

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church Martinez, California

Nineteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
August 9, 2020

Peter said to Jesus,
“Lord, if it is you,
command me to come to you on the water.”

Matthew 14:28

**Christ Summoning Saint Peter
to Walk on the Water**, after 1627
After Giovanni Lanfranco, Italian, 1582-1647
Chicago Institute of Art (CCO)

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LITURGY SCHEDULE (All Masses are Livestreamed)

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM (Upper parking lot - outdoors)
Pre-Online registration on the website.

11:00 AM Livestream Only
Drive-thru Communion after the 11 AM Mass

DAILY ROSARY: Monday - Saturday 7:30 AM Livestream

ADORATION: No Adoration - TBD

DAILY MASS: 8:00 AM Livestream Only

RECONCILIATION: By Appointment Only

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: 8:30 AM Livestream

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Please call the office.

PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF

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

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

CHURCH LOCATION:

606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

PARISH OFFICE/CENTER & MAILING ADDRESS:

1125 Ferry Street
Martinez, CA 94553-1720

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stcmtz.org

OFFICE HOURS: PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

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

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

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

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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

scpreschool@comcast.net

PRE SCHOOL LOCATION: 1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA

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



PARISH REGISTRATION

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



Baptisms are currently being scheduled for one family per weekend. Check our website for requirements. Or you can call the parish office for more information.



Rite of Christian Initiation RCIA

**New classes will begin
August 26th.**

Contact Karen Glen at Ext 4
for more information



**FAITH FORMATION,
CONFIRMATION, RCIA
NEW REGISTRATION FORMS
FOR THE 2020-2021 YEAR
ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE
PARISH WEBSITE**

NEW Day and Time Change

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

Now on Saturdays

Beginning on Saturday Aug 1st

Hours: 10:00 am until 1:00 pm
(Parish Center)



The Catholic Voice is now available
online www.catholicvoiceoakland.org

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

Parish Website: www.stcmtz.org

Bulletin: stcathmtz@yahoo.com



Facebook:

<https://OfficialStCatherineofSienaChurch>



MyParishApp:

Please download:

myParishApp to your phones.

Step 1. Text App to number 88202.

Step 2. Download the app via the link.

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

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

Kindness

and truth shall meet;

justice and peace shall kiss.

Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

Psalm 85:11-12



August 9, 2020
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FREE TO CHOOSE

Our readings today drench us in God's kindness. The Old Testament reading, Paul's letter, and the Gospel demonstrate God's creative and personalized outreach to us. In each case, we see a different reaction to God's gestures. Elijah drinks in his consolation, recognizing God in gentle silence and going out to meet God. The Israelites, according to Saint Paul, though encountering God in a variety of ways through the centuries, ultimately reject the Messiah whom God sends to them. Peter thinks he recognizes the Lord coming to him on the water, but demands proof and grows frightened. At all times and in all places, God longs for us to believe and goes to great lengths to strengthen our faith. Ultimately, God never compels belief, but leaves us free to choose. Today's scriptures challenge us to consider our own response to God's constant work in our lives.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

Today's readings console and challenge us, reminding us just how hard God works for us so we might have faith. God's labors are infinitely diverse, too, always tailored to fit our particular situations, personalities, and needs. In Elijah's case, he is hiding in a cave on the very same mountain where Moses once encountered God in the burning bush. Hunted by the pagan Queen Jezebel, Elijah is running for his life. While Moses experienced God in fire on this mountain, Elijah requires a gentler touch. God comes to him not in awesome displays of power, but in a "tiny whispering sound." God provides exactly the tranquility Elijah needs before sending him off on a new mission.

God's creative care for us does not always lead to faith, however. In a strikingly tender passage, Saint Paul shares his heartbreak that God's chosen people could reject Jesus, even after all God has done to prepare them for the Messiah. God has accompanied the chosen people through adoption, miracles, covenants, commandments, prophets, and kings. Despite ages of dedicated and inventive caregiving, God's people do not unite in worship of the true Messiah. The proper response to this lack of faith is sorrow, and Saint Paul pours out the "constant anguish" in his heart.

In yet another astonishingly creative gesture, God visits people in need of faith by defying the laws of nature. Matthew's Gospel describes Jesus actually walking on water to comfort his disciples during a storm at sea. After their terror subsides and the winds grow calm, faith floods the disciples' hearts. They worship Jesus, proclaiming, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

TO THE LIMIT

Sometimes God's creative overtures are almost too much to handle. In a daring effort to trust, Peter challenges Jesus to share miraculous power with him. Jesus obliges, and Peter walks on water. Peter enjoys his miracle until his natural limitations spoil his faith. Just imagine what barriers we can shatter if only we believe.

