St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Parish . Martinez . CA

February 25, 2018 . Second Sunday of Lent

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

PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF

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Secretary

CHURCH LOCATION: 606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

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TELEPHONE / FAX: 925-228-2230 / 925-228-1318
PARISH WEBSITE: http://parish.stcatherinemartinez.com/
PARISH EMAIL: stcathmtz@yahoo.com
SUBMISSIONS: bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 8:30 AM-1PM & 2 PM-5 PM

GRAMMAR SCHOOL: 604 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA
TELEPHONE / FAX: 925-228-4140 / 925-228-0697
SCHOOL WEBSITE: http://school.stcatherinemartinez.com/

PRE SCHOOL: 1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA
TELEPHONE / FAX: 925-229-2255 / 925-229-2474

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: www.virtusonline.org

BAPTISMS: Registration is mandatory two months prior to Baptism. Parents & Godparents are required to attend a mandatory Baptism preparation class before reception of the Sacrament.

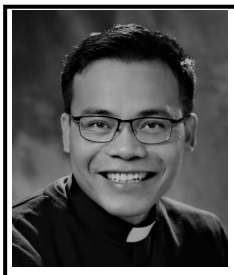
MARRIAGES: Arrangements and mandatory preparation need to be arranged at least eight months prior to the wedding.

FUNERALS: We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services at 925-932-0900. A representative will contact the parish office to coordinate your arrangements.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS: To place an announcement in the bulletin, email request to: **bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com.** The deadline for requests is no later than noon on Fridays one week prior to the date of the bulletin in which the announcement is requested to appear. Please submit requests in advance of the event date and the deadline. Submissions should be brief and will be edited and approved by parish clergy before being published. Allow ample time for the approval process. Every attempt will be made to include the submission when requested; though, not all submissions are guaranteed placement. Marketing flyers/announcements must have approval in the form of a signature from the Pastor, Principal, or Deacon before posting on the premises; and fundraisers must have the name of the designated beneficiary of the proceeds; as well as followed by a gratitude submission which includes the amount of profits raised. The kiosk bulletin board outside the hall is for the parish use for Diocesan, Parish, School, and group announcements.

EARLY DEADLINES: Closely watch early deadlines **imposed by the publisher** and plan ahead accordingly. The next deadline for submissions in the bulletins for the weekend

March 10/11 all items must be submitted by FRI MAR 2 noon
Please direct your inquiries to the email above. Thank you.



From the Desk of the Parochial Administrator

Second Sunday of Lent

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A Tale of Three Great Servants and the Son of God:
Abraham, Moses, Elijah and Jesus

If the first week of Lent invites un into the desert where the temptations are, this week we go up the mountain to gaze upon the magnificent Glory of our Lord, Jesus. In the bible, mountain is closely associated with divine revelation of God. It becomes a meeting between heaven and earth, God and man. There are three great men in the history of God's people who encountered God on the mountain top. They are Abraham, Moses and Elijah.

Abraham. Abraham was born Abram, son of Terah, at the beginning of the second millennium BC in Ur, the capital of Mesopotamia, a highly developed ancient world. Abram was 75 when he got the call from God to leave his home and family behind and follow God into a strange land that He would give him. Abram took his wife, Sarai, his nephew, Lot, and his possessions and departed.

God later changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "the father of many nations," and He changed Sarai's name to Sarah, meaning "princess." God promised that Abraham will be a father of all nations. Abraham laughed at this seemingly absurd promise, because he was 99 at the time and Sarah was 89. When Abraham laughed, God said his son would be named Isaac, which means "he laughs."

Abraham was later put to a test of faith by God to take his son Isaac onto Mount Moriah and sacrifice him as a burnt offering. At the time, children were often sacrificed as burnt offerings to a variety of deities. Abraham submitted, even though he "loved" his son. He took the son up on the mountain and prepared to sacrifice him. At the last moment, God told him to stay his hand and a ram appeared in the bushes. Abraham and his son slayed the ram as an offering, instead.

On that mountain, God reiterated His promise to Abraham again, at this point, and made the covenant binding. The promise remained to be fulfilled (a complete article is found on https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/philosophy-and-religion/biblical-proper-names-biographies/abraham).

