St. Catherine of Siena Parish follows Jesus by welcoming all, sharing our gifts & giving glory to God.
Dear all saints-in-the-making in Christ,

This Thursday, November 1st, as Catholics, we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints, friends of God. Just to be clear, in the Catholic Church, Saints are honored and venerated, not worshiped. We worship God alone. The Saints are people with a history of struggles, sins, and victories. We consider them heroes of our faith because thanks to God’s grace, they overcame the most difficult struggle—themselves! They learned to live with God, obeyed Him, and strived to be more and more like Him. Unlike what we might imagine a saint to be: deadly serious human beings, the saints can be a quite playful and joyful group of people. In other words, what makes them attractive to us, is that they are not only serious about their faith, but also contagiously joyful.

In the third century, St. Lawrence, who was burned to death on a grill over hot coals called out to his executioners, “This side is done. Turn me over and have a bite.”

In the fourth century, St. Augustine of Hippo, puckishly prayed, “Lord, give me chastity ... but not yet.”

Blessed Pope John XXIII, served as pope from 1958 to 1963. His most famous joke came when a journalist innocently asked him, “Your Holiness, how many people work in the Vatican?” John paused, thought it over, and said, “About half of them.”

Someone once asked John about the Italian habit of closing offices in the afternoon. “Your Holiness, we understand that the Vatican is closed in the afternoon, and people don’t work then.” “Ah no!” said the pope. “The offices are closed in the afternoon. People don’t work in the morning!”

Shortly after his election as pope, John was walking in the streets of Rome when a woman passed him and said to her friend, “My God, he’s so fat!” Overhearing her remark, he turned around and replied, “Madame, I trust you understand that the papal conclave is not exactly a beauty contest.”

In the 1940s, when John was still an archbishop and the papal nuncio or ambassador in Paris, he was at an elegant dinner party, seated across from a woman wearing a low-cut dress that exposed a good deal of cleavage. Someone turned to him and said, “Your Eminence, what a scandal! Aren’t you embarrassed that everyone is looking at that woman?” And he said, “Oh no, everyone is looking at me, to see if I’m looking at her.”

A story that placed the pope in a Roman hospital called the Hospital of the Holy Spirit. Shortly after entering, he was introduced to the sister who ran the hospital. “Holy Father;” she exclaimed, “I am the superior of the Holy Spirit.” “Well, I must say, you’re lucky;” said the pope delighted. “I’m only the Vicar of Christ”

What is the secret ingredient of their joy? How can we laugh and rejoice like those saints when there is a mountain of reasons to be sad?

The hate crime in Pittsburgh resulted in 11 dead and left many wounded in fear. Then comes personal issues: Poverty, physical and mental suffering, addiction to porn, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, and so on. The list goes on and on.

In truth, the saints’ joy springs forth from the sense of peace anchored on Christ’s presence in their life. Instead of running away or giving into sadness and depression, they faced challenges with the strength of God in solidarity with others. They learned to love God and others with all they’ve got. If they failed, they tried again and again. They persistently did so because they believed in God’s mercy and presence.

This makes them our role models worthy of admiration and imitation. **What can we learn from them?**

They teach us that if we are poor and poverty is a difficult reality, we need to work hard to earn our livelihood. We must, however, remember that things don’t ever make us rich or fulfilled. God alone is our true wealth. We need to trust that He cares for us more than we care for ourselves.

They can teach us that if we are suffering due to loss and illnesses, we should mourn and look for consolation. We should feel the pain and all that comes with it. However, we should remember that God has suffered with and for us on the Cross. We are in good company with Christ whose solidarity and closeness should also bring us consolation and hope.

They can teach us that if we are hungry for food, we should look for it! If we thirst for water, then, we should go for water. Please, don’t pretend otherwise. However, we should not ignore other spiritual hunger and thirst. Don’t ignore our thirst for God because only He can truly quench our deepest longing.

They can teach us that if we are hurt by others, we should be mad. We should be feeling it. It is a natural reaction to evil done unto us. However, we need to remember that if we return evil with evil, it leads only to greater hurt and division. Only in showing mercy and forgiveness can true healing come about. God has done so for us and we are called to do the same.

They can teach us that if we are entangled with our sins, past histories, and memories, then, we shouldn’t deny it; because if we do, we are destined to repeat it. We should acknowledge and remember that God is inviting us to reconcile with Him and, thus, begin a new life in grace. We can turn a new chapter with God. The saints did it.

They can also teach us that if we are chastised and persecuted because we love God and share His gospel to others, it will be a difficult task, no doubt. We will feel lonely and hopeless. Let us acknowledge and not pretend to be angels. However, we ought to remember that God is on our side. His grace is enough for us to move on. What can destroy the body, cannot destroy the spirit because we are safe with God.

