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
Dcn. Albert Dizon
dcnadizon@yahoo.com
Dcn. David Holland
dcndholland@yahoo.com
Jessica Griswold, Principal
Jgriswold@csdo.org
Pauline Porter
pauline@csdo.org
Troy Killorn
stkillorn@aol.com
Sylvia Lloren
stcathmtz@yahoo.com
Deacon Albert Dizon
295-228-4140
Deacon David Holland
925-228-2255
Karen Auld, Pre-School Director
kauld@csdo.org
Andrea Watkins
bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com
Secretary
925-354-1656

PARISH OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS:
1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA
606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

TELEPHONE / FAX:
925-228-2230 / 925-228-1318
925-228-2255

PARISH WEBSITE:
www.stcmtz.org

SUBMISSIONS:
bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com

CHURCH LOCATION:
606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA
1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA

PARISH EMAIL:
stcathmtz@yahoo.com
bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS:
1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA
94553-1720

OFFICE HOURS:
M-F 8:30 AM-1PM & 2PM-5PM

GRAHAM SCHOOL:
Pre School:
1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA
925-229-2255 / 925-229-2474

SAFE ENVIRONMENT:
www.virtusonline.org

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

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

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

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS EARLY DEADLINES:
Closely watch early deadlines imposed by the publisher and plan ahead accordingly. Deadlines for submissions for May 5 has passed. Next deadline for bulletin:

All items must be submitted by Fri, May 3 by noon for May 12

Please direct your inquiries to the email above. Thank you.

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

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

MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTS

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

Art and Environment
TBD…………………………………….925-228-2230

Beneath His Cross Apostolate
Jessica Preciado…………………….925-354-1656

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...925-229-4158 and Dennis Koller...925-335-9395

Grief Ministry/Card Ministry
Mary Cook (in assoc with Legion of Mary)………925-228-2665

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

Hospital/Sick/Homebound
Tom Greerty (in assoc with Legion of Mary)………925-228-4387

Hospitality
Mary Cook (in assoc with Stewardship)………925-228-2665

Ignite
Cindy Buscaglia………………………..925-787-8396

Italian Catholic Federation - ICF
Tom Cook……………………………………925-228-2265

Knights of Columbus - K of C
Rik Silva………………………………….925-334-2429

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

Lectors
Carlos Meleendez……………………..510-385-0506

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

Loaves & Fishes
Dejice 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

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…………………925-228-2628

Beneath His Cross Apostolate
Paul & Jenny Holland………………………925-890-6229

Before serving or continuing in your ministry, complete the Diocesan required Safe Environment for Children Project Training. Thank you.
WHAT IS THE GREATEST COMMISSION OF THE LORD?

Commission entails instruction, command, order, authority, specific tasks, responsibility, mission, duty, a summon for urgent call. They are synonymous. Before His ascension to Heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ commissioned His disciples to do specific tasks. He summoned them to bear a heavy burden of a long struggle to follow His footsteps. He taught them to be fishers of men. He delegated His powers to His Disciples and to our new generations of successors our beloved Priest, Pastor, and Deacons. He told His Disciples: “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you all days even unto the consummation of the world.” (Matthew 28: 18-20).

With these hallowed words Jesus giving the apostles the Commission, to teach, sanctify and rule in His Kingdom, the Church—the One, Holy, Apostolic, Universal, Catholic Church. A share in the 3-fold office of Prophet, Priest, and King. For three years—Jesus had lived with His Disciples, teaching them the kingdom—like at today’s Catholic Seminary. At the last Supper, He had ordained, commissioned them Priests. After His resurrection, He placed Peter over all visible head Disciple of His Church. Jesus gave His disciples the power to forgive sins. At the moment of His ascension into Heaven, He gave them the Commission to teach, sanctify, and officiate at the sacraments of the Church—the One, Holy, Apostolic, Universal, Catholic Church. The Greatest Commission of our Lord is to continue His earthly mission to care for all our members—those in great need. We put His love into action, by reaching out to all our members—those in great need. We put His love into action, by reaching out to all our members—those in great need. We put His love into action, by reaching out to all our members—those in great need.

