Anyone of you who does not renounce all your possessions cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM
SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM
                     1:00 PM (Spanish)
ADORATION: Thursdays from 12:00 - 8:00 PM
HOLY DAYS: VIGIL MASS 7:00 PM; 8:00 AM, 7:00 PM
RECONCILIATION: Saturdays from 3:00 to 4:00 PM
**PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF**

Fr. Anthony Huong Le, Parochial Administrator  
(925) 228—2230  
Deacon Albert Dizon  Ext. 7  dcna@gmail.com  
Deacon David Holland  Ext. 7  dcndholland@yahoo.com  
Sylvia Lloren  Ext 2  stcatheritz@yahoo.com  
Office Administrator / Sacramental Coordinator  
Troy Killorn  Ext 3  stkilorn@comcast.net  
Director of Music Ministry / Maintenance  
Karen Glen  Ext 4  stcatherinebk@gmail.com  
Bookkeeper / Safe Environment Coordinator  
Andrea Watkins  Ext 5  drestcath@yahoo.com  
Director Religious Education  (K-8)  
Paul & Jennifer Holland  Ext 8  stcathym@gmail.com  
Co-coordinators, Confirmation Program / Youth Group  

**SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION**

**BAPTISMS:**  
Registration is mandatory two months prior to Baptism month. Please call the office to make an appointment once you have your documents ready. Parents & Godparents are required to attend a mandatory Baptism preparation class one month before reception of the Sacrament. All information regarding requirements and schedules, can be found on the website at www.stcmtz.org or Sylvia at Ext 2.

**FIRST EUCHARIST:**  
The Religious Education Program classes start in September. The First Holy Communion program is a two year program. All other classes are one year (K-8).  
drestcath@yahoo.com or Andrea at Ext 5.

**CONFIRMATION:**  
Youth Confirmation Program Registration continues in September. It is a one year program for all incoming Freshmen or above. Please contact: Paul or Jenny Holland  Ext 8 or at stcathym@gmail.com for more information. For Adult Confirmation, please call Karen Glen at the parish office Ext 4.

**MARRIAGES:**  
Arrangements and mandatory preparation need to be arranged at least eight months prior to the wedding. No dates can be set prior to an initial meeting with a priest. No exceptions.  
www.stcmtz.org or Sylvia at Ext 2.

**RECONCILIATION:**  
Confession times are weekly on Saturday's from 3:00 - 4:00 PM and by appointment.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**  
The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is the continuation of the Lord’s compassion for the sick. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of two sacraments which heals and saves the baptized person from sin. The other sacrament of healing is Penance. For an anointing during working hours, please call the Parish office.  
or  Sylvia at Ext 2.

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

www.stcmtz.org or Sylvia at Ext 2.

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**SAFE ENVIRONMENT:**
Before serving or continuing in your ministry, complete the Diocesan required Safe Environment for Children Project Training @ www.virtusonline.org. Thank you.

**RCIA: “Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults”**
Are you interested in becoming Catholic?  
Do you need Adult Baptism?  
Holy Eucharist (Communion)? Confirmation?  
St. Catherine offers a friendly and supportive program. Please call the office (925) 228-2230 ext. 4 or Karen for more information.
Does my Guardian Angel finish praying the Rosary if I fall asleep?

Angels exist to give praise and honor to God, and the Rosary is a prayer that they would love to pray. A very popular pious tradition states that, “If you fall asleep praying the Rosary, your Guardian Angel will finish it for you.” It is a comforting thought, especially if you tend to fall asleep every time you start to pray the Rosary.

Is it true?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. ‘Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.’” Guardian Angels are servants and messengers of God who are assigned to us at the beginning of our life to protect and guard us, leading us to Everlasting Life. Their primary mission is to ensure that we choose the path that leads to Heaven. The Rosary is a powerful devotional prayer that can help us along that pathway. When prayed with faith and love, the Rosary can transform our lives. However, sometimes we will begin praying the Rosary (especially at bedtime) and fall asleep. **Will our Guardian Angel pick up where we left off?**

