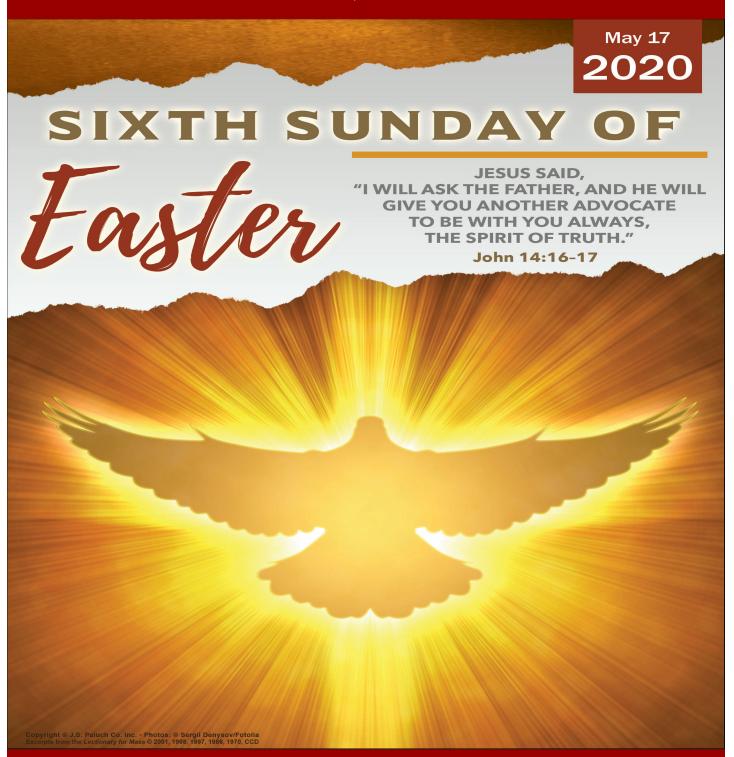
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church Martinez, California



LITURGY SCHEDULE - Suspended until further notice

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM

1:00 PM (Spanish)

ADORATION: Thursdays from 12:00 - 8:00 PM HOLY DAYS: VIGIL MASS 7:00 PM; 8:00 AM, 7:00 PM RECONCILIATION: Saturdays from 3:00 to 4:00 PM

PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF

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

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

CHURCH LOCATION:

606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

PARISH OFFICE/CENTER & MAILING ADDRESS:

1125 Ferry Street

Martinez, CA 94553-1720

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stcmtz.org

OFFICE HOURS:

THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED **UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Sylvia Lloren Ext. 2 Office Administrator/Sacramental Coordinator/Bulletin

sylvial@stcmtz.org

Troy Killorn Ext. 3

Director of Music Ministry / Maintenance Manager troyk@stcmtz.org

Karen Glen

Bookkeeper / Safe Environment Coordinator / RCIA kareng@stcmtz.org

Andrea Watkins Ext. 5

Director Religious Education (K-8) Family Sunday Faith Formation Ministry andreaw@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: 9AM – 2 PM

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

ST. CATHERINE PRE-SCHOOL

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

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

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: www.virtusonline.org

Prayer for the Pandemic Corona Virus situation

Almighty and merciful God, who show your love to all creation everywhere. hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the corona Virus in various parts of the world. We come before you asking for quick control of the outbreak, for the healing of those affected. for the victims and their families. We pray for the doctors, nurses and healthcare workers that they may courageously and cautiously take care of those affected. We pray for those doing the research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found. We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the People. Lord, we ask all these through the loving intercession of St. Catherine of Siena, St. Joseph, and Our Blessed Mother. Amen

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



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County

The St Vincent de Paul food pantry remains open and is remarkably busy due to the Corona 19 virus. Neighbors can call and make an appointment to come and pick up food individually. Bags of shelf stable items are provided along with some fresh produce, eggs and meat if available each week. Neighbors appointments are spaced fifteen minutes apart on Wednesday and Thursday from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm at the Parish Center. If you know of anyone needing assistance with food, (no questions asked) please have them call 925-788-7409. Please remember St. Vincent de Paul with your financial donations. The food pantry is really in need of your contributions. You can make them online. Thank you.

