Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”
John 11:25-26

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.

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

HELP OUT OUR ADVERTISERS
Our Sunday bulletin is an important way for us to
communicate with you, especially during these days of the
Coronavirus pandemic. It might be the only way that we can
reach some of you. Every bulletin that you receive is paid for
through the generosity of the businesses that you see advertised
on the back cover. Most of these advertisers are members of
our local community, and many belong to our parish. We urge
you to think of them when you decide to have a meal or other
item delivered to your door. Tell the business owners that you
appreciate their support of our parish through their advertise-
ments in the bulletin. This is one small way that we can work
within our own community to weather the challenges that we
face. Together we can help each other make it through.
OFFICIAL NOTICE
MARCH 23, 2020
St. Catherine of Siena Parish

The challenges of these days of the COVID-19 pandemic continue for our nation and the world, therefore we are transitioning to new ways to offer our church services.

By the directive order of
The Most Reverend Bishop C. Michael Barber, SJ
and in collaboration with the State of California Health order to “Shelter in Place”:

All public masses in the Diocese of Oakland must be cancelled.

We ask for your cooperation. Please do not come to attend mass inside.

No entry will be allowed.

Please join our community in prayer through one of our livestream platforms.

Parish Website: www.stcmtz.org 8:00 AM Daily Mass and Sunday, Holy Mass at 11:00 AM is Livestreaming on the Parish FACEBOOK. Click the FACEBOOK link.

Or
Log onto our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/OfficialStCatherineofSienaChurch

Home Delivery of Holy Communion

Please provide your request no later than Saturday evening at 5 PM.

Offered after the 11 AM (Livestream) Mass

Home Delivery of Holy Communion

Here are your options:
1) Please sign-up on our website: www.stcmtz.org
2) Call the office by Friday: (925) 228-2230 Ext 2 (leave your name, phone/address, #receiving communion)
3) You can also Email SylviaL@stcmtz.org to provide your information.

Drive-Thru Reconciliation / Confessions
Saturday’s 3:00-4:00PM
Please follow signs and remain in your car.
Our deacons or authorized parish employee will provide direction.

Here are your options:
Please sign-up on our website: www.stcmtz.org
You may also just show up in your car. Again, please remain in your vehicle.

For Emergency Anointing of the Sick
Please call (925) 228-2230 Ext 6

Throughout the day, please pray:
Prayer for the Pandemic Corona Virus situation

“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
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Ask senior parishioners about this fifth Sunday, and they will share memories of this Sunday years ago, when it was known as “Passion Sunday.” In those days, the statues and crucifixes were draped in purple cloth, and a deeply somber atmosphere infused worship. The structure is different today for good reason. The stunning changes in the appearance of the church building drew attention away from the twofold work of Lent: reconciliation and preparing for initiation. Today, this Sunday is given to reflection on the necessity to commit, like Jesus, to the Father’s will. Wherever elect are present today, the “A” reading reveals Jesus’ compassion in the face of human suffering, and his desire to call us from the tombs of sin, isolation, and even death itself.

As Lent draws to a close over the next ten days, and before the beginning of the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday, we enter an ideal time for celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. Today’s old title of “Passion Sunday” has migrated to next Sunday, also called “Palm Sunday.” In many places, people prepare their own bundles of branches for next week’s liturgy: pussy willow, forsythia, dogwood. If your parish schedules a procession, you may want to prepare these branches at home and bring them along.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

EZEKIEL’S COUNTER-STORY

It is difficult to overstate the bleak situation faced by the people of Israel described in today’s reading from Ezekiel. Babylon had invaded Jerusalem, killed many of its inhabitants, and destroyed the temple. Some of them were forced into exile in Babylon. Their captors and neighbors likely concluded that the Babylonian deity had humiliated the Hebrew deity into submission. Israel’s God was as good as dead, and the people of Israel as well.

In the midst of this catastrophe, Ezekiel announces a counter-story. The narrative of God’s death is false. Israel’s God is alive, and God’s own breath will restore their life. They will be lifted out of the grave of their grief and despair, and be returned to their land. Ezekiel’s message speaks to all of us who know of profound disorientation, of separation from loved ones, and of deep loss. God will bear our unbearable sorrow, and God’s spirit will offer new life and hope.

Today’s Gospel tells us of the raising of Lazarus. In Jesus’ exchange with Lazarus’ sister Martha, she refers to the general resurrection of the dead on “the last day.” Jesus then shifts the perspective by identifying himself as “the resurrection and the life.” What does this mean? Jesus earlier had spoken of the hour “when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live” (John 5:25). When Jesus cries out in a loud voice—“Lazarus, come out!”—Jesus fulfills that role in the present, offering resurrection and life here and now, in a new relationship with him.

