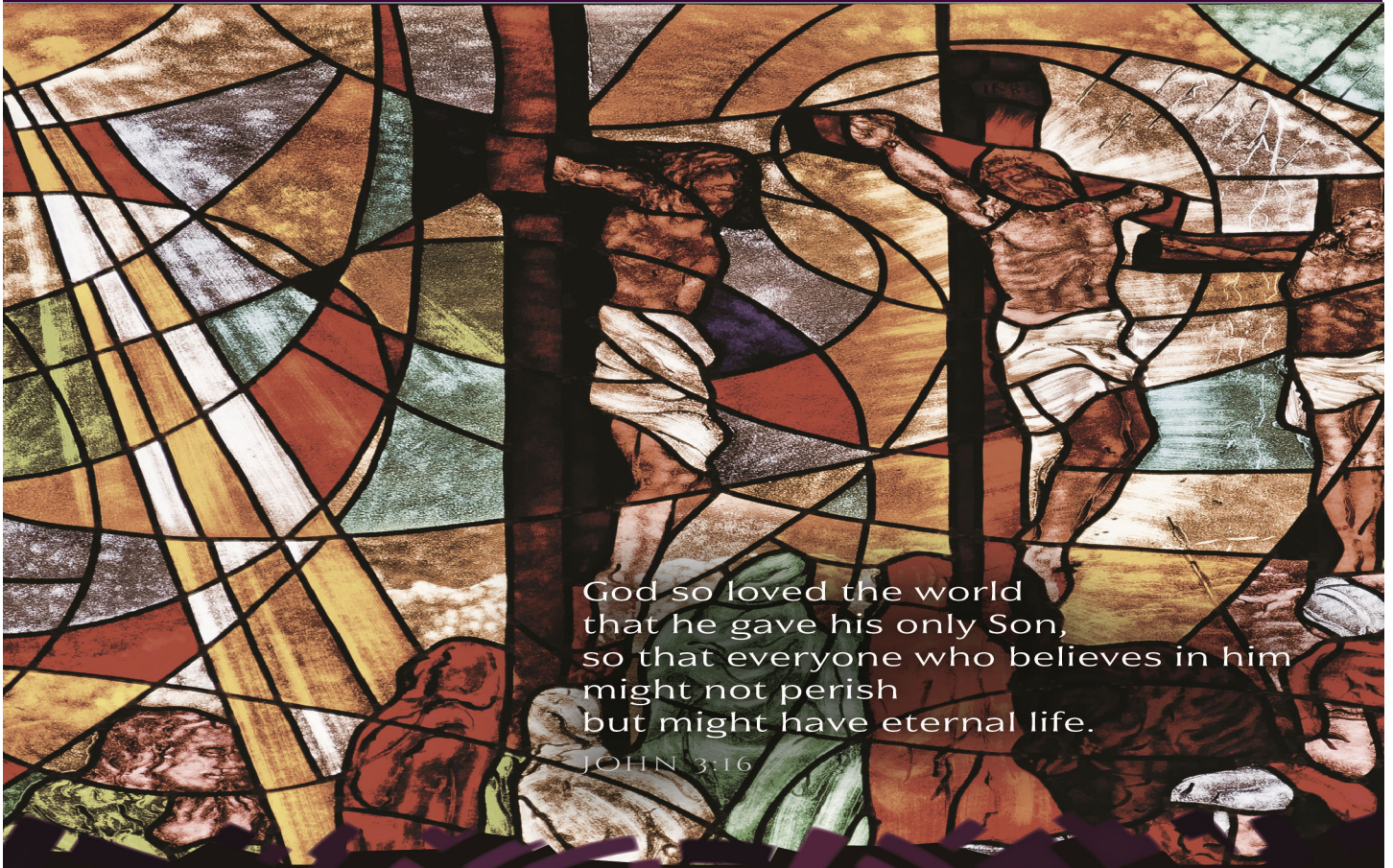


St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church Martinez, California



God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might not perish
but might have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 14, 2021

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. - Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved. Photo: mariniv/Adobe Stock.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES REQUIRE ON-LINE REGISTRATION

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM - INDOOR / LIVESTREAMED SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: 4:30 PM - INDOOR
SUNDAY: 8:30 AM - INDOOR / LIVESTREAMED
11:00 AM - OUTDOOR MASS- LIVESTREAMED (Drive-thru Communion after Mass) 103.5 FM
1:00 PM - SPANISH MASS - INDOOR

ADORATION- TBD (Private Prayer available after weekday daily mass) Please call the office for access.