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

February 18, 2018	CONTRIBUTIONS
Weekly Offering	$5,062.00
Ash Wednesday	$2,310.00
Bingo	$ 600.00
Maintenance	$ 60.00
SCS Education Fund	$ 10.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Moses. BBC in UK offers a very good summery of his life. According to the Bible, the descendants of Jacob had lived in Egypt for more than 450 years, during which time they grew into a nation: the nation of Israel. The Egyptians, in an attempt to reduce their numbers, newborn Israelite babies were drowned in the River Nile. To escape death, Moses' mother placed him in a basket and set him adrift on the River Nile. The infant Moses was rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter and brought up in the palace as a royal prince.

As an adult, Moses reacted against the unfair treatment of his own people and killed an Egyptian guard. Moses was then forced to flee from the wrath of the Pharaoh. He was driven into exile in the land of Midian and worked as a shepherd for forty years. One day, when he was in the desert, Moses heard the voice of God speaking to him through a bush which flamed but did not burn.

God asked Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. Moses was at first reluctant and God then gave Moses special powers and inspired by this, Moses returned to Egypt and demanded freedom for his people. At first, the Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave, then God unleashed 10 plagues on the Egyptians.

The book of Exodus says that after crossing the Red Sea, Moses led the Hebrews into **the Sinai**, where they spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness. Three months into the desert, the Hebrews camped at the foot **of the Mountain of God**. On the mountain, Moses spent 40 days with God and received Ten Commandments and God re-established his covenant with his people. They are his people and He is their God (for more info visit *http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism/history/moses_1.shtml*).

Before Moses died, he prophesied: "The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people" (Dt. 18:15). Moses went down in history as the greatest Law Giver.

Elijah. David Mandel, a student of Jewish faith, offers a simple outline. Elijah the Tishbite, from the region of Gilead, was one of the two men in the Hebrew Scriptures who did not die but was taken by God; the other was Enoch (Gen 5:24). Elijah prophesied during the reign of King Ahab of Israel.

Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab, was a Phoenician princess, daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon. She exerted a strong influence over the king, who granted her unlimited administrative authority. She introduced in Israel the Phoenician pagan cult of the god Baal, a development that was bitterly opposed by the prophet Elijah. Not only did Ahab tolerate the foreign cult introduced by his wife but he also cooperated with her by building a temple for Baal in Samaria and erecting a sacred post.

Elijah requested an encounter with the prophets of Baal, who were under Queen Jezebel's protection and who ate at her table. King Ahab consented. Elijah confronted 450 priests of Baal **at Mount Carmel** and challenged them to prove who was the true God, the Lord or Baal, by having fire from heaven come down and consume the sacrifice. The priests of Baal prayed for hours without any results, while Elijah mocked them. Then it was Elijah's turn to pray to God. Fire came down on the altar and consumed the sacrifice. Elijah told the people to seize and kill the priests of Baal. The queen was furious and sent a messenger to Elijah, threatening to kill him.

Elijah fled without delay, and took his refuge beyond the desert of Juda, in the sanctuary of **Mount Horeb** *(more from https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/elijah/*).

There, in the wilds of the sacred mountain, broken spirited, he poured out his complaint before the Lord, who strengthened him by a revelation and restored his faith. Like Enoch, he was carried to heaven, so that he should not taste death: "A fiery chariot, and fiery horses parted them both asunder, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (2 Kings 2:11). Many had thought Elijah was the prophet who fulfilled Moses' prophecy. Elijah is regarded as one of the greatest prophets in the Old Testament.

These three great men, Abraham, Moses and Elijah, they represent three greatest pillars of Israel's faith: Promise, Law and Prophecy.

So, what do they have to with Jesus? *They are part of a great plan of God that ultimately fulfills in Jesus through His paschal mystery (Incarnation, Suffering and Death, Resurrection and Ascension).* The Gospel of St. Mark emphasizes this truth in the following passage:

"Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and His clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus" (9:2-10).

