St. Catherine of Siena Parish follows Jesus by welcoming all, sharing our gifts, & giving glory to God.
**PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF**

Fr. Anthony Huong Le, Parochial Administrator

Deacon Albert Dizon
dcndixon@yahoo.com

Deacon David Holland
dcnollholland@yahoo.com

Mary Pult, Interim Principal
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RCIA
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Andrea Watkins
Director Religious Education
Safe Environment Coordinator
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Michael Chiò
Director of Music Ministry

Diana Palmer
Bookkeeper
Safe Environment Coordinator
bkprstcath@yahoo.com

Sylvia Lloren
Secretary

**CHURCH LOCATION:** 606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

**PARISH OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS:**
Martinez, CA 94553-1720

**TELEPHONE / FAX:** 925-228-2230 / 925-228-1318

**PARISH WEBSITE:** http://parish.stcatherinemartinez.com/

**PARISH EMAIL:**
bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 8:30 AM-1PM & 2 PM-5 PM

**GRAMMAR SCHOOL:**
604 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

**TELEPHONE / FAX:** 925-228-4140 / 925-228-0687

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:**
http://school.stcatherinemartinez.com/

**PRE SCHOOL:**
1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA

**TELEPHONE / FAX:** 925-229-2255 / 925-229-2474

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT:**
www.virtusonline.org

**BAPTISMS:** Registration is mandatory two months prior to Baptism. Parents & Godparents are required to attend a mandatory Baptism preparation class before reception of the Sacrament.

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements and mandatory preparation need to be arranged at least eight months prior to the wedding.

**FUNERALS:** We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services at 925-932-0900. A representative will contact the parish office to coordinate your arrangements.

**BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS:** To place an announcement in the bulletin, email request to: bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com. The deadline for requests is no later than noon on Fridays one week prior to the date of the bulletin in which the announcement is requested to appear. Please submit requests in advance of the event date and the deadline. Submissions should be brief and will be edited and approved by parish clergy before being published. Allow ample time for the approval process. Every attempt will be made to include the submission when requested; though, not all submissions are guaranteed placement. Marketing flyers/announcements must have approval in the form of a signature from the Pastor, Principal, or Deacon before posting on the premises; and fundraisers must have the name of the designated beneficiary of the proceeds; as well as followed by a gratitude submission which includes the amount of profits raised. The kiosk bulletin board outside the hall is for the parish use for Diocesan, Parish, School, and group announcements.

**EARLY DEADLINES:** Closely watch early deadlines imposed by the publisher and plan ahead accordingly. Deadline for Apr 15 has passed. The next deadline for submissions for the weekend April 22 all items must be submitted by FRI APR 13 by noon. Please direct your inquiries to the email above. Thank you.

**INTENTS FOR THE WEEK**

**SAT 4/7**
4:30 Walter & Michael Narodzonek †

**SUN 4/8**
7:00 Theodore & Theresa Farley †
8:30 Danny Cowell †
10:30 Swieszcz & Bratten Families †
12:30 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish School

**MON 4/9**
7:30 John Delchini †

**TUE 4/10**
7:30 Edward Sabral & Charles Picco †

**WED 4/11**
8:00 Gianni Ollari †

**FRI 4/13**
7:30 Joe Gomes †

**SAT 4/14**
7:30 Joseph Best †
4:30 Ernest Fio †

**SUN 4/15**
7:00 Jim Olwell †
8:30 Thomas & Eva Hernandez & Family †
10:30 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish School
12:30 Joe & Dolores Cardenas †

For intentions call the Parish Office

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

**March 25, 2018**

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Palm Sunday Collection $6,448.00 Weekly Offering
Fulfilling the Promise $ 40.00
Maintenance $ 30.00
St. Vincent de Paul $ 10.00
SCS Education Fund $ 10.00

**April 1, 2018**

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Easter Sunday Collection $9,912.00 Weekly Offering
Sunday Collection $4,093.00
Fulfilling the Promise $ 76.00
Good Friday/Holy Land $1,846.00
Holy Thursday $ 936.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

**REMEMBER ST. CATHERINE PARISH IN YOUR WILL & LIVING TRUST**

Contributions to Fulfilling the Promise are welcomed

Prayerfully consider a pledge to the bishop’s 2018 Appeal

CONGRATULATIONS! WE HAVE SURPASSED OUR GOAL!