DAILY ROSARY: Monday - Saturday 7:30 AM
DAILY MASS: 8:00 AM - Indoor and Livestreamed
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: 8:30 AM

RECONCILIATION: 7:15- 7:45 AM Daily (M-F)
Saturday: 3:00-4:00 PM
Sunday: 10:10-10:40 AM (Preschool courtyard)

PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF

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

Fr. Michael Nufable, Ext 6
Parochial Administrator
frmiken@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
CLOSED ON WEEKENDS

Sylvia Lloren Ext. 1
Office Administrator/Sacramental Coordinator/
Communications
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
andrea@stcmtz.org

Deacon Albert Dizon Ext. 7
dcnalbertd@stcmtz.org

Deacon David Holland Ext. 7
dcndaveh@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: TBD

SCHOOL WEBSITE: <http://school.stcatherinemartinez.com>

ST. CATHERINE PRE-SCHOOL 925-229-2255

Mea Auld, Pre-School Director mauld@csdo.org
scpreschool@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

COURTESY REMINDER

Please register your vehicle to park in the upper parking lot. Vehicle registrations are intended for you and your family to remain inside your vehicle. Not for parking your car and sitting outside.

Thank you for understanding and cooperation.

The Mass schedule update

As of 3-8-2021

8:00 AM Daily Mass

Mon-Sat. Indoor & Livestreamed
(No communion is distributed after mass.)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for Saturday Vigil and Sunday, Holy Masses

4:30 PM Saturday, Vigil Mass (Indoor)

8:30 AM Sunday, Mass (Indoor - Livestreamed)

11:00 AM Sunday, Mass (Outdoor - Livestreamed)

- Communion will continue to be provided for 15 minutes after the Mass in front of the church.
- Both Pedestrian and Vehicle registration available.

1:00 PM Sunday, Spanish Mass (Indoor)

Please continue to sign up via:
Eventbrite or on our Parish Website.
The link is also available through **MyParishApp**

“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.
Exception: Early Holiday Deadlines



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 3. Search for St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Martinez.

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!

From the Desk of the Parochial Administrator



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, Lent's Fourth Sunday is called Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday, from the first words of today's liturgy. As on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, rose-colored vestments may replace violet, symbolizing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of Our Lord. Today's readings' central theme is that our salvation is the gift of a merciful God, given to us through Jesus His Son. The lessons give us God's mercy and compassion, the great love, kindness, and grace extended to us in Christ.

In the first reading, taken from the Second Book of Chronicles, we learn God's compassion and patience. God allowed Cyrus the Great, a pagan conqueror, to become the instrument of His mercy and salvation to His chosen people who were in exile in Babylon. In the second reading, Saint Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a gift through Christ Jesus. The Gospel has a parallel theme but on a much higher level. Jesus, the Son of God, became the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but also for the whole world's sinfulness. Through John 3:16, the Gospel teaches us that God expressed His love, mercy, and compassion for us by giving His only Son for our salvation. Nicodemus, the wealthy Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin meets Jesus by night and begins a long religious discussion. Jesus explains to him that he must believe Jesus' words because Jesus is the Son of God. He further explains to Nicodemus God's salvation plan by referring to the story of Moses and the brazen serpent. Just as God saved the victims of serpent bite through the brazen serpent, He is going to save humanity from its sins by permitting the crucifixion and death of His Son Jesus because the love of God for humanity is that great.

We need to love the cross, the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love. Let us try to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities in sharing our love with others during Lent.

