

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
Martínez, California



The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

JUNE 23, 2019

**As often as you eat this bread
and drink the cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord
until he comes.**

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM

SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM
12:30 PM (Spanish)

WEEKDAYS: 8:00 AM

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

ADORATION: Thursdays from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

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

PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF

Fr. Anthony Huong Le, Parochial Administrator

Deacon Albert Dizon
dcnadizon@yahoo.com

Jessica Griswold, Principal
Saint Catherine Elementary School
jgriswold@cscdo.org
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Pauline Porter
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BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS DEADLINES:

All items must be submitted by Fri, **June 21** by noon for July 7
Please direct your inquiries to:

bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com

All submissions must be submitted via email and
copy/camera/paste ready.

CHURCH LOCATION: 606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

PARISH OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS: 1125 Ferry Street,
Martinez, CA 94553-1720

TELEPHONE / FAX: 925-228-2230 / 925-228-1318

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stcmtz.org

PARISH EMAIL: stcathmtz@yahoo.com

NEW

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thur. 8:30 AM - 1 PM
2:00 PM - 5 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM - 1 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

RCIA: "Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults"

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?

Do you need Adult Baptism?

Holy Eucharist (Communion)? Confirmation?

St. Catherine offers a friendly and supportive program.
Please call the office for more information.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

BAPTISMS:

Registration is mandatory two months prior to Baptism month. Please call the office to make an appointment once you have your documents ready. Parents & Godparents are required to attend a mandatory Baptism preparation class one month before reception of the Sacrament.

All information, requirements and schedules, can be found on the website at www.stcmtz.org

FIRST EUCHARIST:

The Religious Education Program Registration begins in August and classes start in September. The First Holy Communion program is a two year program. All other classes are one year (K-8).

CONFIRMATION:

Youth Confirmation Program Registration begins in August. It is a one year program for all incoming Freshmen or above. Please contact: Paul or Jenny Holland at jenniferdevita@gmail.com for more information. For Adult Confirmation, please call the office.

MARRIAGES:

Arrangements and mandatory preparation need to be arranged at **least eight months** prior to the wedding. No dates can be set prior to an initial meeting with a priest. No exceptions.

RECONCILIATION:

Confession times are weekly on Saturday's from 3:00 - 4:00 PM and by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is the continuation of the Lord's compassion for the sick. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of two sacraments which heals and saves the baptized person from sin. The other sacrament of healing is Penance. For an anointing during working hours, please call the Parish office.

FUNERALS:

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

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 from the parish. Thank you.



WORSHIP

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT	6/22	4:30	Gianni Olani †
SUN	6/23	7:00	Joe Balestrieri †
		8:30	Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish
		10:30	Erlinda & Agapito Bonifacio †
		12:30	Louisa Doña and "Otto" Doña †
MON	6/24	8:00	Benjamin Nano †
TUE	6/25	8:00	Richard Brouette †
WED	6/26	8:00	Int. Paula Bocanegra Birthday Blessing
THU	6/27	8:00	Special Intention
FRI	6/28	8:00	Dolores Cardenas & Julia Polina †
SAT	6/29	8:00	Pili Martin †
		4:30	Barry Jackson †
SUN	6/30	7:00	Mary Rose †
		8:30	Ramona & Clemente Lejano †
		10:30	Ann Burnside †
		12:30	Int. Saint Catherine of Siena Parish



STEWARDSHIP

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

June 16, 2019 WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday Collection	\$ 4,381.00	Weekly Offering 
Fulfilling the Promise	\$ 561.00	
Catholic Communications	\$ 50.00	
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 500.00	
Divine Renovation	\$ 1,500.00	

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Catherine Parish offers
deepest sympathy and prayers for the family; and,
the repose of the soul of
Antoinette L. Sullivan
who entered eternal life.



The Sacrament that defines us

Alice Camille

Where did the feast originally known as Corpus Christi come from? Many believers will be hard pressed to explain the difference between Maundy Thursday and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, and for good reason. Both celebrate the events of the Last Supper and how Jesus sealed his relationship with his friends for all time in surrendering his life for them as food. Sources as early as the fourth century attest to the commemoration of the Last Supper during Passion Week. Corpus Christi, however, did not become a universal feast of the church until 1264.

The best explanation for the official recognition of the second feast is that the first one became overloaded. By the seventh century, Holy Thursday was also the day when penitents were publicly reconciled to the church, and by the eighth century it became the day for blessing the holy oils (later separated out as the Chrism Mass). But as the word "Maundy" suggests (from the Latin phrase *mandatum novum* or "new command"), Holy Thursday has been most familiarly associated with the ritual of the washing of the feet since the 13th century. The original emphasis on the origin of our Eucharist was crowded into a forest of symbol and ritual. In a week already dominated by the sadness of Christ's Passion, some felt that a more joyful celebration of the institution of the sacrament might be better observed when it could properly assume the spotlight.

