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

La parroquia de Santa Catarina de Siena sigue a Jesús dándole la bienvenida a todos, compartiendo nuestros dones y dando gloria a Dios.
PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF
Fr. Anthony Huong Le, Parochial Administrator

Deacon Albert Dixon
Deacon David Holland
dcnadixon@yahoo.com
dcnholland@yahoo.com

Jessica Griswold, Principal
Mea Auld, Pre-School Director
Saint Catherine Elementary School
mailud@csdo.org
jgriswold@csdo.org
925-228-4140
925-229-2255

Pauline Porter
Andrea Watkins
Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults (RCIA)
stcathmtz@yahoo.com
scpreschool@comcast.net
925-228-2255

Paul Holland
Jennifer Holland
Co-coordinators, Youth Group and Confirmation Program
paulh@cfcsoakland.org
jenniferferdita@gmail.com

Troy Killorn
Karen Glen
Director of Music Ministry
bkprstcath@yahoo.com
925-788-7716

Sylvia Lloren
Mary Cook
Secretary
bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com
stcathmtz@yahoo.com

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stcathmtz@yahoo.com

CHURCH LOCATION: 606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA
PARISH OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS: 1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA 94553-1720
TELEPHONE / FAX: 925-228-2230 / 925-228-1318
PARISH WEBSITE: www.stcmtz.org
PARISH EMAIL: stcathmtz@yahoo.com
SUBMISSIONS: bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com
OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 8:30 AM-1PM & 2PM-5PM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL: 604 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA
TELEPHONE / FAX: 925-228-2240 / 925-228-2240
SCHOOL WEBSITE: http://school.stcatherineemartinez.com/
PRE SCHOOL: 1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA
TELEPHONE / FAX: 925-228-2240 / 925-228-2240
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.

EARLY DEADLINES: Closely watch early deadlines imposed by the publisher and plan ahead accordingly. Submissions for Mar 17 has passed. Next deadline for bulletin: All items must be submitted by Fri, Mar 15 by noon for Mar 24.

MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTS

Altar Servers
Jack Watkins…………………………………925-957-0437
Art and Environment
TBD………………………………………….925-228-2230
Bingo
Don Brocca………………………………….925-858-7330
Catholic Youth Organization - CYO
Gina Marks…………………………………925-817-9429
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 Council
Don Brocca…925-229-4168 and Dennis Koller…925-335-9395
Grief Ministry/Card Ministry
Mary Cook (in assoc with Legion of Mary)………925-229-2265
Guadalupe Society
Guadalupe Cruz…………………………….925-997-2432
Hospital/Sick/Homebound
Tom Greerty (in assoc with Legion of Mary)…….925-228-4387
Hospiatality
Mary Cook (in assoc with Stewardship)…………925-229-2265
Ignite
Cindy Buscaglia…………………………….925-787-8396
Italian Catholic Federation - ICF
Tom Cook……………………………………925-229-2265
Knights of Columbus - K of C
Rik Silva……………………………………925-334-2429
La Comunidad Latina
Lucia Cruz…………………………………..925-348-2620
Lectors
Carlos Melendez……………………………..510-385-0506
Legion of Mary
Bobby Kiefer………………………………925-658-1442
Loaves & Fishes
Denice Silva………………………………….925-372-0740
Maintenance
Troy Killorn………………………………….925-228-2230
Mary Help of Christians - MHC
Margarita Flores…………………………….925-812-1279
Pastoral Advisory Council
Karen Glen…925-788-7716 & Karen Sandri…925-370-7997
Respect Life
Linda Easterday…………………………….925-372-3845
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA
Pauline Porter/Karen Glen……….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
San Lorenzo Ruiz Community - SLRC
Esther Concepcion………………………..925-381-1835
Social Awareness
Anne Crisp………………………………….925-356-8822
Spark (young adult group ages 18 years to 35 years)
TBD………………………………………925-228-2230
Stewardship
Karen Glen…………………………………..925-788-7716
Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel - SPRSI
Annette Liberty……………………………..925-228-8428
St. Vincent de Paul Society - SVdP
Karen Glen…………………………………..925-788-7716
Ushers
James McLaughlin…………………………925-228-1051
Young Ladies Institute - YLI
Peggy Aiello-Hagerthy………………………925-228-2230
Youth Group/Confirmation (High School 9 to 12 Grades)
Paul & Jenny Holland……………………925-890-6229