**Diocese of Oakland**

**For more information:**

**2018 Bishop’s Appeal**

SCS Goal Summary:
Parish Goal: $23,000.00
Funds Raised: $26,150.00
% of Goal Raised: 113.7%

Please pray for those who have no one to pray for them

*www.oakdiocese.org/giving*
For him, loneliness is a feeling of distress and sorrow produced between the two? The doubting Apostle, Thomas surely did! Loneliness and mercy, have you ever made a connection? Dear Brothers and Sisters, the sexual scandals; others left because of personal pain and because the Pope did not teach what they wanted to hear; beliefs, political opinions, and so on. Some left the Church nowadays, many have been scattered because of misunderstandings and confusion over many things, such as religious beliefs, political opinions, and so on. Some left the Church because the Pope did not teach what they wanted to hear; some left because of Bishops and Cardinals failing to address the sexual scandals; others left because of personal pain and suffering, partly due to sins of others in the community, and on and on. Each of us has a reason to leave a community of faith. So did Thomas! However, the question is: Should we leave Jesus and the family of God—the Church because Judas and Peter had committed a sin of betrayal against the Lord? No, we should not.

Second, loneliness in difficult times often leads us to doubt our faith and even God, Himself. Thomas was alone in doubt. The testimony of the disciples, his brothers, his longtime companions, therefore, did not sound credible enough. He wanted to physically see, hear, and touch Jesus himself. One thing about Thomas that should win our admiration is that he was very honest with his struggle. He did not pretend to believe. He did not fake it. He faced his own doubt squarely. Yes, he doubted, but he sought answers within the community of faith, not from other groups. He truly wanted to know for sure! And, the Lord chose to appear to him when they gathered as a community of faith.

This is an act of mercy, brothers and sisters: mercy shown to oneself by being together with others in faith. Being in solidarity with and supported by a community of faith allows us to accept and overcome any challenges, thus saving us from our own loneliness and isolation. Within this context, one encounters the Risen Christ amidst all of these things.

Lastly, doubt, if it is generated from a true desire to know the faith and love of God, should lead one deeper into the mysteries of God and, therefore, a greater participation in the community of faith. Thomas doubted. He doubted sincerely and honestly. However, he searched for an answer from the community of faith. Then, the Lord was there again for him because the Lord has identified Himself with the Church as His own Body. How can the Head be away from the Body? Christ and the Church are one! Thus, Thomas knocked, and the door was open for him. Only then can he boldly confess: “My lord and my God!” Meeting the Risen Christ is an event that allows him to cross over from doubting to believing.

We see now that mercy shown to oneself by being with a community of faith saves one from loneliness and despair. It leads to greater faith and solidarity with others.

In so many ways, we are like Thomas and unlike him. He saw and believed. We did not see Jesus with bones and flesh but believe. We believe because we see the nail marks and scars as well as the beauty in those who are gathered by the Lord in the community of faith, the Church. We believe because we encounter Him at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In so many ways, we are like Thomas and unlike him. He saw and believed. We did not see Jesus with bones and flesh but believe. We believe because we see the nail marks and scars as well as the beauty in those who are gathered by the Lord in the community of faith, the Church. We believe because we encounter Him at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when the Word being proclaimed, and the bread and wine being blessed and transubstantiated into His Body and Blood sacramentally through His Word of Consecration. Then, we are blessed because we have not seen Him but believe in Him. Faith invites us to see not only the mere appearances of things, but also the hidden mysteries underneath.

The Mercy of God has been bestowed upon us through His Son. Now, let us show mercy to ourselves and those around us by choosing to be with the community of faith.

—Fr Anthony Le

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Divine Mercy Sunday to you all.

Loneliness and mercy, have you ever made a connection between the two? The doubting Apostle, Thomas surely did! For him, loneliness is a feeling of distress and sorrow produced by the loss of hope and unmet expectations of Jesus Christ. He was alone on the street. He was alone in his doubt and sorrows as his Master died. Loneliness is a terrible feeling indeed for him.

I know it firsthand, too! It was August 7, 2007 when I prepared to fly to the United States of America. For the first time, I traveled by air far away from home. I wanted to prove that I was strong and independent, so I told my family to remain at home while I went alone to the airport. There, among hundreds of people, I felt lonely as I watched them chat, cry, and sometimes cheer loudly. I felt isolated and left out. I felt an intense need for my family. So, quietly, I looked for a concealed corner, and there I broke down in tears. It was my mistake, I realized, to choose loneliness.