For us to demonstrate the result of faith in Him, a community of one heart and one mind. To care for the spiritual needs through His teachings the prayers and common life, to share the experience of the risen Christ. To care for the sick. After the Lord’s triumph over the forces of evil, His Commission is clear—to face difficulties—to build a new Heaven and a new Earth in this world. He said, I am the first and the last, the one who lives—in the risen Christ is all our hope of happiness and salvation. The visionary is to bear for us to bear witness and share his experience of the risen Christ and to believe. He wants Disciples to share His magnetism to draw believers. Share joy like the miracle at the wedding at Cana—He cured the paralytic carried on His mat into the temple—when Jesus made mud and smeared it on a blind person’s face—that all His creative work was good, to enjoy the blessings of full life, well-being, health, prosperity, everything we wish for a complete life.

Jesus greatest Commission to all His Disciples transpired when He stood in their midst. He greeted them and showed them His hands and His side—the calloused Hands of a carpenter whom we nailed to a cross. How much He loves us to His death! Now, He commissions for the work of the new creation that consists of the difficult and delicate work of reconciliation, the labor of pardon. Forgiveness recreates the world according to God’s design. And today’s disciples of Jesus—the dispensers of that pardon and reconciliation in our own communities and families—to continue preaching His Gospels. Thomas catches our attention with his confession of faith and Jesus blessing for the person who believes without seeing. He said, “My lord and my God.” (John 20: 19-31).

Thomas who was overly suspicious, doubting something that was obvious to other disciples. But doubt is not the opposite of faith—rather fear is. Given the confusion, fear the Disciples displayed which Jesus was still in the midst while they locked themselves in the room for fear. Jesus walks into that stifling, lifeless, grieving room and creates the possibility for a change. All but Thomas experienced Jesus’ presence and was changed by it. To change, Thomas needed to feel that presence. He was looking for a touchable presence, something that would not leave him fearing that Christ was risen only in their imagination.

Like us, we do need to see, touch, taste—a proof of Christ presence—as tangible reminder of His divinity. The great gift that God has given us in the Holy Eucharist is the tangible presence of God in our midst—given to strengthen and embolden us for the task of bearing witness to the resurrection in our everyday lives. We gather in our community church after the Holy Day of Easter to find ourselves in Christ’s presence. Like them, at the table of God’s hospitality we find Christ’s real presence—the touchable and touch of Christ—the Lamb of God.

The Greatest Commission of our Lord is to continue His earthly mission to care for all our members—those in greatest need. We put His love into action, by reaching out to all members of the community. Today, the torch of God’s power has been handed to a new generation of Disciples, our beloved Priest and Pastor Father Anthony: tempered by the Holy Gospel, disciplined by a hard and bitter sacrifices, and proud of our ancient Catholic heritage. He challenges all Eucharistic community members by its vitality to be agents of reconciliation and peace. All of us are sent forth in Christ’s name to continue the unbroken solemn mission of spreading the Holy gospel through their lives. “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love is everlasting.” (Psalm 118: 2-4). God bless you all.

—C.C. Salonga
To the Community of St. Catherine of Siena,

There has been some media coverage lately which has referenced St. Catherine Parish and some activity that happened in 2005. We’d like to provide you with some facts on the matter.

In 2005, pornography was found on the property of St. Catherine Parish. The discovery of pornography was investigated by the police and by the diocese through an independent investigator. Father Neal Clemens, Father Van Dinh, and two parishioners provided affidavits to the police. Neither Fathers Clemens nor Dinh were suspects in that case.

It was determined the pornography was in the possession of then-Father Claudionor Fernando Sampaio, now known as Maximillian Baccarat, who was living at the rectory at that time. No charges were filed. The Diocese of Oakland asked Father Sampaio to leave the diocese and return to Sao Paulo. According to our records, during both investigations (police and diocesan) at no time were there any allegations of sexual assault.

The Diocese of Oakland considers all allegations of clergy misconduct serious. Anyone with information on sexual abuse of children or vulnerable adults is encouraged to contact their local county hotline to report abuse. A list of the county numbers is online at http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Reporting/Report-Abuse/Child-Protective-Services/Report-Child-Abuse. Reports of abuse occurring in the Diocese’s parishes or schools can also be reported to the diocesan chancellor, Stephen A. Wilcox, at swilcox@oakdiocese.org or 510.267.8334.

