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

Martinez, California, April 29, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Easter
St. Catherine of Siena Parish follows Jesus by welcoming all, sharing our gifts, & giving glory to God.
**INTENTS FOR THE WEEK**

**SAT 4/28**  
4:30 Florence Huettl †

**SUN 4/29**  
7:00 Int.St.Catherine of Siena Parish & School  
8:30 Mitch & Ann Costanza †  
10:30 Reynaldo Lejano †  
12:30 Julian Silva †

**MON 4/30**  
7:30 Kirk & Brydie Kuykendall †

**TUE 5/1**  
7:30 Norberto Quisumbing †

**WED 5/2**  
8:00 Paul Ullrich †

**FRI 5/4**  
7:00 Pili Martín †

**SAT 5/5**  
7:30 Graciela Ruiz Mesa de Lopez †  
4:30 Int. Tom Balesteri—Birthday Blessing

**SUN 5/6**  
7:00 Ernest Fio †  
8:30 Francis & Katherine Rose †  
10:30 Clemente Lejano †  
12:30 Int.St.Catherine of Siena Parish & School

---

**FOR INTENTIONS CALL THE PARISH OFFICE**

Sleep an extra half hour!  
Please mark your calendars.  
Beginning on Friday, June 1 the daily Mass, Monday through Saturday, will begin at 8 o'clock in the morning.

**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.

---

**St. Catherine of Siena School’s Spring Jubilee & Rummage Sale**

**Eat, Drink & Shop!**

Sat, May 12 @ 5:30 to 9:00 PM  
In school yard. Free to attend.

Food & Beverage Tickets for Purchase.  
Kid’s Games & Prizes

Questions on how to donate your sellable items, contact the school office @ 228-4140

---

**St. Catherine Parish offers deepest sympathy and prayers for the family; and, the repose of the soul of**

Ray Martellacci

who entered eternal life.
Dear friends in Christ,

Leaving the Catholic Church has become a somewhat of a fashion lately. Reasons for leaving are as many as there are people. Here are just some examples:

- The Church is stuck in dead traditions.
- They’re so determined to do new things, they’ve become unbiblical.
- The leadership is not leading.
- The leadership is overly controlling.
- I live too far away.
- The only thing they want from you is a warm body and an offering.
- I am hindering the health, unity or growth of the church (yes, the problem might be you).
- I am not being fed.
- I have not found the right place to worship and serve.
- Someone in the Church hurt my feelings.
- The Church is not changing its doctrines.
- I disagree with the Church’s teachings on hot button issues like same sex marriage, abortion and so on.
- I do not like the priest and his homily is awful.
- I feel ashamed of my current life.
- I left because of the sexual scandals in the Church.
- I am spiritual and not religious. I do not want to be part of an established Church.

I am sure there are more reasons as of why people chose to leave the Church. Each of these reasons has some merit to it. However, with all honesty, is there a good reason for us to leave? St. Catherine of Siena would say: No, there is not even one!

For the Saint, one should never leave the Church for any reason. Leaving? St. Catherine of Siena would say: No, there is not even one! However, with all honesty, is there a good reason for us to leave? Each of these reasons has some merit to it. I am sure there are more reasons as of why people chose to leave the Church; however, she remained faithful and tried hard to make her time in the Church. She often used the image of the Church as the Bride of Christ, which St. Paul alluded to in Ephesians 5:25. Being the Church, to whom He lays down his life in despite of the sinfulness of her people. When Catherine speaks of the sinfulness of the Church, so much present during her lifetime, she most often uses the image of the Church as the Bride of Christ, which St. Paul alluded to in Ephesians 5:25. Here Catherine imagines the Church as a beautiful maiden whose face has been pelted and besmirched by the sins of the Church’s mortal members.

Catherine often speaks of sin as leprosy on the face of the Church. It would never have occurred to her to leave the Bride of Christ because of the sins of humanity. For her, the Church is infinitely more than a mere human institution.

Among various causes of the Church’s sinfulness, Catherine identifies one in particular: a love for the “outer rind” instead of the marrow, i.e., a preoccupation with surface instead of inner realities. Learned people, particularly the clergy, may know much about God, the Church, and Scripture, and yet not be in a love-union with God. The eternal Father tells her that such people “never see nor understand anything but the outer crust, the letter of Scripture. They receive it without relish” and “approach this Bride [the Church] merely for her outer shell, that is, for her temporal substance, while she is quite empty of any who seek her marrow.” Bad priests “never understood learning because the horns of pride kept them from tasting its sweet marrow.” Knowledge of Christ is not enough; we must be in communion with him.

