LITURGY SCHEDULE

Pre-Online registration required for 8:30 AM (Outdoor Mass)

SATURDAY:  8:00 AM   - OUTDOOR AND LIVESTREAMED  
SUNDAY:    8:30 AM   - OUTDOOR - CARS ONLY and LIVESTREAMED)  
           11:00 AM  - LIVESTREAMED ONLY (Drive-thru communion after Mass)  
                NO ADORATION  
                RECONCILIATION: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
                Please call the office Ext 6 or email for an appointment.  
                SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Please call the office.  

DAIILY ROSARY:  Monday - Saturday  7:30 AM  
DAILY MASS:  8:00 AM   - OUTDOOR ONLY  
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:  8:30 AM
**PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF**

**PARISH OFFICE:** (925) 228 - 2230  
**FAX:** (925) 228 - 1318

Fr. Anthony Huong Le,  
Parochial Administrator - Ext 6  
franthonyl@stcmtz.org

**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:** PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

Sylvia Lloren Ext. 1  
Office Administrator/Sacramental Coordinator/Bulletin  
sylvial@stcmtz.org

Troy Killorn Ext. 3  
Director of Music Ministry / Maintenance Manager  
troyk@stcmtz.org

Karen Glen Ext. 4  
Bookkeeper / Safe Environment Coordinator / RCIA  
kareng@stcmtz.org

Andrea Watkins Ext. 5  
Director Religious Education (K-8)  
Family Sunday Faith Formation Ministry  
andrewatkins@stcmtz.org

Deacon Albert Dizon Ext. 7  
dcnalbertd@stcmtz.org

Deacon David Holland Ext. 7  
dcnadaveh@stcmtz.org

Paul & Jennifer Holland Ext. 8  
Co-coordinators, Confirmation Ministry  
paulh@stcmtz.org & jennyh@stcmtz.org

**ST. CATHERINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Jessica Griswold, Principal  
jgriswold@csdo.org

**SCHOOL K-8:** 604 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA 94553

**TELEPHONE:** 925-228-4140  
**FAX:** 925-228-0697  
**OFFICE HOURS:** 9 - 1 PM Tues, Wed, Thur.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:**  
http://school.stcatherinemartinez.com

**ST. CATHERINE PRE-SCHOOL** 925-229-2255  
Mea Auld, Pre-School Director  
mauld@csdo.org  
scpschool@comcast.net

**PRE-SCHOOL LOCATION:** 1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA

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

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**PARISH REGISTRATION**

Are you Registered with our Parish? Has your family status changed? If you would like to register or update your current family information with the Parish, you may do so with our new on-line form located on our website, www.stcmtz.org or call the office, and we can help you with any update.

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**Effective immediately:**

The mass schedule has been updated to the following outdoor masses only.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Effective 11/18/2020

**8:00 AM Daily Mass** (Outdoor and Livestreamed)  
The Daily Mass will be held outside behind the sacristy (between the church and the rectory). Please enter on the Studillo side through the black iron gate.

**8:30 AM Sunday, Holy Mass** (Outdoor - Bilingual)  
Please register your car online through the Parish website or Eventbrite. Attendance will be limited to 40 cars. You may sit outside of your cars if you choose.

**11:00 AM Sunday, Holy Mass** (livestreamed only)  
No entrance into the church will be allowed. Drive-thru communion will continue immediately following the mass.

Please continue to sign up via: Eventbrite or on our Parish Website. The link is also available through MyparishApp message and/or our Facebook page.

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“Let’s stay connected” via one of our many social media platforms:

**Parish Website:** www.stcmtz.org

**Bulletin Submission email:**  
stcathmtz@yahoo.com

Submissions are due no later than 12 PM every Friday for the following Sunday.  
Next submission due date: Nov. 27th for Dec. 6th

**Facebook:**  
https://OfficialStCatherineofSienaChurch

**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!
COMING, YOU WHO ARE BLESSED BY MY FATHER.
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
Whatever you did for one of these least ones, you did for me.
Matthew 25:34, 40

THE SERVANT KING
As we celebrate the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, many of the traditional hymns and images for the day are joyful and triumphal. For some, these connotations may be perceived as negative. In these days when there are strong divisions within the Church, and when some government leaders are so far away from the people, we need to hear all of today's scriptures, and draw a bigger, fuller picture of Christ as servant king.
In Ezekiel, we see God as both the tender, loving shepherd and the one who will judge at the Second Coming. This ties in with Matthew’s Gospel and separation of sheep and goats and “whatsoever you do.” We pray Psalm 23 with great familiarity and hope. First Corinthians carefully explains to us the order in which all will happen. This is not an evil dictatorship, or a power-hungry leader, but the culmination of a plan that was carefully laid out in love.