In other words, we have to live as honest as possible like the saints while realizing that there is a God who loves and cares for us. This must be the anchor of our joy. Only then can we dare to laugh because we believe love is stronger than death; hope is stronger than violence, and faith is more powerful than fear. We are not defined by our problems and sins. The saints were not. The saints make Heaven a much more fun place to hang out!

May we all become saints each day with God’s grace. Smile!

**Blessings,**

Fr. Anthony Huong Le
Join us at St. Catherine BINGO
Next one on Saturday, Nov 10th
* 5:30 PM Snack Bar Opens
* 6:30 PM Early Bird Bingo
* 7:00 PM Regular Games
* in the SCS Parish Hall

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 11/4</td>
<td>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Daylight Savings Time Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon, 11/5</td>
<td>St. Zachary, pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue, 11/6</td>
<td>St. Atticus, pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed, 11/7</td>
<td>St. Ernest, pray for us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, 11/8</td>
<td>St. Pope Deusdedit, pray for us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, 11/9</td>
<td>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, 11/10</td>
<td>St. Leo the Great, pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 11/11</td>
<td>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Veterans Day in United States</td>
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**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

**OCTOBER 28, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Collection</td>
<td>$4,228.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Mission Sunday</td>
<td>$2,272.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YLI Donation</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

**INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

- **SAT 11/3**
  - 4:30 PM Rose Battaglia Tavormina †
- **SUN 11/4**
  - 7:00 PM Pearl Balestrieri †
  - 8:30 PM Danny Cowell †
  - 10:30 PM Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish
- **MON 11/5**
  - 12:30 PM Toby & Tommy Trujillo †
- **TUE 11/6**
  - 8:00 PM Catalina Quisumbing †
- **WED 11/7**
  - 8:00 PM Conrado Nano †
- **FRI 11/9**
  - 8:00 PM Danny Shapiro Jr. †
- **SAT 11/10**
  - 8:00 PM Int. Edgardo Salgado—Birthday Blessing
  - 10:00 PM Parishioners who have died in the past year & those in SCS cemetery
- **SUN 11/11**
  - 7:00 PM Walter & Michael Narodzonek †
  - 8:30 PM Petrus & Hendrika DeGraef †
  - 10:30 PM McLaughlin & Curtyn Families †
  - 12:30 PM Cardenas & Polina Families †

**CALL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MASS INTENTIONS.**

**November 4—10, 2018**

National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW) is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

For Diocese of Oakland Vocations Information, please contact Fr. Wayne Campbell, Director of Vocations @ 510-267-8345 or email him at WCampbell@oakdiocese.org. You are welcome.

**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS**

You are invited to bring a framed photo of your deceased loved ones to display on the DIA DE LOS MUERTOS altar in the church through the month of November. Please have your name and phone number on the back and please pick-up your photos by Sun, Nov 25.

**Annual Memorial Mass**

St. Catherine Cemetery
**SAT. NOV. 10 @ 10 AM**

Followed by a Picnic Lunch @ Cemetery

Sponsored by Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services

**BULLETIN HOLIDAY DEADLINES**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: In conjunction with the early deadlines imposed by the publisher, bulletin submissions and requests must follow the timeline dates listed below. Please plan ahead.

- **Nov 18**: all items must be submitted by Fri, Nov 9 by noon
- **Nov 25**: all items must be submitted by Fri, Nov 9 by noon
- **Dec 02**: all items must be submitted by Fri, Nov 23 by noon
- **Dec 09**: all items must be submitted by Fri, Nov 30 by noon
- **Dec 16**: all items must be submitted by Fri, Dec 07 by noon
- **Dec 23**: all items must be submitted by Fri, Dec 14 by noon
- **Jan 06**: all items must be submitted by Fri, Dec 21 by noon

**ST. CATHERINE CEMETERY**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!
**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PASTORAL CARE TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND**

Do you know someone who is homebound and/or ill & would like to receive the Eucharist or just a visit from a friendly face? If so, please email Deacon Dave Holland daveh@cfcsoakland.org or call 925-413-9240 with your neighbor’s name, address, and telephone number. St. Catherine Pastoral Care to the Sick & Homebound will arrange for a visitor from the parish. Thank you.

**MEMORIAL VOTIVE CANDLES**

Are available to honor the deceased. They are located in Sacred Heart of Jesus Alcove in the church and can be reserved for one year, renewable thereafter. Forms are available at the alcove or call the office @ 228-2230.

