

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church  
Martinez, California

The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord . . .

*I will bring to my  
holy mountain . . .*

for my house shall be called a  
house of prayer for all peoples.

ISAIAH 56:6, 7



August 16, 2020

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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LITURGY SCHEDULE (All Masses are Livestreamed)

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM (Upper parking lot - outdoors)  
Pre-Register On-line [www.stcmtz.org](http://www.stcmtz.org)

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

DAILY ROSARY: Monday - Saturday 7:30 AM

DAILY MASS: 8:00 AM

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: 8:30 AM

ADORATION: No Adoration - TBD

RECONCILIATION: By Appointment Only

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](http://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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:mauld@csdo.org)

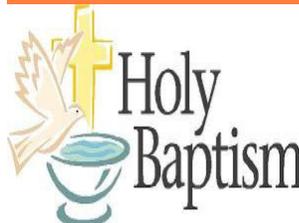
[scpreschool@comcast.net](mailto:scpreschool@comcast.net)

**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](http://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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>  
Hours: 10:00 am until 1:00 pm  
(Parish Center)  
**By Appointment Only**  
Please call: 925-289-7793  
or (925) 788-7409



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

**Parish Website:** [www.stcmtz.org](http://www.stcmtz.org)  
**Bulletin:** [stcathmtz@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



*O woman,  
great is  
your faith!*

MATTHEW 15:28

AUGUST 16, 2020  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE LORD WELCOMES ALL

All of us who ache to be accepted find lavish comfort in today's readings. Rich in mercy, the Lord welcomes all of us—no exceptions. Isaiah extends God's invitation to all nations, even to foreigners who often arouse suspicion from the "in crowd." Saint Paul takes advantage of these fearful suspicions by provoking the Israelites' jealousy: if even Gentiles can offer acceptable worship to the one true God, then God's chosen people should surely do the same. In a similar way, Jesus provokes his disciples in today's Gospel from Matthew. Bantering with a Canaanite woman, Jesus draws out her tremendous faith, which endures despite the typical rejection she faces from scornful Israelites. Whether we identify more with the privileged disciples or the marginalized Canaanite woman, we cannot mistake God's universal invitation to believe in the One who saves us.

### REJECTED

At one time or another, we have all been rejected or ridiculed, left out of a conversation, or not invited to a party. It hurts to be excluded. God makes all things new, though, and our scriptures today invite us to turn over our aching hearts to the Lord. Some of us might feel reluctant to give our hearts to the Lord, especially if our suffering somehow involves God or the Church. Why pour out hearts to God, after all, if God seems to be the cause of our troubles? A tragic loss, a painful death, or an unavoidable catastrophe can disrupt or destroy our life plans. When people clumsily console us then, saying, "It's God's will," we can easily become suspicious of God and the almighty will. If we suffer from the sinful structures or actions of God's representatives and ministers in the Church, we might look with skepticism at the prayers of that same Church.

Even so, our Canaanite woman today persuades us not to lose hope. The disciples scorn her, complaining that she "keeps calling" out for help. Like irritable children, the disciples ask Jesus to "send her away." And just when we might expect Jesus to take her side, to scold the disciples and reward the woman's persistence, he shocks us by implying she is a dog. Undaunted, the woman accepts Jesus' remark and parlays its aggression into her own forceful plea: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

### ACCEPTED

The woman's faith is irresistible—to Jesus, and to us. Jesus grants her heart's desire, healing her daughter from that very moment. We too are won over by her indomitable confidence in the Lord. Truly, this woman is one of the heroes of the New Testament. When difficulties suffocate us and we feel turned away like a stray dog, we can recall the Canaanite woman's simple words: "Lord, help me."

## TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7  
Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8  
Romans 11:13–15, 29–32  
Matthew 15:21–28

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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.*

# 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## August 16, 2020

### Gathering Hymn: O God Beyond All Praising:

1. O God beyond all praising, We worship you today  
And sing the love amazing That songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder At ev'ry gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before you And wait upon your word,  
We honor and adore you, Our great and mighty Lord.

2. Then hear, O gracious Savior, Accept the love we bring,  
That we who know your favor May serve you as our King;  
And whether our tomorrows Be filled with good or ill,  
We'll triumph through our sorrows And rise to bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty And glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty Our sacrifice of praise.