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



SIXTH SUNDAY OF Easter

MAY 17, 2020

A TIME OF TRANSITION, INSTABILITY, AND HOPE

Today's readings describe that period when the apostles are getting used to acting on their own. Acts describes the spreading of the word to Samaria, curing the sick, and their reception of the Holy Spirit. First Peter reminds us that our response to evil must be to do good and to speak of our hope with gentleness and reverence. The psalm is joyous with praise for God and a reminder of God's saving of those held captive in Egypt long, long ago. John talks not only about the Father and Jesus but also another Advocate, who will remain even when Jesus leaves. The readings also contain the promise of continued love and comfort. The readings today reflect a time of transition, instability, and hope, much like we are experiencing in these days of the pandemic.

WHEN YOU ARE MALIGNED

Each of the readings describes a time of transition and uncertainty. In Acts, the apostles are learning how to respond to those seeking to share in the joy of healing the sick and casting out unclean spirits. In First Peter, the new Christian community is reminded that they will be maligned. Their response to such suffering is shaped by Jesus' example of gentleness and reverence. The Gospel offers Jesus' words of consolation to those who are being left behind. All those who had lost Jesus once through crucifixion must prepare to lose him again. But this time they are promised that they will not be abandoned. They are left with the promise that Jesus' new commandments are the continuing guide to a life that, through death and resurrection, unites those who believe in Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit.

KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

If keeping Jesus' commandments is the key to loving him, being loved by the Father, and accompanied by the Spirit, then what choice do we have but to keep his commandments? It seems simple, but unlike the commandments carried down the mountain by Moses, Jesus did not leave us with ten statements of conduct to guide our actions. Jesus left us with a much more complicated commandment, to love our neighbor as ourselves. This commandment requires that we first love ourselves as Jesus loved us. We must see in ourselves what Jesus saw in each one of us. Jesus saw that we too are made in the image and likeness of God and

that we carry with us the fragility of our humanity. We must see that same Godliness and humanity in every person we encounter. It is not just ourselves we see in the face of our family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers. It is the face of God. We should act accordingly, especially during this pandemic.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17 Psalm 66:1–7, 16, 20 1 Peter 3:15–18 John 14:15–21

Jesus said, "If you love me you will keep my commandments."

John 14:15

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WORSHIP

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



Catholics praying the Rosary create a "Map of Hope" amidst COVID-19

A group of friends wanted to spread hope during the turmoil caused by the worldwide pandemic.

Throughout the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many around the world have looked to particular "maps" to track the spread of the virus. For many weeks these maps displayed a disheartening trend as the virus spread to every part of the globe.

The maps caused many people to lose hope, seeing the virus wreak havoc in every country it touched.

To counteract this feeling, a group of friends created a website called, "Map of Hope," which tracks the spread of the Rosary, instead of the virus.

According to the website's description, "Like many people, we looked at maps tracking all the coronavirus cases every day (and sometimes multiple times a day!). These maps kept getting worse. More and more red dots appeared, showing how the pandemic — and fear — was taking over the world. So we asked ourselves, 'What if we could create something that gives people hope?' It would be simple. It would track something inspiring. Something that gets better and better every day. A movement of people around the globe. Immediately, we thought, 'It should be the Rosary!'"

Anyone can check out the website and add their Rosary intention.

Map of Hope connects you with people around the world praying the Rosary. Come here daily to add your prayer intentions, check the map, and share it with your friends and family. Since its inception, the map has recorded over 5,000 prayer intentions!

Social media users can, "Post on social media with #mapofhope to join the global movement," showing their Rosary and to give hope to others.

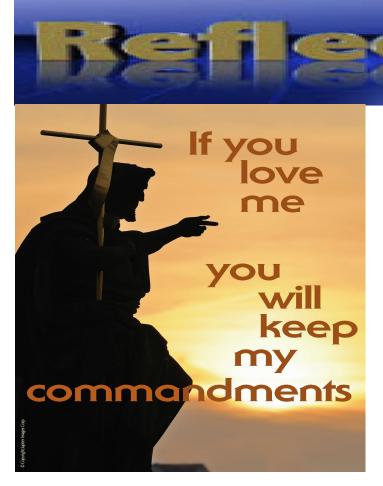
This focus on the Rosary coincides with Pope Francis' recent appeal to pray the Rosary in the month of May, specifically for the end of the pandemic.

