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
Prayer for the Pandemic
Corona Virus situation

Almighty and merciful God, who show your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the corona Virus in various parts of the world.

We come before you asking for quick control of the outbreak, for the healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors, nurses and healthcare workers that they may courageously and cautiously take care of those affected.

We pray for those doing the research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the People.

Lord, we ask all these through the loving intercession of St. Catherine of Siena, St. Joseph, and Our Blessed Mother.

Amen

Emergency and Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
Please call (925) 228 2230 Ext. 1006.

We will remain connected via our social media platforms: Website, Bulletin, Facebook and Myparishapp

Please download myparishapp to your phones.
Step 1. Text App to number 88202.
Step 2. Download the app via the link.
Step 4. Now stay connected!
Step 5. Share with others, you know.
Go to the menu, click share, and choose who you want to share!
Dear Parishioners,

Peace be with you all.

The invasion of the Covid-19 has created an unprecedented turmoil both in the world and in our hearts. Let us remember that the Lord is our Shepherd, who will hold our hands as we walk through the dark valley of fear and anxiety. We are asked to distance ourselves to protect each other and stop the spread of the virus. It is an act of charity. We all should do it with humble obedience and love. However, while social distancing and stay shelter-at-home are necessary steps, the spread of fear and anxiety already took place in each of us. These dual adverse effects of the virus must be conquered and replaced with God’s grace. Let’s rally together and invade the world of fear and anxiety with heavenly blessings obtained through prayers and sacrifices, even in the confinement of our own homes.

First, here are what we must follow.

In light of the recent developments today, March 17th, Contra Consta County has ordered the “shelter-at-home order” until April 7th. The Diocese of Oakland, collaborating with the local Bay Area officials, is immediately putting into effect the following actions.

After serious consideration of the grave health risk involved in public gatherings, effective immediately, we are suspending all publicly celebrated Masses/liturgies, scheduled events, ministry meetings, trainings, and conferences until April 7th.

Since participation in public gatherings significantly increases the risk of contagion, effective immediately, the office will be closed.

All parish office staff/volunteers are to remain at home during this period.

Second, here is the prayer campaign plan.

We would like everyone to join in. The intention is to obtain graces from Heaven to overcome fear and anxiety in times of crisis. In doing so, we unite with one another in solidarity and faith, trusting in the Lord’s protection. We pray for those who have been infected and those who care for them.

The following is the plan of action:

8:00-9:00 am: Daily Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
We will live-stream the Mass, followed by the Holy Hour on Facebook. During this time, we ask you to unite your sacrifices and prayers with our Lord in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. During the Holy Hour, we ask you to pray the Rosary with us from homes.

3:00 pm: Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
We would like to invite all of us to pray together at this hour to emerge the world in the ocean of the Lord’s Divine Mercy. May the mercy of God bring us consolation and peace.

Saturdays from 3-4 pm: Drive through Confessions.
I am going to be at the front steps of the Church. Deacon will help direct the traffic. This drive-through Lenten reconciliation would be our first experience ever!

Sundays from 11:00-12:00: Online Mass and Home Delivery of the Holy Communion.
First, we will live stream on Facebook, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Church. Please join us. After the Mass, Deacons and I will drive by your homes to distribute the Holy Communion. Please contact us in advance via email. Let us know your number and address; we will contact you before we go out. Do not worry; we will have our gloves and mask on!
Emergency and Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
Please call us @ (925) 228 2230 Ext. 1006.

We will remain connected with all via our social media platforms: Website (stcmtz.org), Facebook (St. Catherine of Siena Parish Family Martinez Ca), and Myparishapp.
Please download myparishapp to your phones.

Step 1. Text App to number 88202.
Step 2. Download the app via the link.
Step 4. Now stay connected!
Step 5. Share with others, you know. Go to the menu, click share, and choose who you want to share!

Though the office is closed, the office staff will be checking the phone messages to provide as much assistance as possible within this critical time. We ask that you please utilize the designated personnel extensions to leave our staff your message.

Throughout the day, please pray:

Prayer for the Pandemic Corona Virus situation

I would like to leave you with the word of God:
“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).
“I will be with you always” (Jesus!)