—Fr. Anthony Huong Le, Parochial Administrator, April 12, 2019

And, Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said,

"Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit."
The first recorded word spoken by Christ as a young man, and the last recorded word spoken by Christ before He died have the same theme. When Jesus was lost for a period of three days, His mother and foster father found Him teaching in the Temple and reminded Him of the anxiety they experienced when He was lost. And, all that Christ answered was, “Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s work.” (Lk 2:49). Doing the work of His Father is the last theme that Christ invoked when He said, “Father, into your hands I commend My spirit.” Jesus refers to God as His Father. His Divine Sonship, and His obedience to His Heavenly Father’s will, take precedence over His ties to His family.

We can never forget that it was not the knowledge of Christ that saved us. It was His perfect submission and obedience. He became obedient, therefore, God has exalted Him and given Him a name which is above all other names. This obedience demanded hardship. But, the willing endurance of this hardship brought peace. And, it is the same road that we must follow if we want the same peace. Cardinal Newman once wrote that “the longer we are in this world, the more we come to realize that there are but two realities in life - man himself and the God who made him.” As long as we resist the workings of God, as long as we refuse to conform our thinking with His, we will never be at peace with ourselves or with others. Conformity has for its reward - peace of mind. There is no substitute.

There will never be peace for those who oppose the Will of God. If you go throughout life thinking that God has a grudge or an axe to grind because of something you have done, you are missing the opportunity of a lifetime. Suffering and conformity were never intended to be easy. Even Christ at one time asked the chalice of suffering to be taken away from Him. Yet, He knew that the will of His father remained to be done. Our lives have to be made mindful of the fact that ALL we have is from God, ALL that we do is for God and everything we say or do should lead us to God. Doing the will of God in the commandments, the circumstances of our life, the conditions of our home, the requirements of our diocese and our parish, these are all in the plan of God. The greatest thing that can be said about us after death is that while living, we were always ready to commend our soul back to God.

CONTINUED ON FACILITIES PAGE
WORSHIP
To facilitate a transforming encounter with God as we come together in worship.

A BETTER USE OF YOUR TIME: Learn to give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you’ll have no time for criticism of others. —Anonymous

IGNITE BIBLE STUDY:
Matthew’s Gospel—
The King & His Kingdom
Wednesdays beginning May 22, 2019
From 6:15—8:15 pm
And, Saturdays beginning May 25, 2019
From 12 noon—2:00 pm
24 sessions
For more information: cdsusin@gmail.com

ST. CATHERINE NOVENA

SAT APR 27 @ 5:30 PM CHURCH
SUN APR 28 @ 5:30 PM CHURCH
MON APR 29 @ 5:30 PM CHURCH
TUE APR 30 @ 5:30 PM CHURCH
WED MAY 01 @ 5:30 PM CHURCH
THU MAY 02 @ 5:30 PM CHURCH

FRI MAY 3 @ 5:00 PM CONSECRATION OF THE PARISH & SCHOOL TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FOLLOWED BY FESTIVAL SAT, MAY 4 @ 10 AM PROCESION SAT, MAY 4 @ 11 AM HOLY MASS FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON. ALL ARE INVITED!
Please RSVP to www.eventbrite.com

GIVE . WALK . HOPE
Join the Team from St. Catherine of Siena
SAT, MAY 18 @ 7:30 AM
Walk with us three miles around Heather Farms Park or make a donation supporting those who are walking!
Help raise funds for the Cancer Support Community in Walnut Creek. All cancer patients can receive free services through their program from exercise classes and support groups to music, art, and cooking classes—bringing hope during the trial of living through cancer—making a difference in their lives.
To Join the Team Contact: mrs.preciado@att.net
Information about the Cancer Support Community: https://cancersupportcommunityhopewalk.rallybound.org/Team/View/105416/St-Catherine-Siena-Martinez

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, REMOVABLE THEREAFTER. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ALCOVE OR CALL THE OFFICE