During a time when there are many "negative" maps around, it is refreshing to see a "positive" map tracking hope around the world.

On a local setting, during this month of May (month of Mary), parishioners and friends from St. Catherine of Siena – Martinez, have been getting together on a daily basis at 6pm, by praying the Holy Rosary together via Zoom gatherings. A family or a group of people host each day by providing the prayer intentions, the prayer assignments and follows a "script" for everyone to follow.

For more details, please contact the San Lorenzo Ruiz Community via email at: accez@aol.com or call Yolly Dizon at 925-270-9830.





Dear Families in Christ,

In today's Gospel Reading, (John 14: 15-21), Jesus said to His disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." "I am the way." The fullest and the surest way of keeping the commandments is to follow Jesus. The precious gift of the Holy spirit will continue to stand beside them as another Advocate, the Spirit of the truth.

Jesus gives fair warning to His eleven disciples of His impending departure—His Ascension to Heaven, on the mountain of Galilee. (Matthew 28: 16-20). "I am going away and I will come back to you." "If you loved me you would rejoice that I am going to the Father..." Lord Jesus departure from His earthly journey was the most difficult to comprehend and accept; but it was absolutely necessary. His Ascension to Heaven was profoundly important. Why? For many reasons. It was the Will of the Heavenly Father. It was the most critical moment in His Plan for Salvation. It was the chosen moment to forge a clear path to heaven for His disciples; And finally, it was the time for the Risen Jesus to take His reserved place at the right Hand of the Father.

Jesus' departure from us on the 40th Day, His Ascension, led to one of His most precious gifts—the outpouring of the Advocate Holy Spirit working in our lives and in our world. The Holy Spirit is the

love that both exists between and emanates from the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the means by which Jesus fulfills His promise to come back and to dwell in our hearts: "Whoever loves me will keep my word and my Father will love him, and we will come to Him and make our dwelling with him. Love seeks union with the beloved. God loves us so much and so deeply that He greatly desires to come to us, dwell in us, be united to us, and share His infinite love with us. Why? We are His beloved children.

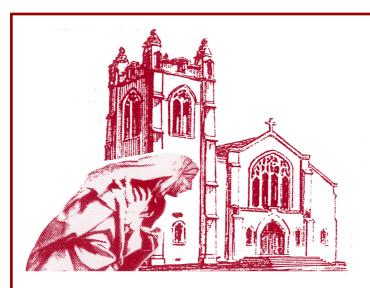
The fire of His love purifies us of sin, cleanses our hearts of our selfishness and makes a home for Himself in our souls. This is the greatest gift of our Christian faith: the One, True, Holy, Universal, Catholic, Apostolic Church. To be an intimate, personal and life-giving relationship with God through the dwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is the great gift of faith and grace our Priest, Clergy and Disciple Father Anthony Le has been proclaiming, praising to us every day, every week, here at St. Catherine's Parish.

This is another grace that flows from the Holy Spirit to assist the Catholic Church in her mission to preserve and proclaim the truths of our Christian faith as well as to apply them appropriately according to God's will to new circumstances that come up throughout history. "The Advocate—the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

While Jesus' physical departure, and Ascension to Heaven was sad on the 40th day—it was a necessary channel for bestowing the great gift of the Holy Spirit. In conclusion, as we persevere in our faith in keeping His Commandments, let us silently recite wholeheartedly the beautiful prayer of St. Augustine: "Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Attract my heart Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy." Amen.

May God bless you all.

C.C. Salonga





GUIDELINES FOR DRIVE THRU COMMUNION

In this time of limited access to the Sacraments due to COVID 19, many of us have gone without reception of Holy Communion for several weeks. After consideration, the public health guidelines and the safety of our local community, St. Catherine of Siena, will offer the drive-in reception of Holy Communion on Sunday, May 10th through May 31st. The distribution will take place from 12:15 pm,- 1:00 pm, following the 11 am Sunday Mass.