LITURGY SCHEDULE
SATURDAY: 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM
SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM English
12:30 PM Spanish
WEEKDAYS: 8:00 AM (Thursday is a Communion Service)
HOLY DAYS: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM and 7:00 PM
ADORATION: Fridays from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
RECONCILIATION: Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Before serving or continuing in your ministry, complete the Diocesan required Safe Environment for Children Project Training @ www.virtusonline.org. Thank you.
First Sunday in Lent

THE CHURCH IS HOLY

It may not be surprising in this day in age, (as it was not surprising to me when I agreed to take on the authoring of this article!) that the most difficult Mark of the Church on which to write and discuss would be, “The Church is Holy!”

The Church is holy because the Church lives in union with Jesus Christ, the source of holiness. Through the Holy Spirit the Church leads others to holiness. The holiness of the Church is seen in the love that the members of the Church have toward one another and the many sacrifices they make for the sake of the world. (Loyola Press)

But what does “holy” mean? Holy is to be exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness (Merriam-Webster). And I suspect, being the cynical member of society that most of us are, the first thought in our sarcastic mind is, “Yeah, right!! The Church is Holy??” Given all the negative news and accounts of abuse, it may sometimes be hard to convince yourself that the Church is holy!

But let us stop for a moment and dig a little deeper. The Latin word for holy is sanctus. Sanctus, which leads us to Saint—is what we are all hoping to become, and it is also the word we use to describe our friends in the faith who now reside in Heaven. Saint has its origins in the Latin sanctus, meaning consecrated, sacred, holy. Sanctus is also a version (technically, the perfect passive participle) of the verb sanctare, which has a range of meanings of which the most relevant here are to confirm, sanction, fulfill, ordain, or dedicate. We can think of many ways in which each one of these applies to saints. Saints are confirmed in their faith, becoming a saint fulfills our lifelong journey, and saints are those who have dedicated themselves to God (https://catholicexchange.com/12-latin-words-shaped-faith).

Does that mean that the Church, the Pope, cardinals, bishops, priests and nuns, nor the Diocese and physical structures, but certainly they are an integral part of the Church. Rather, the Church is you and me. The Church is the members of this parish and the members of all parishes and dioceses. The body of individual believers, the congregation of faithful are the ones in union with God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are the aspiring Saints!

We, individually, are the to be exalted and are worthy of complete devotion to one another, as ones perfect in goodness and righteousness because we live in the Lord and He in us. And through our actions and our beliefs, when we ‘Love the Lord our God with all of our heart and with all of our soul’; and, ‘Love our neighbor as we love ourselves’, we are embodying Holy! We are demonstrating that Holiness, of which God wants us to be a part.

The Church is not just our leaders, the Church is US!!! “Through the Holy Spirit the Church leads others to holiness.” With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we lead each other to holiness through our actions, our involvement in each other’s lives, through our volunteering efforts and sacrifice for our community, and through our ministries. Fr. Anthony leads us as did Fr. Clarence and Fr. Leo, but WE are also leading each other. There is only One with whom we as the Church are in union, Jesus Christ, the Shepherd. Consider the visual of the flock of sheep; there is never a single sheep always in the lead. Rather, as the flock journeys, some sheep lead, and some sheep fall behind. The shepherd is always with them though some falter and some excel. But the shepherd is with ALL of them. The same can be said for the Church; sometimes there are strong members helping to guide the way, and sometimes there are weaker members that have succumbed to their weaknesses. But the Lord is always with each of us, in union helping us to achieve holiness through our good times and our bad.

I was taught that all who die in grace and holiness join God in Heaven as “saints.” We, the mortal, only recognize in this world those that are canonized as we believe for sure through prayer, miracles performed, and a thorough understanding of their life and ministry, that they have already joined God. But I am confident that there are many currently living among us that are destined to be saints, through their regular loving actions and selfless devotion to our Parish and this community. They are the Church! They embody holiness. And we become a stronger Church through our association and interaction with them in our lives! Be mindful of your neighbor, be loving and accepting of them. Learn from them and share in their holiness. For we all together, the weak and the strong, make up this Holy Church in union with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

—Carlos M. Melendez
5 Things Catholics Should Know About First Fridays

St. Catherine of Siena Parish will soon begin offering First Friday devotions with a Mass followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We may ask, “What’s so special about First Fridays?”