While it’s true that Guardian Angels will do whatever it takes to get us to Heaven, they are still created spirits and are unaware of our thoughts, unless we intentionally reveal them. They have not been given special access to our thoughts, whereby they force themselves into our mind. Only God is able to know exactly what is going on in our mind, as he is the creator and sustainer of us all. As a result, **if we want our Guardian Angel to finish our Rosary, we need to ask him to do it.**

Angels spend their existence praising God and enjoying the beatific vision and so adding the Rosary to their prayers is no burden. In fact, they could pray the Rosary much better than we could ever do on earth! At the same time, this isn’t something we should abuse, entirely giving up the Rosary because we want our Guardian Angel to pray it for us. The act of praying the Rosary is often what transforms us and conforms our will to God’s will. It is a discipline that has many benefits, so we shouldn’t abandon it just because we are lazy. The next time you lie down to pray the Rosary, keep in mind that your Guardian Angel can finish it for you (and will gladly do it), but you need to reveal that desire to your Guardian Angel and ask him for help.
**INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**SAT 9/7**  4:30  Jennie Samuels †
**SUN 9/8**  7:00  Int. Sarah Koller - Birthday Blessing
8:30  Thomas & Eva Hernandez Family†
11:00  Martha C. Wilk†
1:00  Int. People of the Parish
**MON 9/9**  8:00  Gerry Vergara, Gavino Vergara †
**TUE 9/10**  8:00  Paul Battaglia—WTC†
**WED 9/11**  8:00  Int. St. Catherine School
Children & their Families
**THU 9/12**  8:00  Special Intention
**FRI 9/13**  8:00  McLoughlin & Curtin Families †
**SAT 9/14**  8:00  Cornelio Soriano †
4:30  Louie & Rose Delchini †
**SUN 9/15**  7:00  Int. People of the Parish
8:30  Swieszcz & Bratten Family †
11:00  Int Kenny Mack
1:00  Cardenas & Polina Families †

**Laudate Choir** – This Choir provides the young parishioners of Saint Catherine of Siena a fun atmosphere where they can learn to sing and communicate their faith through music. The Laudate Choir will provide the music at the 8:30 Mass as part of the Sunday Family Faith Formation as well as other special “Feast Days” throughout the year. In some instances, they will sing alone as the Laudate Choir, and other times they will be joined by the Adult Choir. This is open to all children from 1st – 8th grade. The only requirement is a desire to sing and share our faith through music. Rehearsals are held Wednesday’s in the Church from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you have a child or children who are interested in joining the Laudate Choir please contact our music director Troy Killorn at 925-289-7792 or see him after mass to obtain an information packet.
**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

**Sunday, 9/8**  
**Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**CHURCH PEW INSTALLATION THIS WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>PH</td>
<td>Hospitality—Thank you St. Vincent de Paul</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Monday, 9/9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Mtg Rm #210</td>
</tr>
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**Tuesday, 9/10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>School Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>Scripture Reflection with Clergy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Spanish Choir Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday, 9/11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Children’s Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15 PM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Ignite Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Legion of Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>RCIA Class Rm #210</td>
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**Thursday, 9/12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>School Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>PH</td>
<td>Knight of Columbus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday, 9/13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>StC School Prayer Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday, 9/14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>PH</td>
<td>Ignite Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sunday, 9/15**  
**Catechetical Sunday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>PH</td>
<td>Hospitality - Knights of Columbus Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Baptisms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Divine Renovation**

“Have you seen our beautiful new piano?”

A big “Thank you” to all who donated towards the purchase of a Grand Hallet, Davis & Co. Piano

*Our parish is truly blessed!*
POST-SUMMER CHALLENGES

With any luck, summer delights will continue a while past last weekend’s Labor Day: refreshing recreation (with maybe an occasional swim) or enjoyable relaxation on the deck (with tasty outdoor grilling). Truth is, for some of us, this year’s Labor Day came way too early. With many schools back in session for a while already, mealtimes and driving schedules needed readjustment to coordinate youth sports with adult commitments. Some religious education and parish programs resumed, too. No surprise, then, that this weekend’s scriptures sound a little like post-summer challenges. For instance, Wisdom reminds us that believers in God can never be content with “timid deliberations” and “unsure plans.” Paul challenges longtime friend and follower Philemon to “let the good you do be voluntary.” Jesus instructs “great crowds” traveling with him—including us—on three things necessary for all true disciples to accomplish. On this early autumn weekend, our scriptures describe disciples’ lifelong labors.

