St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

Second Sunday of Lent

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 STAFF & SCHOOL STAFF**

Fr. Anthony Huong Le, Parochial Administrator  
Deacon Albert Dizon  
deandizon@yahoo.com  
Deacon David Holland  
deandholland@yahoo.com  
Jessica Griswold, Principal  
jgriswold@csdo.org  
Sister Catherine Elementary School  
925-228-4140  
Pauine Porter  
sccathmtz@yahoo.com  
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)  
Safe Environment Coordinator  
925-229-2255  
Paul Holland  
holland@stcatherinemartinez.com  
Co-coordinators, Youth Group and Confirmation Program  
paulihcfscoa@l.com  
Troy Killorn  
stkillorn@aol.com  
Director of Music Ministry  
Director Religious Education  
Sylvia Lloren  
stcathmtz@yahoo.com  
Secretary  
bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com  

**CHURCH LOCATION:** 606 Millus Street, Martinez, CA  
**PARISH OFFICE AND CHURCH LOCATION:** 606 Millus Street, Martinez, CA  
**MAILING ADDRESS:** Martinez, CA 94553-1720  
**TELEPHONE / FAX:** 925-228-2230 / 925-228-1318  
**PARISH WEBSITE:** www.stcmtz.org  
**PARISH EMAIL:** stcathmtz@yahoo.com  
**SUBMISSIONS:** bulletin submissions@gmail.com  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 8:30 AM - 1PM & 2 PM - 5 PM  
**GRAMMAR SCHOOL:** 604 Millus Street, Martinez, CA  
**TELEPHONE / FAX:** 925-228-4140 / 925-228-0697  
**SCHOOL WEBSITE:** 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 the reception of the Sacrament.  
**MARONAGES:** Arrangements and mandatory preparation need to be arranged at least six months prior to the wedding.  
**FUNERALS:** We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services at 925-932-0900. The representative will contact the parish office to coordinate your arrangements.  
**BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS:** Email request to bulletin submissions@gmail.com. The deadline for the request is no later than noon on Monday one week prior to the date of the bulletin in which you would like your announcement to appear.  
**EARLY DEADLINES:** Closely watch early deadlines imposed by the publisher and plan ahead accordingly. Submissions for Mar 24 has passed. Next deadline for bulletin: All items must be submitted by Mon Mar 18 by noon for Mar 31  

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>8:00 AM and 4:30 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 PM Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEKDAYS</td>
<td>8:00 AM (Monday is a Communion Service)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOLY DAYS</td>
<td>8:00 AM, 12:10 PM and 7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADORATION</td>
<td>Fridays from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECONCILIATION</td>
<td>Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altar Servers</td>
<td>Jack Watkins</td>
<td>925-957-0437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Environment</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>925-228-2230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingo</td>
<td>Don Brocca</td>
<td>925-858-7330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Youth Organization - CYO</td>
<td>Gina Marks</td>
<td>925-817-9429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Eugene Dizon</td>
<td>925-370-8143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</td>
<td>Viviana &amp; Tony Magee</td>
<td>925-228-6460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Formation - Religious Education (PreK-8th Grades)</td>
<td>Andrea Watkins</td>
<td>925-228-2230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Council</td>
<td>Mary Cook</td>
<td>925-229-2665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grief Ministry/Card Ministry</td>
<td>Mary Cook (in asoci with Legion of Mary)</td>
<td>925-229-2665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guadalupe Society</td>
<td>Guadalupe Cruz</td>
<td>925-997-2432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital/Sick/Homebound</td>
<td>Tom Greayer</td>
<td>925-228-4387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Tom Cook</td>
<td>925-228-2665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunite</td>
<td>Cindy Buscaglia</td>
<td>925-787-8396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian Catholic Federation - ICF</td>
<td>Tom Cook</td>
<td>925-229-2665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knights of Columbus - K of C</td>
<td>Rick Silva</td>
<td>925-334-2429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Communidad Latina</td>
<td>Lucia Cruz</td>
<td>925-348-2620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legion of Mary</td>
<td>Bobby Kiefer</td>
<td>925-658-1442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectors</td>
<td>Carlos Mendoza</td>
<td>510-385-0506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaves &amp; Fishes</td>
<td>Denice Silva</td>
<td>925-372-0740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Mary Cook (in asoci with Legion of Mary)</td>
<td>925-229-2665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy Killorn</td>
<td>Tom Greayer</td>
<td>925-228-2230</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Help of Christians - MHC</td>
<td>Mary Cook</td>
<td>925-810-1279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Cook (in asoci with Stewardship)</td>
<td>Karen Glen</td>
<td>925-788-7716 &amp; Karen Sandri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respect Life</td>
<td>Linda Eastward</td>
<td>925-372-3845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA</td>
<td>Andrea Watkins</td>
<td>925-228-2230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Environment for Children Project - SECP</td>
<td>Pauline Porter/Karen Glen</td>
<td>925-229-2230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Youth Organization - CYO</td>
<td>Andrea Watkins</td>
<td>925-228-2230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECP: No More Secrets - Survivor Outreach</td>
<td>Sherrill Hammon</td>
<td>925-372-6091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Lorenzo Ruiz Community - SLRC</td>
<td>Esther Concepcion</td>
<td>925-381-1835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Awareness</td>
<td>Anne Crisp</td>
<td>925-356-8822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spark (young adult group ages 18 years to 35 years)</td>
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<td>925-228-2230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>Karen Glen</td>
<td>925-788-7716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Societate Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel - SPRSI</td>
<td>Annette Libbert</td>
<td>925-228-8428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Society - SVdp</td>
<td>Karen Glen</td>
<td>925-788-7716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>James McLaughlin</td>
<td>925-228-1051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Ladies Institute - YLI</td>
<td>Peggy Aiello-Hagerthy</td>
<td>925-228-2628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Group/Confirmation (High School to 12 Grades)</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Jenny Holland</td>
<td>925-890-6229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Before serving or continuing in your ministry, complete the Diocesan required Safe Environment for Children Project Training @ www.virtusonline.org. Thank you.
Second Sunday in Lent—March 17, 2109