Our parents grew up going to church every First Friday of the month and taking part in Sacred Heart devotions, but in recent decades the pious practice has fallen out of practice, and is dismissed by some as an “old-fashioned” anachronism. A main reason for the decline in interest in this devotion is probably rooted in simple ignorance: people don’t know what First Fridays are all about; families and parishes may not have adequately passed down their importance to the next generation. Here are five things to know.

1. How did the First Friday Devotion begin?
While some saints referenced the Heart of Jesus in their writings even centuries earlier, in 1673, a French Visitandine (Visitation) nun named Margaret Mary Alacoque had visions of Jesus, wherein He asked the Church to honor His Most Sacred Heart. In particular, Jesus asked the faithful to “receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months.” The request was connected to a specific promise made to all who venerated and promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart. After Margaret Mary’s death, the First Friday practice steadily spread in the Church — endorsed by popes and promoted by saints — but it greatly increased in popularity when Margaret Mary was canonized a saint in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

2. Why nine consecutive months?
The number nine is traditionally associated with a novena and finds its origin in the nine days that the apostles spent in prayer before Pentecost. A novena provides an extended amount of time for preparation and interior renewal.

3. What am I supposed to do on First Fridays?
Go to Mass and receive Holy Communion with the intention of honoring Christ’s Sacred Heart. If you are not in a state of grace, and thus unable to receive, you will also need to go to confession.

4. What are the “promises” connected to this devotion?
Jesus said to St. Margaret Mary, “In the excess of the mercy of My heart, I promise you that My all powerful love will grant to all those who will receive communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and My heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.” This means that if a person faithfully receives communion for nine consecutive months on First Fridays, Jesus will grant that person extra graces at the time of their death making it possible to repent of their sins, and receive the last anointing (if needed). This promise is the last of 12 promises connected to the Devotion to the Sacred Heart, particularly attached to the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in one’s home:

(1) I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
(2) I will establish peace in their homes.
(3) I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
(4) I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
(5) I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
(6) Sinners will find in My heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
(7) Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
(8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
(9) I will bless every place in which an image of My heart is exposed and honored.
(10) I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
(11) Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart.
(12) I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in My disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

5. Are the First Fridays a “ticket” to heaven?
It is not as simple as going to Mass for nine months and then clocking out, never going to Mass again and leading a sinful life! The entire purpose of this devotion is to draw a person closer to the heart of Christ. If a person fulfills these obligations with sincere faith, it is natural for them to be closer to God and better prepared for death. The moment that this devotion is observed in a superstitious manner, neglecting the need to live a virtuous life, all bets are off and Jesus’ promise is null and void. Jesus wants us to rest on His heart, like St. John, and the First Friday devotion is an opportunity for us to encounter Him more than just on Sundays and to deepen our love of Him. Coming to know, love, and trust that we may take rest in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and place our anxieties within, is what the First Fridays are all about.

—Philip Kosloski | Apr 29, 2016
Sacred liturgy and love among brothers and sisters that forms unity among them absolutely must never be disconnected.

Our whole day should be concentrated on the Eucharist, on that conversation, where many things in the world can be set right.

“The Sun That Daily Rises” by Chiara Lubich

WORSHIP
To facilitate a transforming encounter with God as we come together in worship.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION WITH CLERgy
MONDAYS 6:30 PM Parish Center St. Gabriel Room

Stations of the Cross
Fridays at 7 PM in the Church and at 8 PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

LET OUR ADORATION NEVER CEASE!
Communal Celebration
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Tuesday, April 2 at 7 PM

EXPERIENCE FORGIVENESS
Divine Mercy Novena
Beginning Good Friday, April 19, 5PM & continuing daily until April 27
Mercy Sunday, April 28, 12:30 PM Mass

PRAY AND WORSHIP TOGETHER

2019

HOLY WEEK
Palm Sunday—Passion of the Lord
APRIL 13: 4:30 PM
APRIL 14: 7 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, and 12:30 PM

Good Friday
APRIL 19: 8:00 AM—Morning Prayer
7:00 PM—BILINGUAL MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Holy Saturday
APRIL 20: 8:00 AM—Morning Prayer
Easter Vigil—time TBD

Holy Sunday
APRIL 21
7 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM

PLEASE RETURN YOUR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES OPERATION RICE BOWLS TO CHURCH BY MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 28, THANK YOU.

