Christ's Ascension is so important that the creeds (the basic statements of belief) of Christianity all affirm, in the words of the Apostles' Creed, that "He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead." The denial of the Ascension is as grave a departure from Christian teaching as is denial of Christ's Resurrection.

Christ's bodily Ascension foreshadows our own entrance into Heaven not simply as souls, after our death, but as glorified bodies, after the resurrection of the dead at the Final Judgment. In redeeming mankind, Christ not only offered salvation to our souls but began the restoration of the material world itself to the glory that God intended before Adam's fall.

The Feast of the Ascension marks the beginning of the first novena, or nine days of prayer. Before His Ascension, Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit to His apostles. Their prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit, which began on Ascension Thursday, ended with the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, ten days later.

Today, Catholics recall that first novena by praying the Novena to the Holy Ghost between Ascension and Pentecost, asking for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the Holy Spirit.



Congratulations on your accomplishments and we wish you luck in the future. We wish you luck in all your future endeavors and congratulate you on your great success. We are proud to share in the excitement of your graduation. Congratulations today and best wishes going forward.

Heavenly Father,

Surround those who are graduating with your grace.

Bless them with hope so that they move into the future with eager and open hearts. Help them to put the knowledge, skills, and insights gained through their education for the good of all mankind. Inspire them to believe in the goodness of life even when faced with challenges and difficulties. As they commence with their lives, may they grow even more grateful and wise.

Amen.



Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2020 occurs on Monday, May 25.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

PRAYER

Dear God,

on this day we remember
the sacrifices made for us

by those who were willing to give their
Lives to ensure that our own
would be spent in freedom.

Let us never forget to pray,
not only for the dead, but also
for those still living and working
in the cause of freedom around the world.

As we celebrate and enjoy this time,
give comfort and grace to those men
and women who have sacrificed
so much for our sake. St. Martin,

St. George and St. Joan of Arc:
pray for the protection of our soldiers
in their efforts, and bring them home
safely at the end of their duties
wherever that home may be.

Amen.

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

This sacrament is available in the chapel, every Saturday from 3:00—3:45 PM, or by appointment with a priest.

Anointing of the sick

Baptism

Marriage

For questions or more information (863)385-0049 or e-mail at office@stcath.org

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 19:1-8, Ps 68, Jn 16:29-33
 Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27, Ps 68, Jn 17:1-11a
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38, Ps 68, Jn 17:11b-19
 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, Ps 16, Jn 17:20-26
 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21, Ps 103, Jn 21:15-19
 Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, Ps 11, Jn 21:20-25
 Sunday: Acts 2:1-11, Ps 104, 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13, Jn 20:19-23

WELCOME TO ST. CATHERINE PARISH

We invite you to register with us or if you have changed any of your contact information, please fill out this form.

- Visit the Parish Office during open hours.
- Mail the Parish Registration or Update Form to the Parish Office.
- Drop the Parish Registration or Update Form into the weekend collection basket.
- Register online at www.stcath.org

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City and Zip Code: _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-mail: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY
 New Registration Moving out of the Parish
 Up-date information
 Need contribution envelopes

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions forms are available at the Parish Office or online, at www.stcath.com. Return Mass Intention forms at Parish Office or drop it in the weekend collection. The usual donation is \$10.

Please specify whether the person is living or deceased. Mass Intentions must be made a minimum of 10 days prior to the date of the intention.



SATURDAY May 23rd

9:00 AM MILDRED SEALE AND ALFREDO PAZMINO †
 Maria Von Drewitz
 PAUL HENNEBERRY † Hannah Henneberry
 4:00 PM WILLIAM P. TUOHY † Dianne C. Tuohy

SUNDAY May 24th

8:00 AM For all living and deceased parishioners — Fr. José WILLIAM AND MADALYN PLESKOVIC † Mark and Barb Walczak
 FRANCIS PLESKOVIC † Mark and Barb Walczak
 ISABEL TORRES AND CARMEN ORTIZ † Ada Martinez

MONDAY May 25th

8:00 AM Novena Mass for Life – For a Greater Respect for Human Life

TUESDAY February May 26th

8:00 AM THOMAS LIVETTE † Marge and Joe Rafferty
 JIM DEVANEY † Hannah Henneberry
 In Thanksgiving for Doroteo Rodriguez, Jr.'s Birthday – Maria Rodriguez

