THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE TWO DISCIPLES RECOUNTED WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THE WAY AND HOW JESUS WAS MADE KNOWN TO THEM IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD.

Luke 24:35

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fr. Anthony Huong Le</td>
<td><a href="mailto:franthonyl@stcmtz.org">franthonyl@stcmtz.org</a></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parochial Administrator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Lloren</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sylvial@stcmtz.org">sylvial@stcmtz.org</a></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Music Ministry / Maintenance Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:troyk@stcmtz.org">troyk@stcmtz.org</a></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Glen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kareng@stcmtz.org">kareng@stcmtz.org</a></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Watkins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andreaw@stcmtz.org">andreaw@stcmtz.org</a></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deacon Albert Dizon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dcnalberdt@stcmtz.org">dcnalberdt@stcmtz.org</a></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deacon David Holland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dcnadaveh@stcmtz.org">dcnadaveh@stcmtz.org</a></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul &amp; Jennifer Holland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulh@stcmtz.org">paulh@stcmtz.org</a> &amp; <a href="mailto:jennyh@stcmtz.org">jennyh@stcmtz.org</a></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHURCH LOCATION:
606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

### PARISH OFFICE/CENTER & MAILING ADDRESS:
1125 Ferry Street
Martinez, CA 94553-1720

### PARISH WEBSITE:
www.stcmtz.org

### OFFICE HOURS:
THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

### ST. CATHERINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Jessica Griswold, Principal
jgriswold@cso.org
SCHOOL K-8: 604 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA 94553
TELEPHONE: 925-228-4140
FAX: 925-228-0697
OFFICE HOURS: 9AM – 2PM
SCHOOL WEBSITE: http://school.stcatherinemartinez.com

### ST. CATHERINE PRE-SCHOOL
Mea Auld, Pre-School Director
mauld@cso.org

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT:
www.virtusonline.org

### 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

### For Emergency Anointing of the Sick
(Only for those who are experiencing an imminent death)
Call (925) 228-2230 Ext 1006
Please leave your name, phone #, address

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

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 advertisements 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.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In December of 2018 the Parish Leadership published the Five Years of Grace Pastoral Plan (2019-2023). In outlining our Goals for each area of this plan, the Stewardship team decided for the main goal to be “To create a culture in the Parish Rooted in Gratitude and Generosity.” This is defined by the conscious act of recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God, followed by the intentional sharing of those gifts to those who need them. We strive to put God first in all things and to follow where Our Lord might lead.

As a parish community we have seen a fulfillment of this goal in our 2019 year. All of you, the Body of Christ, have given of yourselves for the greater glory of God. The gifts of your time, talent, and treasure have helped our parish grow in many ways. Through the loving, sacrificial giving of our members, we have been able to meet many needs. We have seen a Divine Renovation of our Church interior and are moving forward from a maintenance parish to a mission-driven community.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish Finance Council and Fr. Anthony are committed to providing a clear picture of the Financial Reports of our Parish Community. We will provide a few different snapshots for you. The first is our Profit and Loss Statement for 2019 vs the Prior Year 2018. The second is a Comparison of our Cash Accounts from 2019 vs 2018. These documents provide a comparison of income and expenses from one year to the next. A few things to highlight in 2019.

- Our Sunday and Holy Day offerings increased by 5.8% in 2019
- The Net Profit for 2019 was $49,184.
- While our Diocesan Savings (# 0125) decreased, our other assets, Equipment and Furnishings (#0410) and Remodeling Improvements (#0440) increased.
- The Construction in Progress assets (Soft costs attributed to PACE Project) in the amount of $438,048 had to be written off in 2019, as they have no actual dollar value. You will see this in the expenses and the decrease in our Financial Assets.