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT 4/27  4:30  Jaclynn Shikuzawa  †
SUN 4/28  7:00  Pacita Cudal  †
8:30  Italian Catholic Federation Br.#13
10:30  Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish
12:30  Louisa Dona, Otto Dona  †
MON 4/29  8:00  Ray Martellacci  †
TUE 4/30  8:00  Norberto Quisumbing  †
WED 5/1  8:00  Int. St. Catherine of Siena School
THU 5/2  8:00  Special Intention
FRI 5/3  8:00  Paul Ullrich  †
SAT 5/4  8:00  Jennie Samuels  †
4:30  Int. Tom Balestrieri
SUN 5/5  7:00  Int. Adanna Ahoma
8:30  Thomas & Eva Hernandez Family  †
10:30  Peter Delevati  †
12:30  Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish

The Mary Help of Christians Society is celebrating its Annual Holy Mass in Honor of Our Lady Sunday, May 26, 2019 @ 12:30 pm @ St. Catherine of Siena Church. Monsignor Antonio Valdivia will preside.
Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat offers a safe time and place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreat offers a supportive and non-judgmental environment to transform the pain of the past into love and hope. Women, men, and couples are encouraged to attend.

In Danville from May 17-19. For details and to register, contact Gloria Maldonado at afterthechoice@oakdioadmin.org or call 510-485-2574, or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org
**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

**APRIL 14, 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Collection</td>
<td>$5,998.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop’s Appeal</td>
<td>$522.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**APRIL 21, 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Amounts for April 21, 2019 were not available when this bulletin went to print. Collections will be reported in next weekend’s bulletin. Thank you for your contributions to St. Catherine of Siena Parish.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

** OPERATION RICE BOWL**

Thank you!

**STEWARDSHIP**

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

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Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes to prepare the church for the changing liturgical seasons? On the left is St. Catherine Music and Maintenance Director, Troy Killorn, way up above the altar draping the crucifix and statues for the remainder of the Lenten season. Bottom left: four year olds, Stephanie Garcia and Omar Guillen help drain the baptismal font filling buckets with water. In fact, the entire Garcia and Ojeda families all pitched in to help remove the water that would be refilled for the Easter Vigil. Thank you all. If you are eager to help decorate, contact Deacon Albert.

**Weekly Scripture Reflection with the Clergy**

Tuesdays 7 PM @ Parish Center St. Gabriel Room
HOSPITALITY
To form a joyful family community that reaches out and receives one another as Christ reaches out and receives us.

CST 101 is a collaborative seven-part video and discussion guide series on Catholic social teaching presented by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. The series brings the themes of Catholic social teaching to life and inspires us to put our faith into action. The seven short videos allow viewers to hear from Catholic leaders like Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, President, Caritas Internationalis; Monsignor Ray East, Archdiocese of Washington; Sean Callahan, President and CEO, Catholic Relief Services; and more. Each episode shows the development of a beautiful painted representation of the featured Catholic social teaching, courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath.

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO A MATERNITY SHOWER
Hosted by St. Catherine Respect Life Ministry
SUN, MAY 26 . 8 AM TO 2 PM
During Hospitality after Masses
Your contributions will be donated to Birthright in Concord

Suggested gift donations: body lotions, maternity clothes: tops, pants in all sizes; nursing pads, nursing bras, & maternity panties. If you don’t have time to shop or are not sure what to donate, gift cards are always welcome.

Any questions? Text or Call Debbie Pelizzari 925-286-1207 or Linda Easterday 925-997-4546

You’re Invited! Fun & Entertaining Night Out!
St. Catherine of Siena Parochial School Presents
“WEST SIDE STORY”
Saturday & Sunday
May 4 @ 6:00 PM & May 5 @ 3:00 PM
Martinez Junior High School Stage
1600 Court Street
Purchase your Tickets in the School Office
Adults: $10 . Senior/Student: $7.00
Children Under 5 years: Free

Support Our School!

JOIN US AT THE BEAUTIFUL Annual Outdoor Memorial Mass at the old Siena Historic Cemetery Honoring our Pioneer Parishioners
Saturday, May 25, 9 AM
The St. Catherine Cemetery is located on the Carquinez Scenic Route passed Rankin Park. Gates open at 8:30 AM
Bring a hat and water. Folding chairs will be available.
Refreshments courtesy of Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services
Facilities

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

Our Parish has an Official Facebook Page! Like Us!