THE CHURCH IS APOSTOLIC

Apostolic. The Church traces its tradition directly from the apostles; therefore, the Church is considered apostolic. With the Holy Spirit the Church preserves and continues the teaching of the apostles. The pope and bishops are the successors of the apostles. (Loyola Press)

One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic…

With me, we have looked at “One” and “Holy”. “Catholic” is meant to help us identify as the ones that constitute the Church and our universal mission to proclaim that with which God has enlightened us.

Apostolic then is execution of that mission.

While the Pope and bishops may be the recognized successors of the first apostles, through our understanding of the Marks, it is clear that we are all apostles set out to share the Word.

It is curious to me, the inferred transition from the internal aspect of “One” to the external aspect of “Apostolic”. While One refers to the Church as a whole, we must realize that One starts with us individually and our own personal relationship with God. Holy continues that internal relationship and helps us identify our role as part of the whole. Catholic binds us together and helps us identify who we are, the first aspect of the external recognition. Apostolic, then, pushes us out of our comfort zone, to get outside of our typical routine to share our enlightenment and proclaim the Work of God to others, both inside and outside of our Church.

Just the other day I had the opportunity to discuss our religion and what it means to ‘forgive’ those that have wronged us, or have wronged society so heinously, that we do not think we could ever forgive them. And it raised the question of praying for those ‘lost souls’. The conversation continued exploring the Marks that are being reviewed and how we, the individuals of the Church, participate in this forgiveness. The conversation was with other Catholics that already have an understanding of God’s message but still have the capacity to grow in their understanding of the Word.

Is this conversation equivalent to the ‘Beneath His Cross Apostolate’ that was introduced to our Parish recently? No, but the mission is the same! We are all charged with sharing God’s love through His teachings and our understanding of them. We are guided by the officials of the Church, the Pope, bishops, and priests to expand our knowledge and reinforce or refine our understanding so that we may continue to share God’s message accurately. Do we all need to develop an Apostolate and dedicate our lives to traveling the world sharing God’s message? It would be amazing if you could. But maybe not practical and so we must make the conscious effort to include our mission as an Apostle throughout our daily lives.