The success of this initiative depends on the care and attention of everyone involved. The following is our official guide for drive-in communion procedures. Please be sure to read these guidelines and familiarize yourself with our process to make your reception of Holy Communion speedy, simple, and safe for all who seek the Lord's presence in the Most Holy Sacrament.

BEFORE COMING TO THE CHURCH

If you are elderly, ill, at risk of illness, or afraid of becoming sick, PLEASE do not feel compelled to come. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and receive Holy Communion in the Easter Season is still dispensed for all Catholics in the Diocese of Oakland. Receiving Holy Communion at this time is strictly voluntary.

Ensure that all persons intending to receive the Eucharist are wearing face masks.

AT THE CHURCH

- 1. Pull up in front of the church; the line will begin there
- 2. Father Anthony and the Deacons will approach the first three cars. When those cars have been served, the other vehicles will be directed forward.
- 3. Father Anthony or the Deacons will raise a consecrated Host and say, "Behold, the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lord."
- 4. You will respond with, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and my soul will be healed."
- 5. Father or the Deacon will administer Holy Communion, saying, "The Body of Christ." The response is "Amen."
- 6. Reverently receive the Eucharist in your hand and wait for them to walk back before lowering your mask and consuming the Eucharist.
- 7. Father or the Deacon will then give you and your family a blessing.



Weekly Offering:

St. Vincent de Paul:

Parish Maintenance:

CRS:

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

May 10, 2020 WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

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ON-LINE

60.00

School Support:
Divine Ren. Donation: \$ 800.00

Mothers/Fathers Day: \$ 50.00
Thank you for your continued support,

Support your parish



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

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

https://www.oakdiocese.org/parish-support



Your parish brings you the light of Christ.

Please help keep the light shining by giving through your parish's online program or app.



DISCIPLESHIP

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT	5/16	8:00 Int. Debbie Pelizzari - Birthday Blessing
		4:30 Kerry Marie Nakasone†
SUN	5/17	7:00 Int. People of the Parish
		8:30 The Fenny & Morgan Families†
		11:00 Mario Rose†
		1:00 Louisa Socorro Doña†
MON	5/18	8:00 Agapito & Erlinda Bonifacio†
TUE	5/19	8:00 Lily Quisumbing†
WED	5/20	8:00 Int. St. Catherine School Families
THU	5/21	8:00 Special Intention
FRI	5/22	8:00 Ruperto Evangilista†
SAT	5/23	8:00 All Souls in Purgatory†
		4:30 Jennie Balestrieri†
SUN	5/24	7:00 Int. People of the Parish
		8:30 Int. Nicholas Lloren - Birthday Blessing
		11:00 Adam Joseph Glen†
		1:00 Estacio Rios†

St. Catherine Parish offers deepest sympathy and prayers for the family; and, the repose of the soul of

all Victims of the Coronavirus.



Estella Rosete Lucy Bautista Horence Gallo Sue Cevasco Adam Glen



who entered into eternal life.



STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR PARISH

We promise to do our best to stay connected and journey with you throughout this crisis. Therefore, we are thrilled to continue offering the following:

8 AM Daily Mass, Adoration, and the Rosary:

Shelter-in-place does not mean to stay out of touch!

You are invited to get in touch with God via the Live stream-daily on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OfficialStCatherineofSienaChurch

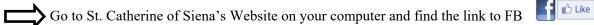


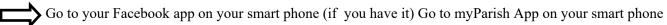
You are not alone if you are experiencing difficulty finding the Daily Mass. All this technology takes time getting used to. Don't be afraid to reach out if this guide doesn't do the trick. Someone is there to walk you through and not make you feel silly!!! And guess what... You DON'T have to have a Facebook account to participate!

There are two ways to **celebrate** Mass: Live or watch a recording later. There are two ways to **watch** Mass: On your computer or your smart phone.