The dark spot on the moon

The early church fathers exhorted believers to fix their gaze on the host regularly. Each day the faithful had the opportunity to look upon the same body that was given up for their sake, and it would be a grave mistake to forego that opportunity. Christians became preoccupied with the vow to see the host on the day they were to die—and because most of us don't know what day that is, it required daily visits to the church where the permanent presence of the Eucharist resided in the tabernacle. Contemplation of the host became more widespread than receiving Communion. The exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was popularized on certain feast days, and by the 16th century, "Forty Hours" of adoration were practiced.

The Sacrament that defines us (Cont.)

It was in this devotional climate in the 13th century that Juliana of Mont Cornillon (a.k.a. Juliana of Liège) became the proponent of a special feast day for the Body and Blood of Christ. Juliana, born in what is now Belgium, received a vision of a bright moon marred by one dark spot. She perceived it as an image of the church in the absence of one great solemnity. Through her efforts and in the face of much contradiction and personal suffering, Juliana won adherents to her cause, most notably a local cleric who would become Pope Urban IV and would elevate the feast to universal recognition. Thomas Aquinas himself wrote the text for the liturgy, which has been much admired by Catholics and Protestants alike for capturing the beauty of our Eucharist.

The Body and the Blood

The story of the loaves and fishes we hear today reminds us of the abundance we are offered when it is the Lord who sets the table. Our feast day is celebrated in the name of the Body *and* Blood of Christ to clarify what the solemnity always intended to commemorate: the total gift of Christ that is available to the church. We eat this bread and drink this cup, but that is not all. We *are* the Body and Blood of Christ as well. We who receive the sacrament of the church become, as one theologian put it, the sacrament for the world at large. When we embrace the Christian vocation to be *sacrament*—the medium of God’s presence, grace, and compassion among us—then this solemnity reaches the fullness of its meaning. So long as we honor only the sacred elements on the table, we render the vitality of this event to an inert expression of piety.

Jesus gives out food to the multitude, to detractors as well as disciples, believing and doubtful alike, ready or not. Until we are prepared to bring *ourselves* as food to society at large and do not adjudicate between the deserving and the undeserving as Dorothy Day warned we are tempted to do, then the miracle of loaves and fishes putters to a stop in this generation, the basket finally and fatally empty.

The story is told of the Curé of Ars, who came upon a humbly dressed old man sitting before the Tabernacle greatly intent upon it. “What are you doing here, hour after hour?” the cleric asked the fellow. The old man replied with great simplicity: “I look at him. He looks at me.”

This rapt attention to the Real Presence has a surprising dynamic component. Contemplation is not merely looking at God but the awareness that God has an eye on us as well and is fully intent on us, as lovers are when they gaze in wordless adoration at one another. This kind of contemplation is likewise conversation, sharing and revealing the self to another at a passionately deep level. What passes between lovers in the time of adoration brings them one step closer to union. Once united, the two become identified as one and are inseparable in profound ways. So we become inseparable from the identity of Christ in our reception and contemplation of the sacrament.

Applying the word

Claiming the identity

Contemporary worship has moved away from pockets of silence and opportunities for contemplation. We might see this as an invitation to encourage other specifically contemplative hours both communal and private for the edification of our communities. But it is important that contemplation go hand in hand with the practice of receiving the sacrament and that identifying ourselves within the Body of Christ remains the goal of both practices. Any sacrament that stops at the door of the church lacks the component of generosity Jesus demonstrated to the multitude. If our lives do not become food for the world as a result, we turn the grace of the sacrament into a selfish act.



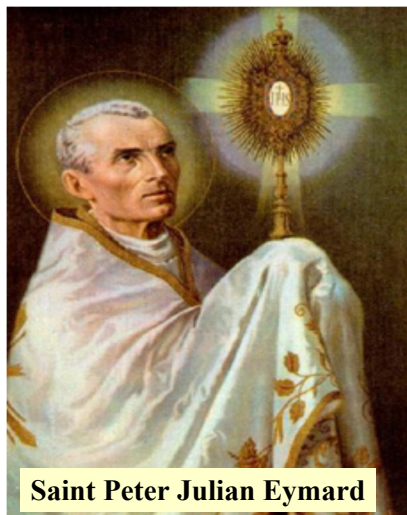
DISCIPLESHIP

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

**Please note, in July due to the 4th of July holiday, we will gather to pray for priests on July 11th, the second Thursday. The remainder of the year we*

Beneath His Cross, Apostolate of Prayer for Priests

Feeling moved by the Holy Spirit to share this message with you, I will speak boldly: Those of you who already pray for priests, where are you?! “On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of the Promise was poured out on the disciples, gathered ‘together in one place’ (Acts 2:1).



Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Can you make the time to gather “together in one place?” Praying for priests together, in a cenacle before the Blessed Sacrament is important! Our priests need your daily personal prayers, AND more than ever fervent prayers united with other disciples, united with your brothers and sisters before the Blessed Sacrament! We call upon priests in the most significant, life and death moments of our own lives; in gratitude, give back to our priests, pray for their needs in their human frailty, plead with God to make all priests holy, those who are already serving and those who will be called to the consecrated life...it is the least we can do! I am pleading with you to make it a priority to sacrifice 90 minutes, once a month for our priests. I am so grateful to the eight people who regularly come to pray for priests on 1st Thursdays. Forgive me for my boldness, for I am speaking out of love and necessity for our priests...only eight is not good enough. These men we call priest are Alter Christus for us and carry out the work of salvation here on earth; it ought to look like Easter Sunday on 1st Thursdays, bursting with people there for Christ because our priests need our support and fervent prayers. Those of you

who already pray for priests, are not prevented by illness, and are physically able to be at church the 1st Thursday of each month at 6pm during Adoration, we, the Body of Christ needs you to make this sacrifice for our priests.

Sincerely, your sister in Christ,
Jessica Preciado

Excerpt from a tribute written by Fr. Wolfgang Seitz, ORC

“...The Lord once told His disciples, “You are the salt of the earth” (Mt 5:13). With this expression, Jesus refers to all Christians, but especially to those called to labor in His vineyard. Through his fidelity, the life of a priest serves as salt in the eyes of God, making the whole people of God pleasing to Him. But what keeps the salt salty and useful is not just the faithfulness of the priests to their own vocation, but also the prayers and sacrifices and aid offered in support of them. Jesus Himself prayed for His Apostles, the first priests. Fr. Bill was keenly aware of his need for the prayers and support of others during his life. He would often ask people to pray for him. And many people in fact did pray and request Holy Masses for him so that he could remain a dedicated priest to the end.

There are so many priests—young, old, inexperienced, wise, weak, struggling, suffering, burden-bearers—all of them need our prayers. Often we perceive their weaknesses, faults and even sins, because in their human weakness they have to struggle with the effects of Original Sin like anyone else. Nevertheless, we must always remember that they are the primary targets of the Evil One. For Satan knows that when a good priest falls, he takes a thousand souls with him. When God allows us to see priests failing in their ministry we should not take this as an opportunity to criticize him, but we should understand it as God's appeal to us for prayer and sacrifice for His priests. As we have seen in past letters, the priesthood is a gift, one of the greatest gifts God has left for us on earth. For it draws down for us God Himself in the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. Let us therefore show our gratitude to God for this gift, for all his faithful and holy ministers, for all His hidden servants of the Word and of the Blessed Sacrament. We show our gratitude by both the material and spiritual support of these ministers of God. **What we do for priests, we do for Christ.**

We thank all of you, therefore, for your commitment to the Crusade for Priests this last year. Let us continue to pray and sacrifice with even greater fervor in this New Year for the sanctification of God's priests! All your little acts of love for priests, even the smallest, offered in union with the one Sacrifice of Christ are great in the eyes of God and bear fruits of holiness in His priests! May God bless and reward you all for the love you have for the priesthood!”



FACILITIES

To assure that our Church and facilities testify to the greater honor and Glory of God.

Devine Renovation Begins



*“Can you feel the Excitement”?
The pews are currently undergoing restoration.
They are enjoying their spa treatment in Los Angeles.
Up next... Wall repair, cleaning and fresh first coat of paint.
Stay tuned for more wonderful Renovation news.*

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday, 6/23

1:45 PM CH
2:00 PM CH
4:00 PM PH

The Most Holy Body And Blood of Christ

Corpus Christi Procession to Polish Church
No Baptisms
Youth Group Year End Wrap-up

Monday, 6/24

7:30 AM CH
10:30 AM CH
6:45 PM PCL

Rosary
Funeral—A. Sullivan
San Lorenzo Ruiz Meeting

Tuesday, 6/25

7:30 AM CH
6:00 PM CH
7:00 PM PC

Rosary
Choir Rehearsal
Scripture Reflection with Clergy

Wednesday, 6/26

7:30 AM CH
8:30 PM PC
6:00 PM PC
6:15 PM PH
6:30 PM PCL

Rosary
Office Closed
5 Yrs of Grace Leadership Mtg.
IGNITE Bible Study
Legion of Mary