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christians share a love for the Byzantine liturgy because it is during the Eucharist that the Church is most true to its identity, expresses its integrity, and discovers its vocation. Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christians celebrate essentially the identical liturgy, with only very slight variations. It is a fairly complex ritual weaving together three separate layers of prayers: a liturgy prayed in the sanctuary by priests, often hidden by a curtain or screen; a liturgy sung by the assembly and led by a deacon in front of a screen formed of painted icons; and a third layer of private prayer by the priest, who prays in support of the deacon and the faithful. It is an eyes-wide-open experience, gorgeous in visuals, and filled with the sound of God’s people singing prayer. The energy of the worship centers on the presence of Christ, largely through an awareness of heaven touching earth when the Church gathers to celebrate.

In the late twentieth century, Latin Rite Catholics were encouraged to embrace a style of worship that was “full, conscious, and active,” a value that has never been lost in the East. The liturgy has great impact in its beauty, in its poetry and contemplation, and by the actions of bowing, signing with the cross, and chanting that are required of the assembly. Contact with the Eastern Church reveals some key values that have been obscured in our own Church and are slowly becoming recovered.

Desafíos posteriores al verano

Con algo de suerte, los placeres del verano continuarán aún después del fin de semana del Día del Trabajo: recreación estimulante (quizá con un chapuzón en la alberca) o relajación agradable en la terraza (con sabrosas parilladas al aire libre). La verdad es que, para algunos de nosotros, este año el Día del Trabajo se adelantó demasiado. Con clases escolares que ya empezaron hace tiempo, los horarios para las comidas y el ir a dejar a los niños a la escuela necesitaron reajustarse para coordinar los deportes de los chicos con los compromisos de los adultos. Algunos programas de catequesis y actividades parroquiales ya también empezaron. No debe extrañarnos que las Escrituras de este fin de semana parezcan un poco como desafíos posteriores al verano. Por ejemplo, el libro de la Sabiduría nos recuerda que los creyentes en Dios nunca pueden contentarse con tímidas deliberaciones y planes inseguros. Pablo desafía a un seguidor de él y además amigo de toda la vida, Filemón, para dejar que lo bueno sea voluntario. Jesús enseña a grandes multitudes que viajan con él, incluyéndonos, en tres cosas necesarias para que todos los verdaderos discípulos lo logren. En este anticipado fin de semana de otoño, nuestras Escrituras describen las labores de toda la vida de los discípulos.

Los santos y otras celebraciones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domingo:</th>
<th>Vigésimo Tercer Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario; Día de los Abuelos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunes:</td>
<td>San Pedro Claver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miércoles:</td>
<td>Día de los Patriotas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jueves:</td>
<td>El Santísimo Nombre de la Virgen María</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viernes:</td>
<td>San Juan Crisóstomo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sábado:</td>
<td>La Exaltación de la Santa Cruz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tradiciones de nuestra fe

En 1976 un grupo de madres argentinas comenzó una vigilia silenciosa en frente de las oficinas gubernamentales en la Plaza de Mayo. Vestían de negro, con un pañuelo blanco en la cabeza y protestaban la desaparición de sus hijos. Poco a poco esta protesta de madres se fue expandiendo a El Salvador y otros países donde agentes del gobierno hacían desaparecer a los que obraban por la justicia y el bienestar del pueblo. En Latinoamérica la Virgen de los Dolores que viste de negro y llora la muerte de su hijo quien estaba en la flor de la vida se ha transformado en la Madre de los Desaparecidos. Ella acompaña silenciosamente en la protesta de tanta latina que ha perdido hijos, maridos y hermanos a autoridades injustas o cobardes.

La vigilia de las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo terminó en enero de 2006 cuando por fin se encontraron con un gobierno que busca a los desaparecidos con ellas. Lamentablemente en muchos lugares las madres de los desaparecidos todavía no pueden contar con las autoridades civiles. Con ellas María se une en protesta silenciosa.