Our rebirth by water and the Spirit is always an ongoing process. That is, we must lead a life of repentance and conversion, bringing us to the renewal of life, with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us, through prayer, Bible reading, frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist, and doing the corporal and spiritual deeds of mercy.

As we round the corner toward the great Easter Festival, I pray that your Lenten sacrifices and observances continue to be a significant part of your daily life. May you have a blessed and healthy week ahead.

In Christ,

Fr. Mike

**"Day In and Day Out, For The Greater Glory of God"
"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure" – St. Pope John Paul II.**

Fr. Mike is available for confession from **10:10 - 10:40AM** every Sunday prior to the 11 AM Mass. In the Preschool courtyard. If you choose to make an appointment please contact the office or **Fr. Mike at (925) 228-2230 Ext 6**.

Normal Saturday Reconciliation time 3-4 PM will begin on March 20th inside the church.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish follows Jesus by welcoming all, sharing our gifts, and giving glory to God.



4th Sunday of Lent - March 14, 2021

Gathering Hymn:

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 heav'nly 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.

Text: 87 87; based on Psalm 23; Matthew 18; John 10; Henry Williams Baker, 1821–1877, alt. Music: Trad. Irish Melody.

Penitential Act:

First Reading: 2 Chr 36: 14-26, 19-23 (32B)

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled." In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia,

in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

Responsorial Psalm: PS 137

R. (6ab) Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps. **R.**

For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, And our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!" **R.**

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten! **R.**

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy. **R.**

Second Reading Ephesians 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For

we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ King of Endless Glory

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. **R.**

Gospel

JN 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jess Christ.

Apostles' Creed - (During Lent)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell
On the third day he rose again from the dead
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty; from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts: Wondrous Love

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul? What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; While millions join the theme, I will sing.

3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on! And through eternity, I'll sing on.

Text: 12 9 12 12 9; anon.; first appeared in A General Selection of the Newest and Most Admired Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, adapt. Music: William Walker's The Southern Harmony, 1835.

Sanctus XVIII Holy Holy

Chant

Sanctus, Sanctus,
Sanctus Dóminus Deus Sábaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra glória tua.
Hosáanna in excélsis.
Benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini.
Hosáanna in excélsis.

Letra y música: Graduale Romanum, 1974.

We Proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer / Sign of Peace

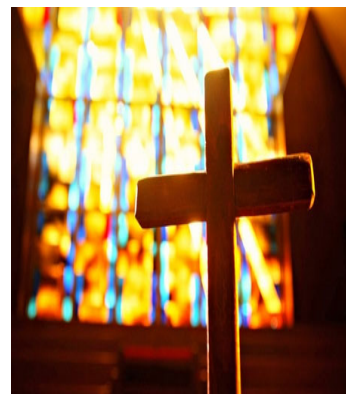
Agnus Dei XVIII Lamb of God

Chant

1, 2. Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccáta mundi:
miserére nobis.

3. Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccáta mundi:
dona nobis pacem.

Letra y música: Graduale Romanum, 1974.



Communion:

Lord, I am not worthy
That you should enter under my roof,
But only say the word
And my soul shall be healed.

Come to Me

Gregory Norbet

Refrain:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy burdened,
and I shall give you rest. Take up my yoke and learn
from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and
you'll find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy
and my burden is light.

1. You, God, are my shepherd. I shall never be in need. Fresh and green are the meadows where you give me rest.
2. Beside peaceful waters you restore my true self; There you lead me to walk in the path of a new life.
3. Should I be surrounded by the shadows of death, I will not fear, for you are steadfast in your love.
4. Before my deep hunger you spread out your feast. My skin you anoint with the richest of oil.
5. Pursue me, O God, with your fathomless love. In your tent let me dwell all the days of my life.

Text based on Matthew 11:28-30; Psalm 23. Original text and music: Gregory Norbet, OSB; © 1971, 1994 (revised text), The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Sending Forth: *All Depart in a Silence*
Please Exit through the side doors of the church.



Stations of the Cross
Every Friday night
7PM.

Please register on-
line through our
Website, Facebook,
or Parish App.

March 25th at 7 PM.