It was Thomas’ mistake, as well, when he chose to be alone in sorrow. He preferred loneliness over togetherness of the community of Jesus’ disciples. Make no mistake, he loved the Lord; he even dared to say to others that he would go to Jerusalem and die with Jesus. However, what the Lord had predicted had now become true. His heart was broken. Perhaps in distress, he decided to walk away from the group. Paradoxically, not being with the other disciples, Thomas missed the Risen Christ when He came.

Thomas’ story of distress and loneliness should help us realize these three important truths. First, it is against the nature of faith to isolate oneself from the community of believers. Christ came to gather the scattered flock into a community of His disciples precisely so that no one should be alone. God always gathers. On the contrary, the Devil always scatters and attacks the lonely one.

Nowadays, many have been scattered because of misunderstanding and confusion over many things, such as religious beliefs, political opinions, and so on. Some left the Church because the Pope did not teach what they wanted to hear; some left because of Bishops and Cardinals failing to address the sexual scandals; others left because of personal pain and suffering, partly due to sins of others in the community, and on and on. Each of us has a reason to leave a community of faith. So did Thomas! However, the question is: Should we leave Jesus and the family of God—the Church because Judas and Peter had committed a sin of betrayal against the Lord? No, we should not.

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The Mercy of God has been bestowed upon us through His Son. Now, let us show mercy to ourselves and those around us by choosing to be with the community of faith.
As the last droplets were rung out from the hovering clouds, nineteen gathered at the base of Mt. Wanda on March 24 to begin the trek upward. On the way, the Stations of the Cross were read and reflected upon while 14 who journeyed carried the cross on their shoulders. It was witnessed that someone even fell three times! Mass with the Consecration of our City of Martinez was celebrated at the top. Though the sun shone and the air was crisp and damp, the slippery path was welcomed as a slight inconvenient reminder of the suffering realized by Jesus. Thanks to St. Catherine of Siena Spark who organized this event and to everyone who braved the muddy slope to participate.

**Journey through the Stations on the Mt. Wanda Trail**

As the last droplets were rung out from the hovering clouds, nineteen gathered at the base of Mt. Wanda on March 24 to begin the trek upward. On the way, the Stations of the Cross were read and reflected upon while 14 who journeyed carried the cross on their shoulders. It was witnessed that someone even fell three times! Mass with the Consecration of our City of Martinez was celebrated at the top. Though the sun shone and the air was crisp and damp, the slippery path was welcomed as a slight inconvenient reminder of the suffering realized by Jesus. Thanks to St. Catherine of Siena Spark who organized this event and to everyone who braved the muddy slope to participate.

**How to Submit an Entry for Saints Among Us:**

Did you catch someone or group doing something good? Helping our neighbors in need? Acts of faith in and around our parish and school? Please let us know about it by emailing bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com and insert “Saints Among Us” in the subject line.

Fr. Anthony, St. Catherine of Siena Staff & Parish Advisory Boards Invite you to join in the 145th Year Celebration of the Feast of Patroness St. Catherine of Siena

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

9:30 am: Gather in Suzanna Park
10:00 am: Procession around town
11:00 am: Celebratory Holy Mass
12:30 pm: Lunch in Church lot

For more info or if you would like to help out please contact stcfeastday@gmail.com

We are grateful for the contributions of

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<tr>
<th>Louie &amp; Jenn Zandonella</th>
<th><a href="mailto:xtremescaffolding@yahoo.com">xtremescaffolding@yahoo.com</a></th>
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<td>925.387.5359</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.zandonellacatering.com">www.zandonellacatering.com</a></td>
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**Faith Sharing**

I hadn't considered the hike up Mt. Wanda until my wife said she was going; so, I decided to go. Now, I’m a lucky man. It took our group an hour to climb up the trail to the top which is about a mile long and a 600’ elevation; and, to see sights so magnificent that there are very few comparisons. Why did it take an hour? Well, we did the Stations of the Cross along the way up. Nothing prepares the soul for Easter like the Stations of the Cross. Up we went with a wooden cross that was shared amongst us, stopping here and there 14 times to share the story of our Lord's Passion. Because of recent rainstorms, the trail was muddy in spots which actually helped us to better appreciate Our Lord's passion and suffering because some of us were slipping and falling just like Jesus did. I almost went down several times, but others saved me, including Fr. Anthony. And, someone did fall down three times! Happily, we all made it safely to the top. What a view! What beauty to behold: the valley oaks, the green hills, the amazing vistas of open space, old Martinez, the delta, and the Carquinez strait!