How? You can start with yourself and your actions. The ways are countless, but part of the effort is identifying the opportunity. Does this mean you have to volunteer as a lector or extraordinary minister of the Eucharistic in Church? Not necessarily. But, how about starting with going to Church more regularly?! Work on strengthening your personal relationship with God and the opportunities and ideas of sharing that love and knowledge will arise. Or, when asked to help volunteer at the next school or Parish event, instead of saying, “No, I can’t because I’m too busy….”, try answering, “Yes, I will help. But I have these hurdles in my own life that I may need help with….”. Giving others the opportunity to help you may allow for an increased opportunity for you to help others!

And, then, as you have worked toward your actions, progress to your words. Being an Apostle also means sharing the Word of God. I have a close friend that I have known for over 20 years who is agnostic. Does that mean I avoid the topic of religion when I talk with him? Not at all! But, I do, when the opportunity presents itself, share the rewards of my belief and religion with him. I pray that a spark will ignite in him that will generate an interest in God and the Church that may change his heart. It may be a lifetime of fruitless effort, but I am doing what I think God expects of me as an Apostle. Or, like the conversation with my friends, when the opportunity to talk about your religion arises, explore it and share in it. Unlike politics, the discussion of one’s religion should be unifying and not polarizing!

To be apostolic, it is incumbent upon us to create and take advantage of the opportunities to share our religion with each other and those that may not have found God. Like the Apostles who ventured out to new lands and subjected themselves to criticism from non-believers, to be an Apostle, we have to push ourselves outside of our comfort zones to grow, not only our Church but also, as an individual in our union with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. —Carlos M. Melendez

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

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

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

**HOSPITALITY**
To form a joyful family community that reaches out and receives one another as Christ reaches out and receives us.

**FACILITIES**
To assure that our Church and facilities testify to the greater honor and glory of God.
“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34

Even in the time of persecution and death, Jesus calls to God for strength. Jesus, born as our Savior, born without sin, still is man. Jesus, our brother looks at those who have captured Him, stripped His clothing, whipped, and punished Him as He carries the cross passed those who love Him, passed His mother, our Mother Mary. He looks at them with a forgiving heart, asking God to forgive them. They truly believed that Jesus, this man was a criminal, a rebel. In their ignorance, they did not know or believe Him to be the true Son of God. They did not know that they were crucifying the Son of God. “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” To me, this is one of the powerful statements Jesus says. In a time when He is being hurt, He asks for strength from God to forgive those who are hurting Him. As a mother, as an educator, I tend to reflect on this statement in times when I’m sitting with my own children or students. Can we find it in our hearts to forgive those who hurt us? Can we find the strength and grace from God to forgive others for saying something mean or those who accidentally hurt us? When we sin, do we put Jesus on the cross? Are we hurting the man who was born and who died for us? We, too, stand with those who need forgiveness. We stand before Jesus in community asking for forgiveness in Mass on Sundays. We are called to ask for forgiveness more, called to reflect on our wrongdoings because God wants to wipe away our sins. He wants us to engage in prayer and reflection because of His amazing grace. In the last words spoken by Jesus as He asks God to forgive the soldiers and Pontius Pilate, let’s hear those words again, “Father, forgive them.” Can we be more like Jesus and ask God to help us forgive our brothers and sisters?

—by Jessica Griswold, Principal, St. Catherine of Siena Parochial School
WORSHIP
To facilitate a transforming encounter with God as we come together in worship.

Pictured below: Yolanda Rodriguez, of “Beneath His Cross” Apostolate presented three days of prayer to the parish as an introduction to a ministry that begins on Thursday, April 4 @ 6pm and will continue meeting on the first Thursdays monthly. You are encouraged to join in these monthly prayers for our priests and pastor.

In Gratitude to all who made the “28 Hours for the Lord” a huge success! Thank you to all our beloved priests who came to hear confessions: Fr. Thi Hoang, Fr. Anthony Le, Fr. Mario Rizzo, and Fr. Freddie Thomas. Thank you to all the 70 plus adorers who came to worship the Lord and spent an hour or more in Adoration and Prayer to the Most Blessed Sacrament. Thank you to all the groups, ministries, parish and school staff, and organizations who supported the community during the “28 Hours for the Lord” through their prayers and sacrifices. God bless us all.

"O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine. All Praise and all Thanksgiving, be every moment Thine."