In our Budget for 2020, which is included on the Profit and Loss Statement for 2019 vs 2018 comparison there are a few explanations:

- Programs and Ministry increase in both income and expenses, is based on anticipated retreats and other programs that are planned for the year.
- Increase in overall salaries includes a 2.5% cost of living increase, and our new share of the Deanery Chaplain which is $15,000.
- Depreciation is much higher than prior years. The Divine Renovation costs in 2019 have been capitalized and they will be depreciated over 30 years. Funds from our Diocesan Savings account were used to complete those projects. This has no impact on our Cash flow in 2020.
- Funds for the Support of our School will come through our Second Collection for School Support and our Diocesan Savings Account.

In 2019 we completed the Divine Renovation of our Church interior and improvements to the Parish office and Preschool. You will find the breakdown of costs on the Divine Renovation spreadsheet.

We are committed to our continued support of the school. In 2019-2020 school year St. Catherine of Siena Parish leadership allocated funds to support families in receiving a Christ centered education at our school. The Parish supported the financial needs of 15 families in the amount of $50,000. This enabled the families to receive assistance towards their tuition, enabling them to have their children in our school. St. Catherine of Siena School is a beloved ministry of our Parish and the community has been extremely generous in supporting the activities, through participation and monetary contributions. In 2019, the Parish added to the overall environment of St. Catherine of Siena Preschool with the addition of HVAC, fencing and new windows for their building, in the amount of $39,500. Additionally, the Parish pays the total cost of utilities for the Preschool building and percentage of the utility costs for the School Building, amounting to approximately $27,000 per year. Our overall financial support for the school in 2019 totaled $126,500.

We thank each of you for embracing the stewardship message and together transforming our parish. If you would like more detailed information regarding any of the Financial Information provided please email stcatherineparish@stcntz.org

Sincerely,
Fr. Anthony Huong Le
St. Catherine of Siena Finance Council
### PROFIT & LOSS 2019 VS. 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>PROJECTED BUDGET 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday &amp; Holy Days</td>
<td>$404,258</td>
<td>$382,291</td>
<td>$432,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Restricted Offerings</td>
<td>$10,105</td>
<td>$24,549</td>
<td>$12,680</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests and Gifts (Sacramental Offerings)</td>
<td>$113,121</td>
<td>$318,332</td>
<td>$100,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising (Bingo &amp; Music)</td>
<td>$4,871</td>
<td>$6,283</td>
<td>$10,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations (Restricted)</td>
<td>$40,076</td>
<td>$39,548</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs &amp; Ministries</td>
<td>$26,415</td>
<td>$41,169</td>
<td>$73,235</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Faith Formation, Confirmation, RCIA)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>$23,127</td>
<td>$22,164</td>
<td>$21,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery (Reimbursed by CCFS)</td>
<td>$4,437</td>
<td>$5,700</td>
<td>$5,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$26,411</td>
<td>$24,881</td>
<td>$29,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$652,821</strong></td>
<td><strong>$864,917</strong></td>
<td><strong>$685,521</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits (Staff &amp; Clergy)</td>
<td>$298,829</td>
<td>$242,068</td>
<td>$329,792</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin/Diocesan Costs</td>
<td>$108,822</td>
<td>$112,322</td>
<td>$114,447</td>
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<td>Parish Property</td>
<td>$516,671</td>
<td>$71,560</td>
<td>$67,170</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Church, Rectory, Parish Center, Hall)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$12,328</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgy</td>
<td>$23,379</td>
<td>$17,062</td>
<td>$18,510</td>
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<td>Music</td>
<td>$2,377</td>
<td>$3,873</td>
<td>$6,424</td>
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<td>Religious Education (Faith Formation, RCIA)</td>
<td>$32,056</td>
<td>$26,846</td>
<td>$52,093</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ignite, Confirmation &amp; Youth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacraments (Bapt, Wedding, Funerals)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,301</td>
<td>$2,324</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising (Bingo, Musical Events)</td>
<td>$739</td>
<td>$5,787</td>
<td>$660</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship (Quarterly Events)</td>
<td>$1,507</td>
<td>$348</td>
<td>$1,496</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Ministries (Respect Life, Hospitality)</td>
<td>$5,524</td>
<td>$696</td>
<td>$8,965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cemetery (upkeep)</td>
<td>$5,346</td>
<td>$2,837</td>
<td>$3,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>FUND DRIVE</td>
<td>-$17,750</td>
<td>$74,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Fund</td>
<td>$48,393</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$15,792</td>
<td>$13,965</td>
<td>$67,712</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,041,685</strong></td>
<td><strong>$579,414</strong></td>
<td><strong>$685,521</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCOME</strong></td>
<td>-$388,864</td>
<td>$285,503</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIP FUNDS WRITTEN OFF</td>
<td>$438,048</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>FUNDS DEPOSITED TO SAVINGS</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>-$291,845</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET PROFIT</strong></td>
<td><strong>$49,184</strong></td>
<td>-$6,342</td>
<td>$0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Our Parish has a Facebook Page!
https://www.facebook.com/OfficialStCatherineofSienaChurch
8 AM Daily Mass and Sunday 11 AM Mass will be livestreamed on Facebook