After sharing reflections on what we had just experienced, we prepared for Mass. The entire event was so beautiful. I especially appreciated the reflections and enthusiasm expressed by the many young adults who participated. During the Mass, Fr. Anthony consecrated all of Martinez and our beautiful St. Catherine's to Almighty God. My deepest gratitude to Fr. Anthony and the young adult group for this most spiritually enriching experience. Hopefully, this will become an annual event.

--Tom Greerty

“Mass is NOT boring; it is boring people who go to Mass.” —Fr. Anthony Le
Science is a major focus at St. Catherine school. Students in grades 6th through 8th participated in the annual Science Fair. The exhibits focused on energy, sensory perception and movement. While all the projects were extremely well thought out and executed, judges selected the best of the best. First place winners were DESIE ARMSTRONG (8th), JONATHAN ESPINOSA (7th) and CAITLIN SILORIO (6th). Second place went to AIDYN CODORI (8th), SAMUEL HAYWORTH (7th) and ISABELLE COOLEY (6th). The competition was so stiff, we had two ties for third place with SIENNA COWARD and LEXI GONZALES (8th) and GABY JENSEN and AMELIA VICTA (6th). LENA HGYUEN placed third in 7th grade. Congratulations to all students. A heartfelt “Thank you!” to our judges Amber Graves, Alan Morphy, Ed Swieszcz and our own, Linda Green. —Diana Corsetti

St. Catherine School News

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR FAITH SHARING:
Consider sharing with us your faith journey, your walk with Our Lord. How has He worked in you for the good of others? Articles should be between 300-500 words, your own testimonial to your Catholic faith, and submitted with a portrait to FaithSharingSCS@gmail.com. By making a personal submission to the bulletin, you agree to having your words edited, printed, and shared by the Parish and Communications Committee and agree to a photo release of your image. Consider this, please.

Let us include in our prayers our RCIA participants who have been received fully into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

CHRISTINA RODRIGUEZ
(Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)

SARAH KOLLER
(Confirmation, Eucharist)

ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ
(Baptism, Eucharist)

MICHELLE MAGANA
(Confirmation, Eucharist)

ADAM CUSTOCK
(Confirmation, Eucharist)

MARK GOLDEN
(Confirmation, Eucharist)

ROBERTO MORALES
(Confirmation, Eucharist)

ANGELO TRUJILLO
(Confirmation, Eucharist)

Thanks to all parishioners for your prayers & support. Thanks to our RCIA catechists, sponsors, & support team for their work & dedication in serving our parish’s adult faith formation ministry as well as all those who help raise funds to support this parish ministry. God’s blessings to you all!

Jesus is a prisoner of love in the tabernacle.” —Fr. Anthony

Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair. —G. K. Chesterton

SCS SCIENCE FAIR

Family Style Pasta Dinner
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
SAT APR 21 @ 6—9 PM in SCS Hall
Adult = $15, Children under 12 = $7
Benefitting the SCS Youth Group
Tickets will NOT be available at the door
For tickets: Sally @ 822-2733 or Annette @ 228-8428

St. Julie Billiart was born in 1751 and died in 1816. As a child, playing "school" was her favorite game. When she was sixteen, to help support her family, she began to teach "for real." She sat on a haystack during the noon recess and told the biblical parables to the workers. Julie carried on this mission of teaching throughout her life, and the Congregation she founded continues her work. Julie attended a one room school, enjoyed her studies, but she was attracted to religion lessons taught by the parish priest. Recognizing something special in Julie, he secretly allowed her to make her First Communion. She learned to make short mental prayers and to develop a great love for Jesus in the Eucharist. A murder attempt on her father put her into a period of extremely poor health that lasted 30 years. For 22 of these years she was paralyzed. All of her sufferings and pain she offered up to God. When the French Revolution broke out, Julie offered her home as a hiding place for loyal priests. Because of this, she became a hunted prey. Five times in three years she was forced to flee in secret to avoid compromising her friends who were hiding her. She and a rich young woman founded the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. In 1804, Julie was cured of her illness and walked for the first time in 22 years. In 1805, Julie and three companions made their profession and took final vows. She was elected as Mother General of the young Congregation. She died peacefully on April 8, 1816 at 64 years of age. Julie was beatified on May 13, 1906, and was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1969. Her feast day is April 8th.