Thursday, 6/27

7:30 AM CH
12:00 PM CH
8:00 PM CH

Rosary
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Benediction

Friday, 6/28

7:30 AM CH

Rosary

Saturday, 6/29

7:30 AM CH
9:00 AM PH
11:00 AM CH
12:00 PM PCL
1:00 PM CH
3:00 PM CH

Rosary
Reception Set-up
Guadalupe Anniversary Mass
IGNITE Bible Study
Wedding
Reconciliation

Sunday, 6/30

8:00 AM PH

Hospitality - Thank You
Endonilla Family

NO Baptisms or classes will be conducted during the months of JULY and AUGUST.

We will resume our normal schedule in September.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Monday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Tuesday: Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time
Thursday: St. Cyril of Alexandria
Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday: Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles



Interested in being an ACOLYTE

Young Men ages 14-18
who have already served as an Altar Server.

We are seeking your help.

For more information,
please contact:

Dc. Albert Dizon (925) 324-3589
or Fr. Anthony Le (925) 228-2230

Dear Catechists, Families, and Friends,

May this letter find you well and blessed in the Risen Christ.

As we approach the end of our faith formation year, with sincere gratitude, we thank you all for working hard to provide religious education to our children and youth. As we get ready for next year, we would like to share with you an exciting approach to Faith Formation.

This year of **2019-2020** St. Catherine of Siena Parish will be adopting a new approach of providing faith formation. It is called: **Sunday Family Faith Formation Ministry**. This initiative includes preparations for First Holy Eucharist (Communion), First Reconciliation, and Confirmation. **First Holy Communion and Reconciliation** preparation will take place over a few months, beginning in the Fall and leading up to the celebration of the Sacrament in Spring. **Confirmation** preparation will be a one year-long process beginning in September and ending in June.

What is Sunday Family Faith Formation Ministry?

When we think about religious education or faith formation, for many years our focus was on the children. And rightly so! It is our responsibility as baptized Catholics to raise our children in the faith. It is also our responsibility to continually celebrate with and participate in the community of faith. Furthermore, we are called to learn, renew, and refresh ourselves as adults; to seek those moments when our hearts are turned a bit more in the direction of God so we can be the best possible models of Christian life for our children and community. *If we, as adults, are not celebrating, participating, learning and seeking God, can we expect faith to take root in the hearts of our children? Can we expect them to have God, the Church and Catholic faith for life?*

What are some guiding principles?

First, our faith informs us. It is in gathering, encountering, and celebrating the Risen Lord's Incarnation, Suffering, Death, and Resurrection on the first day of the week (Sunday) that we are transformed and sent into the world to share his Good News as His disciples. Because of this truth, Sunday has always been the Lord's Day where we come to praise, pray, give thanks, and feast on the Word, the Body, and Blood of our Lord in the Eucharist.

Convinced by this truth, we are determined to build a new Sunday Family Faith Formation Ministry which will be a transforming process of lifelong learning and formation in the Catholic faith for our community and families, both children and adults. Therefore, this new ministry will focus on the primacy of the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration (the Holy Mass) because it is the source and summit of our life in Christ.

Second, together as families, children, teens, and adults, are all called to not only participate in the liturgical life of the Church, but also to deeply grow in knowledge of the Catholic teachings.

Third, we will together embrace the study of Scripture and the Christian way of life and moral formation according to the moral teachings of the Church.

Fourth, the Church teaches that both individual and communal (public) prayer are essential elements of how we experience God.

Fifth, the building up of our community and evangelization will happen when we worship, learn, and share the Catholic faith together.

Sixth, by nature we are a missionary community of faith, called to make disciples. Our Lord has commissioned us all to make disciples of all people. It is our Christian responsibility not only to follow Him, but also to bring others to Him.

Sunday Family Faith Formation Ministry: What does it look like?

First and foremost, we come together to worship and celebrate Christ's Paschal Mysteries in the context of the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration. Therefore, weekend Masses are the heart of our parish life and faith formation. This means that the Sunday Gospel and worship experience are the beginning and the end goal of all parish ministries, meetings, and gatherings. That is, we come to Him first, and after having an encounter with and being fed by Him, we go about our entrusted duties.

Secondly, after the Holy encounter with God in the context of the Holy Mass, communities of intergenerational Catholics are encouraged to experience Christian hospitality in the Parish Hall and then to learn more about the essential teachings of the Catholic faith. We believe that lifelong spiritual and faith formation of adults has also grown in importance in our parish life.