Come and pray the
Rosary with our
Hispanic Community.
Every last Thursday of
each month in front of
Our Lady of Guadalupe
shrine



DISCIPLESHIP

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

Mass Intentions for the 2021 calendar year are now being accepted. Please fill out the form located on our website: WWW.STCMTZ.ORG

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT	3/13	8:00	Sabrina Whitney Case†
SUN	3/14	8:30	McLoughlin & Curtin Families†
		11:00	Jesse Forsland†
		1:00	Int. St. Catherine Parishioners
MON	3/15	8:00	Vilma Costa†
TUES	3/16	8:00	Mary Arnold†
WED	3/17	8:00	Int. St. Catherine School Families
THUR	3/18	8:00	Theresa Narodzonek†
FRI	3/19	8:00	Int. Ritzi Ramos - Birthday Blessings
SAT	3/20	8:00	Souls in Purgatory†
		4:30	Joseph Best†
SUN	3/21	8:30	Mitch & Ann Costanza†
		11:00	Dorothy Stratmeyert
		1:00	Int. St. Catherine Parishioners



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

John Divizich
Maria Morales
Victims of the Coronavirus

2021 Memorial Votive Candles are available to honor the deceased. They are located in the Sacred Heart of Jesus alcove inside the church and can be reserved for one year, renewable thereafter. Forms are available on the website and at the parish office. (925) 228-2230 Ext 1

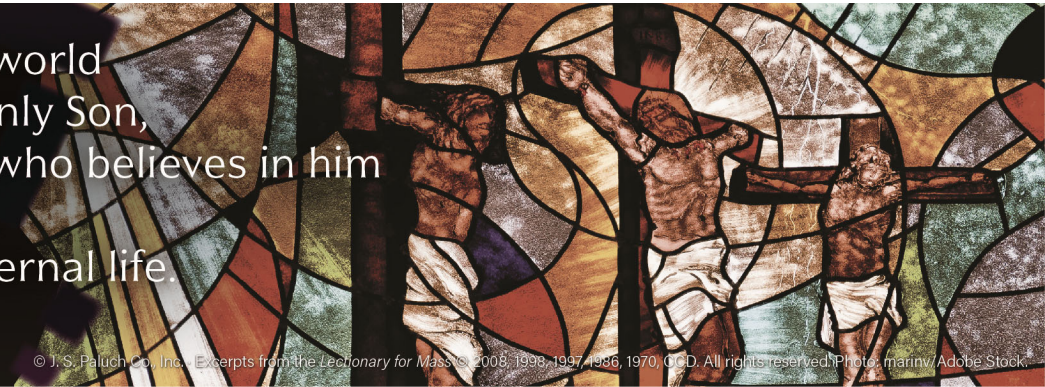
WE NEED LENT. Much as we hate to admit it, our progress in the spiritual life never permits us to get beyond our mortality—which is another way of saying we remain sinners in need of grace and salvation. Even as we advance in habits of prayer, moral behavior, service, and the practice of compassion, we are still hampered by the spirit of temptation. The face it wears may change, but the voice that calls us to disregard God's will for ours remains surprisingly recognizable. Centuries may come and go, but the devil Jesus encountered in the desert is the same rascal who haunts our world today.

In the wisdom of the church, we spend 40 days each year preparing to square off with the opponent of our souls once more. The enemy is us, as the saying goes: We are the ones who rebel against God's laws in favor of the greedy self. Jesus has already vanquished this enemy for all eternity. We need only keep it at bay for another season.

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might not perish
but might have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, C.C.D. All rights reserved. Photo: marinv/Adobe Stock



REDEEMING HUMANITY

The end of Second Chronicles claims that “all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people” were continuously unfaithful to their covenant with God. This infidelity ultimately led to seventy years of exile in Babylon, after which Cyrus, the Persian ruler who conquered Babylon, allows the people of Israel to return home and rebuild their temple; the Psalmist reflects on the bitterness of those seventy years. Paul is lyrical in praising God “who is rich in mercy” and who “brought us to life” with Christ, while the evangelist recounts preaching by Jesus on this same theme. This is the section of John that includes the oft-memorized John 3:16: “For God so loved the world . . .” All three readings emphasize God’s desire to rescue—or redeem—humanity from pain and suffering.