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

Text App “88202”
Or Search “My Parish” in your App store

Due to the grave health risk involved in public gatherings; All masses, liturgies, events, trainings, ministry and organization meetings are suspended until further notice.

All facilities are closed to the public.

www.stcmtz.org
for updated information.

St. Catherine of Siena Balance Sheet – December 31, 2019

ASSETS
Current Assets
- Checking/Savings
  - 01XX · CASH
    - 0105 · Checking - US Bank $9,624.44
    - 0112 · Checking-Westamerica (Cemetery) $5,587.30
    - 0125 · Diocesan Savings $115,140.10
    - 0127 · Maintenance Reserve $3,449.70
  - 0128 · Diocesan Savings - DAPD
    - 0128.00 · Combined Capital Campaign $180,010.88
    - 0128.P1 · DAPD - PACE 1 $828,639.30
    - 0128.P2 · DAPD - PACE 2 $870,199.99
  - Total 0128 · Diocesan Savings - DAPD $1,878,850.17
- 0131 · Checking - CYO $19,470.32
- Total 01XX · CASH $2,032,122.03
- Total Checking/Savings $2,032,122.03
- Total Current Assets $2,032,122.03

Fixed Assets
- 04XX · ACQUIRED ASSETS OVER $1,000
  - 0410 · Equipment & Furnishings $227,723.72
  - 0415 · Computer $8,847.75
  - 0440 · Remodeling Improvements $671,208.57
  - 0490 · Accumulated Depreciation $143,082.60
- Total 04XX · ACQUIRED ASSETS OVER $1,000 $764,697.44
- Total Fixed Assets $764,697.44
- TOTAL ASSETS $2,796,819.47

LIABILITIES & EQUITY
Liabilities
- Current Liabilities
  - Other Current Liabilities
- Total Liabilities $13,795.28

Equity
- 0919 · CYO Designated Net Assets $16,126.97
- 0910 · Net Assets, Beginning of Year $3,154,667.79
- 0915 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets
  - 0915R · Respect Life - Temp Restricted $1,093.16
- Total 0915 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets $1,093.16
- Net Income $-388,863.73
- Total Equity $2,783,024.19
- TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY $2,796,819.47

St. Catherine of Siena ~ Divine Renovation 2019

Remodeling and Reconstruction of Sacristy and Interior of Church $20,645
Stained Glass Windows Restoration and Protection $37,559
Painting of Church Interior $68,360
New Windows in Parish Center $15,840
Remodel of Parish Center Office and Preschool $62,107
Construction for Installation of HVAC $41,811
New carpet and flooring for interior of the church $69,759
Removal and Refinishing of Church Pews $79,920
Total Expenses for Remodel $396,001

New equipment and furnishings $23,368
Golden Gate Piano & Organ Inc $10,368
New Organ and Installation $52,800
HVAC System $62,200
FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE FOR 2020