Notice what happens here. Jesus brought them up to a high mountain-the place where God made his promised known, given Ten Commandments, and revealed Himself to all. Here both the decedents of Israel (Peter, John, and James), the giver of Ten Commandments (Moses) and the representative of Israel's prophets (Elijah) are in conversation with Jesus. Here then God revealed the Son to all: Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him."

Let's go up a high mountain with Jesus then. As we continue Lent then, let us not be afraid to listen to Jesus and eventually witness His magnificent glory on the mountain top of Golgotha. May we see in Jesus the fulfillment of all we long for.

Yours in Christ, Fr Anthony Le

OPERATION RICE BOWL

ENCOUNTER CESIA: We encounter Cesia in Nicaragua, where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, young people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How can you work to improve the lives of others this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? For more, visit crsricebowl.org

INTERESTED IN ASSISTING AT THE WEEKLY STATIONS OF THE CROSS?
Needed weekly are: **two (2) candle bearers; one (1) cross bearer; two (2) pairs of lectors:** a man and a woman who speak English and a man and a woman who speak Spanish
PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF TO THE PRESIDER & INDICATE WHICH FRIDAY YOU CAN ASSIST. THANKS.

Faith Sharing

Hello, I want to tell you about ministries, my involvement, and how you can get involved. Now, you may be asking, "what is ministry?" Well, by definition it is the work or vocation of a minister of religion. My own journey and my family's journey into ministry began not too long ago.

First, just a little background.

I was not born nor raised Catholic. It wasn't until I met my wife that I began to attend a Catholic Church. It was minimal at first, but then we began to attend her childhood church more and more. When it came time to say our vows, we were married in the church by Fr. Nick Reina. I want to say it was Fr. Nick who opened my eyes. He was very welcoming and made me want to participate in the Catholic faith. Soon after, our daughters came along and we were all attending church regularly.

At this point, I was still not Catholic and had not begun to actively participate. Truthfully, I had no intention. Like many, I was going to keep my head down and cruise along. In 2011 we enrolled our oldest, Isabelle, into St. Catherine of Siena school. This is when it all changed.

Now, at first, I was just going to keep going about things as usual. However, St. Catherine had other plans. Both the School and Parish community were very welcoming. I could see all the wonderful things happening and the people putting in the work to make them happen. After much prayer and conversation, I made up my mind. I was going to become a part of it. It started with me joining the RCIA program. Sister Moira was leading it and had a wonderful team of ministers helping teach. I did this, not just for my family, but for myself. I wanted to have a better understanding of our faith and a closer connection to God.

During this time, I decided to begin my ministry with the school. My first action was to join the school board which I have served on for 5 years—2.5 years as board president. In 2014, I decided to coach CYO basketball and have been enjoying it ever since. I have also been on the school finance committee, created a fundraising committee, and began the School and Parish Jubilee festival that is held annually.

Through these ministries I have learned that it is our responsibility to actively participate. It is our responsibility to help build up our community and keep it going strong. It is our responsibility to increase our bond with God and to spread his teachings. With lack of participation, our bond weakens. With lack of participation, our community shrinks.

So, I challenge all those who aren't involved, to get involved. You don't have to join 10 ministries, but start with just one. Get involved. Find something that you can enjoy. Something where you can put your life skills and teachings to work. Something that will help build this community and make it better than before. For those already involved, I get it, we already do a lot, but if you can, try one more new ministry. Maybe something different from what you have been doing. Mix it up a bit. Most importantly though, continue to spread the word as you have.

Thank you and God Bless.

—Jeremy Cooley

St. Catherine of Siena Parish & School
LENT 2018

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7 PM in the Church includes a Reflection, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction
MAR 2, 9, 16, 23

Experience Forgiveness

Communal Celebration

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Monday, March 19 at 7 PM

Pray and Worship Together

Divine Mercy Novena

Beginning Good Friday, March 30, 5 PM & continuing daily at 6 pm until Mercy Sunday, April 8, 3 PM Mass