Text: 76 76 76 D; Michael Perry, 1942–1996, © 1982, The Jubilate Group. All rights reserved. Administered by Hope Publishing Co. Used with permission. Music: Gustav T. Holst, 1874–1934.

### Penitential Act:

**Gloria:** Glory to God in the highest...

### First Reading **IS 56:1, 6-7**

Thus says the LORD: Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed. The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, ministering to him, loving the name of the LORD, and becoming his servants— all who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

### Responsorial Psalm **PS 67:2-3,5,6,8**

**R.** (4) O God, let all the nations praise you!

May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.

**R.** O God, let all the nations praise you!  
May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide.

**R.** O God, let all the nations praise you!  
May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

**R.** O God, let all the nations praise you!

### Second Reading: **ROM 11:13-15,29-32**

Brothers and sisters: I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I glory in my ministry in order to make my race jealous and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all.

**Alleluia:** **cf. Matthew 4:23**

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people.

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia .

### Gospel **MT 15 : 21-28**

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

### **Presentation of the Gifts:**

Litany for the Earth: Barbara Bridge  
Cantor / Congregational Response:

The Cantor(s) will sing the verse and the Congregation will sing the response for "All"

**All—**

Pour out you mercy, pour out your Love  
Cantor—

**All—**

Heal our common Home.

**Communion :** Blest Are They David Haas

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God. Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

### **Refrain**

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth. Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.

### **Refrain**

3. Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God!

### **Refrain**

4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.

### **Refrain**

5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me. Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

Text: Based on Matthew 5:3-12. Text and music © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

**Sending:** He Is the Lord

David Haas

### **Refrain:**

Sing to the Lord with shouts of joy, let all creation rejoice! Come join the song of praise to our God! He is the Lord! He is the Lord!

### **Refrain:**

1. Cry out with your joy to the Lord, all you nations! Serve the Lord. Serve the Lord. Come before him singing for joy!

### **Refrain:**

2. Give thanks to God our Father for his love. Bless our God. Bless our God. His mercy is forever!

### **Refrain:**

3. Great is the King of creation; he is faithful. Praise his name. Praise his name. Sing of his salvation!

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**All are welcome to 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.**

### 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*



## STEWARDSHIP

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

### WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

AUGUST 9, 2020

		<u>ON-LINE</u>
Weekly Offering:	\$5,187.00	\$ 2,672.00
Parish Maintenance:		\$ 20.00
School Support:		\$ 60.00
Organ:		\$ 53.00
St. Vincent de Paul	350.00	\$ 350.00

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

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

### Activity Center/Gymnasium: PACE I, II, FTP

#### **Correction note:**

The actual amount of reclaimed donations for the week ending July 31st was incorrect. The actual amount should have been 3 households at \$9,870.00 reclaimed only. All other indicated totals including the Year to Date are correct.

#### **Repurposed Donations: Week Ending 8/7/2020**

# Households/Individuals:	14
Amount	\$ 34,480.51

#### **Reclaimed Donations:**

# Households/Individuals	2
Amount:	\$ 1,563.25

#### **YEAR TO DATE** Week Ending 8/7/2020

	Household/Individuals
<b>Repurposed:</b> \$571,391.28	171
<b>Reclaimed:</b> \$226,310.33	51

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://stcmtz.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.

## **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>

***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

### ***What future projects are planned with the monies repurposed?***

These projects are currently in the planning and bidding process:

- ◆ Renovation of the Youth Shack
- ◆ Renovation of the Parish Hall and Kitchen
- ◆ Repave and Replacement of fence in the Upper Parking Lot
- ◆ Repairs to the cemetery

### ***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.



## 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

<b>SAT</b>	<b>8/15</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Jack & Mary Daviet†
<b>SUN</b>	<b>8/16</b>	<b>8:30</b>	The Botti Family†
		<b>11:00</b>	Amado Joves†
		<b>1:00</b>	Dolores and Joe Cardenas†
<b>MON</b>	<b>8/17</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Int. Connor Myrick– Birthday
<b>TUE</b>	<b>8/18</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Lauro Conmigo†
<b>WED</b>	<b>8/19</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Olga Maria Araujo†
<b>THUR</b>	<b>8/20</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Special Intention
<b>FRI</b>	<b>8/21</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Arthur, Blanche, Richard Brouette†
<b>SAT</b>	<b>8/22</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Josephine Caccavo†
<b>SUN</b>	<b>8/23</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Mitch and Ann Costanza†
		<b>11:00</b>	Int. People of the Parish