Because faith formation of children remains a very important part of our community, our children/teens will learn about the faith with our catechists.

Thirdly, we hope to provide households/families an opportunity and environment to engage in faith formation and prepare for the celebration of Sacraments as a family unit. The more families participate, celebrate, and learn together the Catholic faith, the closer the relationship with God and with each member will become. As a result, the more Christ-like the community of faith will become.

Who is involved in Sunday Family Faith Formation Ministry?

We are all involved! We are one community of faith, the one Body of Christ. Whether we are parents with children attending public school or attending Catholic school, married, single, empty nesters, retired, or working, we are all called to be active participants in the Sunday Mass. We are lifelong learners in the Catholic faith, and people who welcome Christ into our hearts and homes.

Liturgical ministries, Stewardship, Hospitality, Ignite, and Faith Formation will work together to achieve one mission: To facilitate an amazing experience of encountering the Lord in both worshipping during the Holy Mass and learning about the Catholic faith.

How would Sunday Family Faith Formation Ministry be implemented?

Below is the outline of the structure for Sunday Family Faith Formation Ministry. This includes both regular faith formation for children from preschool to 8th grade and confirmation from 9th to 11th grade.

Suggested format (Changes possible)

Part I. Faith Formation (preschool to 8th grade)

8:30 Parents and children are expected to celebrate the 8:30 Holy Mass
9:30ish Hospitality
Parents are invited to hospitality, presentation, and sharing in the Hall
Children are sent immediately after the Holy Mass to the Hall with their parents and later dismissed to the classrooms.
10:45ish Parents and children gather in the Hall for dismissal

Part II. Confirmation (9th to 11th grade)

11:00 Parents and children are expected to celebrate the 11:00 Holy Mass
12:00ish All are invited to Hospitality in the Hall
12:30ish Presentation (both) presentation and Sharing for Parents in the Hall
Confirmation candidates are dismissed to have presentation and sharing in the Parish Office/or in the School with leaders.
1:45ish Dismissal

Part III. Youth Ministry (For all youth who have received confirmation) This is in progress. We hope to build an active youth ministry where our students who already received the Sacrament of Confirmation will continue their journey of faith and stay actively connected with the community.

Please note that family and parish-wide events will be added to the curriculum. In this way, adults will find opportunities to get involved in learning more Catholic teachings. There will be retreats, small groups, and faith sharing on Scripture available. The current curriculum for elementary and youth Sunday Family Faith Formation will be enhanced with more family-oriented materials and resources.

We believe this change will wonderfully impact our community. Nonetheless, we understand you might have some concerns and questions. Please contact us **Mrs. Andrea Watkins** @ drestcath@yahoo.com for children faith formation, First communion and Reconciliation or **Mr. & Mrs. Paul and Jenny Holland** @ stcathym@gmail.com for Confirmation and Youth Ministry.

Fr Anthony Le Parochial Administrator, Mrs. Andrea Watkins Director of Religious Education Mr. & Mrs. Paul and Jenny Holland Confirmation/Youth Coordinators, Mrs. Cindy Buscaglia and Ignite & Discipleship Team, Mrs. Debbie Pelizzari and Hospitality Team, Dn. Albert Dizon and Liturgy Committee



Please join us and celebrate with St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County at this free event acknowledging the SVdP Community in Contra Costa for the work they do to help our neighbors-in-need!

St. Vincent de Paul volunteers, “Vincentians”, are building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. The prestigious **Top Hat award** will be presented (posthumously) to Ron Weston, St. Joan of Arc, for his many years of service and dedication of SVdP.

Attendees will also receive a special gift in gratitude for their ongoing support of SVdP.

Saturday, June 29th 5:00pm – 7:00pm
St. Stephen Church

1101 Keaveny Ct. Walnut Creek, CA 94597

RSVP by doing one of the following:

Call (925) 439-5060 or Email info@svdp-cc.org

Please include names and numbers of attendees

READINGS & REFLECTIONS

Sunday, Jun 23, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUSCHRISTI)

Remembering makes the past present

Watching a performance of Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton* or a movie like Steven Spielberg's stirring portrait of Abraham Lincoln does more than momentarily bring these historical individuals to life again. They also thrill us with the possibilities inherent in American liberty. We are the heirs of this grand experiment. We too participate in making a better nation. In a more visceral way, sharing our Holy Communion awakens once more the life of Christ that we inherit. Christ is present in the bread, the wine—and us. What will you do with the Christ in you? TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 14:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 9:11b-17 (169). *"This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Monday, Jun 24, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Expect the unexpected