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one often comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won’t. —Henry Ward Beecher

FEAST DAY CELEBRATION
St. Catherine of Siena Parish & School
1949 2019 1873 2019

Commemorating 146 Years of Faith Celebrating 70th 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

March 17th
St. Patrick found a shamrock on the ground and explained that this plant with three leaves is like the Holy Trinity: One God in three divine persons.
DISCIPLESHIP
To empower a community of Christian people walking together as disciples of Jesus in order to share His good news.

WHO: St. Catherine of Siena Respect Life Ministry Invites You to Join Them and would enjoy the Company of any interested Parishioners on this outing.

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 contact Debbie debpelizzari@comcast.net

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

Past and Future: There is no saint without a past and no sinner without a future.

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How: More info contact Debbie debpelizzari@comcast.net

Recently I went to a viewing of a documentary entitled: “Braving Uncertainty” which chronicled in 22 minutes the journey of three folks from the Bay Area who were facing Stage 4 cancer diagnoses. The film was directed by two brothers whose sister Lisa was the main focus of the film. I knew Lisa from my support group meetings at the Cancer Support Community in Pleasant Hill. I’ve attended the group just about every week for more than 2 years now.

I, myself, was diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer in November 2016. I’m currently being treated with a combination of two strong drugs. There will be nine infusions complemented by two pills for a total of 27 weeks.

About one year ago, I attended a workshop on End of Life Issues sponsored by the Catholics Care Initiative of the Diocese of Oakland. The seminar consisted of a number of topics including Hospice Care, Health Care Proxy, knowing when to request the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and navigating end of life issues from a Catholic perspective. The workshop was excellent and sparked a number of action items for me. A few months ago, I finally decided to take action and resolve my funeral and burial preferences. No, I’m not facing death just yet – but it just felt right to brave this uncertainty now rather than make it a dramatic process later.

I called Queen of Heaven Cemetery and Funeral Center in Lafayette. I met with Mark, one of the advisers there, and after two sessions made my choices. I was alone for this process despite having a number of family members available to me. I did not want my daughters to feel any worries or burdens around my funeral plans and burial choices.

I attend Mass every day, usually in our parish of St. Catherine of Siena. I believe profoundly that the Eucharist is the cause of our resurrection and receiving Jesus every day into my body is medicine for my spiritual well-being just as the treatment drugs are medicine for my physical well-being. The gift of the Eucharist gives me the strength and courage to “brave the uncertainties ahead.”

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IRELAND

No reptiles are found there [in Ireland], and no snake can live there; for, though often carried thither out of Britain, as soon as the ship comes near the shore, and the scent of the air reaches them, they die.

—Venerable Bede

STEWARDSHIP

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

2019 Bishop’s Appeal

| SCS Goal Summary: | Parish Goal: $ TBD | Funds Raised: $ | Remaining: $ TBD | % of Goal Raised: % |

MARCH 10, 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday Collection $5,110.00
Ash Wednesday $3,070.00

FEBRUARY ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday Collection $4,535.00
Fulfilling the Promise $851.25
Maintenance $495.00
SCS Education Fund $475.00
St. Vincent de Paul $255.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Remember St. Catherine Parish in your Will & Living Trust

Next week, Sat/Sun, Mar 23/24 we will have a second collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Right now, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territory because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work in their communities. Your support of this appeal cases the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Find more information at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

La próxima semana realizaremos el Llamado para las Misiones Católicas. En estos momentos, más del 40% de las diócesis en Estados Unidos es considerado territorio misionero pues no le es posible financiar las labores pastorales básicas en sus comunidades. El apoyo que usted le dé a este llamado alivian los esfuerzos que hacen estas diócesis. Por favor, en oración, considere la manera de apoyar a este llamado. Encuentre más información en www.usccb.org/home-missions.

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

| SAT 3/16 | 4:30 Mario Balestrieri † |
| SUN 3/17 | 7:00 Antonio Copiaco † |
|          | 8:30 Mitch & Ann Costanza † |
|          | 10:30 Angelo Trujillo † |
|          | 12:30 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish |
| MON 3/18 | 8:00 Kirk & Brydie Kuykendall † |
| TUE 3/19 | 8:00 Int. all the Josephs in the Tavormina Family |
| WED 3/20 | 8:00 Int. St. Catherine of Siena School |
| FRI 3/22 | 8:00 Antonio da Conceicao † |
| SAT 3/23 | 8:00 Rolly Cordova † |
|          | 4:30 Kerry Marie Nakasone † |
| SUN 3/24 | 7:00 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish |
|          | 8:30 Swieszcz & Bratten Families † |
|          | 10:30 Int. YLI #64 members |
|          | 12:30 Louisa Dona and Otto Dona † |

Call the Parish Office for Mass intentions.

CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

MERCY is said to be a virtue influencing one’s will to have compassion for, and, if possible, to alleviate another’s misfortune. It is the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas that mercy, though it is the spontaneous product of charity, it is to be reckoned a special virtue.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY are:

To feed the hungry
To give drink to the thirsty
To clothe the naked
To harbor the harborless
To visit the sick
To ransom the captive
To bury the dead

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY are:

To instruct the ignorant
To counsel the doubtful
To admonish sinners
To bear wrongs patiently
To forgive offences willingly
To comfort the afflicted
To pray for the living and the dead

I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN. FORTY CANS FOR LENT

Knights of Columbus is collecting non-expired, non-perishable canned foods for donation to Women’s Shelter, Loaves and Fishes, and St. Vincent de Paul. Please place your contributions in barrels in the vestibule of the church. Thank you.

OPERATION RICE BOWL — ENCOUNTER ANNET

In Uganda, we encounter Annet and her family. Her children forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

2019 Bishop’s Appeal

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PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Ireland

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| TUE 3/19 | 8:00 Int. all the Josephs in the Tavormina Family |
| WED 3/20 | 8:00 Int. St. Catherine of Siena School |
| FRI 3/22 | 8:00 Antonio da Conceicao † |
| SAT 3/23 | 8:00 Rolly Cordova † |
|          | 4:30 Kerry Marie Nakasone † |
| SUN 3/24 | 7:00 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish |
|          | 8:30 Swieszcz & Bratten Families † |
|          | 10:30 Int. YLI #64 members |
|          | 12:30 Louisa Dona and Otto Dona † |

Call the Parish Office for Mass intentions.

CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

MERCY is said to be a virtue influencing one’s will to have compassion for, and, if possible, to alleviate another’s misfortune. It is the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas that mercy, though it is the spontaneous product of charity, it is to be reckoned a special virtue.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY are:

To feed the hungry
To give drink to the thirsty
To clothe the naked
To harbor the harborless
To visit the sick
To ransom the captive
To bury the dead

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY are:

To instruct the ignorant
To counsel the doubtful
To admonish sinners
To bear wrongs patiently
To forgive offences willingly
To comfort the afflicted
To pray for the living and the dead

I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN. FORTY CANS FOR LENT

Knights of Columbus is collecting non-expired, non-perishable canned foods for donation to Women’s Shelter, Loaves and Fishes, and St. Vincent de Paul. Please place your contributions in barrels in the vestibule of the church. Thank you.

OPERATION RICE BOWL — ENCOUNTER ANNET

In Uganda, we encounter Annet and her family. Her children forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.
Our Lord teaches that prayer is a relationship and a vital necessity. And yet, many of us have difficulty committing to daily prayer. Follow Jesus into the desert this Lent and discover intimacy with God. This feature can be enjoyed through the SCS Access: Go to internet explorer and click http://formed.org. enter code: XPTJK8 (case sensitive)
PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO SCHEDULE CONFLICTS, SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SUNDAY, MARCH 31 BULLETIN ARE DUE ON MONDAY, MARCH 18

MOUNTAIN VIEW SHELTER DINNERS & FOOD DRIVE
Food & other donations will be collected for the Mountain View House Shelter, Mar. 23-24. Items needed include assorted fruit juices: powdered, boxes, gallon, etc., sugar, coffee, Nitrile/powder-free gloves (for cleaning & cooking); disposable diapers (all sizes), large 30 gallon garbage bags, paper supplies including plates, bowls & cups, gallon size zip-lock bags, toilet paper, & cleaning supplies are continually needed. Please place your donations in the Sacred Heart alcove. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach effort in our community.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS WITH THE CLERGY
will now meet on TUESDAYS
From 7:00 pm—8:15 pm in the St. Gabriel Room Parish Center

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 ext.0

Sunday, 3/17  Second Sunday of Lent
8:00 AM  PH  Breakfast—YLI serves
3:45 PM  PCL  Confirmation Preparation Class
6:00 PM  PCL  Youth Group