WEDNESDAY May 27th

8:00 AM DONALD HAERTEL † Deacon Jim McGarry

THURSDAY May 28th

8:00 AM OTILIA (TILLIE) CURFMAN † Dominic Mulattieri and the Mercure Family

FRIDAY May 29th

8:00 AM SELENE SPENCE † Gene Spence

SATURDAY May 30th

9:00 AM For Souls in Purgatory — Fr. José
 4:00 PM WILLIAM P. TUOHY † Dianne C. Tuohy
 Erin Wright (Special Intention) — Marilyn Lower
 Sister Shirley — Marilyn Lower

SUNDAY May 31st

8:00 AM BETTY AND JOHNNY COXE † John Coxe
 FRANCIS PLESKOVIC † Gladys Zitelli
 SELENE SPENCE † Mary Lou Herald
 10:00 AM For all living and deceased parishioners — Fr. José



CARES Act

CARES Act



Around the world and here at St. Catherine, we are witnessing incredible acts of kindness, faith and generosity. People are helping one another, praying for each other and supporting those in need during these unprecedented times. We are so grateful that even during an economic crisis, individuals and families continue to support St. Catherine Parish and School.

As many people are aware of, the Federal Government recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). However, most people are not aware that the CARES Act provides some additional tax benefits to those who donate to churches and other charitable organizations in 2020.

One of the new tax benefits will make it possible to take an above-the-line deduction for qualified charitable contributions up to \$300 for the 90 percent of taxpayers who do not claim itemized deductions on their federal income tax returns.

The CARES Act also relaxes some of the limits on charitable contributions. There are not many people with the ability to donate most of their income to charities, but for those that do, they can now get an increased federal income tax deduction for qualified charitable contributions. The deduction limit has been increased from 60 percent of their Adjusted Gross Income to 100 percent for 2020. In addition, the limitation on corporate donors has been increased from 10 percent to 25 percent of taxable income. Corporations can also increase their food donations from 15 percent to 25 percent of taxable income.

These income tax changes were included by the Federal Government to help individuals and families continue their support during this pandemic for the charitable organizations about which they care most, including St. Catherine Church and School.

To learn more about the CARES Act or how to support St. Catherine Church and School, please contact Claudia Spradlin at 863-991-3271 or by email at claudia@stcathe.org. You can also visit our website at www.stcathe.org.

BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

OFFERINGS

We thank you for your generosity

May 17: Regular Collection;

\$6,238.50

Online Giving: This week; \$833.00

For Online Giving instructions visit <https://www.osvhub.com/stcathe/funds>

Second Collections

(available Online and in your envelopes)

This Week: Catholic Communication Campaign

Next Week: Charity Funds

CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2020

Our assessment for 2020 is **\$110,000.00**. We have received pledges of **\$59,045.42**. We are at **53.08%** of our goal! Please make checks payable to CFA and in the Memo write "St. Catherine". Thank you for your generous support to St. Catherine's and the CFA. Watch the video listed below for more information:

DO YOU HAVE A RETIREMENT ACCOUNT?

The owner of an IRA or 401k names a beneficiary. One way to avoid taxes on your inheritance altogether is to designate St. Catherine Parish as your beneficiary. When you name a charity as a beneficiary to receive your IRA or other retirement assets upon your death, neither you and your heirs nor your estate will pay income taxes on the distribution of the assets. Changing the beneficiary of a retirement account is a simple process and does not generally require a change to your will or trust.

Another way to avoid taxes if you are required to take a minimum distribution from your retirement plan would be to consider making a qualified charitable distribution, naming St. Catherine as the eligible charity.

Please contact Claudia Spradlin in the Parish Office at (863)385-0049 or claudia@stcathe.org and we can provide you with details and instructions.

Thank you for your support of St. Catherine Parish. Our parishioners are our only source of funds and your contributions keep the lights on, enable parish ministries, and support our outreach to the poor.

Florida Catholic

Florida Catholic has suspended print production for the months of April and May. However, their ministry will continue as they are offering an e-edition free of charge throughout April. Visit the link below each Friday to view a new, free e-edition of the Florida Catholic.

<https://digital.thefloridacatholic.org/Florida-Catholic-05222020-e-Edition/VE-1/#>



RED MEMORIAL CANDLES are in

the back of the church adjacent to the Chapel. A Memorial Candle is lit and remains lighted at all times for one

year in memory of a person who has passed away. You may commemorate a loved one by lighting a candle for one year with a donation of \$150.

Please come to the Parish Office to make arrangements for a Memorial Candle which will be accompanied by a small plaque with the name of the person.