We entered 2020 with a very strong Financial forecast. The closing of our Church during the Holiest time of the year, has affected the Weekly Collection and Easter Giving, that you so generously contribute to each year. In order to provide a transparent picture of our current financial state, we have provided a Comparative Income Statement, through April 30th for your information. We anticipate approximately $9,000 in donations from the online giving revenue, that will add to the overall income for April 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan - Apr 20</th>
<th>Jan - Apr 19</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10XX · PLATE COLLECTIONS-UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010 · Sundays &amp; Holy Days</td>
<td>95,240.41</td>
<td>124,326.94</td>
<td>-29,086.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1020 · Easter Collection</td>
<td>3,482.00</td>
<td>14,303.00</td>
<td>-10,821.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1030 · Christmas Collection</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>1,375.00</td>
<td>-1,345.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1040 · Other Unrestricted Plate</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>691.96</td>
<td>-691.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 10XX · PLATE COLLECTIONS-UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>98,752.41</td>
<td>140,696.90</td>
<td>-41,944.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>11XX · MAINT COLLECTIONS-RESTRICTED</td>
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<tr>
<td>1120 · Other Restricted (Parish Maint)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1120.1 · Flowers</td>
<td>1,167.00</td>
<td>1,080.00</td>
<td>87.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1120.2 · Special Collection</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>364.00</td>
<td>-364.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1120 · Other Restricted (Parish Maint) - Other</td>
<td>1,370.00</td>
<td>2,035.00</td>
<td>-665.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 1120 · Other Restricted (Parish Maint)</td>
<td>2,537.00</td>
<td>3,479.00</td>
<td>-942.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 11XX · MAINT COLLECTIONS-RESTRICTED</td>
<td>2,537.00</td>
<td>3,479.00</td>
<td>-942.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12XX · DONATIONS - UNRESTRICTED</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1210 · Gifts</td>
<td>16,325.00</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
<td>12,325.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1220 · Bequests</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1230 · Sacramental Service/Funerals</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 1230 · Sacramental Service/Funerals</td>
<td>2,450.00</td>
<td>4,475.00</td>
<td>-2,025.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 12XX · DONATIONS - UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>48,775.00</td>
<td>8,475.00</td>
<td>40,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13XX · DONATIONS - RESTRICTED</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 13XX · DONATIONS - RESTRICTED</td>
<td>604.50</td>
<td>7,559.07</td>
<td>-6,954.57</td>
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<td>14XX · SPEC EVENT/FNDRSNG-UNRESTRICTED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 14XX · SPEC EVENT/FNDRSNG-UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>1,411.00</td>
<td>2,902.00</td>
<td>-1,491.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>15XX · SPEC EVENT/FNDRSNG-RESTRICTED</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 15XX · SPEC EVENT/FNDRSNG-RESTRICTED</td>
<td>4,406.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>4,406.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>16XX · INCOME FROM PROGRAM &amp; MINISTRY</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 16XX · INCOME FROM PROGRAM &amp; MINISTRY</td>
<td>3,450.00</td>
<td>3,828.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>17XX · INTEREST INCOME</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 17XX · INTEREST INCOME</td>
<td>4,952.84</td>
<td>6,096.59</td>
<td>-1,143.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>18XX · OTHER INCOME</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 18XX · OTHER INCOME</td>
<td>18,510.23</td>
<td>22,332.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>183,398.98</td>
<td>195,368.66</td>
<td>-11,969.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STEWARDSHIP
To create a culture in the parish rooted in gratitude and generosity.