HUMAN HISTORY . . .

Today’s reading from Second Chronicles is the conclusion of these two volumes, a brief summary of Judah’s infidelity under a sequence of kings and the subsequent seventy years of exile in Babylon. This abbreviated sequence recaps the events treated in earlier chapters, concluding with Jerusalem being conquered and its inhabitants deported by to Babylon.

After the Babylonians were conquered by Cyrus and the Persians, Cyrus built the great Persian Empire that covered almost the entire ancient Near East. Unlike the earlier Assyrians and Babylonians, Cyrus did not rule by deporting and enslaving peoples he defeated. Instead, he organized his empire into regional governments and funded their construction projects, ruling over all with the title King of Kings (among others). In this spirit, Cyrus urged the exiles to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple and their native culture. In Jewish terms, Cyrus was a “messiah” (Hebrew), or a *christos* (Greek), someone anointed by God to carry out this divine mission.

. . . AND DIVINE RESCUE

The return from exile in Babylon was second only to the Exodus from Egypt as a founding narrative shaping the Jewish identity into which Jesus was born and in which his church took root and began to grow. If we read between the lines of the two New Testament readings from today, we can see the outlines of this same pattern of God bringing humanity from sorrow into joy: The Hebrews’ slavery in Egypt and the Judeans’ exile in Babylonia reveal a universal truth, that we belong to the God who is “rich in mercy,” and we are assured that “when we were dead in our transgressions,” God “so loved the world” that he sent Jesus to be the way of our redemption, our salvation.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called “Laetare Sunday,” or “Rejoice! Sunday.” Even if we feel overwhelmed by the darkness of sin (our own and others’), wondering whether God really is working on our behalf, we can put our faith in today’s Word that it is so. For this, we can truly rejoice— we are more than halfway to Easter!

TODAY’S READINGS

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23
Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6
Ephesians 2:4–10
John 3:14–21

FOURTH LENT
SUNDAY OF
MARCH 14, 2021



STEWARDSHIP

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

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

		ONLINE
March 7, 2021		
Weekly Offering:	\$ 3,485.00	\$3,282.00
CRS:	\$ 342.00	\$ 25.00
Easter Flowers:	\$ 100.00	\$
Seminary/2nd collect	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00
Maintenance:	\$	\$ 35.00
School Scholarship:		\$ 130.00
St. Vincent de Paul:	\$ 50.00	\$ 240.00

Thank you for your continued support both spiritual and financial.

If you are looking for a ways to help our 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>



LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

The annual "40 CANS IN 40 DAYS" food drive, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will be ongoing throughout the Lenten Season.

Collection barrels will be set up in the outside parking lots for all Sunday Masses. Please drop off your canned goods during this time only. Each family is asked to donate at least 40 cans of food over the 40 days of Lent. The donated cans will be presented to the local food bank. **Please, no frozen food, boxed food or expired cans.** For more information please contact **Orlando Conti at: (925) 586-9071**



This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in disguise. The collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/org/catholic-relief.



BETTER MEALS IN MADAGASCAR

In Madagascar, half of all children are undernourished. That means 50% of kids won't grow to reach their full potential. But communities are changing this by focusing on improving health and nutrition. **What role has food played in your life?** How can you help those who lack access to enough nutritious food. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Activity Center/Gymnasium: PACE I, II, FTP
Week Ending **3/14/2021**

YEAR TO DATE : Household/Individuals

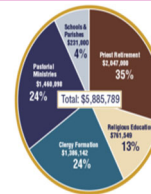
Repurposed: \$791,064.75 254

Reclaimed: \$345,153.90 79

As of 03/14/21 \$345,153.90 has been paid to back to Donor's.



REBUILD MY CHURCH
2021 BISHOP'S APPEAL
2021 CAMPAÑA ANUAL DEL OBISPO



The goal for the 2021 Bishop's Appeal is \$3 million. The funds raised will help offset the costs of services and ministries.