There are many ways to log onto Facebook:

Go to **Facebook.com** on your computer





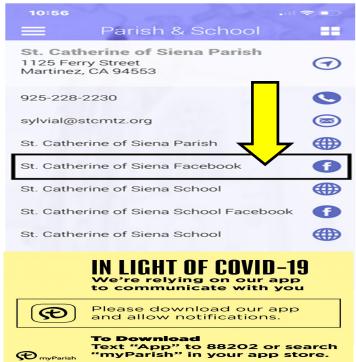


Social Media

3 Easy steps

1. Click on the Parish & School Button, 2. Click on St. Catherine Facebook and 3. WHOOLA you're there!





STRENGTHENED TO LIVE AS CHRIST'S OWN

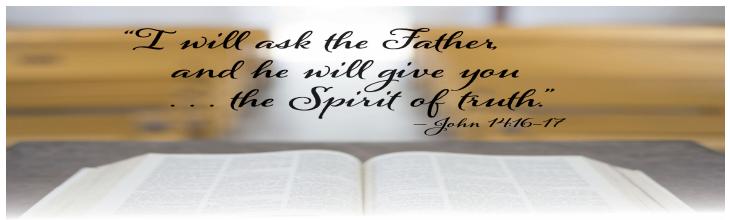
We might look at the world around us and conclude that this is the most challenging time in history during which to live as a person of faith. Yet we know this is not so. Throughout the ages, people of faith have faced mockery, persecution, and even death as a result of their commitment to Christ. Still, it is important for us to acknowledge the challenge of living as a Christian today, when faith is viewed with ambivalence at best, and often with antagonism. Some do not understand how faith and reason can sit side by side, even though many of the world's greatest scientific discoveries have been made by people of faith. Others see the failures of the Church or its leaders and discount faith as a result. We rely on the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit to be with us when we are mocked or simply misunderstood on account of our faith in Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, we will find the grace to live with conviction as Christian people.

Saint Peter admonishes us, "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope." One of the greatest gifts of faith in our lives is our hope in Christ Jesus. Through Christ, we keep our eyes on the wider view of life here on earth and everlasting life with God. We know that the trials and challenges of today do not have the final word, and do not have power over us. With the presence of the Advocate, we have the help we need to live as God directs and desires, so that the world might come to know Christ through the witness of our lives. This is a hope-filled, meaningful way of life. When so much of our surrounding culture speaks of impermanence and momentary distractions, we have the hope of meaning and purpose today and the promise of eternal life to come.

Today's Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

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5/17/2020



Join us in praying
The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy
everyday at 3 PM.

We would like to invite all of us to pray together at this hour to emerge the world in the ocean of the Lord's Divine Mercy.

May the mercy of God bring us consolation and peace.

Join us live on Facebook for the Block Rosary at 6PM everyday during the month of May.

The prayers can be found

on our website at www.stcmtz.org



Weekly paper bulletins are now available outside of the church for your reading pleasure. Look for the clear boxes hanging by the choir side and between the school and front door of the church.



St. Catherine of Siena School

Mission Statement

Saint Catherine of Siena School answers the call to nurture each child – spirit, mind and body – in a safe, caring environment by providing Christ-centered, challenging curriculum preparing each child for a future as people of faith, service, respect, and responsibility.

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!

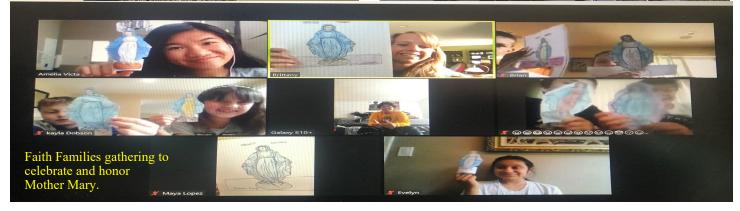
We are grateful to our teachers who shifted learning remotely over night. St. Catherine's is committed to proving Christ centered academic excellence to our students and families.