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT 4/25  8:00  Irv Palmer†
          4:30  Walter, Michael Narodzonek
SUN 4/26  7:00  Int. Al and Cheryl Quijano
          8:30  Int. Italian Catholic Federation #13
          11:00  Luis Castro†
MON 4/27  1:00  Int. People of the Parish & School
          8:00  All Souls in Purgatory†
TUE 4/28  8:00  Kirk & Brydie Kuykendall†
WED 4/29  8:00  St. Catherine of Siena Parishes
          8:00  Special Intention
          1:00  Int. People of the Parish
THU 4/30  8:00  Norberto Quisumbing†
          4:30  Int. Gene V Juan—Birthday
FRI 5/1   8:00  Pily Martin†
          4:30  Int. People of the Parish
SAT 5/2   8:00  Paul Ullrich†
          11:00  People of the Parish
          1:00  Juana Yanez & Gladis Hojas

If you are looking for a way to help your parish, here are a few options:

1) On-line Giving:  www.stcmtz.org
2) My parish App:  CLICK on the “giving icon”
3) Diocesan Support for the Parishes
   Go to the Diocese of Oakland home page
   CLICK on the Giving tab
   Select the Parish Support option
   https://www.oakdiocese.org/parish-support

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE
St. Catherine of Siena Parish Leadership thanks all parishioners and donors who have so faithfully been good stewards in sharing their treasure over the last 20 years. We acknowledge that we have been unable to provide further information regarding the status of the funds from our Building Project (PACE 1, PACE 2, and Fulfilling the Promise). All funds for these projects are held in separate accounts through the Diocese of Oakland Savings and Loan program. A snapshot of the accounts is shown below. We have worked in collaboration with the Diocese of Oakland to facilitate the return or redirecting of your donations. We are happy to share that donors from all three campaigns (PACE 1, PACE 2, and Fulfilling the Promise) will be able to either reclaim or redirect their donations to the needs of St. Catherine of Siena Parish. Our efforts have been slightly delayed by the current quarantine situation, but we are working diligently to get the information to you. Please watch your mail for upcoming correspondence regarding this process. If you have any questions please email stcatherineparish@stcmtz.org

0128 · Diocesan Savings · DAPD
0128.80 · Combined Capital Campaign  180,010
0128.P1 · DAPD - PACE 1  828,639
0128.P2 · DAPD - PACE 2  870,199
Total 0128 · Diocesan Savings · DAPD 1,878,850
Dear Families in Christ,

On Wednesday April 29, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Catherine of Siena, Tuscany, Central Italy. St. Catherine is the Patroness of our Parish family. She was born on March 25, 1347. She came from a middle-class family—the 24th of 25 children of Sienese dyer. Catherine became deeply religious involving mystical experiences and raptures at age 6. She was visited by our Blessed Lord Himself in a vision which influenced her entire short life. At age 28 she was given the “Stigmata,” the imprint on her skin resembling the crucifixion wounds of Jesus. Though she experienced the pain of these marks on her skin, it became visible only, at her death at age 33 on April 29, 1380—the same age as Lord Jesus. In an odd division of relics, her body is in a Roman church, while her head is in a Sienese church. She was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

Catherine refused to marry and in 1367 she joined the 3rd order of Saint Dominic. She attracted a like-minded group in Siena to prayer and good works and devoted her last 5 years to church unity that ended the scandal of rival papacies. She is a patron saint of Europe and Italy, and the Patron of fire prevention nurses and nursing. She was a phenomenal woman—a mystic-prayer, both active and contemplative prayer at the heart of her life. She was a woman of great intelligence and profound insight into the truth of our faith. We have seen in our times a great increase in interest in prayer which reflect what has happened here at St. Catherine’s Parish.

St. Catherine was a peacemaker—a gift which enabled her to bring opposing sides together in both civic, religious and political lives. Folks were drain to her remarkable wisdom and goodness and many relied on her insights to find solution to their problems. Pope Gregory XI (1370-1378) gave her permission to take 3 confessors with her wherever she travelled so that those who came to the faith through her teaching and good works could receive the sacrament of reconciliation on site and have their sins forgiven. She always carried a portable altar so that the priest with her could celebrate the Holy Mass and dispense the holy communion. This “evangelization,” and the conversion of others to Christian faith by her teaching and preaching the gospel based on the holy bible would lead to salvation of the souls.