OLD IDEA, RECENT ADDITION
Perhaps it is important to remember that while the image of Christ as King has been known throughout Christianity, this feast was founded in 1925 as a reaction and a response to growing secularism, communism, and atheism that were becoming prevalent after World War I. If we pull back the lens even further, we will remember that throughout history there has seldom been a peaceful time in the Christian world. The Holy Land itself has frequently been a battle ground. There have been schisms and divisions in the history of the church itself, and every church council was convened to try to correct some mistaken notion, world event, or church heresy. Nor has church leadership always had clean hands, and there have been wars, genocides, and insurrections “in the name of Christ.” Today, when more and more people are leaving organized religion altogether, and people identify themselves as “spiritual but not religious” or “nones,” the need for Christ as leader and ruler and guide is more pressing than ever.

INHERIT THE KINGDOM
The world in which we live is complex. We are a diverse, global society and there are many issues and opinions ranging from climate change to politics to creed. Sometimes we try and sort it all out, and it is hard to know who and what to believe. One can find multiple takes on the same news story, and social media can easily sway us. Yet when we focus on the Gospel story, it seems very simple indeed. We do not have to know it all or figure it all out. We are not the one on the throne during the Last Judgment. When God starts separating the sheep from the goats, the formula is a simple rule of thumb. “When did you see Christ in others? When did you respond accordingly?” It does not ask if you are Catholic or even Christian; whether you had a police record or an incurable disease; whether you had a PhD or a fifth-grade education, or what languages you spoke. The call is to remember that “whatsoever you did to the least you did for me.” And then there will be the invitation, “Come you who are blessed. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

TODAY’S READINGS
Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17
Psalm 23:1–2, 2–3, 5–6
1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 28
Matthew 25:31–46

RCIA: “Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults”
Are you interested in becoming Catholic?
If you, or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or has been baptized but not received their other sacraments, this is the program for them. St. Catherine offers a friendly and supportive program.
We are currently in the process of Inquiry.
Sessions are held virtually on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm via ZOOM.
To receive the ZOOM link to join us or if you would like more information please contact: Karen Glen at 228-2230 Ext 4 or Email: sespastoral@gmail.com
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
November 22, 2020

Gathering: Crown Him with Many Crowns 
DIADEMATA/George J. Elvey

1. Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne; All kingdoms of the earth resound In praise of him alone. Awake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee, And hail him as thy risen King For all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave, Who on the third day did arise And hope to sinners gave. His glory now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who came eternal life to bring, Who lives, no more to die.


Penitential Act:

Gloria: Glory to God in the highest...

First Reading  
EZ 34: 11-12, 15-17
Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly. As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

Responsorial Psalm  
PS 23:1-2,2-3,5-6
R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose.
R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.
R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

Second Reading:  
1 COR 15:20-26, 28
Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

Alleluia:  
MK 11:9, 10
R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel  
MT 25: 31-46
Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you..."
gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

**Profession of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (At the words that follow, up to and including "and became man," **all bow**) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Presentation of the Gifts:**

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

ST. COLUMBA / Traditional Irish melody / Henry W. Baker

1. The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness fails me never; I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow With gentle care he leads me, And where the verdant pastures grow, With heavenly food he feeds me.
3. Perverse and foolish I have strayed, But yet in love he sought me, And on his shoulder gently laid, And home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With you, dear Lord, beside me; Your rod and staff my comfort still, Your cross before to guide me.
5. You spread a table in my sight, Your saving grace bestowing; And O what joy and true delight From your pure chalice flowing!
6. And so through all the length of days Your goodness fails me never: Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise. Within your house forever.