Monday, 3/18  St. Cyril of Jerusalem, pray for us.
7:00 PM  PH  Guadalupe Society Meeting

Tuesday, 3/19  St. Joseph, pray for us.
10:30 AM  CH  SCS School Reconciliation
6:00 PM  CH  Choir Rehearsal
6:30 PM  PC  Scripture Reflection with Clergy
7:00 PM  PH  YLI Meeting
7:30 PM  CH  Spanish Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, 3/20  St. Cuthbert, pray for us.
5:00 PM  CH  SCS School See's Candy Sale Begins
6:00 PM  CH/SC/PH  Faith Formation PreK to 8th Grades
6:15 PM  PC  206  RCIA Meeting—St. Gabriel Room
6:30 PM  PCL  Legion of Mary Ministry Meeting
7:00 PM  PH  Ministry Leaders Mandatory Meeting
    Only the heads of ministry can attend

Thursday, 3/21  St. Philemon, pray for us.
8:00 AM  CH  Morning Mass
6:00 PM  PH  SCS School Science Fair
6:30 PM  PCL  ICF Meeting
7:00 PM  CH  Lectors Meeting

Friday, 3/22  St. Lea, pray for us.
12:00 PM  CH  Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:00 PM  PH  Soup Supper
7:00 PM  CH  Stations of the Cross and Seven Last Words of Christ

Saturday, 3/23  St. Turibius, pray for us.
9:30 AM  PCL  SVdP Food Distribution
3:00 PM  CH  Reconciliation

Sunday, 3/24  Third Sunday of Lent
8:00 AM  PH  Hospitality—Legion of Mary hosts
2:00 PM  PH  Cub Scout Pinewood Derby set up
3:00 PM  PH  Cub Scout Pinewood Derby

RC = Rectory  SC = School
PH = Parish Hall  YD = School Yard  YS: Youth Shack
PC = Parish Center  PCL: Parish Center Library
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.”

MON, MAR 18, 2019 MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Mercy me

“Have mercy!” How many times have you heard that expression? Today’s gospel goes to the core Christian belief in mercy and forgiveness, concepts so central that Pope Francis declared 2016 a Year of Mercy. Cyril of Jerusalem is known for his insightful religious instruction and for having been immersed in controversies. Three times he was exiled over political and Church differences, and three times he was granted mercy and reinstated as Jerusalem’s bishop. Who do you know in need of mercy? Take a step to be an agent of mercy today. Today’s readings: Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230). “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

TUE, MAR 19, 2019: SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY Got fava beans?

In some parts of the world, especially in Italy, it is customary to carry blessed fava beans in observance of St. Joseph Day. In New Orleans you might run into a parade. Just about anywhere you’ll meet people wearing red. And, today is Father’s Day in Spain and Portugal, all to honor Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary. Most Catholic churches have a window or statue dedicated to the saint. If you’re an old-time Catholic in Poland and your name is Józef, tradition holds that you throw a party for your friends and neighbors. Whatever your name, why not wear red today, put fava beans in your pocket, and maybe throw a party?

Today’s readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543). “When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.”

WED, MAR 20, 2019 Support your local prophet

The Israelites knew one thing about their prophets: They spoke the true word of God whether the message was welcome or not—and frequently it wasn’t, provoking resistance, even to the point of eliminating the prophet to silence the voice they didn’t wish to hear. Jesus encountered opposition as well. Plenty of people—especially powerful people—wished to get Him out of the way, but He and His gospel live on. Do you hear prophetic words spoken today in our world? How are they received? How do you receive them?

Today’s readings: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232). “It will not mean the loss of instruction from the priests, nor of counsel from the wise, nor of messages from the prophets.”

THU, MAR 21, 2019: Tips for growing faith

Trees figure prominently in the Bible and often serve as symbols of our faith. Those who first heard the words of scripture—being people living on the edge of the desert—were quite aware of the special care trees require to grow strong and bear fruit. Droughts and floods, weeds and critters, and even the occasional curse from an angry messiah can kill a tree in short order. Care for your faith as you would a sapling. Weed and water and protect it against the elements. And be mindful of the seeds of faith you plant in others.

Today’s readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233). “He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream.”