What else would we expect from a kid whose first act in scripture is a dancing leap in the womb? Something startlingly new is afoot here. In a patriarchal culture, when the father doesn't name the child, and the mother stoutly gives his unexpected name, stand back! The stage is set. The question asked about John could be asked of every newborn: "What, then, will this child be?" God seems to enjoy unsettling the status quo. We like to hunker safely in custom and tradition. God likes surprises: Let's be attuned to those.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80 (587). *"From my mother's womb [God] gave me my name."*

Tuesday, Jun 25, 2019

The way can be narrow

When the saints go marching in, who will be in the parade? Some would have us think only a select few will walk the road to salvation. Others feel their own unworthiness will send them permanently to the row of spectators. Still others think the road so wide that everyone will make it in the end, however they lived. The decision about who gets to go to God is ultimately up to God. It's not for us to guess the inner workings of the divine mind or put fences around God's mercy. The difficulty is not in figuring out who gets saved but in meeting the challenge of doing what God wants for us. Fortunately the gift of scripture and 2,000 years of church tradition show us the way. TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 13:2, 5-18; Matthew 7:6, 12-14 (372). *"Enter through the narrow gate."*

Wednesday, Jun 26, 2019

The trees remember

There is an amazing group of olive trees surrounding Jerusalem's Church of All Nations, which itself was built around the rock on which it is said Jesus prayed in agony the night before his Crucifixion—commonly known as the Garden of Gethsemane. These olive trees are believed to be descendants of an olive tree that was present during the time of Christ. It is fascinating to think of the countless generations of these branches and leaves that have been the offspring of an original

"witness" to the events leading up to Jesus' arrest, Crucifixion, and Resurrection. These trees remind us of the roots of faith that bear the fruits of witness to the good news in our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Matthew 7:15-20 (373).

"Every good tree bears good fruit . . . So by their fruits you will know them."

Thursday, Jun 27, 2019

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

Ponder the mystery

Cyril came to power as bishop of Alexandria during the early fifth century, a time of great contention among church leaders over the identity of the Christ: Was he really God? Was he only human? Could he be both? Who knew? The Nicene Creed of 325 had not yet been fully accepted and there was still a need to work things

out. Cyril was in constant conflict with other bishops of the day over who had it right. His arguments helped define the mystical person of Christ as both truly God and truly human. Take a moment today to reflect on the mystical communion of divinity and humanity, realized in Christ and shared with us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 16:1-12, 15-16; Matthew 7:21-29 (374).

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."

Friday, Jun 28, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Wear your heart on your sleeve

The depiction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is among the most evocative in religious art. It is shown aflame, pierced with a lance, shining with light, encircled with thorns, topped with a cross, and bleeding. In some imagery, Jesus is exposing it on his chest. It's intense, to say the least. Given that the heart is the essence of life,

literally, and love, figuratively, the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a statement about Christ's humanity, the horror of his suffering and ultimately the depth of his devotion to us. Express your fidelity in return.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-16; Romans 5:5b-11; Luke 15:3-7 (172). *"Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep."*

Saturday, Jun 29, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES :Be a pillar of the church

It seems strange that the two most significant figures in the early church have to share a feast day! Shouldn't each get their own? Saints' feasts usually mark the days of their deaths. Not with Peter and Paul. Though they both died in Roman persecutions around the same time, it was during a later persecution that their relics were moved for safekeeping together. The two apostles, linked in death, were connected in life as well. They knew one

another, argued with one another, and were the main reasons for the spread of the early faith. Both the churches of the West and the East observe their feast. In imitation of these great apostles, how can you work with others to bring unity to your community, the church, and the world?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16:13-19 (591). *"Upon this rock I will build my church."*

LECTURAS Y REFLEXIONES DE LA SEMANA

Domingo, Jun 23, 2019

SOLEMNIDAD DEL SANTÍSIMO CUERPO Y SANGRE DE CRISTO (CORPUS CHRISTI)

Recordar el pasado lo hace presente

Ver una actuación del *Hamilton* de Lin-Manuel Miranda o una película como el conmovedor retrato de Abraham Lincoln hecho por Steven Spielberg hace más que traer nuevamente a la vida a estos personajes históricos. También nos conmueve con las posibilidades intrínsecas en la libertad de América. Somos los herederos de este grandioso experimento. Nosotros también participamos en hacer una nación mejor. De una manera más visceral, compartir nuestra Sagrada Comunión despierta una vez más la vida de Cristo que heredamos. Cristo está presente en el pan, el vino—y nosotros. ¿Qué vas a hacer con el Cristo que hay en ti?