Good Fri APR 19 @ 5:00 PM CHURCH
HOLY SAT APR 20 @ 5:00 PM CHURCH
EASTER SUN APR 21 @ 5:00 PM CHURCH
MON APR 22 @ 5:00 PM CHURCH
TUE APR 23 @ 5:00 PM CHURCH
WED APR 24 @ 5:00 PM CHURCH
THU APR 25 @ 5:00 PM CHURCH
FRI APR 26 @ 5:00 PM CHURCH
SAT APR 27 @ 5:30 PM CHURCH

SUN APR 28 @ 12:30 PM DIVINE MERCY MASS FOLLOWED BY RECEPTION IN THE HALL
After Mass, a procession of the Divine Mercy image will take place to the parish hall where there will be a light dinner. All are invited. Questions? Contact Esther 925-381-1835

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA
ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE INVITED

SCS VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Saturday, March 30, 2019
Beginning with Holy Mass @ 4:30 pm followed by dinner catered by New Mecca Mexican Restaurant @ 5:30 pm in Parish Hall

JOIN US & BE RECOGNIZED!
please rsvp to scspastoral@gmail.com

FEAST DAY CELEBRATION
St. Catherine of Siena Parish & School

Commemorating 176 Years of Faith
Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Our School

. FRIDAY . MAY 3 .
5:00 pm Consecration of our Parish & School to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
5:30 pm Festival!

. SATURDAY . MAY 4 .
10:00 am Procession
11:00 am Holy Mass
12:00 pm Parish Lunch Celebration

PLEASE RSVP
www.eventbrite.com/e/st-catherine-of-siena-feast-day-tickets

Tuition assistance is available for the next school year at St. Catherine of Siena Lumen Christi Academy! Visit our website for more information: http://stcatherinemartinez.com/admissions/tuition

The BASIC Fund provides scholarships on a first-come, first-served basis to families in financial need. Awards are based on household size and income and cover up to $2,000 of the tuition per child each school year.

VISIT WEBSITE TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION
WWW.BASICFUND.ORG/APPLY

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.
—Ambrose of Milan

FOR LIFE

NOW through SAT, APRIL 13
7 AM through 7 PM
Participating in this vigil is a great way to personally sacrifice to Jesus during Lent. Please sign up for hours: 40daysforlife.com/walnutcreek or email: friendsforlifetrivalley@gmail.com or 925-212-7938.

WHAT SHE SAW CHANGED EVERYTHING IN THEATERS APRIL 19
UNPLANNED

WHO: Respect Life Ministry Invites You to Join Them and would enjoy the company of any interested parishioners
WHAT: Release of the Movie “Unplanned”
WHEN: Friday, March 29, 2019.
WHY: This is the story of Abby Johnson taken from her book of the same name. She was a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood until one day she saw something that changed her forever.
HOW: More info as to the theatre and time will follow soon

To empower a community of Christian people walking together as disciples of Jesus in order to share His good news.

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.
—Ambrose of Milan
EXPEDIENCY IS NO JUSTIFICATION
No one is justified in doing evil on the ground of expediency.
—Theodore Roosevelt

STEWARDSHIP
To create a culture in the parish rooted in gratitude and generosity.

OPERATION RICE BOWL
Encounter Norma. In Guatemala, we encounter Norma, who as a young mother supports her family and shares her skills with her community. Reflect on the importance of family in your life. How can you contribute to support families in your community? Visit crsricebowl.org.

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
SAT 3/9  4:30 Santo J. Tavormina †
SUN 3/10  7:00 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish
8:30 John DeVito †
10:30 Living & deceased members of SPRSI†
12:30 Catalina Torres †
MON 3/11  8:00 Petrus & Hendrika DeGraef †
TUE 3/12  8:00 Terry Grerty †
WED 3/13  8:00 Int. St. Catherine of Siena School
FRI 3/15  8:00 Int. Laura Gujardo
SAT 3/16  8:00 Arthur, Blanche & Richard Brouette †
4:30 Mario Balestrieri †
10:30 Antonio Copiaco †
SUN 3/17  7:00 Mario Balestrieri †
8:30 Mitch & Ann Costanza †
10:30 Angelo Trujillo †
12:30 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish