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Martinez, California

https://www.facebook.com/St-Catherine-of-Siena-Catholic-Church-Martinez-California-419160895486876/

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, 4/28
8:00 AM PH
12:30 PM CH
1:30 PM PH
3:45 PM PH
5:30 PM CH
6:00 PM PH

Divine Mercy Sunday
Hospitability—SLRC Hosts
Divine Mercy Holy Mass
Procession to Reception in Parish Hall
Confirmation Preparation Class
St. Catherine of Siena Novena #5
Youth Group

Monday, 4/29 St. Catherine of Siena, pray for us.
5:30 PM CH

St. Catherine of Siena Novena #6

Tuesday, 4/30
5:30 PM CH
6:00 PM CH
7:00 PM PC
7:30 PM CH

St. Pius V, pray for us.
5:30 PM CH St. Catherine of Siena Novena #7
6:00 PM CH St. Catherine of Siena Novena #8
6:00 PM CH/SC/PH Faith Formation PreK to 8th
6:15 PM CH 1st Reconciliation for Communicants
6:15 PM PC 206 RCIA Meeting—St. Gabriel Room
7:00 PM PC Legion of Mary Ministry Meeting
7:00 PM PC Baptism Preparation Class
7:00 PM PC 210 5 Year Plan Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 5/1 St. Joseph the worker, pray for us.
8:00 AM CH Mass with Mary’s May Crowning
5:00 PM CH Children’s Choir Rehearsal
5:30 PM CH St. Catherine of Siena Novena #9
6:00 PM CH Beneath His Cross Cenacle
7:00 PM PCL Pastoral Council Meeting
7:00 PM PC Baptism Preparation Class
8:00 PM CH Benediction

Thursday, 5/2
12:00 PM CH Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
5:30 PM CH St. Catherine of Siena Novena #10
6:00 PM CH Beneath His Cross Cenacle
7:00 PM PCL Pastoral Council Meeting
7:00 PM PC Baptism Preparation Class
8:00 PM CH Benediction

St. Anthanasius, pray for us.
National Day of Prayer

Friday, 5/3 Sts. Philip & James, pray for us.
5:00 PM CH Consecration of SCS Parish & School to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
5:30 PM CH SCS Feast Day FESTIVAL!

Saturday, 5/4
9:30 AM PCL
10:00 AM MTZ
11:00 AM CH
12:30 PM YD
3:00 PM CH

St. Florian, pray for us.
Svdp Food Distribution
SCS Feast Day Procession
SCS Feast Day Holy Mass
SCS Feast Day Celebration Lunch
Reconciliation

Third Sunday of Easter
Happy Cinco de Mayo
Hospitability—YLJ Hosts

Sunday, 5/5
8:00 AM PH

CH = Church
PH = Parish Hall
PC = Parish Center
SC = School
RC = Rectory
YS: Youth Shack
PCL: Parish Center Library

Continued from Last Seven Words of Christ:

As I keep reading, “into your hands I commend my spirit”, the word that keeps coming to mind is TRUST. It is with perfect trust and love that Jesus gave up His life and trusted His Father. It was as if He were saying, “Here I am, Father, I trust You completely.” I am not sure that we all have that type of trust. That type of trust is total and a letting go of ourselves. It can be difficult to let go and trust others when for many of us, that can lead to hurt, loneliness, and pain. We do not want to open ourselves up to being let down or being hurt. It is easier to stay in our shells and protect ourselves from feeling betrayed.

Do we trust each other? Most times when we trust others, it means we love them and believe that they love us. To trust is to open ourselves up, and many do not want to take that risk. But what do we miss if we do not trust? What doors do we close if we never allow one to be open? There is no guarantee that the trust we give will be rewarded, but a closed heart is a lonely heart. Open your heart to God and to others. Open your heart to love and trust in God’s goodness. Take a chance, and say: JESUS KING OF MERCY, I TRUST IN YOU!

—Deacon Albert Dizon

Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble presents “By and By”
Sunday, May 5 @ 4 PM—Lafayette Christian Church

The Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble presents an intimate concert comprised of ten eclectic selections. There is something for everybody to experience for the first time and something to enjoy, once again.