---

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
**HOSPITALITY**

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

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**STEWARDSHIP**

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

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**SEPTMBER 1, 2019**

**WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Collection</td>
<td>$6,809.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Renovation</td>
<td>$ 25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>$ 55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On-Line Giving: (August)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Offering</td>
<td>$4,180.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$ 515.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulfilling the Promise</td>
<td>$ 951.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$ 495.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>$ 355.00</td>
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**2019 Bishop’s Appeal**

**SCS Goal Summary:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Goal</td>
<td>$23,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds Raised</td>
<td>$20,628.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Goal Raised</td>
<td>89.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining</td>
<td>$ 2,372.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The special collection for the Diocesan Priest Retirement Benefit Trust is this weekend September 7-8, 2019. This collection allows us to express gratitude and support for our retired and soon-to-be retired priests, many of whom are still “laboring in the vineyard” in service to the faithful. They now face retirement with minimal government assistance. Please prayerfully consider how you can match their generosity to the Church by contributing to the Retirement Fund.

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“The host family/ministry/club is responsible for serving at all Sunday Masses. This means setting up the tables and chairs in the hall as well as serving food. The requirement for food is that is must be prepared in our kitchen or store-bought (readymade). No homemade items can be served unless prepared in a commercial kitchen like ours. Gloves should be worn when handling the food. There are color coded cutting mats to help us avoid cross contamination. After the last Mass, the host family/ministry/club is responsible for cleaning the tables and chairs and returning them to the appropriate location. The kitchen should be cleaned. Cleaning products are stocked under the hand-sink. A special cleaner is used on the stainless-steel counters and tables. If the oven or microwave is used, it also must be cleaned. A kitchen handbook will be available in the next week or two and stored in one of the drawers marked “Handbook”. The group can refer to the guidelines on such topics as how to handle food and how to operate the commercial oven. Feel free to contact Debbie Pelizzari the Hospitality Team facilitator with any questions: debpelizzari@comcast.net or 925-286-1207 (cell/text). “

“ Our first Hospitality Team meeting was Monday 8.26.19. Ten members were present. We need YOU! Please consider joining this welcoming team. Contact Debbie Pelizzari 925-286-1207 if you would like more information. Thank you.“

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Si usted es miembro de al comunidad hispana y desea unirse al equipo de hospitalidad, por favor comuníquesela con Debbie Pelizzari al 925-286-1207 o debpelizzari@comcast.net.

Si es posible, deja un mensaje en inglés. Gracias.
St. Catherine of Siena School Mission Statement

Saint Catherine of Siena School answers the call to nurture each child – spirit, mind and body – in a safe, caring environment by providing Christ-centered, challenging curriculum preparing each child for a future as people of faith, service, respect, and responsibility.

The sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet opened the doors of St. Catherine of Siena School in the Fall of 1949

Under the direction of Monsignor Robert I Flavry. Seventy years later, the school community has seen many changes, but one thing that has held strong over time and the heart of St. Catherine of Siena School is the community and our Catholic Identity. As our 70th Anniversary is approaching, we would like to extend a warm invitation to celebrate and connect with friends, classmates, and be a part of what St. Catherine of Siena is today.

On October 5th, we are going back in time to 1949 to celebrate our 70th Birthday with a SockHop.
Embrace the hard sayings
Nice-guy Jesus inhabits our religious imagination, a carryover from the coloring books. This smiling Lord seeks lost sheep and welcomes prodigal kids home. He banishes fevers and wipes away tears. It can be a jarring wake-up call to encounter the gospel Jesus, who does all those things but also says we have to give up everything to be his followers. Can’t we negotiate here? Does “all” really mean all? A very few will take this saying literally. The vast majority of us spend our lives seeking a comfortable compromise. Jesus is asking for ultimate loyalty, saying literally. The answer to Jesus is, “Yes, Jesus. I’ve surrendered my time, talent, and treasure to you. I trust you completely.”

Do what is just
Catholics have a tradition of sharing the gifts we have been given. Not for the sake of charity but for the sake of justice. Remember, the early Christian community “shared all things in common.” And Saint John Chrysostom wrote that the goods we possess really belong to the poor. Similarly, Saint Gregory the Great taught that when we take care of those in need, we give them what is rightfully theirs, not ours. Make a contribution of your “time, talent, and treasure” today in pursuit of doing what is just.