FRI, MAR 22, 2019: DAY OF ABSTINENCE In praise of water

Today, like every Friday during Lent, Catholics abstain from eating meat in honor of the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. On this day of abstinence, let’s remember a form of sustenance—one that no living thing can survive without—a form of sustenance that’s in danger: water. Today is World Water Day, an annual observance of the United Nations used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. God has charged us with stewardship of creation—what can you do to support water conservation today?

Today’s readings: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234). “The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.”

SAT, MAR 23, 2019 The patron saint of entitlement?

Writers, artists, and poets have tried to capture the overwhelming love of the Prodigal Father waiting in the famous parable for his errant son to return. When he gets a glimpse of him, he abandons all dignity and runs to cover his son with kisses. Less attention is given to the elder son, the obedient, hardworking one who never abandoned his father in the first place. Why is he not the focus of the parable? Perhaps because we find his attitude selfish or entitled? And yet, is not the elder son often the model for many of us? We may strive to do the right thing, but with the expectation that our fidelity entitles us to special treatment. There is another chance for the elder son, though, as later in the story the father goes out to meet him, too.

Today’s readings: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235). “My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours.”

SUN, MAR 24, 2019: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT When to be a quitter

In playground rhetoric, a quitter is among the worst things to be. Even in adulthood, none of us wishes to cultivate a reputation for not following through on projects and promises. But sometimes it’s good to quit, as any nicotine addict, alcoholic, or gambler will attest. How do we judge “when to hold ‘em, and when to fold ‘em”? Jesus promotes fruitfulness as the most reliable measure of an effort’s viability. Holding on to a fruitless situation that does not respond to herculean efforts toward cultivation is a waste of life’s soil. Contemplate what to preserve and what to prune.

LECTURAS Y REFLEXIONES DE LA SEMANA

17 MAR 2019 SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE CUARESMA
¡Quedémonos aquí!

En ocasiones puede ser una virtud no alterarse. Los mártires resisten la tentación de conservar sus vidas renunciando a su fe, y así van a la muerte. Los héroes contemplan a los villanos defendiendo a los débiles a quienes protegen. Pero resistir puede ser también una simple fachada para la inmovilidad. Especialmente cuando en realidad estás sentado en el sillón y disfrutando de sus cómodos cojines. La vida espiritual de los santos es cinética: el deseo de ser transformados en forma, tamaño y dinamismo dependiendo de la necesidad y las circunstancias. Explora la fluidez del movimiento del Espíritu en tu vida. Déjate alterar. Lecturas de hoy: Génesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Filipenses 3:17-4:1 o Filipenses 3:20-4:1; Lucas 9:28b-36 (27). “Hagamos tres tiendas, una para ti, una para Moisés, y una para Elías.”

18 MAR 2019 MEMORIAL DE CYRIL DE JERUSALÉN, OBISPO, DOCTOR DE LA IGLESIA  Misericordia de mí.

“¡Tener compasión!”, ¿Cuántas veces has escuchado esa expresión? El evangelio de hoy se dirige a la creencia cristiana fundamental en la misericordia y el perdón, conceptos tan centrales que el Papa Francisco declaró que 2016 es un año de Misericordia. Cyril Jerusalem es conocido por su instrucción religiosa perspicaz y por haber estado inmerso en controversias. Tres veces fue exiliado por diferencias políticas y eclesiásticas, y tres veces se le concedió la misericordia y se le reincorporó como obispo de Jerusalén. ¿A quién conoce que necesita misericordia? Da un paso para ser un agente de la misericordia hoy.

Lecturas de hoy: Daniel 9: 4b-10; Lucas 6: 36-38 (230). “Se misericordioso, así como tu Padre es misericordioso”.

19 MAR 2019 SOLEMNIDAD DE JOSÉ, ESPOSO DE MARÍA  Tengo habas.


Lecturas de hoy: 2 Samuel 7: 4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romanos 4:13, 16-18,22; Mateo 1: 16,18-21, 24a o Lucas 2: 41-51a (543). “Cuando José se despertó, hizo lo que el ángel del Señor le había ordenado y llevó a su esposa a su casa”.