Resurrection is offered not only on the last day, and not only at our physical death, but in the mix of our present daily lives. Sometimes we are buried in tombs of suffering or of entrapment in sin. When we encounter death in its many forms, in faith we can hear Jesus, who summons us out of death and into life.

Today’s Readings: Ez 37:12–14; Ps 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; Rom 8:8–11; Jn 11:1–45 [3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45]
Today’s Holy Gospel: “Jesus and the raising of Lazarus,” (John 11:1-45) builds upon to show the Divinity of Jesus Christ. The story is filled with intense emotions: it portrays painfulness of a loved one, that interplays with fear, doubt, faith and hope. Jesus’ miraculous cure of the blind man and the raising of Lazarus add to the developing omnipotence of Jesus, His mission and His intimacy with His Father. The raising of Lazarus from the dead presents the question: Why Jesus, with great intimacy with His loving Father, “didn’t cure Lazarus in the first place? The story is not about resuscitating a dead body; but about God’s giving life to the world through our Savior Jesus. There are some confusing parts to the tale, but what comes through clearly is that apart from trust in God-- the world is a cemetery. The Gospel story is not about Lazarus but really about Jesus and His mission. When Jesus heard about the illness and death of Lazarus, He responded, “this illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s Glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

The consequence of this miracle, will eventually plot to kill Jesus. Because of Lazarus, Jesus must enter the tomb. He would make no exception for Himself. “What shall I say Father, save me from this hour? It was for this that I came into the world.” Why did Jesus delay in going to Lazarus’ death bed? Because the Jews believed that the soul hung around the grave for three days. Therefore, Lazarus is really dead by the fourth day. But even as the situation gets worse, Jesus is the Master of life and death. When God feels absent, delayed, the Disciple is called to trust and to wait in good faith. Jesus says of Himself, “I am the resurrection “AND” the life. “I am the bread of life, I am the light of the world.” (John 20:29). Deeply troubled at Mary’s weeping, Jesus Himself weep with Martha and her sister Mary. He assured Mary that if she believes, she will see the glory of God. With Martha and Mary, we expect the resurrection day.

Baptism has brought us life, “now “ this present reality is filled with Jesus presence and a new life. When does the Eternal really begin? The new life begins with Jesus. The Gospel is telling us that Lazarus prefigures Easter for us, and that life begins for us. This miraculous event is meant to show us the Glory of eternal God and to teach us, and those who are preparing for the Easter Sacraments, the great promise of eternal life in God. Lazarus had taken a sip of the resurrection, while we await drinking the whole draft of universal resurrection. Our struggles, tensions and temptations are daily death threats to our faith. But through our faith, we are resurrected each day. We are not defeated by death. Because God manifests that His plan for us is one of benevolent love. He sent His Son Jesus to be the expiation for our sins. God “shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.” (CCC 603-604).

God’s abundant love for us comes in so many violations of the laws of nature. The intense deadly fire that did not burn Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. (Daniel 3:), the splitting of the Red Sea. (Exodus 14:21), When Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead: He said, “Rise, take up your pallet and walk,” (Mark 2:9). He says, “Little girl, I say to you arise.” The Eucharistic Miracles of our own Father Anthony Le, “This is my body…This is my blood…. a miracle in its own right.

The omnipotence and infinite power of God reminds us that He, the Messiah, exists. (Roman 1:20). His love of humanity exists, to wake us up—to authenticate the claims of His Church—St. Catherine’s Church. He wants us to experience the happiness He desires us to have. To glorify God and lead us to Salvation. To focus on this gift of life and to glorify the gift-giver and to strengthen our faith. Amen.

May God bless you all.
C.C. Salonga
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 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent

It is difficult to overstate the bleak situation faced by the people of Israel described in today's reading from Ezekiel. Babylon had invaded Jerusalem, killed many of its inhabitants, and destroyed the temple. Some of them were forced into exile in Babylon. Their captors and neighbors likely concluded that the Babylonian deity had humiliated the Hebrew deity into submission. Israel's God was as good as dead, and the people of Israel as well.

In the midst of this catastrophe, Ezekiel announces a counter-story. The narrative of God's death is false. Israel's God is alive, and God's own breath will restore their life. They will be lifted out of the grave of their grief and despair, and be returned to their land. Ezekiel's message speaks to all of us who know of profound disorientation, of separation from loved ones, and of deep loss. God will bear our unbearable sorrow, and God's spirit will offer new life and hope.

RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Today's Gospel tells us of the raising of Lazarus. In Jesus' exchange with Lazarus' sister Martha, she refers to the General resurrection of the dead on "the last day." Jesus then shifts the perspective by identifying himself as "the resurrection and the life." What does this mean? Jesus earlier had spoken of the hour "when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (John 5:25). When Jesus cries out in a loud voice—"Lazarus, come out!"—Jesus fulfills that role in the present, offering resurrection and life here and now, in a new relationship with him.