PARISH STEWARDSHIP
WHO: St. Catherine of Siena 8th Graders
WHAT: Italian Catholic Federation Marina Ellis Eighth Grade Scholarship
WHEN: Applications must be postmarked on or before March 31, 2019
WHERE: Get an application from your eighth grade teacher or from the school principal or you can request one from icfbranch13martinez@gmail.com
WHY: An opportunity to receive a $200 scholarship
HOW: Send completed application to: ICF Scholarship Committee, C/O 4461 Alhambra Way, Mz, CA 94553

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No one is justified in doing evil on the ground of expediency.
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10:30 Angelo Trujillo †
12:30 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Call the Parish Office for Mass intentions.

MOUNTAIN VIEW FAMILY SHELTER
provides temporary housing for about 30 homeless children and adults in Contra Costa County. St. Catherine parishioners are providing meals from Tue, Mar 26—Fri, Mar 29 and are donating ongoing supplies for operations.
If you would like to Volunteer, sign up this weekend Contact Anne: annecrisp@yahoo.com, 925-787-0857

PARISH STEWARDSHIP
FEBRUARY 24, 2019
CONTRIBUTIONS:
Sunday Collection $6,015.00
Thank you for your continued generosity!
REMEMBER ST. CATHERINE PARISH IN YOUR WILL & LIVING TRUST

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Encounter Norma. In Guatemala, we encounter Norma, who as a young mother supports her family and shares her skills with her community. Reflect on the importance of family in your life. How can you contribute to support families in your community? Visit crsricebowl.org.

SIGN UP THIS WEEKEND TO VOLUNTEER FOR MOUNTAIN VIEW FAMILY SHELTER TO PROVIDE MEALS FROM TUE, MAR 26—Fri, Mar 29.
Contact Anne: annecrisp@yahoo.com, 925-787-0857

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IGNITE FORMED MINI-SERIES
Presence—The Mystery of the Eucharist
Movie Study Part Three of the Series
Saturday, Apr 13, @ 5:30 to 8:00 PM
Parish Center Library. Pizza provided. Donations accepted. Explore the truth & beauty of Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist from its origins.

SAN LORENZO RUIZ COMMUNITY together with the
ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL FAMILY DINNER
SAT. APR. 6 . 5:30 PM
Family Meal Deal: 2 adults & 2 or 3 children = $ 30
Adults/Seniors 13 yrs & older = $ 12
Children 5 to 12 yrs old = $ 6
Proceeds benefit SCS Parish & Other Programs
Tickets on Sale after Masses or call
Esther @ 381-1835 or Mary @ 229-2665
St. Catherine of Siena Parish wants to thank the following Priests for celebrating Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation for parishioners while Fr. Anthony was away.

Fr. John Carrillo
Fr. Isaac Donkor
Fr. Rafal Duda
Fr. Padraig Greene
Fr. Thi Hoang
Fr. Hieu Ngo
Fr. Erick Villa

CARVED CROSS: Katie joins her friends in being mean to the new girl, Lily. But suddenly, Katie becomes the new girl—in 1675! She has no idea how she traveled in time to a Native American village, but she’s hoping the young woman she meets will be nicer to her than Katie was to Lily. Tekakwitha is a quiet girl with scars on her face from a terrible disease. Tekakwitha’s family doesn’t accept her because of her faith, and soon she and Katie have to run away in the middle of the night. Will Katie ever find her way back home?

SHAMROCK: When Patrick has to work on his church’s cleaning team on a Saturday, he thinks his weekend fun is ruined. But when the old church bells start chiming, Patrick and his pet frog, Francis, are suddenly taken back through time to ancient Ireland. Will the strange shepherd he meets be able to help him get home, or will Patrick be stuck taking care of sheep in the rain and mud forever? Find out in The Secret of the Shamrock.

This feature can be enjoyed through the SCS Access: Go to internet explorer and click http://formed.org. enter code: XPTJK8 (case sensitive)

I can, You can, We can.
Forty cans for Lent
K of C is asking for non-expired canned foods for donation to Women's Shelter, Loaves & Fishes, and St. Vincent de Paul Place in barrels in church.

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Que Dios los bendiga a todos y a todos los que tu amas.
“For I am the LORD your God consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.”
Leviticus 11:44-45

FACILITIES
To assure that our Church and facilities testify to the greater honor and glory of God.