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT	2/24	4:30	Toby Trujillo †
SUN	2/25	7:00	Nonnie Chambers †
		8:30	Thom & Eva Hernandez & Family †
		10:30	Salvatore Aiello & Castro Family †
		12:30	Int.St.Catherine of Siena Parish & School
MON	2/26	7:30	Crispina & Rodolfo Salgado †
TUE	2/27	7:30	Lena De Froscia & Tomas Burns †
WED	2/28	8:00	Santo J. Tavormina †
FRI	3/2	7:30	Int. Esther Concepcion--Birthday Blessings
SAT	3/3	7:30	Pio Salvador & Corazon Oco †
		4:30	John Delchini †
SUN	3/4	7:00	Ernest Fio †
		8:30	John DeVito †
		10:30	Young Ladies Institute †
		12:30	Int.St.Catherine of Siena Parish & School

For intentions call the Parish Office

Saints Among Us

Bob Jimison has been the force behind St. Catherine's annual Simple Soup Suppers on the six Fridays in Lent for at least over the past 15 years! He quietly coordinates individuals & groups to prepare a variety of meatless soups to offer to parishioners on these Friday evenings at 6 pm. Join him & fellow neighbors while dining in the hall prior to a Lenten reflection on the seven last words of Christ, adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, & Stations of the Cross—all held in the church. You'll be glad you did.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish & School

HOLY WEEK 2018

Palm Sunday-Passion of the Lord

MARCH 24: 4:30 PM
MARCH 25: 7 AM, 8:30 AM,
10:30 AM & 12:30 PM

Holy Thursday

MARCH 29
7:30 AM Morning Prayer Service
7:00 PM—Bilingual Mass
of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

MARCH 30: 7:30 AM—Prayer Service
12:10 PM —Lord's Passion and
Veneration of the Cross
9 PM—Tenebrae with Communion

Holy Saturday

MARCH 31: 7:30 AM—Prayer Service
Easter Vigil
6:45 PM—Begins in Yard

Easter Sunday

APRIL 1
7 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM & 12:30 PM

I can, You can, We can. Forty cans for Lent

The Knights of Columbus are collecting condiments, cereal, various canned foods (not expired) for the Women's Shelter, Loaves & Fishes, & St. Vincent de Paul
Questions?—Call Jim @ 925-372-6357

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ANNUAL CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER
St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17
Doors open @ 6 pm—Dinner served @ 6:30 pm
For info or tickets, contact: Jim 372-6357or Annette 228-8428

St. Catherine School News

SCS students began preparing for the Season of Lent, but not before a Mardi Gras celebration complete with masks, beads, and a parade on Shrove Tuesday. We even crowned Mardi Gras Kings and Queens! SCS is now enrolling all grades for the 2018-19 school year. Please come and tour our school and meet our awesome staff and faculty. —Diana Corsetti

Q: What are the promises of Mary for those who pray the rosary?

A: The 15 promises fall under the category of "private revelation," and as such are a pious tradition, which a person is free to believe.

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the heart of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered and never overwhelmed by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death (unprepared for heaven). The sinner shall convert. The just shall grow in grace and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.
12. All those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
14. All who recite the Rosary are my sons, and brothers of my only son Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM
SUNDAY: 7:00 AM
8:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:30 AM
12:30 PM Spanish

WEEKDAYS:* 7:30 AM Except Wednesday
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 AM
*Note: Thursday is a Communion Service

HOLY DAYS: 7:30 AM, 12:10 PM and 7:00 PM
If Wednesday:: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM and 7:00 PM

ADORATION: Fridays from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Week-at-a-glance dates, times, & locations are taken from the web site calendar: http:/parish.stcatherinemartinez.com/parish-calendar