St. Catherine had a great deal of love for the Holy Father and the Holy See. At her pleading, Pope Gregory XI relocated the Holy See back to Rome, Italy from Avignon, Southeastern, France, which was the former seat of the Papacy (1309-1377), where the Pope had fled during unsettled time. She advocated the true value of the Christian voices in the defense of Christ Vicar on earth. Catherine was very concerned about the sick. The “Black Death” like today’s CORONAVIRUS pandemics had struck Europe. She rallied around herself a group from every walk of life to care for the sick in Siena and surrounding regions.

Here at St. Catherine’s Parish, we have men and women with deep faith and Christian hearts, filled with charity, patience, and compassion like Catherine. They value and follow the moral and spiritual leadership summoned by our Priest, Father Anthony Le, who bear our Crosses with courage. In this arena of love and devotion: We have our two dedicated Deacons, Pastoral Staff, extraordinary ministries, volunteers and organizations who do in-persons interactions, promoting corporal and spiritual works of charity and mercy. They visit the sick at the hospitals, do home-visit communions, anointing of the sick, giving on-line financial supports. They pray for our heroes and martyrs of charity, doctors, nurses and firefighters. They pray for consolation and healing of those who fall victims to this pandemic and their families. They pray in-touch with God with the live-stream-daily mass on Facebook and Website. They pray daily the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Although our Church is empty and our Holiday of joy-tempered with virus sorrow, despite the distance, we feel close to each other and our hearts are awash with fresh flowers, Easter tulips and orchids. Holiness never takes a lot of time—It just takes lots of love of God and neighbor. Amen.

May God bless you all.

C.C. Salonga
Pray Chaplet of the Divine Mercy everyday at 3 PM.
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.

St. Catherine of Siena Novena
April 22, 2020 - April 30, 2020

Immediately following 8 AM daily mass
And on April 26th after the 11 AM mass
A short reflection will be presented by Fr. Anthony Le
about the life of St. Catherine and her teachings.

Please join us in the feast celebration of our Patroness
St. Catherine of Siena
which will be celebrated “streamlined” on Facebook
May 3rd, 2020

A special “mini” concert will be presented by our Music Ministry
beginning at 10AM.

Sponsored by Catholic Funeral Cemetery Services
LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

Today’s readings look back at both the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, remembering the promise given to David that Jesus would be raised from the dead. The Psalm and First Peter look forward to our lives as we await our resurrection and consider the sacrifice made by Jesus. Luke tells us the story of another experience of the risen Jesus. The disciples unknowingly walk with Jesus and tell him of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Jesus himself looks back with them to the promises made to Moses and all the prophets about his death and resurrection. Still they do not know who he is. It is only when he blesses and breaks bread and shares it with them that they realize it is Jesus. Then they race back to Jerusalem to tell the others.

SLOW OF HEART

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, two of the disciples hit the road and try to escape all the uncertainty, fear, remorse, and guilt they feel. They feel the same regret that the disciples feel in Acts and First Peter. They meet another man traveling the same road and are astonished when he seems to know nothing about the events that so occupy their thoughts. These events have consumed them, have broken their hearts, have left them downcast and blind to the very person who joins them on their journey. Their companion, Jesus, takes them through their own tradition, through the Old Testament promise that someone just like him would come, be killed, and would rise from the dead. Though they do not recognize him by the words alone, they do not want him to leave. Lucky for them he stays.

IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Despite all the hints, the disciples do not recognize Jesus. They remain consumed with their own confusion and fear and they cannot see who is right in front of them. It is only with the blessing, breaking, and sharing of the bread that they suddenly recognize Jesus. No words, however insightful, can penetrate the confusion and fear the disciples feel. Through the simple act of breaking and blessing bread they recognize Jesus. Even as their “hearts were burning,” their minds did not know. How often do we not see what is right before us because we are so consumed with our own worries, regrets, concerns? Like the disciples it takes an action like the breaking of the bread, a reminder of the death of Jesus, his sacrifice, to get us to understand what our hearts already know.