Cantare Con Vivo presents
Giuseppe Verdi’s Messa da Requiem
Saturday, March 16 @ 7:30 PM
Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church
Certainly one of the most dramatic settings of this historical text. It calls for four soloists, double choir, and a very full orchestra that includes 8 trumpets. It is as close as one gets to merging Verdi’s romantic operatic style with religious subject matter. Without question, it is one of the pinnacles of human artistic achievement.

For tickets contact Melody @ 925-768-1126
docmelody@comcast.net or cantareconvivo.org

EMAIL AND TEXT SCAM INVOLVING PRIESTS
Please be aware of an ongoing phishing scam involving emails and texts purportedly from priests or parish/Chancery staff. This scam has hit many parishes across the United States. The email or text purports to be from a person the target knows, such as one’s pastor, a parish staff member, the bishop, or someone else from the Church. If the target responds to the fake email or text, the sender will follow up with a request for some sort of monetary assistance, often for gift cards or iTune cards. It is truly unfortunate cyber criminals attempt to exploit the generous nature of our community. Sending emails or texts asking for cash or gifts cards is not how priests, parishes, or the Diocese of Oakland seeks financial assistance for our work. If you receive an email or text from a trusted Church personnel asking for assistance, confirm by calling that person and do not respond to the email or text. For more information on phishing scams and email security, review visit the diocese website oakdiocese.org or the FBI website address to file an online Internet crime complaint https://www.ic3.gov.

St. Catherine Parish offers deepest sympathy and prayers for the families; and, the repose of the souls of
Susan Fichter
Vincent Lucido
who entered eternal life.

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WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Week-at-a-glance dates, times, and locations are taken from the web site calendar: www.stcmtz.org. If further clarification is needed, please contact the parish office at 925.228-2230 extension 0.

Sunday, 3/10
8:00 AM PH
8:30 PM PC

Monday, 3/11
5:00 PM PCL
6:30 PM PC

Tuesday, 3/12
6:00 PM CH
7:30 PM CH

Wednesday, 3/13
5:00 PM CH
6:00 PM CH/SC/PH
6:15 PM PC 206
6:30 PM PCL

Thursday, 3/14
7:00 PM PCL
7:00 PM PH

Friday, 3/15
6:00 PM PH
7:00 PM CH

Saturday, 3/16
8:00 AM PH
9:30 AM PCL
3:00 PM CH
6:00 PM PH

Sunday, 3/17
8:00 AM PH
3:45 PM PCL
6:00 PM PCL

CH = Church
PH = Parish Hall
PC = Parish Center

Catholic Charities of the East Bay helps people in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties who are struggling with poverty and other complex issues. To learn more about this work and how you can get involved, please join a Transforming Lives Tour. You’ll learn about our work:
• Preventing homelessness
• Helping young people stay in school, despite pervasive community violence
• Crisis counseling and family support for victims of crime
• Immigration legal services & refugee resettlement

To register, please visit http://www.cceb.org/get-involved/transforming-lives-tour/
For more information, contact Stephan Pippen at spippen@cceb.org or 510.768.3133.
**SUN, MAR 10, 2019:  FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

A devil of a challenge

Take on any challenge, and you quickly discover why few people are willing to walk the route you’re on. Not everyone climbs Mt. Everest, completes the Appalachian Trail, or bikes across Death Valley. It also takes special zeal to fight systemic injustice, go on mission to a foreign country, or resist the tiny daily invitations to compromise your values and go along to get along. The test of self-denial this Lent is a dress rehearsal for the real moral challenges that lie ahead. If you can’t say no in small ways, how can you resist when the demons come calling?

**Today’s readings:** Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13 (24). “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here.”

**MON, MAR 11, 2019  A value-added tradition**

Scripture’s dramatic account of the Final Judgment includes powerful statements about the importance of caring for those who are weak, ill, imprisoned—values that are at the core of all Christian social ethics. Over the centuries great movements for human progress and compassion have been inspired by these fundamental Christian values. Western Christianity’s shortcomings are frequently on display, as perhaps they should be. But let’s not forget the great Christian charitable tradition, which has done so much good for so many. Find a way to make your own contribution to charitable works: From Catholic Charities to Catholic Worker houses, the options are many.

**Today’s readings:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46 (244). “What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for Me.”