All gifts to the Bishop's Appeal go solely to those purposes listed inside. Funds are never redirected to any other use.

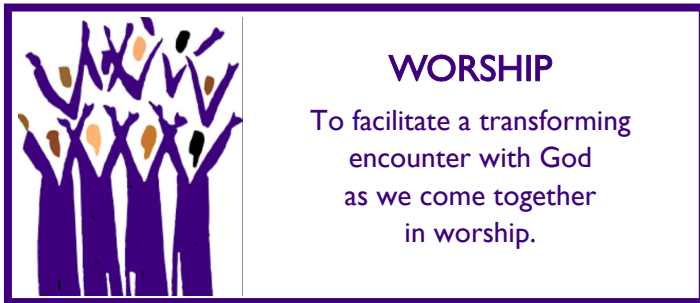
St. Catherine of Siena Parish's goal this year is \$23,000.

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

GOD UPHOLDS ME

I take for my sureties: The power of God to guide me, the might of God to uphold me, the wisdom of God to teach me, the eye of God to watch over me, the ear of God to hear me, the word of God to give me speech, the hand of God to protect me, the way of God to go before me, the shield of God to shelter me.

—St. Patrick



WORSHIP

To facilitate a transforming encounter with God as we come together in worship.



Why St. Joseph is called the "Terror of Demons"

Missionaries, exorcists and satanists all attest to the power of St. Joseph's intercession against demonic foes.

When reciting the Litany of St. Joseph, many are surprised to see an invocation that states, “**St. Joseph, Terror of Demons, pray for us.**”

What does that title mean?

St. Joseph’s intercession against demons is not well-documented, but has been largely been proven by experience.

For example, in the early 20th-century book *Go to Joseph, Our Unfailing Protector*, the author gives a brief summary of how **missionaries** invoked his intercession to drive out demonic influences.

*Sacred writers agree in saying that the intercession of St. Joseph is an **efficacious means of overthrowing the tyranny of Satan** and propagating the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Indeed this fact is borne out by numerous evidences a result of which is that the holy Patriarch has come to be invoked by Holy Church with the title **terror of demons**. **Missionaries** in [pagan] countries are unanimous in acknowledging the help they have derived from St. Joseph to that effect.*

Fr. Donald Calloway affirms this connection by showing how St. Joseph played a pivotal role in the life of **Bl. Bartolo Longo**, a former **Satanic priest**. Calloway writes in an article for FOCUS that, “He was also **very devoted to St. Joseph, prayed to him every day**, and was particularly fond of his title ‘Terror of Demons.’ Bartolo had such a great love for St. Joseph that he told everyone to go to Joseph in their fight against temptations of any kind.”

Longo is reported to have said, “**It is a great blessing for souls to be under the protection of the saint whose name makes demons tremble and flee.**”

According to **exorcist** Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti, St. Joseph has proven to be a powerful aid in his ministry, as he notes in his Exorcist Diary.

If you are looking for a saint to help overthrow a demonic influence, **go to St. Joseph!**



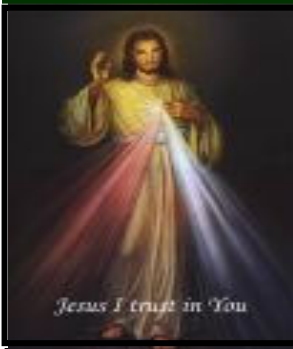
PALM SUNDAY SERVICES MARCH 28, 2021



- 4:30 PM Saturday, (March 27) Vigil Mass - Indoor
- 8:30 AM Sunday, Holy Mass - Indoor
- 11:00 AM Sunday, Holy Mass - Outdoor
- 1:00 PM Sunday, Holy Mass (Spanish) - Indoor

Palms will be provided prior to entering the church.

Registration Required.



**DIVINE MERCY
NOVENA**

**Daily 8:30 AM
beginning on
Good Friday April 2nd
through April 10th.**

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.stcmz.org or call the office, and we can help you with any update.