"Let us include in our prayers our RCIA participants who have been received fully into the Church at the Easter Vigil."
**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY:**
7:30 AM and 4:30 PM

**SUNDAY:**
7:00 AM
8:30 AM Children’s Liturgy of the Word
10:30 AM
12:30 PM Spanish

**WEEKDAYS:**
7:30 AM Except Wednesday

**WEDNESDAY:**
8:00 AM

**HOLY DAYS:**
7:30 AM, 12:10 PM and 7:00 PM
If Wednesday:: 8:00 AM, 12:10 AM and 7:00 PM

**ADORATION:**
Fridays from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**RECONCILIATION:**
Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

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**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

Week-at-a-glance dates, times, & locations are taken from the website calendar: [http://parish.stcatherinemartinez.com/parish-calendar](http://parish.stcatherinemartinez.com/parish-calendar)

**Sunday, 4/8 Divine Mercy Sunday**
8:00 AM PH Hospitality-SLRC Hosts
12:30 PM CH Divine Mercy Bilingual Mass
1:30 PM PH Divine Mercy Celebration
1:30 PM PCL Guadalupe Society Board Meeting
3:45 PM PCL Confirmation Prep Class
6:00 PM PCL Youth Group
7:00 PM CH Arnold Vigil
8:00 PM PH Arnold Reception

**Monday, 4/9 St. Demetrios, pray for us.**
10:30 AM CH Arnold Funeral
6:00 PM CH First Communion Class
7:00 PM PC Respect Life Meeting
7:30 PM PCL Worship & Word Meeting

**Tuesday, 4/10 St. Terence, pray for us.**
6:00 PM CH Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, 4/11 St. Stanislaus, pray for us.**
2:30 PM CH School Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM CH/SC/PH Religious Ed-PreK to 8th Grade
6:30 PM PCL Legion of Mary Meeting
7:30 PM CH Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, 4/12 St. Damian, pray for us.**
7:00 PM CH Lectors Meeting
7:30 PM CH Knights of Columbus Meeting

**Friday, 4/13 St. Martin I, pray for us.**
8:00 AM —12 PM Parish Office Closed—Staff Meeting
12:00 PM CH Adoration
5:00 PM CH Benediction
6:00 PM RC Pastoral Council Meeting

**Saturday, 4/14 St. Peter Gonzales, pray for us.**
9:00 AM PH First Communion Retreat
9:30 AM PCL SVP Food Distribution
11:30 AM PCL Legion of Mary Curia Meeting
3:00 PM CH Reconciliation
6:30 PM PH Early Bird Bingo
7:00 PM PH Bingo

**Sunday, 4/15 Third Sunday of Easter**
8:00 AM PH Pancake Brkfst—Guadalupe Soc. Serves
2:00 PM CH Baptisms

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**MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTS**

Altar Servers
Jack Watkins…………………………………...925-957-0437

Art and Environment
Beth Churchill…………………………………925-200-6300

Bingo
Don Brocca……………………………………...925-858-7330

Catholic Youth Organization - CYO
Gina Marks……………………………………...925-817-9429

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Debbie Frieberg…………………………….925-212-7465

Communications
Eugene Dixon…………………………………..925-370-8143

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Viviana & Marty Magee……………………925-228-6460

Faith Formation - Religious Education (PreK-8th Grades)
Andrea Watkins………..Ext 30 925-228-2230

Finance
Fr. Anthony Huong Le……………………925-228-2230

Grief Ministry
Mary Cook………………………………………925-229-2665

Guadalupe Society
Guadalupe Cruz………………………………925-997-2432

Hospice/Sick/Homebound
Tom Greer/Legion of Mary…………………925-228-4387

Italian Catholic Federation - ICF
Tom Cook………………………………………925-229-2665

Knights of Columbus - K of C
Sean Carroll……………………………………925-595-6263

La Comunidad Latina
Lucia Cruz………………………………………925-348-2620

Lectors
Deacon Albert Dizon…………………………925-370-8143

Legion of Mary
Bobby Kiefer……………………………………925-658-1442

Loaves & Fishes
Denise Silva……………………………………925-372-0740

Maintenance
Parish Office……………………………………925-228-2230

Mary Help of Christians - MHC
Margarita Flores……………………………..925-812-1279

Pastoral Advisory Council
Karen Glenn………..925-788-7716 & Karen Sandri……925-370-7997

Respect Life
Linda Easterday………………………………925-372-3845

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA
Fr. Anthony Huong Le…………………..925-228-2230

Safe Environment for Children Project - SECP
Andrea Watkins………..Ext 30 925-228-2230