Central Vietnam has never experienced something as devastating as the recent floods, which have landed the hardest blow to the Vietnamese people. The recent natural disasters, including typhoons, heavy rain, and floods, have wiped out **34,000 homes, 100,000 animals, 10,000 rice farms, and have left 100,000 people dislocated.** The enormous losses and suffering are incalculable. Aware of the situation, the Conference of Vietnamese Bishops and Vietnam Caritas have asked that both local and international communities help with the restoration efforts.

As a community, we would like to invite you to share your blessings with the people in Central Vietnam. Therefore, in the next few weeks, we will be selling cloth masks (**black, white, grey, and rose**) made in Vietnam. All proceeds and any extra donations will go to Caritas in Central Vietnam.

Please contact the parish office: (925) 228-2230 for more information or to order your masks. Please make our checks payable to St. Catherine of Siena with **“Central Vietnam” in the memo line.** Masks will also be sold after the masses.

We thank you for your generous heart. May God bless you and your family. Please pray for those who are suffering there.

**CRC Cloth Face Masks (made in Vietnam):**
- Outer Layer: High Quality 3D Cut
- 2 Middle Filter Layers
- Soft Skin-Contact Layer - enhanced comfort feel

1 pack: $5.00 (each pack contains 2 masks)
What does Pope Francis do first when he gets to his office in the Apostolic Palace every morning? Check his email? Send out a tweet? Go over his “to do” list? During an audience he gave recently to the Carabinieri (a national Italian armed police force) of the St. Peter’s Company, the pontiff revealed an interesting detail of his daily routine: Every morning when I arrive here in my study in the Library, I pray to Our Lady and then I go to the window to look at the square, to look at the city and there, at the end of the square, I see you. Every morning I greet you with my heart and thank you.

Prayer and gratitude: What better way to start our work day? When we arrive to our work place, how often do we pause for a moment to entrust our work during the day to God and to the intercession of Our Lady? Do we look around us to see (at least with our mind’s eye) those who support and protect us, our immediate coworkers, bosses, etc., so we can greet them, thank them in our hearts, and pray for them?

We might not feel like it; it’s easy to feel a little grumpy some days when we get up to face our family duties, or go to the office (or wherever we work), especially if our morning coffee hasn’t kicked in yet. Also, we might think we don’t have time … but the pope does it, and he’s in charge of guiding the entire Church throughout the world. **If he can do it, so can we!**

Not only will this habit of prayer and giving thanks open us to receive God’s grace throughout the day, but also it can help us to work with greater generosity and purity of intention, remembering we’re always in God’s presence and always reliant on other people. No one works truly alone or is truly independent. We are supported by God’s grace and by countless people in our community who keep society running, from policemen to engineers, from electricians to bus drivers and janitors. We owe them all our good will, gratitude, and respect, even in small or hidden gestures.

Indeed, Pope Francis told the Carabinieri in the same audience that the way they help people each day “is all the more meritorious when it happens in a hidden way, through those small but significant gestures of your daily service. If even your superiors do not see these hidden acts, you know that God sees them and does not forget them!”

If we don’t do so already, now is a good time for us to imitate this daily habit of the Holy Father. Before we start to work, we can ask for intercession from Our Lady (and from any other favorite saints) and pray to God. We can pause for a moment to consider all the people whose work makes our own possible, greeting them and thanking them (out loud, if we can!) and praying for them. **This way, we’ll start our day off on the right foot, in God’s presence and charitably disposed towards others.**
**STEWARDSHIP**
To create a culture in the parish rooted in gratitude and generosity.

**WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS**
November 15, 2020

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<th>Kind</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Weekly Offering</td>
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<td>All Souls:</td>
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<td>World Mission</td>
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<td>CCHD</td>
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<td>School Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Maintenance / Organ</td>
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Activity Center/Gymnasium: PACE I, II, FTP

**Repurposed Donations:**
Week Ending 11/20/2020

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**Reclaimed Donations:**
Week Ending 11/13/2020

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**YEAR TO DATE**
Week Ending 11/13/2020

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**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**
Please be generous in this week’s special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, one in six people lives in poverty. With this collection, you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect will remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins.