Come together
In the fourth century, Roman Emperor Constantine built a city (naming it after himself, modestly), and moved the empire’s capitol from Rome to Constantinople. It was always understood that the bishop of the capitol city was the head of the church. So it became clear to some that Chrysostom should now lead the church. Those still in Rome begged to differ. This conflict, along with others, went on for centuries and resulted in the Great Schism of 1054, which separated the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. In July of this year Pope Francis presented the current archbishop of Constantinople, Patriarch Bartholomew, with a reliquary with bones believed to be of Saint Peter as a gesture of goodwill in the ongoing hope that the two churches might reunite. Pray for the unity of all Christians.

Avoid heated exchanges
Along with honoring the saving power of the cross, today’s feast commemorates the dedication by Constantine in 325 of the basilica and shrine in Jerusalem where the Church of the Holy Sepulcher stands today. Reputed to be Jesus’ burial site, arguably the most hallowed location in all of Christendom is not immune to petty squabbles. On a hot day in 2002, an Egyptian monk moved his chair into the shade, which was taken by Ethiopian Orthodox monks to be an encroachment on their territory. Stones, fists, and even chairs flew, resulting in a number of injuries (and frowns worldwide as the news circulated). It’s all well and good to be passionate about things devotional, but don’t forget to love your neighbor too—even if you think they’re throwing shade at you.

Practicing your faith is rewarding
In psychology, “positive reinforcement” occurs when there is a good result or reward from a behavior, causing the person (or animal) to behave that certain way repeatedly in order to keep getting the reward. Think of the lab rat who gets a treat when it presses a button—and keeps pressing it to get more treats. But this concept predates modern medicine—it goes back to biblical times with the Beatitudes delivered at the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus assures those who are meek, who hunger for justice, and who have poverty of spirit that they will be blessed for it. There’s no greater reward.

Step up
What can we do in the face of injustice and inhumanity? We read and hear about it in the news, we see it play out on our borders and in our cities. But what can one person do? Peter Claver, a pious seminarian from Spain who volunteered for the Spanish colonies, was deeply troubled by the treatment of slaves brought from Africa to Cartagena. He headed for the wharf as soon as a slave ship entered the port, boarded, and ministered to the desperately ill human cargo who had managed to survive the horrendous journey. He also advocated and petitioned, insisting that human rights be respected. No evil is so great that you cannot be a force for lessening it.

Begin anew
A new school year is underway, and many people have stored their vacation luggage and thrown themselves back into work. Today’s gospel is also filled with a sense of new beginnings: apostles newly chosen, plenty of healing, crowds eagerly seeking Jesus. New beginnings abound in our faith: at Easter, Baptism, house blessings, Confession, and many other moments. As you read these words, even if you are “not feeling it,” be steadfast knowing that new beginnings are a central part of our faith and can emerge from the shadows at any moment.

Embrace the hard sayings
Nice-guy Jesus inhabits our religious imagination, a carryover from the coloring books. This smiling Lord seeks lost sheep and welcomes prodigal kids home. He banishes fevers and wipes away tears. It can be a jarring wake-up call to encounter the gospel Jesus, who does all those things but also says we have to give up everything to be his followers. Can’t we negotiate here? Does “all” really mean all? A very few will take this saying literally. The vast majority of us spend our lives seeking a comfortable compromise. Jesus is asking for ultimate loyalty, saying literally. The answer to Jesus is, “Yes, Jesus. I’ve surrendered my time, talent, and treasure to you. I trust you completely.”

Do what is just
Catholics have a tradition of sharing the gifts we have been given. Not for the sake of charity but for the sake of justice. Remember, the early Christian community “shared all things in common.” And Saint John Chrysostom wrote that the goods we possess really belong to the poor. Similarly, Saint Gregory the Great taught that when we take care of those in need, we give them what is rightfully theirs, not ours. Make a contribution of your “time, talent, and treasure” today in pursuit of doing what is just.

Come together
In the fourth century, Roman Emperor Constantine built a city (naming it after himself, modestly), and moved the empire’s capitol from Rome to Constantinople. It was always understood that the bishop of the capitol city was the head of the church. So it became clear to some that Chrysostom should now lead the church. Those still in Rome begged to differ. This conflict, along with others, went on for centuries and resulted in the Great Schism of 1054, which separated the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. In July of this year Pope Francis presented the current archbishop of Constantinople, Patriarch Bartholomew, with a reliquary with bones believed to be of Saint Peter as a gesture of goodwill in the ongoing hope that the two churches might reunite. Pray for the unity of all Christians.