LECTURAS PARA HOY: Génesis 14:18-20; 1 Corintios 11:23-26; Lucas 9:11b-17 (169). "Este es mi cuerpo que es para ustedes. Hagan esto en memoria mía"

Lunes, 24 de Junio de 2019 SOLEMNIDAD DE LA NATIVIDAD DE JUAN BAUTISTA : Esperar lo inesperado

¿Qué más esperaríamos de un niño cuyo primer acto en las escrituras es un salto danzante en el útero? Algo asombrosamente nuevo está por llegar aquí. En una cultura patriarcal, cuando el padre no nombra al niño y la madre le da su nombre inesperado, ¡retroceda! El escenario está listo. La pregunta que se hace sobre John podría hacerse a todos los recién nacidos: "¿Qué será, entonces, este niño? Dios parece disfrutar de desarmar el status quo. Nos gusta buscar con seguridad en la costumbre y la tradición. A Dios le gustan las sorpresas: Seamos atentos a esas.

Lecturas de hoy: Isaías 49: 1-6; Hechos 13: 22-26; Lucas 1: 57-66, 80 (587). "Desde el vientre de mi madre, Dios me dio mi nombre

Martes, 25 de Junio de 2019 : El camino puede ser estrecho.

Cuando los santos vayan marchando, ¿quiénes estarán en el desfile? Algunos nos harían pensar que solo unos pocos elegidos recorrerán el camino de la salvación. Otros sienten que su propia indignidad los enviará permanentemente a la fila de espectadores. Otros piensan que el camino es tan ancho que todos lo lograrán al final, sin embargo, vivieron. La decisión sobre quién puede ir a Dios depende en última instancia de Dios. No nos corresponde a nosotros adivinar el funcionamiento interno de la mente divina o poner cercas alrededor de la misericordia de Dios. La dificultad no radica en descubrir quién se salva sino en enfrentar el desafío de hacer lo que Dios quiere para nosotros. Afortunadamente, el don de las Escrituras y los 2000 años de tradición de la iglesia nos muestran el camino. Lecturas de hoy: Génesis 13: 2, 5-18; Mateo 7: 6, 12-14 (372). "Entra por la puerta estrecha."

Miércoles 26 de Junio de 2019 : Los árboles recuerdan

Hay un asombroso grupo de olivos alrededor de la Iglesia de Todas las Naciones de Jerusalén, que se construyó alrededor de la roca sobre la cual se dice que Jesús oró en agonía la noche anterior a la crucifixión, comúnmente conocida como el Jardín de Getsemaní. Se cree que estos olivos son descendientes del olivo que estuvo presente durante el tiempo de Cristo. Es fascinante pensar en las innumerables generaciones de estas ramas y hojas que han sido el origen de un "testimonio" original de los eventos que llevaron al arresto, la crucifixión y la resurrección de Jesús. Estos árboles nos recuerdan las raíces de la fe que dan los frutos del testimonio de las buenas nuevas en nuestras vidas.

Lecturas de hoy: Génesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Mateo 7: 15-20 (373). "Todo buen árbol da buenos frutos ... Así que por sus frutos los conocerás".

Jueves 27 de Junio de 2019 MEMORIAL DE CICLO DE ALEJANDRÍA , OBISPO, DOCTOR DE LA IGLESIA

Reflexiona sobre el misterio

Cirilo llegó al poder como obispo de Alejandría a principios del siglo V, una época de gran contienda entre los líderes de la iglesia sobre la identidad de Cristo: ¿era realmente Dios? ¿Era humano? ¿Podría ser ambos? ¿Quién sabe? El Credo de Nicea de 325 aún no había sido aceptado completamente y todavía había una necesidad de resolver las cosas. Cirilo estaba en constante conflicto con otros obispos del día sobre quiénes tenían razón. Sus argumentos ayudaron a definir a la persona mística de Cristo como verdadero Dios y verdaderamente humano. Tómame un momento hoy para reflexionar sobre la comunión mística de la divinidad y la humanidad, realizada en Cristo y compartida con nosotros. Lecturas de hoy: Génesis 16: 1-12, 15-16; Mateo 7: 21-29 (374).

"Todos los que escuchen estas palabras mías y actúen sobre ellas serán un hombre sabio que construyó su casa sobre una roca".