TODAY'S READINGS

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
Psalm 85:9-14
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

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Weekly 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 doors of the church.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9, 2020

Gathering Hymn:

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

1. O God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come, Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home.

2. Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame, From everlasting thou art God, To endless years the same.

Text: CM; based on Psalm 90:1–5; Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: William Croft, 1678–1727.

Penitential Act:

Gloria: Glory to God in the highest...

First Reading 1 KGS 19:9A, 11-13A

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter. Then the LORD said to him, “Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by.” A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD— but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake— but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire— but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

R. (8) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD — for he proclaims peace. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading:

ROM 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters: I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites; theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Alleluia:

CF. PS 130:5

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for his word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia .

Gospel

MT 14 : 22-23

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. “It is a ghost,” they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter said to him in reply, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to

sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

Presentation of the Gifts:

Renew Me, Lord

Bernadette Farrell

1. O God, I seek safe harbor in this storm, a place of peace in which my soul can form the inner strength to follow day by day your will for me unceasingly. Renew me, Lord, I pray.

2. O God, I seek new vision, clear and strong, that once again the sign that all along you held before these eyes, once turned away, I now may see more faithfully. Renew me, Lord, I pray.

3. O God, I seek to serve but you alone, for deep within my spirit you have sown the gift of faith which calls forth bold display: love undeterred in deed and word. Renew me, Lord, I pray.

4. O God, I seek from time to time the joy afforded those whose daily deeds employ the work of love giv'n freely, come what may. O Charity, come, dwell in me. Renew me, Lord, I pray.

Text: 10 10 10 44 6; © 2004, Owen Alstott. Music: SAFE HARBOUR; © 2009, Bernadette Farrell. Text and music published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Communion: Supper of the Lamb

Dan Schutte

Refrain: Blest are those invited to the Supper of the Lamb.

1. Let us come, the worn and weary, to the feast
2. Let us come, the meek and mighty, to the feast prepared by Christ, the Lord.
3. Let us come, the lost and lonely, to the feast prepared by Christ, the Lord.
4. Let us come, the frail and fallen, to the feast prepared by Christ, the Lord.
5. Let us come, the glad and grateful, to the feast prepared by Christ, the Lord.

6. Let us come as fathers and mothers to receive the gift of Christ, the Lord.

7. Let us come as brothers and sisters to receive the hope of Christ, the Lord.

8. Let us come as humble and homeless to receive the love of Christ, the Lord.

9. Let us come as wanting and waiting, to receive the light of Christ, the Lord.

10. Let us come as burdened and broken to receive the peace of Christ, the Lord.

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Sending:

Be Thou My Vision SLANE

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord: Thou
my great Father, I Thy true son, Thou in me
dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always: Thou
and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of
heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Text: 10 10 10 10; Ancient Irish; tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; fr. Eleanor Hull's Poem Book of the Gael, 1912, alt. Music: Trad. Irish Melody; adapt. fr. The Church Hymnary, 1927.

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

**UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE ALL
MASSES TAKING PLACE
INSIDE THE CHURCH HAVE
BEEN SUSPENDED
AS OF 7-13-2020**

We will continue with our 8:30 AM outdoor Holy Mass and drive-thru communion after the 11:00 AM Holy Mass. (Livestreamed)



STEWARDSHIP

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

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

AUGUST 2, 2020

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | <u>ON-LINE</u> |
| Weekly Offering: | \$3,908.00 | \$2,532.00 |
| Diocese Collection: | | \$ 40.00 |
| Rice Bowl : | \$ 55.50 | |
| Parish Maintenance: | | \$ 35.00 |
| School Support: | | \$ 190.00 |
| St. Vincent de Paul: | | \$ 315.00 |

Thank you for your continued support, both spiritual and financial.

Activity Center/Gymnasium: PACE I, II, FTP

Repurposed Donations:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| # Households/Individuals: | 11 |
| Amount | \$ 33,341.29 |

Reclaimed Donations:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| # Households/Individuals | 3 |
| Amount: | \$ 53,691.77 |

Year to Date

| | Household/Individuals |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Repurposed: \$536,910.77 | 157 |
| Reclaimed: \$224,747.08 | 49 |

**PACE I, PACE II AND FULFILLING THE PROMISE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Since the Activity Center/Building Project (PACE I, PACE II and Fulfilling the Promise) has officially ended due to lack of funds and support after 20 years. We decided to offer every donor an opportunity to either repurpose the donated funds (dollar to dollar) to the needs of the community or reclaim them. On June 29, 2020, we sent out a package to all donors, including 1) A list of donations on file, 2) a Donor Request Form (to be returned to the Parish office with their decision), and 3) a current Financial Status Report as of May 2020. We understand that you may have questions. Therefore, for your convenience, we compiled the following questions and answers.