What if we flip the table and ask: Does God have a good reason to leave us, sinners? God does not need us to be God. He has no need of us at all. He has very a good reason to leave us in our sin. Yet, He has chosen not to. He in fact went too far to save us as He became flesh and dwelt among us as one of us, suffered, died, and rose again. His unconditional love is the only reason why He stays with us! The prophet Isaiah says it beautifully: “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and only reason to leave us, sinners? God does not need us to be God. He has no need of us at all. He has very a good reason to leave us in our sin. Yet, He has chosen not to. He in fact went too far to save us as He became flesh and dwelt among us as one of us, suffered, died, and rose again. His unconditional love is the only reason why He stays with us! The prophet Isaiah says it beautifully: “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!” (Isaiah 49:15).

Our Lord once said:

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, because with Me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in Me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become My disciples” (Jn 15:5-8).

Let us remain in Him by remaining in the family of the Church whose head is Christ himself.

Happy Feast day of St. Catherine to you all!

Peace,

Fr. Anthony Huong Le
For information about St. Catherine of Siena all-year-round RCIA program, please contact the parish office at stcathmtz@yahoo.com

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

**April 22, 2018**

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Sunday Collection $5,410.50  
Catholic Relief Services $ 500.00  
CRS Rice Bowls $ 49.00  
Fulfilling the Promise $ 640.33  
Maintenance $ 35.00  
Mother’s/Father’s Days $ 595.00  
SCS Education Fund $ 24.00  
Youth Group Dinner $4,515.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

Contributions to Fulfilling the Promise are welcomed

**2018 Bishop’s Appeal**

**SCS Goal Summary:**

Parish Goal: $23,000.00  
Funds Raised: $30,525.00  
Remaining: $ 0.00  
% of Goal Raised: 132.72%

---

**Let’s Play BINGO**

Next month bingo will be held on Saturday, **May 19** Early Bird @ 6:30 PM  
Regular Bingo @ 7 PM

Come to the snack bar after Mass

---

**St. Catherine School News**

Students in grades 4 - 8 participated in a very special field trip on April 20th. St. Catherine school was invited to the Shell Eco-marathon at the Sonoma Raceway. The marathon featured high school and college students building vehicles that use alternative fuels.

Pictured left to right: Kaylee Salazar, Addy Cooley, Paige Ludwig, Sakura Kouzo, Madeline Bell, Gavin Burke, Jaeden Burgstaller, Patrick Sullivan and Emma Weatherbee.

Meet the newest principal, Logan Cayou! Logan was Principal for the Day having secured this honor at the recent school auction. His duties included announcements at morning assembly, observations in all the classrooms, and guest reader in the kindergarten, first and second grade classrooms.

**WANTED:** A few good families with K-8 students to come and join the St. Catherine of Siena School community. Applications are being accepted for the 2018-2019 school year.

---

—Diana Corsetti
After all these years, most St. Catherine parishioners already know Jim McLoughlin, this week’s saint among us. Jim has been the Director of Ushers since the 1970s; and, it was reported that he has “collected” over $17 million for our church! He quietly goes about his business of training others, preparing the collection pouches, counting every single person who walks into the church; as well as counts for any event. On the Liturgy Committee, he can report on the numbers of most events that have occurred. He is an archivist of sorts. He attends all functions offered, often securing ticket #1. He readily volunteers to help in any capacity. And, when not at church, you can probably find Jim down at the Martinez train depot assisting passengers. It has been said of Jim that “deep in his big, soft heart, Jim has an underground volcanic love of church and God.” And, we all agree. God blessed St. Catherine of Siena and all of us with Jim McLoughlin!

Saints Among Us

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Retail Store in Pleasant Hill is currently accepting donations to completely restock the store after the fire. Please bring your contributions to the store at 2815 Contra Costa Blvd. in Pleasant Hill during business hours. If you have any questions as to what can be donated, please call the store at 934-5063.

GOD BLESS THE CHILDREN

SAVE THE DATE

YOU'RE INVITED

Mary Help of Christians Society
Annual Mass Honoring Our Lady
Sunday, May 27 @ 12:30 pm
St. Catherine of Siena Church
Presided by Msgr. Antonia A. Valdivia
Any questions, contact jwcardenas@aol.com

Dear all,
I would like to say a big thank you to the Team & many others who helped with our St. Catherine of Siena Feast Day Celebration! God bless you all!
—Fr. Anthony
**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**

**WEEKDAYS:**

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

**SATURDAY**
- 12:30 PM Spanish
- 10:30 AM
- 8:00 AM

**RECONCILIATION:**
- Fridays from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

Week-at-a-glance dates, times, & locations are taken from the web site calendar: http://parish.stcatherinemartinez.com/parish-calendar

---

**MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTS**

- Before serving or continuing in your ministry, complete the Diocesan required Safe Environment for Children Project Training @ www.virtusonline.org.
  