READINGS & REFLECTIONS

Join in the Weekly Scripture Reflection with the Clergy "Tuesdays (via ZOOM) 7:00 -8:15 PM

Sunday, May 17, 2020 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Hope is nourishing

Especially in these trying times, we may be tempted to dismiss hope as something akin to wishful thinking. Yet hope is a theological virtue, along with faith and love. These three put us into position for personal union with God. Hope, in particular, orients us perpetually in a Godward direction no matter where life takes us. As Cistercian monk Aelred of Rivaulx declared: "What is hope but food for the journey to support us in the miseries of this life?" Cultivate hope by weeding out habits of negativity and cynicism.

<u>TODAY'S READINGS:</u> Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21 (55). "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."

Monday, May 18, 2020 MEMORIAL OF JOHN I, POPE, MARTYR

Lean on the Lord

Pope John I was frail when he was elected to the papacy in 523, and he did not survive imprisonment by a heretical king. From permanent disabilities to occasional illness, from aging to chronic fatigue to widespread viral infection, we all experience physical weakness at some point and know that it can feel like a prison. When we hit the limits of our bodies, our inner strength can wane too. At that time—and at any time—lean on the Lord to carry you through.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26—16:4a (291). "The Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me."

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 EASTER WEEKDAY

Always at our side and on our side

When Jesus promised his disciples the Holy Spirit, he used an interesting word. He called their holy helper a "paraclete," the Greek word for *advocate*—literally "called to one's side." It was used in courts of law to describe an intercessor or counselor. From the Book of Job, we also know paraclete can mean "comforter." What a rich, meaningful name to give that Spirit who guides us still—by our side even when we're as clueless as can be.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11 (292). "If I do not go, the Advocate will not come."

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

MEMORIAL OF BERNARDINE OF SIENA, PRIEST

The best witness is a joyful heart

Do you know of someone whose energy and joy attracts followers of all kinds? Franciscan priest and theologian Saint Bernadine of Siena (1380-1444), whose feast we celebrate today, was one of those people. He was a human dynamo whose preaching drew thousands of fans throughout Italy even as he challenged them to practice voluntary poverty and denounced the sins of the day. His joyful eloquence defined his ministry and was impossible to ignore. Can you bring others to God through a joyful spirit?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15 (293).

"They were to seek God, yes . . . though he is not really far from any one of us."

Thursday, May 21, 2020 SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

This isn't goodbye

After listening to the nightly news, a friend recently (and understandably) gasped: "We need Jesus!" Most believers would agree. Which is perhaps why the Ascension doesn't feel like an event we're much inclined to celebrate. Jesus *departs;* this sounds like a terrible idea from every standpoint except the truth —because Jesus promises to send us his Spirit as an indwelling presence. If we still feel like orphans, remember Jesus' words: "I am with you always." See Jesus all around: in word and sacrament, in the assembly of faith, in the disadvantaged sister and brother.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20 (58). "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Friday, May 22, 2020 EASTER WEEKDAY

Identify escape routes

During stressful times and increased family togetherness, such as global "stay-at-home" orders, domestic abuse increases. Special hotlines and secret havens are set up to assist victims, and abusers are encouraged to seek help as well. Saint Rita of Cascia, whose feast we celebrate today, was mentally and physically abused by her husband for years. In the Middle Ages, she had little recourse. She chose to respond with kindness, patience, and humility. Her virtues did little to change her husband's behavior, but she did her best to escape her situation, at least spiritually. With the many resources available today, be aware of the signs of abuse and encourage loved ones to seek both physical and spiritual refuge.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23 (295). "No one will take your joy away from you."

Saturday, May 23, 2020 EASTER WEEKDAY

Here's to life

As we adjust to new ways of living, the Easter season offers much-needed hope. Resurrection changes everything, not only in salvation history but also here and now. Life coming out of death. That is the mystery of our faith, and the mystery of the world we live in. For every story of greed and ineptitude, there are many more stories of generosity and competence. Celebrate those victories. That is the life that comes out of death. TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28 (296). "For the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God."

Join in the Weekly Scripture
Reflection with the Clergy
Tuesdays (via ZOOM)
7:00 - 8:15 PM
Please call the office
(925) 228-2230 ext 4 or 7 to be
connected to the link.





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