Sunday, 2/25		**Second Sunday of Lent**
10:00 AM	PH	Hospitality—Religious Ed Hosts
3:45 PM	PCL	Confirmation Prep Class
6:00 PM	PCL	Youth Group
Monday, 2/26		**St. Isabel of France, pray for us.**
6:45 PM	PC	San Lorenzo Ruiz Community Mtg
7:00 PM	PCL	Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, 2/27		**St. Leander of Seville, pray for us.**
6:00 PM	CH	Choir Rehearsal
6:30 PM	PC 210	Stewardship Committee Meeting
7:00 PM	PCL	LINC Retreat Parent Meeting
Wednesday, 2/28		**St. Hillary, Pope, pray for us.**
2:30 PM	CH	School Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM	CH/SC/PH	Religious Ed—PreK to 8th Grade
6:30 PM	PCL	Legion of Mary Meeting
7:30 PM	CH	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 3/1		**St. David, pray for us.**
7:00 PM	CH	Lectors' Meeting
7:00 PM	PC 210	Baptism Class—Spanish
Friday, 3/2		**St. Agnes of Bohemia, pray for us.**
12:00 PM	CH	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:00 PM	PH	Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 PM	CH	Reflection, Stations of the Cross Adoration & Benediction
	off site	Youth Group LINC Retreat
Saturday, 3/3		**St. Katharine Drexel, pray for us.**
	off site	Youth Group LINC Retreat
9:30 AM	PCL	SVdP Food Distribution
3:00 PM	CH	Reconciliation
Sunday, 3/4		**Third Sunday of Lent**
	off site	Youth Group LINC Retreat
10:00 AM	PH	Hospitality—Choir Hosts

CH = Church **RC = Rectory** **SC = School**
PH = Parish Hall **YD = School Yard** **YS: Youth Shack**
PC = Parish Center **PCL: Parish Center Library**

Congratulations are in order for four St. Catherine CYO Girls Basketball Teams who have advanced to the playoffs this season!

*** 4th Grade National Team * 6th Grade National Team * * 8th Grade National Team * 8th Grade American Team ***

All are invited to join in cheering for these girls & their parent coaches as they enter the playoffs on **Saturday & Sunday, February 25 & 25** at NorCal Courts at 360 Ferry Street in downtown Martinez.

MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTS

Altar Servers
Jack Watkins.....925-957-0437
Art and Environment
Beth Churchill.....925-200-6300
Bingo
Don Brocca 925-858-7330
Catholic Youth Organization - CYO
Gina Marks..... 925-817-9429
Children's Liturgy of the Word
Debbie Frieberg..... 925-212-7465
Communications
Eugene Dizon..... 925-370-8143
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Viviana & Marty Magee..... 925-228-6460
Faith Formation - Religious Education (PreK-8th Grades)
Andrea Watkins.....Ext 30 925-228-2230
Finance
Fr. Anthony Huong Le.....925-228-2230
Grief Ministry
Mary Cook..... 925-229-2665
Guadalupe Society
Guadalupe Cruz..... 925-997-2432
Hospital/Sick/Homebound
Tom Greerty/Legion of Mary..... 925-228-4387
Italian Catholic Federation - ICF
Tom Cook..... 925-229-2665
Knights of Columbus - K of C
Sean Carroll.....925-595-6263
La Communidad Latina
Lucia Cruz.....925-348-2620
Lectors
Deacon Albert Dizon..... 925-370-8143
Legion of Mary
Bobby Kiefer..... 925-658-1442
Loaves & Fishes
Denice Silva.....925-372-0740
Maintenance
Larry Schweinfurter.....925-228-2581
Mary Help of Christians - MHC
Margarita Flores..... 925-812-1279
Pastoral Advisory Council
Karen Glen....925-788-7716 & Karen Sandri....925-370-7997
Respect Life
Linda Easterday 925-372-3845
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA
Fr. Anthony Huong Le.....925-228-2230
Safe Environment for Children Project - SECP
Andrea Watkins.....Ext 30 925-228-2230
SECP: No More Secrets - Survivor Outreach
Sherrie Hammon.....925-372-6091
San Lorenzo Ruiz Community - SLRC
Esther Concepcion..... 925-381-1835
Social Awareness
Anne Crisp 925-356-8822
Stewardship
Karen Glen...925-788-7716 & Mark Poyadue...925-324-1261
Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel - SPRSI
Annette Liberty..... 925-228-8428
St. Vincent de Paul Society - SVdP
Karen Glen 925-788-7716
Ushers
James McLaughlin.....925-228-1051
Young Ladies Institute - YLI
Gerri Alexandra 925--698-7644
Youth Group/Confirmation (High School 9 to 12 Grades)
Deacon Dave Holland.....925-372-7015
Young Adult Group (ages 18 years to 35 years)
Rosemary Cook..... 925-229-2665

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READINGS & REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
SUN, FEB 25, 2018: By special invitation

Who do you bring along when something special is about to happen? We know Jesus took His inner circle: Peter, James, and John. But on one particular outing, that favored grouping expanded into the Jewish equivalent of a fantasy dinner party, with Moses and Eljiah pulling up a chair. No wonder Peter was tempted to linger. And he wasn't wrong: Pitching a tent with iconic teachers of Law and Prophecy is a great idea. Be a student of religious teaching, to appreciate human boundaries. Be a student of prophecy to know when boundaries must be surpassed.