  **Altar Servers**
  - Jack Watkins.................................925-957-0437
  - Karen Glen..................................925-788-7716
  - Helen Miskinis............................925-372-0740

  **Art and Environment**
  - Anne Crisp.................................925-356-8822
  - Tom Greerty/Legion of Mary..............925-356-2070

  **Bingo**
  - Don Broca ..................................925-858-7330

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

  **Children’s Liturgy of the Word**
  - Debbie Friberg............................925-212-7465

  **Communications**
  - Eugene Dizon...............................925-370-8143

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

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

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

  **Hospital/Sick/Homebound**
  - Karen Glen.................................925-788-7716

  **La Communidade Latina**
  - Lucia Cruz................................925-348-2620

  **Lectors**
  - Deacon Albert Dizon.......................925-370-8143

  **Legion of Mary**
  - Bobby Kiefer..............................925-658-1442

  **Loaves & Fishes**
  - Karen Glen.................................925-788-7716

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

  **Maintenance**
  - Robert A. Krieger.........................925-788-7716

  **Pastoral Advisory Council**
  - Karen Glen................................925-788-7716

  **Respect Life**
  - Linda Easterday.............................925-372-8345

  **Safe Environment for Children Project - SECP**
  - Andrea Watkins............................925-228-2230

  **Social Awareness**
  - Andrea Watkins............................925-228-2230

  **Stewardship**
  - Karen Glen.................................925-788-7716

  **Spark**
  - Karen Glen................................925-788-7716

  **Social Media**
  - Facebook.com/oakdiocese
  - Twitter.com/oakdiocese
  - Linkedin: Diocese of Oakland www.linkedin.com/company/diocese-of-oakland
**Journey For Home**
by Deanna Light & Paul Tate
Spoken and musical reflections to accompany your faith journey. Ideal for times of grief, struggle or longing.
CD with mini journal $14.95.

800-566-6150
World Library Publications
the music and liturgy division of J.S. Paluch Co., Inc.
www.wlpmusic.com

**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

**Catholic Cruises and Tours**
Come Sail Away on a 7-night Catholic Exotic Cruise starting as low as $1045 per couple. Daily Mass and Rosary offered. Deposit of only $350 per person will reserve your cabin.
Space is limited. Thanks and God Bless,
Brian or Sally, coordinators 860.399.1785

www.CatholicCruisesAndTours.com

**Standing on the Rock CD** by James Wahl
FUN AND FAITH-FILLED MUSIC for little ones, with 10 songs based on Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus.
This is a new music collection for preschool children and those who are in early grade school.
$17.00 + S&H
800-566-6150 • www.wlp.jspaluch.com/14028.htm

**FAMILY VISION CARE**
Robert Turcios Jr., O.D.
Comprehensive Eye Exams • LASIK Consultation
Fashion Eyewear Boutique • Contact Lenses
395 Civic Drive, Suite G, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
Parishioner
(925) 676-8365

**Connolly & Taylor Chapel**
Serving the Martinez Catholic Community Since 1921
Full Service Cremation & Burial
“Let’s Keep the Tradition”
925.228.4700
www.connolly-taylorchapel.com
4000 Alhambra Avenue | Martinez, CA

**Ernie’s Plumbing and Sewer Service**
3795 Pacheco Blvd. Ste. “C”
Martinez, CA 94553
Phone (925) 228-5242

913130 St Catherine of Siena Church
www.jspaluch.com

Grow Your Business, Advertise Here.
Support Your Church & Bulletin.
Free professional ad design & my help!
email: kwiatkowskim@jspaluch.com
www.jspaluch.com

Call Marcy Kwiatkowski
925.239.1401

Muir Oaks Veterinary Hospital
1180 Muir Road, Martinez
372-9200
Melody Herder-Jimison, D.V.M.

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.
For further information, please call the Parish Office.