Contact Melody Herder-Jimison for tickets at docmelody@comcast.net or Cantareconvivo.org

Louie & Jenn Zandonella
925.387.5359
www.zandonellacatering.com

Mike Slaney 925.957.6642
xtremescaffolding@yahoo.com
A chilling scene in the movie *Schindler’s List* involves a Nazi commander playacting with the godlike power of absolution. Standing before a mirror, he raises his hand in a gesture of blessing and says, “I pardon you.” Then he smiles at his reflection, impressed by the look of benevolence. Genuine mercy, of course, isn’t something we grant ourselves, nor is it a superficial style to be admired. It’s not a softness in the heart or a welling in the eyes when we see suffering. Mercy is real when it reaches out from thought to deed, from emotion to action. Let others judge if we are merciful.

**Today's readings:** Acts 5:12-16; Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31 (45). “Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles.”

**MON, APR 29, 2019: MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Saint Catherine of Siena had trouble learning to read—and didn’t learn to write until she was an adult. And yet, before her death at the young age of 33, she became one of the most influential writers in Catholic history. Because of the significance of her theological writings, she is one of only four women named a doctor of the Church. Few of us are destined for such greatness, but when you feel frustrated with your limitations and the progress of your life, remember that all things are possible with God, and be open to what God has planned for you on God’s time schedule, not yours.

**Today’s readings:** Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8 (267). “The wind blows where it wills, so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

**TUE, APR 30, 2019: MEMORIAL OF PIUS V, POPE**

Saint Pius V, a 16th-century pope, is said to have been a patron of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, a prolific religious composer who wrote no fewer than 105 Masses along with dozens of hymns, magnificats, litanies, and laments. In earlier centuries, the Catholic Church was the principal patron of the fine arts. The investment was worth it, as the Church’s sponsorship fostered the creation of countless musical treasures. Encourage your own parish or diocese to carry on the tradition and be a benefactor of the arts. Great art sheds light on the beauty and mystery of God’s creation.


**WED, MAY 1, 2019: MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH THE WORKER**

In praise of brotherly love

Today we’re invited to celebrate the gift of Catholic brothers, a group that—like Saint Joseph, whose feast day we also celebrate today—tends not to be flashy or well publicized. But religious brothers are good examples of what every Christian is called to: faithfulness in community. Brothers can be found living and ministering together in many ways, from education to social service to art. On this Religious Brothers Day, let’s thank all brothers in religious life for their service and ask ourselves what action rooted in faithfulness we might perform today.


**THU, MAY 2, 2019: MEMORIAL OF ATHANASIUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

The life of Saint Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria in Egypt, reflects the frequent turmoil in the early Church. As an assistant to his predecessor, he attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. After becoming bishop himself he embarked on a nearly lifelong struggle against the then-powerful Arian heresy. In a span of 30 years he was exiled no fewer than five times—to Germany, Rome, and in hiding near Alexandria—before establishing his authority for good and defeating Arianism, which denied the Trinity. Because the weapons in these kinds of conflicts were theological as well as political, a bishop had to have a fine theological mind, as Athanasius did. Though our disputes are different today, thoughtful argument is always in order.

**Today’s readings:** Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270). “For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God.”

**FRI, MAY 3, 2019: FEAST OF PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES**

**A man of mystery**

Philip we know. He’s mentioned several times in the gospels, usually coming up with the wrong answer to a question from Jesus. But James, son of Alpheus, is more the mystery man. Although he appears number nine in all three lists of the apostles, details of his life are unknown. Like most of us, he moved through his life in relative obscurity. Yet something about him drew the attention of Jesus and got his name on the list. What is there about you that would include your name among those of the Lord’s followers?

**Today’s readings:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14 (561). “After that He appeared to James, then to all the apostles.”

**SAT, MAY 4, 2019: EASTER WEEKDAY**

**Community with a capital “C”**

The Church is built on community. Together, the people of God welcome new members in Baptism, come together to be fed in the Eucharist, and witness faith proclaimed at Confirmation. Such community nurtures, supports, and affirms the universality and unity of Church. When gathering around the table to celebrate, give thanks, and worship, it is helpful from time to time to look and see those around us. Who isn’t present? Who isn’t being served at the table? Who have I shut out? Our call is to spread the Good News . . . and sometimes the greatest news is that all are welcome.

**Today’s readings:** Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272). “It is I. Do not be afraid.”

**SUN, MAY 5, 2019: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**The goal doesn’t change**

Common wisdom says everything we need to know about life, we heard in kindergarten. Basic principles like being kind to everyone, sharing what we have, including with the new kid, saying please and thank you—these don’t lose their value as we and the kids around us get older. In a similar way, the demands of discipleship don’t change the longer we travel the road with Jesus. The first thing Jesus says to newcomers is “follow me.” One of the last conversations the Risen Lord has with Peter includes the words “follow me.” To get where Jesus is going, keep following.