BUILDING PROJECT

Why was the Building project canceled?

It did not generate enough financial support in the last 20 years. Besides, the parish suffers a significant decline in the number of people and students in school. Current facilities are in disrepair, and the needs of the community have changed significantly. For more information, please visit: <https://stcmz.org/building-project>

Is there any plan to build something in the future?

At this time we are focused on the current needs of our facilities. The projects, for example, the Youth Shack, may involve remodeling or extending the existing facility to meet our needs.

CAMPAIGN/FINANCIAL

I have heard that the records for this project are not complete. Can you explain what the problems are?

To the best of our knowledge, the records are in order. Although the project had three separate fundraising campaigns over twenty years, all physical copies have been retained. All donors have been entered into our current software program.

Did any of these issues affect the handling of funds?

No, all funds have been transferred and maintained in the Diocesan Savings and Loan program from 1999 to 2019.

I was told that the funds from Fulfilling the Promise would not be returned due to our agreement with the Diocese?

Donors from the Fulfilling the Promise campaign will be given the option to repurpose or reclaim their full donations.

Will the money spent from the campaigns be deducted from my repurpose of reclaiming?

No, all donors will be allowed to repurpose or reclaim their funds, dollar for dollar.

Why am I not getting the interest on my reclaimed funds?

There were costs expended in planning and architectural renderings for the project in excess of interest earned on the funds. None of the costs expended are offsetting the contributions; therefore, no interest will be added to the reclaimed balance.

Were monies donated to these campaigns used by the Parish to renovate the church last year?

No, these funds are held in separate restricted accounts at the Diocese Savings and Loan.

Where did the funds come from for the Divine Renovation project?

All funds for the renovation of the church were provided by individual bequests (\$331,901), gifts and other donations (\$76,016) from current parishioners, as well as existing monies from our Parish Savings and Maintenance Accounts (approximately \$400,000).

DONOR REPORTS AND FORMS

What if I did not receive a letter regarding my donation?

Please contact the Parish Office to request the information.

What if the donor does not return the Donor Response Form?

In the event that a donor does not return the Donor Response Form sent to them with the letter of their donation, the Parish will follow up with them via a phone call. It is important to reconcile all donors' requests for reclaiming and repurposing.

What will happen to the funds if nobody claims them?

Further efforts will be undertaken to locate all donors using a variety of resources and under the direction of the Diocese of Oakland.

What if the amount reported for my donations, does not match what I believe I gave?

All efforts will be made to help clarify any discrepancies. Please contact the Parish Bookkeepers office at (925) 228-2230 Ext. 1004. Please, provide documentation of donations for review.

What happens to the cash donations that I placed in a collection basket without an envelope?

"A gift of cash (i.e., currency in the form of bills and coins) without an envelope identifying the donor is an anonymous gift.

What are some of the current projects being funded with the repurposed monies?

Currently we have committed to the following projects which are in progress:

Painting the exterior of the school -\$54,000

Replacing the lighting in the parish hall to the same lighting throughout the school building - \$10,680

Installation of security doors for the Parish hall to be connected to the school's security system - \$7,210

Installation of wrought iron fence, replacing the chain link fence around the school - \$17,500

Repave and restriping of the lower parking lot - \$9,000

Renovation of the Youth Shack - TBD

Renovation of the Parish Hall and Kitchen - TBD

Repave and Replacement of fence in the Upper Parking Lot - TBD

What future projects are planned with the monies repurposed?

All costs below are based on estimated costs:

REPURPOSING

How do I know what my money will be used for if I repurpose it?

We will update the parish on current and future projects in the bulletin and on our website. You can find the list of needed projects here: <https://stcmtz.org/divinerenovationprojects>

Painting of the exterior of the church
Cemetery Repairs

Can I specify what my funds are used for?

There are many projects that will benefit from the funds you may repurpose.

Care has been given to address and prioritize the most pressing needs of the community and our facilities. St. Catherine Leadership Team is committed to honoring all donors; however, we are unable to accept the repurpose of donations to projects/ideas, which are not in the scope of need or priority for the parish.