20 MAR 2019 DÍA DE SEMANA DE CUARESMA Apoya a tu profeta local.

Los israelitas sabían una cosa acerca de sus profetas: hablaban la verdadera palabra de Dios si el mensaje era bienvenido o no, y con frecuencia no lo era, provocando resistencia, incluso hasta el punto de eliminar al profeta para silenciar la voz que ellos no hicieron. No quiero herar. Jesús también encontró oposición. Muchas personas, especialmente personas poderosas, querían sacarlo del camino, pero él y su evangelio siguen vivos. ¿Escuchas las palabras proféticas habladas hoy en nuestra palabra? ¿Cómo se reciben? ¿Cómo los recibes? Lecturas de hoy: Jeremías 1:18; 18-20; Mateo 20: 17-28 (232). “No se trataría la pérdida de instrucción de los sacerdotes, ni el consejo de los sabios, ni los mensajes de los profetas”.

21 MAR 2019 DÍA DE SEMANA DE CUARESMA  Consejos para crecer la fe.

Los árboles ocupan un lugar destacado en la Biblia y a menudo sirven como símbolos de nuestra fe. Aquellos que escucharon por primera vez las palabras de las Escrituras, que son personas que viven al borde del desierto, eran muy conscientes de los cuidadosas especiales que requieren los árboles para crecer y dar frutos: sequías e inundaciones, malezas y bichos, e incluso la maldición ocasional de un Mesías enojado puede matar un árbol en poco tiempo. Cuida tu fe como si fuera un retoño. Mala hierba y agua y protegerla contra los elementos. Y ten en cuenta las semillas de la fe que plantas en los demás. Lecturas de hoy: Jeremías 17: 5-10; Lucas 16: 19-31 (233). “Es como un árbol plantado junto a las aguas que se extienden hacia el arroyo”.

22 MAR 2019 DÍA DE SEMANA DE CUARESMA, DÍA DE ABSTINENCIA En honor al agua

Hoy, como todos los viernes durante la Cuaresma, los católicos se abstienen de comer carne en honor a la Pasión de Jesús el Viernes Santo. En este día de abstinencia, recordemos una forma de sustento, una por la que ningún ser vivo puede sobrevivir, una forma de sustento que está en peligro: el agua. Hoy es el Día Mundial del Agua, y la observación anual de las Naciones Unidas solía abogar por la gestión sostenible de los recursos de agua fresca. Dios nos ha encomendado la administración de la creación. ¿Qué puedes hacer para apoyar la conservación del agua hoy?

Lecturas de hoy: Génesis 37: 3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mateo 21: 33-43, 45-46 (234). “El reino de Dios será quitado de ti y entregado a un pueblo que producirá su fruto”.

23 MAR 2019 DÍA DE LA SEMANA DE CUARESMA ¿El santo patrono del derecho?

Escrítores, artistas y poetas han tratado de capturar el amor abrumador de Pródigo Padre que espera en la famosa parábola a que regrese su hijo errante. Cuando lo vislumbra, abandona toda dignidad y corre a cubrir a su hijo con besos. Se presta menos atención al hijo mayor, el obediente y trabajador que nunca abandonó a su padre en primer lugar. ¿Por qué no es el foco de la parábola? ¿Acaso porque nos parece egoísta o autorizada su actitud? Y, sin embargo, ¿no es el hijo mayor a menudo el modelo para nosotros? Podemos esforzarnos por hacer lo correcto, pero con la expectativa de que nuestra fidelidad nos da derecho a un tratamiento especial. Sin embargo, hay otra oportunidad para el hijo mayor, como más adelante en la historia, el padre también sale a recibirlo.


TERCER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA Cuándo ser un desertor

En retórica de juegos, un desertor está entre lo peor que se puede ser. Aún en la adultez, ninguno de nosotros quiere cultivar una reputación por no cumplir los proyectos y las promesas. Pero a veces es bueno dejar, como puede atestiguar pronunciando las palabras de las Escrituras, que son personas que viven al borde del desierto, eran muy conscientes de los cuidados especiales que requieren los árboles para crecer y dar frutos: sequías e inundaciones, malezas y bichos, e incluso la maldición ocasional de un Mesías enojado puede matar un árbol en poco tiempo. Cuida tu fe como si fuera un retoño. Mala hierba y agua y protegerla contra los elementos. Y ten en cuenta las semillas de la fe que plantas en los demás. Lecturas de hoy: Éxodo 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Corintios 10:1-6, 10-12; Lucas 13:1-9 (30). “Entonces tala [esta higuera] ¿Por qué debería agotar la tierra?”
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