**Today’s readings:** Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19 (48). “And when Jesus had said this, He said to Peter, ‘Follow Me.’ ”

**READINGS & REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**SUN, APR 28, 2019: SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

Mercy is as mercy does

The first thing Jesus says to newcomers is “follow me.” The goal doesn’t change.
**LECTURAS Y REFLEXIONES DE LA SEMANA**

**28 APR 2019 SOLEMNIDAD DEL SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE PASCUA; DOMINGO DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA** La misericordia es acción

Una escena escalofriante de la película La Lista de Schindler muestra a un comandante Nazi jugando con el poder divino de la absolución. De pie frente a un espejo, levanta su mano en un gesto de bendición y dice, “Yo te perdono.” Entonces le sonríe a su imagen en el espejo, impresionado por su expresión de benevolencia. La misericordia verdadera, de supuesto, no es algo que nosotros otorgamos, ni es un estilo superficial para ser admirados. No es un corazón que se ablan- da o un ojo que se humedece cuando vemos el sufrimiento. La misericordia es real cuando llega desde el pensamiento al hecho, desde la emoción a la acción. Deja que los demás juzguen si somos misericordiosos.

**LECTURAS de hoy:** Hechos 5:12-16; Revelaciones (Apocalipsis) 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Juan 20:19-31 (45). “Muchas señales y maravillas sucedieron entre la gente en manos de los apóstoles.”

**29 APR 2019 MEMORIAL DE CATALINA DE SIENA, VIRGEN, DOCTORA DE LA IGLESIA** Lee entre las líneas sagradas

Santa Catalina de Siena tuvo problemas para aprender a leer, y no aprendió a escribir hasta que ella era una adulta. Y sin em- bargo, antes de su muerte a la temprana edad de 33 años, se convirtió en uno de los escritores más influyentes en la historia católica. Debido a la importancia de sus escritos teológicos, es una de las únicas cuatro mujeres nombradas doctoras de la Iglesia. Pocos de nosotros estamos destinados a tal grandeza, pero cuando se siente frustrado con sus limitaciones y con el progreso de su vida, recuerde que todas las cosas son posibles para Dios y esté abierto a lo que Dios ha planeado para usted en el horario de Dios, no en el suyo.

**LECTURAS de hoy:** Hechos 4: 23-31; Juan 3: 1-8. “El viento sopla donde quiere ... así es con todos los que nacen del Espíritu”.

**30 APR 2019 MEMORIAL DE PIUS V, PAPA** Recuerda un papa ingenioso

Se dice que San Pío V, un papa del siglo XVI, fue patrón de Gio- vanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, un prolífico compositor religioso que escribió no menos de 105 Misas junto con docenas de him- nos, magníficos, letanías y lamentos. En siglos anteriores, la Iglesia católica fue la principal patrona de las bellas artes. La inversión valió la pena, ya que el patrocinio de la iglesia fomentó la creación de innumerables tesoros musicales. Anime a su pro- pia parroquia o diócesis a continuar con la tradición y ser un benefactor de las artes. El gran arte arroja luz sobre la belleza y adora, esto es útil mirar y ver a los que nos rodean. ¿Quién no está presente? A quién no se sirve en la mesa? ¿A quién he excluido? Nuestro llamado es difundir la Buena Nueva ... y, a veces, la mejor noticia es que todos son bienvenidos.

**LECTURAS de hoy:** Hechos 6: 1-7; Juan 6: 16-21 (272). “Soy yo. No tengas miedo”.

**01 MAY 2019 MEMORIAL DE JOSÉ EL TRABAJADOR** En ala- banza del amor fraternal

Hoy estamos invitados a celebrar el regalo de los hermanos Carholic, un grupo que, como San José, cuyo día de fiesta también celebramos hoy, no suele ser llamativo ni bien publicitado. Pero los hermanos religiosos son buenos ejemplos de lo que todo cristiano está llamado: a la fidelidad en la comunidad. Los hermanos se pueden encontrar viviendo y ministrando jun- tos de muchas maneras, desde la educación hasta el servicio social y el arte. En este Día de los Hermanos Religiosos, agradecemos a todos los hermanos la vida religiosa por su servicio y pregúntense qué acción enraizada en la fidelidad que podemos realizar hoy.