Can I specify that my funds are used for a specific ministry of the church?

You can specify that your funds are used for any of the ministries that fall under the leadership of the Parish. This includes, but is not limited to: St. Catherine of Siena School, Faith Formation, Ignite, Music, Confirmation/Youth, RCIA, Grief Ministry, Respect Life Ministry, etc. For further information, please contact the Parish office.

Can I specify that my funds are moved to one of the groups or organizations that I am a part of? (Example: St. Vincent de Paul, YLI, Knights of Columbus, etc.)

If the group or organization operates under a separate 501c3 or other charter, we are not able to transfer the funds to those organizations. You can reclaim your funds and donate them directly to the organization of your choice.

Will my gift be acknowledged as a contribution to the Divine Renovation Projects?

All repurposed donations will be acknowledged as part of the Divine Renovation project in our Parish. Likewise, any donations repurposed to a specific need will be acknowledged as such. The contributions are not considered tax-deductible, as they were given in prior years.

RECLAIMING

How can I reclaim the money that I donated?

You can reclaim the money donated by completing the Donor Request Form and returning it to the Parish office.

Can I reclaim funds donated by deceased family members?

If a donor is deceased, efforts will be made to contact the next of kin. Decisions will be made based on the terms of the donor's estate. Unclaimed funds will have to be handled in accordance with laws and regulations. Any request for funds donated by a deceased relative will be referred to the legal department at the Diocese of Oakland.

If I reclaim the money donated, will I have to pay taxes on it?

You should consult your tax professional for any tax consequences.

How long will it take for me to receive the funds returned to me?

We are anticipating the process to take approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

Why will it take so long to return my money?

Your requested funds must be reconciled at the Diocese and withdrawn from the campaign account. Recently, the Diocese has had to reduce their workforce significantly due to the pandemic situation; therefore, it will take a while. We appreciate your patience in this process.

JOIN US
via ZOOM link
AUGUST 7th through 15th at 6PM



For hundreds of years, Catholics observed the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15 -- celebrating Mary's being taken bodily to Heaven after her death -- but it was not until 1950 that the Church proclaimed this teaching a *dogma of the Church* -- one of the essential beliefs of the Catholic faith.

August 15 is the day that Catholics have long celebrated what is called the Dormition (falling asleep) or Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates both the happy departure of Mary from this life by her natural death, and her assumption bodily into heaven.

From August 7-15 our group will be praying the Novena to honor our Mother Mary on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary on August 15th. Outside those dates we will praying the Angelus and the August prayers.

Please use the **ZOOM link** located on the website www.stcmz.org to join in our prayers daily @ 6PM. There are two scripts of prayers that can be viewed and downloaded from the website.

Please Contact : Yolly Dizon for more information at (925) 270-9830.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time;
 Nagasaki Memorial Day
 Monday: St. Lawrence
 Tuesday: St. Clare
 Wednesday: St. Jane Frances de Chantal
 Thursday: Ss. Pontian and Hippolytus
 Friday: St. Maximilian Kolbe
 Saturday: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin



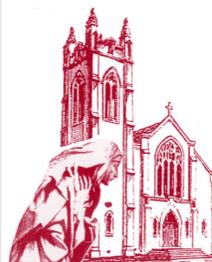
DISCIPLESHIP

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| SAT | 8/8 | 8:00 | Robert and Barbara Case† |
| | | 4:30 | Norberto Quisumbing† |
| SUN | 8/9 | 8:30 | Thomas & Eva Hernandez Family† |
| | | 11:00 | Ralph & Levia Downing† |
| MON | 8/10 | 8:00 | Sabrina Whitney Case† |
| TUE | 8/11 | 8:00 | Int. Rochelle Ramos–Birthday Blessing |
| WED | 8/12 | 8:00 | Kirk & Brydie Kuykendall† |
| THU | 8/13 | 8:00 | Special Intention |
| FRI | 8/14 | 8:00 | Susan Josephine Yuerst† |
| SAT | 8/15 | 8:00 | Jack & Mary Davist† |
| SUN | 8/16 | 8:30 | Botti Family† |
| | | 11:00 | Amato Dover Joves† |
| | | 1:00 | Dolores and Joe Cardenas† |

For Emergency Anointing of the Sick
 (Only for those who are experiencing an imminent death)
 Call (925) 228-2230 Ext 6
 Please leave your name, phone #, address