**Who are my favorite saints and how do they help me love God?**

Our neighbors in Martinez and Pacheco are in need of your help. Last year, the St. Catherine St. Vincent de Paul Conference provided 63 Thanksgiving meals for families without. We are asking for your support with donations of food so we can provide a complete holiday meal to those in need. The barrels in the rear of the church are waiting to accept your donations of packaging: turkey stuffing, boxes of potatoes and/or potato flakes, canned or mixes of turkey gravy, canned pumpkin pie filling, evaporated milk, and cranberry sauce. Thank you.

When conference members meet with neighbors in a home visit, their income and expenses are reviewed. The goal is to assist them until they are self-sufficient. Many people need a little help to get back on track as well as someone to care about them in their time of need. St. Catherine Vincentians offer continued thanks for your spiritual and monetary support of our mission. “You are the servant of the poor.” —St. Vincent de Paul

**ST. CATHERINE SCHOOL NEWS**

**A Lumen Christi Academy School**

Mrs. Field’s Cookie Dough Fundraiser has begun. Keep an eye out for St. Catherine of Siena School Students with their order forms! Get your supply of cookie dough in time for your holiday baking. Please call the school office for more info.

"Buddies not Bullies" was the theme at school this week. Students created a chain of positive messages for each other. There were buddy reading activities and friendship bracelets to unite students across all grade levels.

The highlight of the week was a presentation by Sgt. Fred Ferrer of the Martinez Police Department who, with the help of some students, demonstrated how to be a buddy, not a bully.

Also, the Student Leadership Team began their annual food drive to help feed local families in need.

**UPCOMING DATES TO MARK DOWN**

- **Faith Formation Wine & Cheese Fest** — Nov 17
- **YLI Holiday Lane Bazaar** — Sat/Sun, Dec 1/2
- **Volunteer Recognition** — Sat, Dec 8
- **Knights of Columbus Crab Feed** — Sat, Dec 15
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration** — Dec 9

**SAVE THE DATE**

**15th ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE!**

**SAT, JAN. 26, 2019**

A bus will be available providing round-trip transportation to the event in San Francisco. More info soon. Sponsored by St. Catherine Respect Life Ministry

**HOPING THAT YOU’LL JOIN US!**

**AUCTION — SAT, FEB 23, 2019**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**SAT, MAR 30, 2019**
What do we think of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and how does our relationship with her impact our relationship with her Son? What is the connection between our understanding of Mary and the rest of the saints? Why do we ask Mary and other "dead people" to pray for us? The answers to these questions serve to give us a framework for the Catholic Church's teachings on life after death and what we call "The Communion of the Saints."

Dear all in Christ,

We, as a team of five (Troy Killorn, Sylvia Illoren, Karen Glen, Cindy Buscaglia, and Fr Anthony Le) spent three days (from Oct 17-19) with more than 1,200 Catholic leaders, religious and lay persons who shared with us their vision of parishes as missionary communities and parishes. We heard stories and statistics of the Church in decline, yet, the stories of success, exemplifying thriving parishes solidified the overall message of Hope.

We were introduced to the three building blocks of an Amazing Parish. At its foundation was a Reliance on Prayer and Sacraments in what Patrick Lencioni called the "nuclear power plant." The second building block: A commitment to a healthy organization and the third: A passion for evangelization and discipleship.

We worked in small groups to understand how each of these worked together day to day in our Parish. As a team, we were given tools, roadmaps, assessments, diagrams; all of which were helpful and practical.

Ultimately our mission has not changed, but how we do it has changed. We have an opportunity to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, change our hearts, change those in effective ways of doing ministry, and respond with a spirit of hope and humility. This will require that each member, each ministry, and each leader have a radical trust, a humble heart, a hungry soul, and an educated faith that only Jesus could model and provide.

It was inspiring and invigorating to be with over a thousand fellow Catholics listening, learning, sharing, praying, worshiping, and adoring. To witness hundreds of priests kneeling in prayer and long lines of sinners waiting for confession was humbling and unifying. Pope Francis said in his proclamation of the Gospel in today's world- Evangelii Gaudium, # 27 and #28.

I dream of a “missionary option” that is a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.

In all its activities, the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey and a center of constant missionary outreach.

We, as a diocese, will commit to a new path of missionary discipleship. We follow our bishop and will not contend with maintaining the status quo and watching this community continually decline, but wholeheartedly embrace the missionary option as the Holy Father reminds us.

—Fr. Anthony
**SUN, NOV 4, 2018: THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Silly love songs?**

Love is all you need. So say every generation’s love songs since the biblical Song of Songs was put to papyrus. When asked to choose the primary commandment, Jesus chose love of God and neighbor. Love is clearly that fundamental. But it’s far more than a feeling. The mandate to love doesn’t dictate our emotions, but rather our priorities. How do we put God and neighbor first, in each decision, with every expenditure of time and resource? If love begins to routinely triumph over self-interest, how might worship, family, society, and world be transformed?