For more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.cchdeastbay.org

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT 11/21</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Mary Ann Martini†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:30</td>
<td>Jennie Balestrieri†</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 11/22</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Int. People of the Parish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Thomas &amp; Eva Hernandez Family†</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Souls in Purgatory†</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Cardenas and Polina Families†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON 11/23</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Francis Gericke &amp; Dorothy Ketchem†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE 11/24</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Eustacio Rios†</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 11/25</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Int. St. Catherine School Families</td>
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<td>THUR 11/26</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Special Intention</td>
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<td>FRI 11/27</td>
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<td>Mary Wiemars†</td>
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<td>SAT 11/28</td>
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<td>Jesus Martinez†</td>
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<td>Donald Moody†</td>
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<td>SUN 11/29</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Int. Yollie Dizon, Joy Belleza - Birthday</td>
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<td>William Patrick Foley Jr.†</td>
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<td>Stella Aterrado†</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
<td>Int. People of the Parish</td>
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Thanksgiving Mass
November 26, 2020
10 AM Livestreamed Only
No 8 AM Mass - No Adoration

**DISCIPLESHIP**
To empower a community of Christian people walking together as disciples of Jesus in order to share His good news.

St. Catherine Parish offers deepest sympathy and prayers for the families and the repose of the soul of all who entered into eternal life.

Bernarda Lauro
Angel Rubio
Victims of the Coronavirus

**“We are thankful, For our food, And our many blessings, Thank you Lord,” Amen**

Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving!
St. Catherine of Siena’s 29th Annual Wine and Cheese Fest
Let’s come together to Honor our beloved Sister Jeanne Therese Haskell, C.S.J.

A special memorial bench will be blessed in front of the parish office to commemorate her many years of service to our youth and religious programs.

Enjoy a glass of wine (socially distanced) and share stories of Sister Jeanne and the impact she made on our community.

Sunday, November 29, 2020
From 4:00pm- 5:00pm

The Youth and Confirmation students will be providing supervision of children’s activities in the upper yard for the hour.

Any donations will be accepted to benefit the St. Catherine’s Faith Formation Students, Youth Ministry Program, and RCIA.

If you have questions, contact Andrea Watkins (925) 228-2230 ext. 5 or Jenny Holland at (925) 381-0961

Thank you in advance for all your support!

OPEN for REGISTRATION
Register on-line at www.stcmtz.org

FAITH FORMATION (Grades K-8)
**Parent & Communion Children (required) in addition to Sunday classes.
   Held on Monday Evenings 6-7:15 PM
   *November 16th ;*January 11th and 25th ;
   *February 8th and 22nd
   *March 8th and 22nd ; April 19th

Confirmation registration online at www.stcmtz.org
Contact: Jenny Holland (925) 228-2230 Ext 8 jennyh@stcmtz.org

RCIA “Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults”
Please call Karen at the office, Ext 4 for more information or register on-line through the website.
**St. Catherine of Siena**

**Pastoral Care to the Sick & Homebound**

Do you know someone who is homebound and/or ill & would like to receive the Eucharist or just a visit from a friendly face? If so, please email: Deacon Dave Holland at: daveh@cfcsoakland.org or call (925-413-9240) with your neighbor’s name, address and telephone number. St. Catherine Pastoral Care to the Sick & Homebound will arrange for a visitor.

**ADVENT / CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING OUTREACH**

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, our Advent outreach will look a bit different. This season you are invited to donate gift cards to our neighbors through **St. Vincent de Paul** and the resident families at **Mountain View Shelter**. Although it will appear different, our giving will still be with heartfelt sentiments for individuals and families in need this Christmas. Please provide your donations between **Sat. November 28 through Sun. December 13**. We ask that each of the cards you donate is in $10 increments from Target, Walmart, etc. You are not limited to the number of cards you give.

Please write the dollar amount of the gift on the card. You are welcome to place it inside a holiday greeting card, in an unsealed envelope.

St. Vincent will distribute gift cards with consideration of the number of family members in each household. You can drop off at the parish office during normal working hours or in the mail-slot at anytime before Sunday, December 13, 2020.

For an ONLINE Christmas gift for SVdP or Mtn View, use the parish website’s [www.stcmtz.org gift button](http://www.stcmtz.org). Distribution to our neighbors: individuals and families take place on Saturday, December 19.