Yours in Christ,
Fr Anthony Le and Pastoral Staff
I remember how excited I was when I was a very young child and had learned the Our Father and the Hail Mary. One of my fondest memories is praying the rosary with my family. I would rattle off the prayers from memory, proud of my accomplishment and so happy that I could participate. As I grew into adulthood, I would still rattle off the prayers, similar to reciting a memorized poem for school, but sadly I don't think that I really contemplated what I was saying. That all changed when I was 30 years old, and I was praying all night alongside the oldest of my four brothers at the hospital bedside of my brother Robert, who was 36 years old and was dying from a respiratory infection due to AIDS.

As we sat praying the rosary amidst my brother's suffering, I had a slight glimpse of the agony of our Blessed Mother who stood at the foot of the cross, praying, as she watched her beloved son suffering and dying. Instead of just saying or reciting the rosary, for the first time I was finally praying it. In that insight into Mary's suffering I realized that she was there strengthening and comforting me with a mother's selfless love. No longer could I just rattle off the words like an auctioneer. In my anguish I prayed fervently from the depths of my soul as I said, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen." I knew that at that very moment she was praying and interceding for my brothers and I at the feet of our Lord, just as she had prayed at the foot of the cross. Just as Jesus, as He hung upon the cross, said to St. John, "Behold your mother," our Lord was saying those words to me, that she was my mother as well to love, care for and teach me.

From that point on the Rosary has come alive for me. Just as Pope St. John Paul II stated in his Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae, "With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love." I've learned to contemplate not just the mysteries, but to savor the words of each prayer. With each bead and each prayer, I journey with our Lord and His Blessed Mother, throughout all the events of the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries. I see how Jesus and Mary are with me in all the events of my life, some joyful, some sorrowful, some bittersweet, but they are always lovingly illuminating the way so that someday I might share in the glory of the Lord in the beatific vision. Just as in the Gospel of St. Luke, Mary "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart" she teaches me to do the same in my journey with Christ Jesus and just as at the wedding feast at Cana she said, "Do whatever he tells you," my beloved mother is continually teaching and reminding me to do all that Jesus has instructed me to do.

Some may have noticed rosaries and rosary booklets appearing in the pews at church. Each rosary is made with love, in the hope that all in our parish will discover the beauty in praying and contemplating the lives of Jesus and Mary in the rosary. That the rosary becomes more than just a decoration for the car, wall or bedpost, but rather in the words of Pope Leo XIII, "an effective spiritual weapon against the evils afflicting society." A weapon against the temptations and pitfalls we face each and every day. The hope is that each pew will have a rosary and booklet available, so that when the rosary is prayed before the Holy Mass we all will desire to draw closer to our Lord, especially as we prepare to receive Him, body, blood, soul and divinity in the Holy Eucharist. I hope to hear more voices join in lovingly and reverently praying the rosary from the heart as we contemplate the face of Christ and His love, in the same manner as our Blessed Mother does.

Coming up in June will be the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress and we're trying to acquire 1,000 rosaries. We need your help. I know many people have acquired more rosaries in their lifetime than they know what to do with. Some make rosaries. If you would like to donate them, we would be overjoyed at collecting them. If you have rosaries that are broken that the beads aren't fused to the string or wire, most can be repaired or possibly be remade, if you would like to donate them as well. Please hold onto them until our on-site services begin again. Thank you to all who join us in journeying with Our Lord and Our Lady in praying the rosary. Welcome to all who desire to join us. Blessings to all.

Carolyn Susin
March 10, 2020
The epidemic of godless fear of the unknown is spreading and we must return to the basics of our Catholic faith. Let us not leave God out of the threat of COVID 19. Our first combat gear against all sickness is prayer. There is no cure without God willing it. We cannot win over sickness without God.
Remember always—God has powers beyond the human sciences. The puzzle of COVID 19 must not be faced without faith in God and without trust in the power of prayers; even as we trust in the power of human intelligence for medical inventions. More than any other time, we need God the most. People need the Lord. The world rests in God’s loving hands.

Let the words of the Lord to Jairus about his daughter echo for each of us “Do not be afraid; just have faith and she will be saved.” (Lk. 8:50).