**Today’s readings:** Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28b-34 (152). “To love [God] with all your heart. . . . is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

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**MON, NOV 5, 2018: Some of my best friends**

You’ve probably noticed in reading the gospels and listening to Sunday sermons that the Pharisees come off as the bad guys in a lot of gospel stories. Recent scholars suggest, however, that tensions between Jesus and the Pharisees may have been exaggerated when the gospel accounts were later written down, reflecting conflicts between early Christians and Jews. In fact, a number of other New Testament figures, including Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and perhaps Saint Paul himself, were Pharisees who ended up devoted to the cause of Jesus. We don’t have to consider those who differ with us as enemies—they may end up being some of our best friends.

**Today’s readings:** Philippians 2:1-4; Luke 14:12-14 (485). “On a Sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees.”

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**TUE, NOV 6, 2018: Gotta hand it to them**

Take note the next time you practice charity or drop a coin in the cup of someone begging: How will you feel if they don’t say “thank you”? Jesus’ advice to hold a banquet for those who can’t possibly repay us challenges our deepest instincts. It is natural to shower our generosity on friends and loved ones. Jesus challenges us to go further. True charity has no strings attached. Can we reach out a hand to others even if we come up empty-handed?

**Today’s readings:** Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 14:15-24 (486). “Bring in here the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame.”

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**WED, NOV 7, 2018: Lend a hand**

In the Okinawan language two characters make up the word karate: kara (“empty”) and te (“hand”). The name of this martial art, then, is literally “the way of the empty hand.” Tadashi Nakamura, the founder of the Seido form of karate, said: “When we love freely, we can give and share everything. We need hold on to nothing. Our hands can be empty.” Jesus was no martial artist, but nonetheless His way of life was one of an “open hand”: to empty Himself in order to give Himself. Those who would call themselves His followers should be ready to do the same.

**Today’s readings:** Philippians 2:12-18; Luke 14:25-33 (487). “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

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**THU, NOV 8, 2018: Do what you can**

Mother Teresa used to say that she did not add, she subtracted—and she was not talking about arithmetic skills. You’ll never win at the game of measuring the success of service in numbers, she was pointing out. The total of those in need will always outrun our efforts to catch up with it. Though her Missionaries of Charity have helped hundreds of thousands—perhaps millions—of people, they cannot reach everyone. If you see, as she did, every person to whom you give aid to be another person subtracted from the mass of suffering, the numbers game changes—especially if you consider each one of them to be a child of God. In trying to feed the world’s hungry, you don’t have to do everything, but you can do something.

**Today’s readings:** Philippians 3:3-8a; Luke 15:1-10 (488). “What woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it?”

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**FRI, NOV 9, 2018: FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA Living stones**

How often, when we speak of church, we have to clarify whether we mean the faith community or the building where that community gathers. As we celebrate the Lateran Basilica—the pope’s own cathedral, the mother of all churches—we remember that human beings need things that appeal to the senses to remind us of spiritual values. Saint Augustine says that when the community of faith gathers “they are hewn out, as it were, from mountains and forests, like stones and timber; but by catechizing, Baptism, and instruction they are . . . shaped, squared, and planed by the hands of the workers and artisans” and finally are made into a house for the Lord, “fitted together through love.”

**Today’s readings:** Ezra 4:7-12; 8-9; 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22 (671). “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

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**SAT, NOV 10, 2018: MEMORIAL OF LEO THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH You want Leo on your treasure list?**

Attila, called the “scourge of God,” had sacked Milan and set out to attack Rome in A.D. 452. The Emperor Valentinian III hid behind the walls of a remote castle, and panic seized the capital. In this climate of fear, Pope Leo set out unarmed to meet Attila, and somehow induced him to turn back. A few years later the Vandal king Genseric invaded Rome, but Leo was able to persuade him not to rape and pillage. Leo then set about repairing the damage of the invasion by distributing alms. The next time you find yourself short on courage, call on the memory of this great hero of the tradition. Chances are, whatever you are facing can’t be any worse than Attila!

**Today’s readings:** Philippians 4:10-19; Luke 16:9-15 (490). “The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones.”

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**SUN, NOV 11, 2018: THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Generosity, redefined**

Many are shocked at the idea of biblical tithing. Give 10 percent—10 percent!—of our resources to the Lord? Who would do this? Yet some Christians do it as a matter of course. No statistics indicate that anyone ever died of tithing—or of generosity exercised on any scale. The gospel doesn’t follow the widows and the rich who put her whole livelihood into the temple treasury after she dumped the sacristy. What woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? Generosity is the foundation of all charity. One of the best counsel on generosity remains: give until it scares you.

**Today’s readings:** 1 Kings 17:10-16; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44 or 12:41-44 (155). “But she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had.”