Viernes 28 de Junio de 2019 SOLEMNIDAD AL SAGRADO CORAZÓN DE JESÚS : Lleve su corazón en la manga

La representación del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús se encuentra entre las más evocadoras del arte religioso. Se muestra en llamas, perforada con una lanza, brillando con luz, rodeada de espinas, coronada con una cruz y sangrando. En algunas imágenes, Jesús lo está exponiendo en su pecho. Es intenso, por decir lo menos. Dado que el corazón es la esencia de la vida, literalmente, y el amor, en sentido figurado, el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús es una declaración sobre la humanidad de Cristo, el horror de su sufrimiento y, en última instancia, la profundidad de su devoción hacia nosotros. Expresa tu fidelidad a cambio.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Ezequiel 34: 11-16; Romanos 5: 5b-11; Lucas 15: 3-7 (172). "Alégrate conmigo porque he encontrado mi oveja perdida."

Sábado, 29 de Junio de 2019 SOLEMNIDAD DE PEDRO Y PABLO, APÓSTOLES : Sea un pilar de la iglesia

¡Parece extraño que las dos figuras más importantes de la iglesia primitiva tengan que compartir un día de fiesta! ¿No deberían conseguir cada uno lo suyo? Las fiestas de los santos suelen marcar los días de su muerte. No con Pedro y Pablo. Aunque ambos murieron en las persecuciones romanas casi al mismo tiempo, fue durante una persecución posterior que sus reliquias fueron movidas para su custodia juntos. Los dos apóstoles, vinculados en la muerte, también estaban conectados en la vida. Se conocían, discutían entre sí y eran las razones principales de la propagación de la fe primitiva. Tanto las iglesias de occidente como las de oriente observan su fiesta. En imitación de estos grandes apóstoles, ¿cómo puedes trabajar con otros para traer unidad a tu comunidad, a la iglesia y a el mundo?

LECTURAS DE HOY: Hechos 12: 1-11; 2 Timoteo 4: 6-8, 17-18; Mateo 16: 13-19 (591). "Sobre esta roca edificaré mi iglesia".



Hospitality Sunday's

Are you interested in taking part in the welcoming and hospitality of our parish community?

Hosts are still needed for :

July 14, August 4, August 11

Individuals, organizations, and ministries are invited to host. Please email or call the parish office to sign-up.



Saint Thomas More: Modern Martyr

The Church celebrates Saint Thomas More on June 22 for his charity and service, but he is most remembered for his martyrdom at the hands of Henry VIII. See why we're still talking about him five centuries later!

This feature can be enjoyed through the SCS Access: Go to internet explorer and click <http://formed.org> enter code: XPTJK8 (case sensitive)

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Jack Watkins.....925-957-0437

Beneath His Cross Apostolate

Jessica Preciado925-354-1656

Bingo

Don Brocca925-858-7330

Catholic Youth Organization - CYO

Gina Marks.....925-817-9429

Communications

Sylvia Lloren.....925-228-2230

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

TBD.....925-228-2230

Faith Formation - Religious Education (PreK-8th Grades)

Andrea Watkins.....Ext 30 925-228-2230

Finance Council

Don Brocca...925-229-4158 and Dennis Koller...925-335-9395

Grief /Card Ministry

Mary Cook.....925-229-2665

Guadalupe Society

Guadalupe Cruz.....925-997-2432

Hospital/Sick/Homebound

Tom Greerty925-228-4387

Hospitality

Debbie Pelizzari.....925-370-3874

Ignite

Cindy Buscaglia.....925-787-8396

Italian Catholic Federation - ICF

Tom Cook.....925-229-2665

Knights of Columbus - K of C

Rik Silva.....925-334-2429

La Comunidad Latina

Lucia Cruz.....925-348-2620

Lectors

Carlos Melendez.....510-385-0506

Legion of Mary

Bobby Kiefer.....925-658-1442

Loaves & Fishes

Denice Silva.....925-372-0740

Maintenance

Troy Killorn.....925-228-2230

Mary Help of Christians - MHC

Margarita Flores.....925-812-1279

Music Ministry—Choir

Troy Killorn916-539-3397

Pastoral Advisory Council

Karen Glen...925-788-7716 & Karen Sandri...925-370-7997

Respect Life

Linda Easterday925-372-3845

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA

Pauline Porter/Karen Glen.....925-228-2230

Safe Environment for Children Project - SECP

Andrea Watkins.....Ext 30 925-228-2230

San Lorenzo Ruiz Community - SLRC

Esther Concepcion.....925-381-1835

Social Awareness

Anne Crisp925-356-8822

Stewardship

Karen Glen.....925-788-7716

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

Peggy Aiello-Hagerthy925-228-2628

Youth Group/Confirmation (High School 9 to 12 Grades)

Paul & Jenny Holland.....925-890-6229

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

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