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

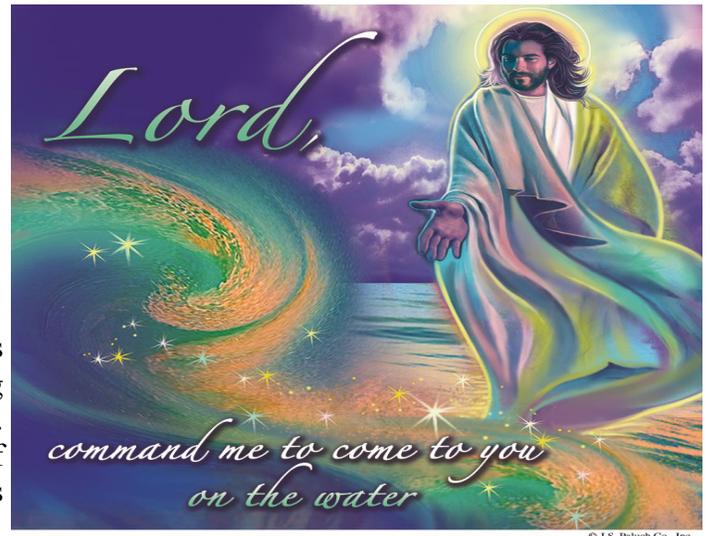
Victims of the Coronavirus

Prayer for the Pandemic Corona Virus Situation

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal”
 (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

“I will be with you always” (Jesus)!

*Yours in Christ,
 Fr. Anthony and Pastoral Staff*



Dear Families in Christ

In today's Holy Gospel (Matthew 14: 22-33), it relates the story of Jesus' series of climactic suspense following His the miraculous multiplication of loaves and fishes. Like in the final part of a play or movie, the strands of the suspenseful plot are drawn together, and the matters resolved.

After the intense day of preaching and the miraculous feeding of 10,000 people in the crowd, Jesus needs a peaceful solitude on the mountain alone to pray. Despite the gigantic miracle, the disciples are still unaware of Jesus' identity. Jesus made the disciples depart tranquility, and then He went up on the mountain by Himself. While he is praying, the storm came, and the disciples get distressed in the boat. About 4 a.m., Jesus walked back to the disciples, anxiously waiting for Him aboard the boat. The wind was strong, and the boat was being tossed about by the medium of waves. Suddenly Jesus appeared, and He came back towards the boat, walking on the water of the sea. This incredible sight strikes fear in the Disciples' hearts. They cried out in terror. In fear, the Disciples were terrified, seeing Jesus like a ghost standing on the water. Jesus is ultimately in control of His emotions. He never lets the circumstances control Him or determine how He is going to act. He never allows the actions and attitudes of others to make Him work bizarrely or inappropriately. As a consummate teacher, Jesus modeled this way of life with His steps as He served in a wide variety of ways during His glories of Public Service.

In Matthew, this spectral, goose flesh episode reveals a deepening sense of discipleship and a growing understanding among Jesus' closest followers like Peter of Jesus' true identity. At once, Jesus spoke confidently to them, "Take courage; It is I; do not be afraid." Peter said in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come on the water." Jesus said: "Come." Peter is a mix of daring and trembling excitement. Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on water. The wind was strong, and Peter became frightened. Beginning to sink, Peter cried out, "Lord, save me." Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and grabbed Peter's hand, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" The wind obeyed, and the storm died down. And those who were in the boat did Jesus homage, saying, "Truly, You are the Son of God."

In anticipation of the words of the Roman Centurion standing upright with his sword drawn out near the foot of the Cross, they are all able to proclaim Jesus: "Truly, You are the Son of God." When Jesus said, "It is I." Truly echoes with the divine self-revelation. He also said, "Do not be afraid." Jesus' presence in the boat helped them to see and to proclaim who He is, who multiplies loaves and walks on water upon the sea. Calms the storm, taught the stubborn disciples with patience and clarity; took the blinds by the hand and led them on a walk outside the city; knelt on His knees and washed the feet of the twelve; saved His agitated Disciples from drowning; and showed us the journey to the Holy Cross.

To be a Disciple of Jesus is a relationship of total faith and love. There is no such thing as half-hearted discipleship because there is no such thing as half-hearted love; Jesus does not soft-pedal the seriousness of commitment to Him. The virtue of humility is the key to holiness. Humility is the mother of salvation. And Christ in saving us from drowning is the model of humility. He came to save us from doing His Father's will.

We want to follow Jesus to be Stewards of humanity. Because honestly, He is the Son of Almighty God. Amen. May God bless you all.