**LECTURAS de hoy:** Hechos 5: 17-26; Juan 3: 16-21 (269); o Géne- sis 1: 26—2: 3 o Colosenses 3: 14-15,17, 23-24; Mateo 13: 54- 58 (599) Pero el que viva la verdad viene a la luz.”

**02 MAY 2019 MEMORIAL DE ATANASIO, OBISPO, DOCTOR DE LA IGLESIA** Una mente maravillosa

La vida de San Atanasio, obispo en Alejandría en Egipto, refleja la agitación frecuente en la iglesia primitiva. Como asistente de su predecesor, asistió al Concilio de Nicea en 325 A.D. Después de convertirse en obispo, se embarcó en una lucha de por vida contra la poderosa herejía de Arian. En un lapso de 30 años fue exiliado no menos de cinco veces, a Alemania, Roma y escondido cerca de Alejandría, antes de establecer su autoridad para el bien y la derrota del arrianismo, que negó la Trinidad. Debido a que las armas en este tipo de conflictos eran tanto teológicas como políticas, un obispo tenía que tener una buena dosis de teología, como lo hizo Atanasio. Aunque nuestras dis- putas son diferentes hoy, el razonamiento reflexivo siempre está en orden.

**LECTURAS de hoy:** Hechos 5: 27-33; Juan 3: 31-36 (270). “Porque el que Dios envió, las palabras de Dios hablan”.

**03 MAY 2019 FIESTA DE PHILIP Y SANTIAGO** Un hombre de misterio. L

Philip lo sabemos. Mencionó varias veces en los evangelios, generalmente con la respuesta incorrecta a una pregunta de Jesús. Pero Santiago, hijo de Alfeo, es más que un hombre misterioso. Aunque parece el número nueve en las tres listas de los apóstoles, los detalles de su vida son desconocidos. Como la mayoría de nosotros, él se movió a través de su vida en relativa seguridad. Sin embargo, algo acerca de él llamó la atención de Jesús y obtuvo su nombre en la lista. ¿Qué hay de ti que incluiría tu nombre entre los seguidores del Señor?

**LECTURAS de hoy:** 1 Corintios 15: 1-8; Juan 14: 6-14 (561). “Después de eso se apareció a Santiago, luego a todos los apóstoles”.

**04 MAY 2019 SEMANA DE PASCUA Comunidad con una “C” mayúscula

La iglesia está construida sobre la comunidad. Juntos, el pueblo de Dios da la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros en el Bautismo, se reúnen para ser alimentados en la Eucaristía y son testigos de la fe proclamada en la Confirmación. Dicha comunidad nutre, apoya y afirma la universalidad y la unidad de la iglesia. Cu-ando vivas la verdad en tu vida, recuerda que todas las cosas son posibles para Dios y esté abierto a lo que Dios ha planeado para usted en el horario de Dios, no en el suyo.

**LECTURAS de hoy:** Hechos 6: 1-7; Juan 6: 16-21 (272). “Soy yo. No tengas miedo”.

**04 MAY 2019 TERCER DOMINGO DE PASCUA** La meta no cambia

La sabiduría popular dice que todo lo que necesitamos saber acerca de la vida, lo aprendimos en el jardín de infantes. Los principios básicos como ser bondadosos con todos, compartir lo que tenemos, incluyendo al chico nuevo, decir por favor y gracias—ninguno pierde su valor a medida que nosotros y los chicos que nos rodean nos hacemos mayores. Del mismo mo- do, los pedidos de discipulado no cambian cuanto más recor- remos el camino con Jesús. Lo primero que Jesús les dice a los doce, los pedidos de discipulado no cambian cuanto más recor- remos el camino con Jesús. Lo primero que Jesús les dice a los doce, el misterio de la creación de Dios.

**LECTURAS de hoy:** Hechos 5:27-32; 40b-41; Revelaciones (Apocalipsis) 5:11-14; Juan 21:1-19 (48). “Y una vez que dijo esto, le dije a Pedro, ‘Síguelo’”.

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