Avoid heated exchanges
Along with honoring the saving power of the cross, today’s feast commemorates the dedication by Constantine in 325 of the basilica and shrine in Jerusalem where the Church of the Holy Sepulcher stands today. Reputed to be Jesus’ burial site, arguably the most hallowed location in all of Christendom is not immune to petty squabbles. On a hot day in 2002, an Egyptian monk moved his chair into the shade, which was taken by Ethiopian Orthodox monks to be an encroachment on their territory. Stones, fists, and even chairs flew, resulting in a number of injuries (and frowns worldwide as the news circulated). It’s all well and good to be passionate about things devotional, but don’t forget to love your neighbor too—even if you think they’re throwing shade at you.

Practicing your faith is rewarding
In psychology, “positive reinforcement” occurs when there is a good result or reward from a behavior, causing the person (or animal) to behave that certain way repeatedly in order to keep getting the reward. Think of the lab rat who gets a treat when it presses a button—and keeps pressing it to get more treats. But this concept predates modern medicine—it goes back to biblical times with the Beatitudes delivered at the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus assures those who are meek, who hunger for justice, and who have poverty of spirit that they will be blessed for it. There’s no greater reward.
Sing a New Song Unto the Lord:
Do you love music? Do you find yourself singing along with the radio? Are you looking to deepen your Catholic Faith? If you answered yes to one of these questions, then the Saint Catherine of Siena Choir is for you. Currently the Choir leads the singing at the 8:30 a.m. Liturgies on Sundays as well as Special Feast Days throughout the year. Currently we are recruiting to form a Choir for the 11:00 am Mass. The Choir strives to support and encourage the active participation of the assembly by raising our hearts and voices to God, celebrating our faith through sung prayer with the assembly. The only requirement to join is the desire to sing praises to God and commit to weekly rehearsals held on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 (cantors or early birds) 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Church and sing on Sundays. The Choir is open to all. For more information contact our music director Troy Killorn at 925-289-7792 or via email scsmusicdirector@gmail.com or see him after mass.

SAVE THE DATE: Christmas Concert
Saint Catherine of Siena: Songs of the Season
Friday, December 13th 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Come next Sunday, September 15th to celebrate Catechetical Sunday. There will be a blessing of all Families and Catechists at the 8:30 am Mass. This special Mass will be followed by the Pancake Breakfast, courtesy of the Knights of Columbus.

All are Welcome!
Faith Formation Classes (PreK-8th) begin September 22nd
8:30 Mass /Class and Required Parents Orientation

***

Confirmation Classes (9th-12th)
Begin September 29th
11:00 Mass /Class and Required Parent Orientation

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FIND YOUR GREATNESS
Four habits that will transform your life

Featuring JONATHAN FANNING

Looking for a way to improve your life? Tired of trendy fads that are difficult to keep up with? Try something new, and come to St. Dominic in San Francisco or Benicia for a life-changing event titled Find Your Greatness. Rooted in historical best practices, Dynamic Catholic events are not just about feeling. They are about doing. They don’t just give you something to think about. They give you a plan. They help you make your life work better. The goal is not to just inspire you for a few hours. At Find Your Greatness, walk away with more than just knowledge about four life changing habits. You’ll leave with a personalized plan on how to engage these habits in your normal, ordinary, everyday life.

The event is on Friday, September 27. (San Francisco) Tickets can be purchased by visiting DynamicCatholic.com/San Francisco. Or Saturday, September 28th
at St. Dominics Catholic Church in Benicia. Tickets can be purchased by visiting DynamicCatholic.com or call (859)980-7900

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS DEADLINES:

All requests must be submitted no later than September 13th by noon for the September 21st bulletin.

Please direct your inquiries to stcathmtz@yahoo.com

All submissions must be submitted via email and copy/camera/paste ready.

Please reference Bulletin Submission in the subject note. Thank you.

Our Parish has a Facebook Page!
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