Holy Thursday - APRIL 1

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer

- 7:00 PM - Mass of the Last Supper (Livestreamed Only)
- Parking availability for 20 cars in the lower parking lot only. Parking registration required.
- Mass will be transmitted by radio transmission for those who register their cars.
- Communion will be distributed to those in the church and parking lot at the time of Holy Communion.

After the Mass, the Church will remain open until Midnight for Adoration.

*** Pre-registration Required**

Good Friday - APRIL 2

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer

8:30 AM - Divine Mercy Novena

9-11:30 Private Prayer

*** 12:00 PM - Seven Last Words**

1-2:30 PM Private Prayer

*** 3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross**

4-6 PM - Private Prayer

7 PM - The Lord's Passion and Veneration of the Cross. (Livestreamed Only)

- Parking is available for 20 cars in the **lower parking lot**. Parking registration required.
- Mass will be transmitted by radio transmission for those who register their cars.
- Communion will be distributed to those in the church and parking lot at the time of Holy Communion.

The Church will be open for Veneration of the Cross and private prayer following the Liturgy until 9PM

Holy Saturday - APRIL 3

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer

8:30 AM - Divine Mercy Novena

8:00 PM Easter Vigil (Livestreamed Only)

- Parking availability for 20 cars in the lower parking lot only. Parking registration required.
- Mass will be transmitted by radio transmission for those who register their cars.
- Communion will be distributed to those in the church and parking lot at the time of Holy Communion.

Easter Sunday - April 4th

*** 8:30 AM Sunday, Holy Mass - Indoor**

*** 11:00 AM Sunday, Holy Mass - Outdoor**

*** 1:00 PM Sunday, Holy Mass (Spanish) - Indoor**

***Car parking available in the lower parking yard.**

READINGS & REFLECTIONS

Sunday, Mar 14, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Don't look at me

During Lent, it's easy to imagine we're scoring points with heaven by all this fasting, praying, and almsgiving. Giving up binge watching for a season, spending 15 minutes daily in contemplation, or funding a different cause each Friday are all worthy activities that may deepen our commitment to faithful living. None of these practices will actually buy us a ticket to paradise, however. Grace is free and unearned, so we can't boast about it. Our Lenten practices are simply our way of saying "Thank You" to the Giver of all good gifts.

TODAY'S READINGS: Year B: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21 (32). "It is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast."

Monday, Mar 15, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Engender cooperation

There have been some famous male/female teams in the history of Catholic religious orders. Benedict and Scholastica, Francis and Clare, Teresa of Ávila and John of the Cross. Another team included Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, whose feast day is today. While Vincent founded the Vincentians, together he and Louise cofounded the Daughters of Charity. Today, there are 14,000 Daughters of Charity serving the poor all over the world. Commit to improving gender relations in your daily interactions. When woman and men feel free to make their unique contributions, great things can happen.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54 (244). "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe."

Tuesday, Mar 16, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Healing water everywhere

The custom of dipping a finger into holy water and making the sign of the cross upon entering a church serves to remind us of our Baptism, whereby we first entered the Catholic Church. But the waters of Baptism do much more, altering our metaphysical makeup in a profound way. Christians adopted the ritual from John the Baptist, but the practice has even more ancient roots. It's tied to the Jewish use of mikvahs, purifying pools—including those mentioned in the Bible, like Bethesda and Siloam—that believers visited to cleanse themselves of sickness and sin. Let your own bathing rituals remind you of your baptismal promises.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245). "They shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary."

Wednesday, Mar 17, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF PATRICK, BISHOP, MISSIONARY

Offer an Irish-inspired blessing

As the church and the Irish, and all who are "Irish for the day," celebrate the feast of Saint Patrick, let's also celebrate what we know of this remarkable fifth-century saint who brought the message of Christ to Ireland. Patrick writes in his Confession of his homeland (Roman Britain), his youthful captivity by pirates, his conversion, and his deepening desire to proclaim God's presence. There is no mention of snakes or shamrocks, but there is strong testament to Patrick's missionary zeal:

"That is why I cannot be silent . . . about such great blessings

and such a gift that the Lord so kindly bestowed in the land of my captivity." Look for God's presence in this day and share your own good news. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246). "I cannot do anything on my own; . . . because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me."