**TUE, MAR 12, 2019:  Do you have the will?**

One of the many advantages of memorized prayers such as the “Our Father” is that we can say them when we have no words of our own; we don’t have to think. That’s also one of their disadvantages: We don’t have to think. In fact, we may have forgotten exactly what we are saying when we pray the Lord’s Prayer. For example, do we really mean, “Thy will be done” or are there unspoken conditions attached: “Thy will be done—as long as it doesn’t interfere with my carefully laid plans for my life”? To turn everything over to God is truly the only way to live without fear. It’s what Jesus did; it’s what we are called to do as well.

**Today’s readings:** Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). “This is how you are to pray: ‘Our Father who art in heaven.’”

**WED, MAR 13, 2019  Think small**

Children are the first to tell us that it can be tough to be little. Often overlooked or taken advantage of, not always heard or taken seriously, the small ones in this world are at the mercy of the rest of us. In biblical terms the anawim (“poor little ones”) included children, women, the poor, and the stranger. It’s quite unusual when a “rich big one” like the king of Nineveh in the Book of Jonah surrendered his place of privilege and made himself small before God. Such humility gets results: His kingdom is saved. Consider opportunities today to “get small” in your dealings with others.

**Today’s readings:** Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). “The king of Nineveh . . . rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in the ashes.”

**THU, MAR 14, 2019:  Let the children come**

Children soak up experiences without having much power to filter. Be it fear or faith, trauma or comfort, loss or joy, whatever goes in, tends to stay with them and affect their lives. Adults have a responsibility to try to shape the experiences of children in positive ways. The almost complete dependence of small children on the adults around them is one of the reasons Jesus was so protective of them in the gospels—and also why scripture holds children up as examples of trust. Whether nurturing children or learning to imitate them in your relationship with God, always remember their importance.

**Today’s readings:** Esther C:12, 14-16; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). “If you . . . know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him.”

**FRI, MAR 15, 2019:  Day of Abstinence  What’s in a name?**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists five names for the sacrament that many of us grew up calling Confession. That term, still in use, calls up images of kneeling in darkness and recounting sins to a priest who sits behind a screen. There are, however, other words that perhaps do a better job of describing the grace of the sacrament. These words: conversion, reconciliation, penance, and forgiveness invite us to reflect on and claim our failings, express our sorrow, and, with pastoral guidance, go forth to try again to get it right. Forgiveness of ourselves or others is not easy and reconciliation is a process, but God’s own grace is there to guide and strengthen us as we attempt to be people of love and mercy. Is it time to make a good Confession?

**Today’s readings:** Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). “Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court.”

**SAT, MAR 16, 2019  Less is more**

The heading catches our attention because at first glance it seems illogical. How can less be more? They’re opposites, and of the two, “more” is usually regarded as better. But taken in different light, the phrase makes good sense. Maybe we exercise restraint during a tense meeting with a coworker, saying only what is needed instead of saying something further in order to “win” an argument. Maybe we forgive someone who has hurt us with a lie instead of reminding them over and over that our pain is their fault. With less, we become more—more peaceful, more caring, more Christ-like.

**Today’s readings:** Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229). “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

**SUN, MAR 17, 2019:  SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  Let’s stay here!**

Sometimes it can be a virtue not to be moved. Martyrs resist the lure of preserving their lives by renouncing their faith, and so go to their deaths. Heroes stare down villains in defense of the weak under their protection. But standing your ground can also be a cover for simple stagnation. Especially when you’re actually sitting on the couch and enjoying its satisfying cushions. The spiritual life of saints is kinetic: willing to be transformed in shape, size, and dynamism depending on need and circumstance. Explore the fluidity of the Spirit’s motion in your life. Let yourself be moved. **Today’s readings:** Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17—4:1; or Philippians 3:20—4:1, Luke 9:28b-36 (27). “Let us make three tents, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”
10 MAR 2019 PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA Un desafío alucinante
Acepta cualquier desafío y descubre rápidamente porque pocas personas están dispuestas a caminar por la ruta en la que te encuentras. No todos suben al monte Everest, completa el sendero de los Apalaches, o bicicletas a través del Valle de la Muerte. También se requiere un celo especial para luchar contra la injusticia sistémica, ir en misión a un país extranjero o resistir las pequeñas invitaciones de día diario para comprometer tus valores y seguir adelante para llevarse bien. La prueba de la abnegación en esta Cuaresma es un ensayo general para el verdadero desafío moral que tenemos por delante. Si no nos desafiamos a nuestras aspiraciones, ¿cómo puedes resistirte cuando los demonios vienen a llamar?
Lecturas de hoy: Deuteronomio 26: 4-10; Romanos 10: 8-13; Lucas 4: 1-13 (24)
“Si eres el Hijo de Dios, arrojate desde aquí”.