Thank you for your continued generosity and participating in this outreach and bringing Christmas to our neighbors in need. Any questions, please contact SVdP President Anne Crisp at 925-787-0857 or annecrisp@yahoo.com.
You decide

The church year ends this week. Along with that we’re invited to consider another ending: our mortality. What goes on in eternity, anyway? Thomas Aquinas declares that God and eternity are the same. When we go from here, we go to God. How we experience the Divine Presence depends on whether our lives have become fully compatible with Love. Francis de Sales envisions Jesus saying to us: “Be it done as you desire; and because of what you have done, come, enjoy eternity.” The desire of my heart will be answered: Will the choice be a life of love? TODAY’S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46 (160). “These will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Mexican Jesuit priest Miguel Pro was executed on fabricated charges in 1927 by a fiercely anti-clerical government. Pro had served the persecuted church by secretly celebrating the sacraments. He was killed by firing squad while holding a rosary in one hand and a crucifix in the other, his arms stretched out in imitation of the crucified Christ, shouting “Long live Christ the King!” His death energized the resistance. We may not be called to such dramatic sacrifice, but can we give up some comfort and convenience to fight for the greater good? TODAY’S READINGS: Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5; Luke 21:1-4 (503). “This poor widow put in more than all the rest.”

Holiness in high numbers

Nine times in the liturgical lineup of feast days we memorialize a canonized person or two “and companions.” All were martyrs and many had been foreign missionaries. Today’s memorial honors Andrew Dung-Lôc, a Vietnamese priest beheaded in 1839 for promoting Christianity instead of the official state religion; he’s joined by another 117 killed in Vietnam, tortured and martyred during the 18th and 19th centuries. Just as we began this month with the feast of All Saints—honoring a multitude of holy unknowns—may every instance of “and companions” encourage us to call to mind the “great cloud of witnesses.” TODAY’S READINGS: Revelation 14:14-19; Luke 21:5-11 (504). “Reap the harvest, for the time to reap has come.”

Raise your voice

Christian tradition holds that Catherine of Alexandria (287-305) was an eloquent young Christian convert who challenged the Emperor Maxentius’ persecution of Christians. That faithful courage led to her own martyrdom. The United Nations has declared today the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, asking the world to recognize that “violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent, and devastating human rights violations in our world today.” We honor the courage of Saint Catherine by paying attention to the violence that others endure, speaking up in defense of the voiceless, and adding our prayers for those whose suffering too often goes unnoticed. TODAY’S READINGS: Revelation 15:1-4; Luke 21:12-19 (505). “They will seize and persecute you . . . they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name.”

Thursday, Nov 26, 2020

Give thanks, indeed

This Thanksgiving won’t be celebrated the way many of us hoped and imagined back when the pandemic started. And yet, we are alive. Most of us reading these words can breathe freely. The virus has reminded us to never again take these simple matters for granted. One of our wisest teachers about prayer, Dominican priest Meister Eckhardt (1260-1329), said: If the only prayer you ever said in your entire life is thank you, that would suffice. Even amid hard times, giving thanks to God is appropriate. Let it be your prayer today. TODAY’S READINGS: Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Luke 21:20-28 (506). “But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

Friday, Nov 27, 2020

Turn the page

The “Book of Life” is mentioned several times in the Bible. A bit like the contact list you keep on your phone, the Book of Life is the figurative expression of how God is said to keep track of those heading for heavenly repose united with the Divine. According to Jewish tradition, God opens the Book of Life on Rosh Hashanah and leaves it open for 10 days, until Yom Kippur. During those days, believers spend time repenting of their sins and amending their lives in order to be written into the Book of Life. If there’s something you need to repent, today is a good day to turn the page. TODAY’S READINGS: Revelation 20:1-4, 11—21; Luke 21:29-33 (507). “Then another scroll was opened, the Book of Life. The dead were judged according to their deeds.”

Saturday, Nov 28, 2020

Call forth your best self

Perhaps you’ve heard that Jesus’ life was foreshadowed in passages from the Hebrew scripture that predated him. But were you aware that Mary’s life and role in salvation history might have been as well? The prophet Isaiah (7:14) speaks of a young woman (sometimes translated as a “virgin”) who will give birth to a son she will name Emmanuel, meaning “God with us.” Mary has been “going ahead” of us for generations, a role model beckoning us to live our best lives, regardless of how improbable, even miraculous, that might turn out to be. TODAY’S READINGS: Revelation 22:1-7; Luke 21:34-36 (508). “These words are trustworthy and true.”
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