Today's readings:
Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10 (26).
"Let us make three tents: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

MON, FEB 26, 2018: How do you measure up?

In biblical times getting a fair measure of grain at the market meant that the seller had to fill to overflowing the bushel that was used, then press down and shake the grain, repeating the process until the bushel was packed tight. The amount was then poured into the hem of the buyer's garment, to be carried to its destination. Cheaters undoubtedly existed, but they would be discovered soon enough and punished. Though the technology of the marketplace has changed since biblical times, the ethical principles remain the same: Be honest in your business dealings, whether large or small. You'll sleep better at night and prosper better by day!

Today's readings:
Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38 (230).
"A good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap."

TUE, FEB 27, 2018: Be a Lenten do-gooder

Today's gospel reading from Matthew gives us Lent in a nutshell: "Make yourselves clean, cease to do evil, learn to do good." The spiritual rewards for following this Lenten regimen are great. That's why so many of us try—but, sadly, too many of us fail. Our biggest stumbling block seems to be the final step of learning to do good. It's not that we don't know how to be good; we simply fail to make doing good a consistent, regular practice. This Lent, try following these steps toward becoming a daily do-gooder: Volunteer in your parish or community, be helpful and available to family and friends, donate money to charity, act cheerful—even when you're not.

Today's readings:
Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12 (231).
"Make yourselves clean; cease to do evil, learn to do good."

WED, FEB 28, 2018: Listen for the prophetic voice

The Israelites knew one thing about their prophets: They spoke the true word of God whether the message was welcome or not—and frequently it wasn't, even to the point of eliminating the prophet to still the voice they didn't wish to hear. Jesus encountered opposition as well. Plenty of people—especially powerful people—wanted to get Him out of the way, but He and His Gospel live on. Do you hear prophetic words spoken today in our world? How are they received? How do *you* receive them?

Today's readings:
Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28 (232).
"Instruction shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet."

THU, MAR 1, 2018: Heartfelt advice

Sometimes you have to hear messages several times before they sink in, even ones that could save your life. "Don't text and drive." "Eat healthy food." "Get enough sleep." When you do hear the messages, you might be tempted to ignore them because to act on them may be inconvenient or take away time from your other responsibilities. But in the end it's in your own best interest as well as those around you to take life-saving information to heart. That includes the many things from the rich Christian tradition. "Trust God." "Be faithful." "Love your neighbor as yourself." Which will you take to heart today?

Today's readings:
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31 (233).
"If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead."

FRI, MAR 2, 2018: DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE Stick with the important stuff

Remember the treasure hunts of childhood—running around and trying to find something hidden away? Sometimes the clues given were obvious and sometimes they were confusing. But what a feeling when we found what we searched for. How we live our lives gives us clues to what we treasure. Lent helps us look at those clues more clearly. What are the treasures in our hearts? Abstain from the frivolous and find what is important—the love of God.

Today's readings: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (234).
"The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

SAT, MAR 3, 2018: MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, VIRGIN, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER Extend the circle of love

Born into a wealthy Philadelphia family, Saint Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) eventually spent her large inheritance in founding a religious order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and establishing schools and missions for Native Americans and African Americans, including Xavier University in New Orleans, the only predominantly black Catholic institution of higher learning in the United States. The sisters continue Mother Drexel's work today through prayer, counseling, education, health care, social work, and other works of mercy, especially in connection with the poor and oppressed and among Native American, African American, and Haitian peoples. Ahead of her time, Mother Drexel had a special concern for excluded people. Is there someone like that you can reach out to today?

Today's readings: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (235). *"Everything I have is yours."*