Prayer and Penance
The COVID 19 is an invitation for greater prayer and more penance. Be informed through media about the disease but do not forget to pray. If you choose to stay at home, pray the rosary at home with the family. Do not let a day pass without family rosary. Our Blessed Mother in many of her apparitions have taught us that prayers can stop wars and natural catastrophes.
Do not forget La Naval de Manila and EDSA 1986. If we stopped tanks by the rosary and our forefathers defended the Catholic faith at the Battle of Manila Bay in 1646 praying the rosary, why do we still ignore or doubt the power of the rosary to stop all sickness and disease?

Watch Out
The mystery of COVID 19 is attacking not just our medical health but our spiritual lives and Catholic values as well. Be wary and be wise.
The core of our faith is communion in love and mercy. We are now being advised to live in isolation and suspicion of one another. From looking for the face of God in one another, we are now advised to look at our neighbors as infected carriers. They are threats not brethren. Look.
The name of God is Emmanuel, God-with-us. He touched lepers and allowed sinners to touch Him. He showed love by His presence. He is not distant. God has become our neighbor. Ang Diyos ay nagkatawang kapwa. (God became man) And now we are now being asked to avoid contact for fear of contagion; stay away and keep far. It is a subtle attack on the message of the Gospel. The very sacrament of Christ’s Eucharistic Real Presence is being seen as an avenue for contagion instead of healing. Do not allow the emergency situation to determine our behavior under normal situations.
Catholic means universal. Universal is the opposite of racist and separatist. The different one is my brother and sister. At the center of the universe is God not myself. We are being led to close borders and lock out; but as we lock out, we really lock ourselves in. The face mask is the security of some but we insist to proclaim “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me (Ps.23:4).
Faith and social responsibility are twins. Our faith dictates that we work for the reign of God’s kingdom. It is part of social responsibility not to spread misinformation and stop alarming gossips. Now we are dealing with sickness and disease as if God has nothing to do with it or cannot do anything about it. We insist to say “Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth”. (Ps 124:8).

Prudence
In the moral principle of proportionality, we recognize that all actions have both harmful and helpful, positive and negative, destructive and constructive aspects. In choosing to close our church doors, stop liturgical assemblies or stay away from prayer gatherings, are we really achieving a greater good?
The times demand caution but not to the extent that the caution numbs us and leaves us motionless in anxiety. Neither can we be reckless as to ignore the mysterious disease; in fact, the oratio imperata begs the Lord to deliver us from this disease.

Continued ...
INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT 3/21  8:00  Anthony Arias†
          4:30  Jennie Balestrieri†
SUN 3/22  7:00  Petrus & Hendrika De Graef
          8:30  Thomas and Eva Hernandez†
          11:00  Int. People of the Parish
MON 3/23  8:00  Int. Eric Smithwick
TUE 3/24  8:00  Kirk and Brydie Kuykendall†
WED 3/25  8:00  Int. St Catherine School and Families
THU 3/26  8:00  Special Intention
FRI 3/27  8:00  Sandra Montes†
SAT 3/28  8:00  Johnnie Castro†
          4:30  Walter, Michael Narodzonek†
SUN 3/29  7:00  Robert Cerri†
          8:30  McLoughlin & Curtin Families†
          11:00  Int. SPRSI Members
          1:00  Int. People of the Parish

Prayer for Health Care Workers

God of everlasting goodness,
you sent your Son among us
to bring healing, peace, and reconciliation to our
weary world.
Be with all health care workers and their assistants
in this time of the Coronavirus pandemic.

As they continue Jesus’ ministry of care,
renew them in mind, body, and spirit.
Keep them safe from infection and illness,
and may Christ’s healing presence flow through them
as they serve those entrusted to their care.

We ask this in his name,
Christ the healer,
who is Lord forever and ever.
Amen.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

It is helpful to observe that our Gospel passage from John, the healing of the blind man, is the first part of a longer episode. When Jesus’ words end Chapter 9 in today’s passage, he goes on speaking in the discourse on the Good Shepherd in Chapter 10. The healing of the blind man was not only a demonstration of God’s power, giving him the physical capacity of sight. It was even more than the awakening of the man’s personal faith in Jesus. The image of the Good Shepherd confirms that the man was liberated from the social isolation of his blindness and became a member of Jesus’ flock. All of Jesus’ powerful actions of healing were intended as gifts, not only to individuals, but for the building up of the community of faith.