SECP: No More Secrets - Survivor Outreach
Sherrie Hammon……………………………925-372-6091

Social Awareness
Anne Crisp……………………………………...925-356-8822

St. Catherine of Siena Spark (ages 18 years to 35 years)
Rosemary Cook…………………..………..925-229-2665

Stewardship
Karen Glenn……………………………………925-788-7716

Ushers
James McLaughlin………………………….925-200-6300

Youth Group/Confirmation (High School 9 to 12 Grades)
Deacon Dave Holland…………………..……925-372-7015

"Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28
Perceptive Reflections on God’s Beauty

Defining Beauty
Danielle Rose
800-566-6150
World Library Publications
The music and liturgy division of J.S. Paluch Co., Inc.
www.wlpmusic.com
Moral leaders agree that the number one lesson we need to teach children is mercy. If the next generation is to survive in an ever-shrinking world full of very different cultures, the willingness to seek understanding and to dialogue across worldviews is key. The starting point for that kind of empathetic listening is a heart open to compassion. Compassion literally means “to bear with”; to see and feel another’s burdens. Who taught you mercy, and how will someone learn it from you?

Today’s readings: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31 (44). “The community of believers was of one mind and heart, and . . . they had everything in common.”

Mary is the mother of the Church and the model of all Christians. At the message of an angel, she believed beyond all else. “We speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen.” In fact, said Benedictine monk Columba Stewart in National Geographic, the “apostles bore witness to Resurrection.” In fact, said Benedictine monk Columba Stewart in National Geographic, the “apostles bore witness to Resurrection.” In fact, said Benedictine monk Columba Stewart in National Geographic, the “apostles bore witness to Resurrection.”

In the Book of Acts we are told that “with great power the Christians. At the message of an angel, she believed beyond all else. ‘There was not a needy person among them.’”

Today’s readings: Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (271). “There was not a needy person among them.”

Mary was the mother of Jesus and the sister of Jesus’ brother James. When they were(nn) were the movement’s cutting edge, spreading the message across the vast trade network of the ancient world and leaving small Christian communities in their paths.” This missionary zeal is passed on to each new generation of Christians, but it takes different forms. Today, although many Christians still travel to foreign lands to serve the poor and give witness to Christ, believers are also encouraged to evangelize—spread the gospel—within their own homes, parishes, and local communities. How is your evangelization going? Hint: They should know you are Christian by your love.


Like Archbishop Óscar Romero of El Salvador in the 20th century and Thomas à Becket of England in the 12th century, Saint Stanislaus (c. 1030-79) was, according to tradition, killed in church, in this case while celebrating Mass. Stanislaus’ murder was the king of Poland, with whom he had a number of disputes over land and the king’s harsh rule. Throughout history the church has come into conflict with the powers that be. Jesus, of course, was put to death by the religious and political authorities of his time. Dorothy Day, of Catholic Worker fame, wrote in 1966: “Every new development for the last three centuries has brought [human beings] closer to the state of affairs in which absolutely nothing would be recognized in the whole world as possessing a claim to obedience except the authority of the State.” But for Christians, she said, Christ must be our guide. Who’s yours?


Today’s readings: Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271). “And they said to him, ‘Rabbi, you are a teacher who has an infallible word of God at your fingertips, why do you want to be a slave to the law?’”

Saint Martin is the last pope in history to be honored as a martyr, but his death for the faith did not occur quickly. After being elected pope in 649 he made enemies by opposing a heresy and condemning the emperor for supporting that heresy. As a result, while lying sick, Martin was kidnapped and carted off to the East, where he was jailed and eventually exiled. During this time he was given poor food, not allowed to wash regularly, and came down with dysentery. On top of that he was ignored by his Church back home. “I wonder . . . at those who belong to the Church of Saint Peter for the little concern they show for one of their body,” he wrote. Let this saint’s experience motivate you to perform the corporal works of mercy denied him—like clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and visiting the prisoner.


Jesus had sent the disciples on ahead of Him in a boat. During the night they got pretty rough. In the midst of their struggle—remember, they were rowing—Jesus came toward them on the water, a startling development even though it meant rescue. Jesus allayed their fears with three words: “It is I.” Actually, it’s only two, in Greek: “I am.” Sound familiar? They are the words God uses to identify himself at a number of places in scripture. So Jesus isn’t merely saying, “Don’t worry, it’s me.” He’s declaring that He is God but also that God simply is—the foundation of everything. Next time you find yourself rowing against the waves of trouble, remember you’re always on solid ground with God.

Today’s readings: Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272). “He said to them, ‘It is I. Do not be afraid.’”