11 MAR 2019 DÍA DE LA SEMANA DE CUARESMA
Una tradición de valor agregado El dramático relato del Juicio Final de las Escrituras incluye declaraciones poderosas sobre la importancia de cuidar a quienes son débiles, enfermos, encarcelados, valores que están en el centro de toda ética social cristiana. A lo largo de los siglos, estos valores cristianos fundamentales han inspirado grandes movimientos para el progreso humano y la compasión. Las deficiencias del cristianismo occidental son frecuentemente expuestas, como quizás deberían ser. Pero no olvidemos la gran tradiación caritativa cristiana, que ha sido muy beneficosa para muchos. Encuentre una manera de hacer su propia contribución a obras de caridad: desde las Cáritades Católicas hasta las casas de los Trabajadores Católicos, las opciones son muchas.
Lecturas de hoy: Levítico 19: 1-2, 11-18; Mateo 25: 31-46 (244). “Lo que no hiciste por uno de estos menos, no lo hiciste por mí”.

12 MAR 2019 LECTURA DIARIA DE CUARESMA
¿Tienes la voluntad? Una de las muchas ventajas de memorizar oraciones como el “Padre Nuestro” es que podemos decirlas cuando no tenemos palabras propias; no tenemos que pensar. Esa es también una de sus desventajas: no tenemos que pensar. De hecho, es posible que hayamos olvidado exactamente lo que decimos cuando oramos la Oración del Señor. Por ejemplo, realmente queremos decir “hágase tu voluntad” o hay condiciones tácitas adjuntas: “hágase tu voluntad, siempre y cuando no interfiera con mis planes cuidadosamente establecidos para mi vida”? Pasar todo a Dios es verdaderamente la única manera de vivir sin miedo. Es lo que hizo Jesús; Es lo que estamos llamados a hacer también.
“¡Que vengan los niños.”

13 MAR 2019 DÍA DE SEMANA DE CUARESMA
Piensa pequeño. Los niños son los primeros en decírnos que puede ser difícil ser pequeño. A menudo ignorados o tomados en cuenta, no siempre escuchados o tomados en serio, los pequeños en este mundo están a la merced del resto de nosotros. En tóctinos bíblicos, ANAWIM (“por pequeños”) incluía a niños, mujeres, pobres y extraños. Es bastante inusual cuando un “rico grande” como el rey de Nínive en el Libro de Jonás entregó su lugar de privilegio y se hizo pequeño ante Dios. Tal humildad obtiene resultados: su reino se salvó. Considerar oportunidades hoy para “reducirse” en sus relaciones con los demás.
Lecturas de hoy: Jonás 3: 1-10; Lucas 11: 29-32 (226). “El rey de Nínive salió de su trono, dejó a un lado su túnica, se cubrió de cílicio y se sentó en las cenizas”.

14 MAR 2019 DÍA DE SEMANA DE CUARESMA Que vengan los niños.
Los niños absorben las experiencias sin tener mucho poder de filtrar. Sea el miedo, la fe, la traición o el consuelo, la pérdida o la alegría, todo lo que entra, tiende a quedarse con ellos y afectar sus vidas. Los adultos tienen la responsabilidad de tratar de dar forma positiva a las experiencias de los niños. La dependencia casi completa de los niños pequeños de los adultos que los rodean es una de las razones por las que Jesús los protegió en los evangelios, y también por las Escrituras sostiene a los niños como ejemplos de confianza. Ya sea cuidando niños o acompañando a imitantes en su relación con Dios, recuerde siempre su importancia.
Lecturas de hoy: Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Mateo 7: 7-12 (227). “si tu sabes cómo dar buenos regalos a sus hijos, cuánto más dará su Padre celestial cosas buenas a los que le piden”.

15 MAR 2019 DÍA DE SEMANA DE CUARESMA. DÍA DE ABSTINENCIA
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