TODAY’S READINGS

Acts 2:14, 22–33
Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–11
1 Peter 1:17–21
Thursdays, Apr 30, 2020

Memorial of Pius V, Pope

Set the bar high

Picture horse racing in St. Peter’s Square. Hard to imagine how that worked, but it does give us an indication of the state of the papacy when reformer Pius V took charge in 1566. Though his stern demeanor and reforms did not endear him to comfortable Vatican insiders, he practiced what he preached, living and dressing simply and often walking barefoot. During a famine he used church resources to purchase corn from abroad and distributed it widely to the poor. He also spent heavily to improve the water supply and sewers of Rome. If you wish to hold others to high standards, be willing to start with yourself!

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 (276). “The bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world.”

Friday, May 01, 2020

Easter Weekday

Food for the soul’s journey

What food does to the body is what the Eucharist does to the soul. It gives us energy, strength, defense against disease. It’s intimate, partaken in relationship, in family, in community. It’s a gift, shared in love. If you are what you eat, as the old saying goes, then it transforms us, makes us more like Christ. Finally, we take it with us, out of the church doors. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI: “We cannot approach the Eucharistic table without being drawn into the mission which, beginning in the very heart of God, is meant to reach all people.”


Saturday, May 02, 2020

Memorial of Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Be an ideal person

It can feel lonely to fight for an ideal, including some of the ideals that the church has spoken up for in recent years: immigrant rights, racial justice, dignity of life from womb to tomb. Today is a good day to find inspiration and support in a soulmate: Saint Athanasius, who spent much of his energy as a bishop in the fourth century defending our core belief in the divinity of Christ as the Word made flesh. Hold fast to your ideals and continue to bring them to life.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69 (278). “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Three ways to foolishness—or faith

Some of us are quick to admit we don’t need help in being foolish. We do this quite well on our own. Nonetheless, the story of the Emmaus travelers provides a checklist of choices that lead to boneheaded moves. First of all, they abandon hope too soon. Second, they separate from the community of faith. Third, they discount reports that Jesus is still being encountered. No wonder they didn’t recognize Jesus when he was standing right next to them! Pray with scripture, studies, and reflection so that the faithful would walk over his grave on their knees. And seek the Lord while he may be found.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35 (46). “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!”

Monday, April 27, 2020

Easter Weekday

Saints for all seasons

Six years ago today, Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II were both canonized. Commentators pointed out the apparent differences between these new saints: one known for his progressive outlook in convening Vatican II, one seen as upholding more traditional Catholic values. And yet their canonization was the perfect snapshot of what we believe the communion of saints to be—holy role models who are each unique unto themselves, demonstrating so many different ways to follow Christ. Ask John XXIII and John Paul II to pray for you today, requesting they guide your own distinct path to holiness.


Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Memorial of Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

Exercise your right of redemption

Saint Peter Chanel is revered for having lived a courageous life as a missionary and having died a martyr’s death in 1841 on the Oceania island of Futuna. The later remorse and repentance of his murderer Musumusu is also noteworthy. Having clubbed Chanel to death in 1841 on instructions from the king to “do what was necessary” to stop Chanel’s evangelization, he later repented and was baptized. He asked to be buried outside the church where Chanel’s remains were kept, so that the faithful would walk over his grave on their way to revere Chanel. Even your greatest errors in life can be redemptive.

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30-35 (274). “The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Memorial of Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church

Speak up!

Preaching is a sacred art, whether at a podium or in everyday life, “to communicate the awe of the word,” says Jonathan Edwards, one of the best-known Protestant preachers. A skilled preacher prays with scripture, studies, and reflects on the circumstances of the local and global community to inspire and challenge listeners. Each of us has the capacity to preach the Good News. One of the great saints and a member of the Order of Preachers, Catherine of Siena advises us: “Preach the truth as if you had a million voices. It is silence that kills the world.”

TODAY’S READINGS: Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 (275). “Now those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.”

Join in the Weekly Scripture Reflection with the Clergy —Tuesdays (via ZOOM) 7:00 –8:15 PM
$500 Donated to St. Catherine of Siena for every completed transaction

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