C.C. Salonga

READINGS & REFLECTIONS

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

Sunday, Aug 09, 2020 NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ghosts of the past, spirit of the present

Nagasaki was the second and last city to date to endure attack by atomic weapon. In the instant after the bomb's release, 35,000 people were killed, mostly factory workers. Those factories, which supported the Japanese war effort, were the targets of the attack. It all made sense in a war room at the time. After the mushroom cloud clears, however, we have to reckon with the ghosts of our choices. The animated drama, *In This Corner of the World*, offers a moving reflection on the personal cost of these attacks on ordinary Japanese citizens. Pray for all victims of war, and for lasting world peace. **TODAY'S READINGS:** 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33 (115). *"The disciples saw him walking on the sea. . . . 'It is a ghost,' they said, and they cried out in fear."*

Monday, Aug 10, 2020

FEAST OF LAWRENCE, DEACON, MARTYR

Be inspired by the martyrs among us

Lawrence, a Roman deacon who was martyred in 258, is one of the most venerated of saints, and there are many legends about his gruesome death, which prompted widespread conversions to Christianity in his city. Most Christians aren't called to such spectacular sacrifice, but there are other types of martyrs—ordinary folks in every generation who face adversity with total commitment to God and sow the seeds of faith all around them. They are martyrs at the hands of disease, hatred, bigotry, selfishness, and cruelty. They fight the good fight and leave us all the better for it. Pray for that level of faith and perseverance. **TODAY'S READINGS:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26 (618). *"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life."*

Tuesday, Aug 11, 2020

MEMORIAL OF CLARE, VIRGIN

We are what we love

Those who enter consecrated life in the Catholic Church make at least three vows—of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Known as the Evangelical Counsels, the vows are meant to shield disciples from greed, lust, and pride. For most religious orders, poverty is simply a commitment to shared (rather than individual) ownership. But Clare of Assisi, among the first followers of Saint Francis and the first woman known to write a set of monastic guidelines, made sure her order of Poor Clares owned nothing at all. "We become what we love," she wrote. "If we love things, we become a thing." In honor of Clare, take some time to examine what you love and what you own to see whether anything is hampering your spiritual life. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 2:8-3:4; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (414). *"Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest."*

Wednesday, Aug 12, 2020

Get engaged

One of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching—Call to celebrate and enhance the global efforts of youth to build a

better world. This year's theme is "Youth Engagement for Global Action," and we've certainly seen evidence of that in recent street protests. What are you doing to engage youth? Offer young people you know a call to action—or better yet—respond to the call they offer you. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Matthew 18:15-20 (415). *"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst."*

Thursday, Aug 13, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PONTIAN, POPE, AND HIPPOLYTUS, PRIEST, MARTYRS

Bring them out of exile

Today's saints—Pontian and Hippolytus—endured exile together. They were forced by third-century Roman emperor Maximinus to work in the mines of the island of Sardinia and eventually perished there. Formerly, they had been a pope (Pontian) and theologian (Hippolytus). The church advocates at many levels for migrants who have been exiled from their homeland by war, poverty, or persecution. In homage to exiles across the centuries, consider taking a step today to aid migrants in your region of the world. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 12:1-12; Matthew 18:21—19:1 (416). *"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."*

Friday, Aug 14, 2020

MEMORIAL OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST, MARTYR

Witness to the world

Many young Catholics may have had the opportunity to read the comic book "Soldier of God," about the life of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who was killed in the Auschwitz concentration camp. It begins: "This is a true story of a real flesh-and-blood hero of God." Young readers were captivated, and most could not forget the images of Maximilian volunteering to take the place of a man who was selected to be killed. "Would I do that?" is an instinctive question when faced with such powerful witness. Not all are called to martyrdom, but each Christian commits to being an example of God's deep love and care for people, especially the most vulnerable. "How can I be God's witness?" is a good question to ask yourself each day. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63; Matthew 19:3-12 (417). *"Live in your blood and grow like a plant in the field."*

Saturday, Aug 15, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Hidden glory revealed

Mary, now united totally with her son, with whom she suffered excruciating ordeals, shows us how suffering transforms to glory. She gathers all her human children close in this season of harvest, her bounteous fruits and flowers. Today's gospel shows Elizabeth affirming in Mary a vigor and holiness, mirroring God's, that she herself might not have recognized. This feast points to the same glory in each of us, perhaps hard to believe, but still hidden, vital, intact. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Day: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56 (622). *"My spirit rejoices in God my Savior."*

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