Thursday, Mar 18, 2021

MEMORIAL OF CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Explore the roots of your faith

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem was a scholar and catechist at heart, but he spent years embroiled in the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. He spent 16 of his 35 years as Jerusalem's archbishop in exile over Arianism and political wrangling. Although he died in 386, it took until 1882 for him to be declared a doctor of the church for his significant theological contributions, many written for adults joining the church. In keeping with Saint Cyril's dedication to catechesis, devote some time today to learning more about your faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247). "The works that the Father gave me to accomplish . . . testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me."

Friday, Mar 19, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY;

DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Try a little tenderness

When God's plans collided with his, Joseph attended to a calling beyond the law or custom of his day. He must have felt angry, betrayed, confused. But he also knew something greater was at stake than simply following rigid Mosaic code, which would have demanded stoning a woman found to be "with child" before marriage. Instead, he trusted Mary and trusted the dream that brought him angelic counsel. As Pope Francis said in his homily on this feast day in 2013, "in [Joseph's] heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength." Practice tenderness—the sign of a strong heart! **TODAY'S READINGS:** 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543). "He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."

Saturday, Mar 20, 2021

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Lie low to be raised high

In 1812, six young women joined to devote their lives to providing care and education for Catholic families living in Kentucky. Nineteen-year-old Catherine Spaulding from Maryland was chosen to lead the group that became the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (S.C.N.). Mother Catherine guided the congregation for 45 years, until her death on March 20, 1858. Today 550 S.C.N. sisters serve in 20 states and four foreign countries. Find your own quiet path of humility so that you, too, can be exalted.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53 (249). "Never before has anyone spoken like this man."

**Join in the Weekly Scripture
Reflection with the Clergy-Tuesdays
(via ZOOM) 7– 8:15 PM
Please call the office (925) 228-2230 Ext 4
or 7 to be connected to the link.**

Real Estate For Life

- Buying or Selling
- One Phone Call
- Worldwide
- You Will Be Supporting Pro-Life

"The call is free, the results are priceless."
877-Life-871

Chuck Barberini Real Estate • Parishioner • (925) 963-6606
chuckbarberini.com • CA DRE # 01324660

\$500 donated to St. Catherine of Siena School for every completed transaction.



Muir Oaks Veterinary Hospital

1180 Muir Road, Martinez
372-9200



Melody Herder-Jimison, D.V.M.

catholicmatch[®] California



CatholicMatch.com/myCA

FINDaPARISH.com

Check It Out Today!

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank You

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

The Most Complete Online National Directory of Catholic Parishes

ONE PARISH

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



Download Our Free App or Visit
www.MY.ONEPARISH.com

Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!



Sign up here:

www.jspaluch.com/subscribe

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



Protecting Seniors Nationwide



Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly



- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608



925-228-5242

www.erniesplumbingandsewer.com

PLUMBING & SEWER SERVICE
Since 1965

Lic# 802333

**Plumbing • Trenchless Sewer Replacement
Drain Maintenance & Septic Service • Water Heaters**



If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

✓ Ambulance 24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

✓ Police

FREE Shipping

Solutions as Low as

✓ Fire

FREE Activation

\$19.95 a month

✓ Friends/Family

NO Long Term Contracts



This Button SAVES Lives!

As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!



"I have peace of mind... Mom remains independent."

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352



MDMedAlert
Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide!

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection Nationwide, No Land Line Needed EASY Set-up, NO Contract 24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

Grow Your Business, Advertise Here.

Support Your Church & Bulletin.

Free professional ad design & my help!

email: kwiatkowskim@jspaluch.com



www.jspaluch.com

Call Marcy Kwiatkowski

925.239.1401



Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.

Catholic Cruises and Tours (CST 2117990-70)

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

Catholic Cruises/Tours to Worldwide Destinations

Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email

eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com

www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

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

FD 154