HUMILITY AND ACTION

“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the LORD looks into the heart.” In our first reading, Samuel draws conclusions about who God will choose as king based on his assumptions of what a proper king looks like. But God sees a deeper reality.

How easy it is to miss our own blindness. How frequently we are unaware of our own flawed assumptions about others and about ourselves. We often need a deeper humility about the limitations of our perceptions and our convictions.

Yet, as the letter to the Ephesians encourages, there are times to expose the “fruitless works of darkness”, to speak out, especially when persons or groups are suffering from abuse or oppression. We are called to live within a tension that these scripture passages convey. We are to seek God’s guidance in prayer with genuine openness. We are then to speak and act forcefully against wrongdoing, even as we maintain humility about how much we know, or what is the best action to take. We are called to bring God’s wisdom and mercy to all.

Today’s Readings: 1 Sam 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Ps 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8–14; Jn 9:1–41 [1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38]

Copyright © 2020, J. S. Paluch Company, Inc., 3708 River Road, Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158, 1 800 621-5197. With Ecclesiastical Approbation.
The Rite of Election is a yearly Rite (usually on the First Sunday of Lent) in which the Bishop receives those who have been preparing to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. The Catechumens (the unbaptized) and Candidates (those desiring Full Communion and Confirmation) are first presented to their own Parish community in what is known as the Rite of Sending.

On Sunday, March 1, 2020, Father Anthony presented our group to the Parish community at the 11 am Mass. The unbaptized signed the Book of the Elect and the group was sent forth to the Cathedral of Christ the Light to be received by Bishop Michael C. Barber SJ, Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland.

The photo above shows the St. Catherine of Siena the Catechumens and Candidates, joined by their sponsors and families. We have four adults and six youth being baptized. Ten baptized adults will come into Full Communion and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Two small children will also be baptized with their parents. Also shown: Bishop Michael C. Barber SJ, Karen Glen/RCIA Coordinator, Nancy Menton, RCIA Team.
WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

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

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

In light of the recent developments Effective March 17, Contra Costa County has ordered the “Shelter at home order until April 7th.

The Diocese of Oakland, collaborating with the local Bay Area officials, is immediately, putting into effect the following actions.

1) After serious consideration of the grave health risk involved in public gatherings effective immediately, we are suspending all publicly celebrated Masses/liturgies, scheduled events, ministry meetings, trainings, and conferences until April 7th.

2) Since participation in public gathering significantly increases the risk of contagion, effective immediately, the office will be closed.

3) All parish office staff/volunteers are to remain at home during this period.

Please download our parish APP for up-to-date information regarding our Parish.

Text App to 88202
To download
Our parish app

Envie un texto con APP al 88202 para bajar nuestra app

Our Parish has a Facebook Page!
https://www.facebook.com
OfficialStCatherineofSienaChurch

8 AM Daily Mass will be livestreamed
Sunday Mass will be livestreamed at 11 AM
Sunday, Mar 22, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT; SECOND SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT

Clarity at last
Darkness and light are biblical themes that invite us to take an internal sight exam. How clearly do we see? Like the man in today’s gospel, we’re all born blind into a world grown accustomed to the blurred vision of habitual sin. We view most decisions in terms of what’s in it for us. It’s difficult and challenging to climb up to a higher point of view to ask: What will serve the common good? Today, we pray that our Elect will have the grace to seek and attain that higher ground. And might we too ask for the same? TODAY’S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31). “What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?”

Monday, Mar 23, 2020
MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

Step down to your calling
God must have a great sense of irony. Imagine the head of an important court suddenly being summoned to pastor a far-off land filled with people who speak unknown languages. Such was the destiny of Turibius of Mogrovejo, summoned from his post as chief inquisitor in Granada, Spain to pastor the Lima archdiocese, which included the indigenous Andean communities of 16th-century colonial Peru. Turibius went with the flow admirably, traversing his vast archdiocese three times on foot, alone, ministering to all along his route. He defended those who suffered the greatest injustice under the colonial rule he himself represented. Downward mobility is a pattern in saints’ biographies. Time to evaluate your priorities? TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54 (244). “He and his whole household came to believe.”