Please Cut Out This “Thank You Ad” and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin.
I am patronizing your business because of it!
**READINGS & REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018**
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** People Change

Once England was our enemy. Ditto for France, Spain, Mexico, Germany, Japan, Italy, China, Korea, Cuba, and most of the Middle East. Our country has been in conflict with island nations and African peoples. We’ve fought up and down Central America, not to mention our own Native Americans. Southern states were pitted against the North. It takes our hearts time to catch up with a new reality. Paul, the Christian killer, became a signature disciple of Jesus. How long before we’re prepared to call an enemy a friend?

*Today’s readings:* Acts 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8 (53). “But they were all afraid of [Paul], not believing that he was a disciple.”

**MON, APRIL 30, 2018:** MEMORIAL OF PIUS V, POPE Poor in spirit

Even though the man who was to be Pope Pius V (1504-72) would become a university professor, head of several houses of the Dominican order, a bishop and cardinal, a grand inquisitor, and eventually pope who had to implement the reforms of the Council of Trent, it seems he never forgot where he came from. Born of impoverished Italian nobility, as a boy he worked as a shepherd. After becoming pope he lived a simple and prayerful lifestyle, built hospitals, and opened the papal treasury to care for the poor, with whom he was personally involved. He kept wearing his Dominican habit, establishing the custom of popes wearing white. Prayer and service, worship and works of mercy will keep you close to God and the gospel, whatever else you do.

*Today’s readings:* Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26 (285). “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.”

**TUE, MAY 1, 2018:** MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH THE WORKER

How do you feel about your work? For many, it’s a means to an end, a paycheck, something to be endured, a distraction from other important things in their lives, or even a road to wealth and power. The church, however, views work from a somewhat different angle: Everyone has the right to meaningful work that will support them and their families. Work should help build up society for the good of all. It also participates in God’s creative and redeeming work. It’s a holy thing. As you work today, remember Saint Joseph, who was a worker, and work both for your daily bread and the kingdom of God.

*Today’s readings:* Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a (286). “What must we do to perform the works of God?”

**WED, MAY 2, 2018:** MEMORIAL OF ATHANASIUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Many parts, one harmony

Maybe because his own world was so full of discord—early Christians bickering about doctrine, himself repeatedly exiled by emperors for his own belief in Jesus—Saint Athanasius (295-373) kept returning to the image of harmony to teach about God’s ways. “A choir is composed of a variety of men, women, and children, of both old and young. Under the direction of one conductor, each sings in the way that is natural for him: men with men’s voices, boys with boys’ voices, old people with old voices. Yet all of them produce a single harmony.” What a helpful reminder whenever we think others should agree with us! Unity can exist without uniformity.


**THU, MAY 3, 2018:** FEAST OF PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES Live outside the bounds of history

Based on the sparse details history has preserved about the apostles Philip and James, it would seem that they did nothing all that noteworthy. They simply chose to follow Christ and do the works he did. But their radical, countercultural choice—one that led to their martyrdom—was really quite extraordinary. The same holds true for any modern Christians trying to do the works of Jesus. We may not capture the attention of news reporters or historians for choosing to love our neighbors and forgive our enemies, but we will certainly catch God’s eye, which is imperative if we hope to enter the Kingdom that exists outside the bounds of history.

*Today’s readings:* 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14 (561). “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do.”

“On the night before he died he had supper with his friends.”

**SAT, MAY 5, 2018:** Take the handoff

Celebrity rules. Or so it seems. Every headline, photo shoot, and news crawl seeks to remind us that no matter what we’re doing at the moment, someone’s living a reality that is so much cooler. We may secretly desire to be one of the beautiful people, to taste the sweetness of that success. Consider that folks who do command a high public profile like Pope Francis, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and the Dalai Lama have all repeated that they are mere mortals, doing nothing more than we all should be doing. Want fame? Pursue sainthood.

*Today’s readings:* Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21 (290). “They handed on to the people for observance the decisions reached by the apostles and presbyters in Jerusalem.”

**SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018** SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER The age of idols

A little more than halfway through the Acts of the Apostles Saint Luke mentions the original 12 apostles for the last time. From then on the book is pretty much the story of the acts of the other great apostle, Saint Paul. While Paul felt it necessary to defend his status as an apostle from time to time, there’s no doubt he was largely responsible for bringing the gospel of Jesus out of its Jerusalem center and spreading it around the Mediterranean area, from which it eventually spread to the whole world, as Christ had intended it to do. The passing along of the Good News of Jesus and the shape the church gives it have been the responsibility of Christians from the first days. They still are today.

*Today’s readings:* Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21 (290). “They handed on to the people for observance the decisions reached by the apostles and presbyters in Jerusalem.”