Resurrection is offered not only on the last day, and not only at our physical death, but in the mix of our present daily lives. Sometimes we are buried in tombs of suffering or of entrapment in sin. When we encounter death in its many forms, in faith we can hear Jesus, who summons us out of death and into life.

Lenten Resources:

Today's Readings: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Lecturas de hoy: Ez 37:12-14; Sal 130 (129):1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Copyright © 2020, J. S. Paluch Company, Inc., 3708 River Road, Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158, 1 800 621-5197. With Ecclesiastical Approval.
New Parish App!

St. Catherine of Siena has launched our own app for iPhone and Android smart phones.

This will allow us to better communicate with you throughout the week and keep you updated with relevant parish news or updates. The app is very well designed and very intuitive. It will be a great resource for parishioners by providing: daily Mass readings, Catholic news and prayers, convenient prayer and Confession reminders, our bulletins and so much more.

We hope for our new app to be a tool for fostering stronger parish life at St. Catherine of Siena Parish and School, and better engaging the New Evangelization.

Available in both English and Spanish

Vida Católica Cada Día Catholic Life Every Day

— St. Catherine of Siena App —

Messages
Fácilmente conectese toda la semana

Calendar
Eventos, fechas, reuniones, RSVP

Readings
Lecturas Diarias de USCCB

Prayers
Santos, fechas, devociones

Bulletins
Bulletins

Busque “myParish” en su App Store y vaya a myparishapp.com para bajar
Search for “myParish” in the App Store or go to myparishapp.com to download

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 29, 2020**
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT; THIRD SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT

The nightmare is over
The moment of waking from a nightmare is suffused with relief. Whoever was chasing you dissolves, and whatever threatened harm has vanished. Grief and loss, however, can be living nightmares from which we’re unable to shake ourselves awake. Yet as the Scrutiny prayers for our Elect this Sunday affirm, the “horror of sin, which distorts life” is indeed an evil from which we can escape. Death has an end, and love will have its victory. We pray with our Elect for freedom from all paths that lead to death and a greater attraction to the ways that restore life.

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Ezekiel 13:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 (34).

“Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.”

---

**Monday, Mar 30, 2020**
LENTEN WEEKDAY

Get into the Spirit
On this day in 1990, Sister Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A. died but the voice that nurtured countless thousands was not silenced. Before Sister Thea, black Catholics were expected to give up their music, dance, and spiritual testifying because these were suspiciously “Protestant” customs. She restored their identity, shaped it through the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, and shared it with those of other backgrounds. Shortly before her death, Thea spoke to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from her wheelchair. In the last five minutes of that talk, Thea leads the visibly moved bishops in singing “We Shall Overcome.” Thea called the spirituals she grew up with “bonfires to warm chilly nights.” Such songs of hope warm a heart of a free one becomes,” as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it to believe that truth and goodness are the keys to freedom. But have a little faith and see where it gets you. TODAY’S READINGS: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253). “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Ezekiel 17:3-9; John 8:51-59 (254). “They picked up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid and went out of the temple area.”

---

**Tuesday, Mar 31, 2020**
LENTEN WEEKDAY

I am vs. I AM
John’s gospel uses the term “I AM” to identify Jesus. That’s a reference to the Exodus story when God revealed the divine presence to Moses using the name “I AM.” So the presence of Christ in us, in our humanity, is the “I AM” who is with us. Of course there’s another “I am” who is the self, our ego. That’s the conflict. Just as John the Baptist said, “He must increase and I must decrease,” the best thing we can do is surrender the “I am” in us to the “I AM” who is Christ. **TODAY’S READINGS:** Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 (252). “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM.”

---

**Wednesday, Apr 01, 2020**
LENTEN WEEKDAY

Freedom’s not just another word
“Truth will set you free” and other heady thoughts about freedom are abundant in today’s gospel. Across the centuries, the...
$500 Donated to St. Catherine of Siena for every completed transaction

Chuck Barberini
"JUST ASK Chuck"
REALTOR - CalBRE #01324660
925-962-6606
www.ChuckBarberini.com
chuck@chuckbarberini.com

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

Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!
Sign up here:

Grow Your Business, Advertise Here.
Support Your Church & Bulletin.
Free professional ad design & my help!
email: kwiatkowskim@jspaluch.com
www.jspaluch.com

Queen of Heaven
Cemetery & Funeral Center FDI959
Start planning today:
Funeral | Cremation | Cemetery | Family Estates
(925) 932-0900 | cfcoakland.org
Call to inquire about available discounts.
Serving all faiths throughout the Bay Area!

Catholic Match California
Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!

The Most Complete Online National Directory of Catholic Parishes

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

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
For Ads: J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. 1-800-675-5051