Tuesday, Mar 24, 2020
LENTEN WEEKDAY

Be a voice for the voiceless
Saint Oscar Romero, the archbishop of San Salvador who spoke out against grave social injustice in El Salvador, was assassinated by his opponents while celebrating Mass on this day in 1980, and it is commemorated by the United Nations as International Day for the Right to the Truth. Today is an opportunity for you to honor the memory of human rights victims, pay tribute to those who struggle to protect those rights for all, remember the important work of Romero, and commit yourself to his values of speaking truth to power, even when it costs you. TODAY’S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245). “Look, you are well; do not sin any more, so that nothing worse may happen to you.”

Wednesday, Mar 25, 2020
SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Say yes to God
The Annunciation is a beautiful feast that celebrates Mary’s “yes” to God during her encounter with the angel Gabriel. Mary doesn’t rattle off a quick response but rather pauses and ponders, wondering what this might mean. Her response is a choice not simply to give birth to a child, but to fully embrace her identity and her calling as an intimate companion with God. “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.” It is as if Mary is saying, “Look! My life is fully in God! Everything about who I am is for and with God!” During this day of Annunciation, reflect on your daily “yeses.” How do these reflect your own identity and life in God? TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (245). “Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’”

Thursday, Mar 26, 2020
LENTEN WEEKDAY

Reflect in your heart
Imagine taking a walk with the Lord today. As you walk along, he suddenly stops and looks at you with a question in his eyes. He hesitates, but then goes ahead and asks: “Do you have the love of God in your heart?” You might respond: “I am doing my best to be patient, to think of others first, to be kind and generous. It is Lent after all.” Jesus persists: “But do you have the love of God in your heart?” Take five minutes today and consider that question. Be at peace with whatever thoughts come to mind. Then allow the insights you gain to set the rest of the day’s course. TODAY’S READINGS: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247). “It is simply that I know you and you do not have the love of God in your hearts.”

Friday, Mar 27, 2020
LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

What price would you pay?
Today’s gospel has an aura of doom about it, with Jesus getting a clear message that authorities would like to kill him. The church teaches that “Jesus went up to Jerusalem voluntarily, knowing well that there he would die a violent death because of the opposition of sinners,” as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it (569). How far are you willing to go to “do the right thing”? Contemplate today the sacrifices you have made and what you would be willing to do to be true to your beliefs. TODAY’S READINGS: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248). “Some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem said, ‘Is he not the one they are trying to kill?’”

Saturday, Mar 28, 2020
LENTEN WEEKDAY

The plot thickens
Next weekend we observe Palm Sunday, ushering in a dramatic week that includes the tragedy of Our Lord’s suffering and death. The gospels describe for us the suspicion and plotting that will lead to his Crucifixion. Among the religious leaders, only Nicodemus gives Jesus the benefit of the doubt and tries to argue his case. This is the same Nicodemus who has already visited Jesus under cover of night to discuss his teachings and who provides the burial spices after Jesus is crucified. How can you be Nicodemus in situations where others are subject to suspicion and suffering? TODAY’S READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53 (249). “I, like a trusting lamb led to slaughter, had not realized that they were hatching plots against me.”
$500 Donated to St. Catherine of Siena for every completed transaction

Chuck Barberini
“JUST ASK CHUCK”
REALTOR - CalBRE #01324660
925-963-6606
www.ChuckBarberini.com
chuck@chuckbarberini.com

Muir Oaks Veterinary Hospital
1180 MuirRoad, Martinez
372-9200
Melody Herder-Jimison, D.V.M.

ADT has a Medical Alert system to fit every lifestyle

Call today (833) 238-3585

Call Marcy Kwiatkowski
925.239.1401

Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

Connolly & Taylor Chapel
Serving the Martinez Catholic Community Since 1921
Full Service Cremation & Burial
“Let’s Keep the Tradition”
925.228.4700
www.connolly-taylorchapel.com
4000 Alhambra Avenue | Martinez, CA

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin, I am patronizing your business because of it!