### 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

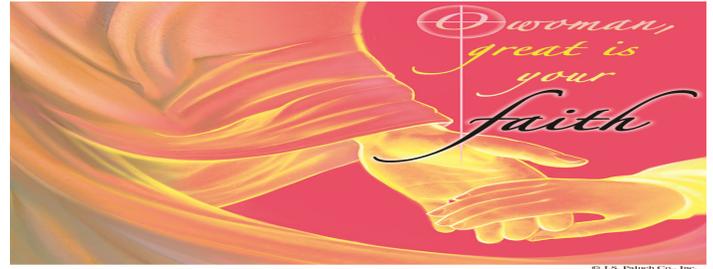


St. Catherine Parish offers deepest sympathy and prayers for the families and, the repose of the soul of all who entered into eternal life.

Victims of the Coronavirus

**The Daily Rosary, Holy Mass and Divine Mercy (Monday - Saturday) is currently being celebrated outdoors in the Upper**

Next weekend, The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ will be blessing both the church and school facilities. Please make sure you register on the parish website [www.stcmtz.org](http://www.stcmtz.org) for all upcoming 8:30 AM Holy Masses to ensure proper seating. Thank you.



In today's Holy Gospel (Luke 1: 39-56), we celebrate: **"The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary."** "Blessed are you among women. The Virgin Mary is exalted above the choirs of angels. Blessed is the Lord who has raised her. Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her beauty." At Mary's Annunciation with Angel Gabriel, she said: "Yes"—Let it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1: 26-38).

Our obedience is the official proclamation and teaching of our Church that the particular honor rests in the deposit of faith. This is the belief with Blessed Mary's bodily assumption into heaven. It's the teaching of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, that brings to light our trust in God. Our Church is the Guardian of faith given to the Apostles, and the expositor of that faith forever. Blessed Mary's Assumption is a great example—called the development of Christian Doctrine (St. Cardinal Newman). In the supreme providence of God, the hidden treasures in the deposit of faith are brought out in the history of our Church. Our human minds cannot grasp the absolute truth. That is the prerogative of the Almighty God. The solemn guidance of the Holy Spirit gradually reveals to us the truth.

At the Council of Ephesus (A.D. 431) Blessed Mary is truly the "Mother of God," defined in the truth about the divinity of Jesus. **Jesus Christ is true God and true Man. It follows that His earthly Mother is rightly called the "Mother of God."** This is an essential part of belief and worship for all Christians. Our Nicene Creed at the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) commemorates her miraculous appearances as Lady of Guadalupe, Lady of Fatima and Lady of Lourdes.

We have a similar situation with the dogma of Mary's bodily assumption into heaven. The feast of Mary's "Falling Asleep" and its celebration date was fixed on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The early Fathers referred to this fact whenever they spoke of Mary's immunity from sin. The liturgical celebration of this mystery prompted iconic homilies. The Lord commanded the Holy Body of Mary after her death to be borne on a cloud to Paradise, where she is reunited to her soul and rejoice with never-ending happiness to eternity. The definition of the Immaculate Conception by St. Pope Pius IX in 1854 and the bodily assumption of Blessed Mary are solemnly defined. The faith is alive in God's People—we call: "sense of faith." It is a matter of truth planted in our faithful hearts—by the Holy Spirit.

When the faithful made this crystal-clear, the expressed belief is always in keeping with the Holy Scriptures, tradition, and teaching of the Church. It took almost 100 years of discourse and study to bring about the solemn definition of Blessed Mary's Immaculate Conception and Assumption into Heaven. St. Pope Pius XII in 1954 commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Immaculate Conception. These two holy privileges bestowed upon the Mother of God stand out as the most beautiful light as the beginning and end of Blessed Mary's earthly journey. The most magnificent glorification of her Virginal Body, the assumption to heaven, is the complement so appropriate and marvelous of the absolute innocence of her soul free from stain. Mary took part in the sacrifices of her only-begotten Son Jesus. She also shared in His glorious triumph over sin and its sorrowful consequences. The Assumption of Blessed Mary at the end of her earthly life is part of her claim that: "He who is mighty has done great things for me." (Luke 1: 49). The Solemnity of her Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation and Church Festival.

The dignity of the Virgin Mother of Jesus is founded in absolute fidelity to what God has made her—Virgin and Mother. "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord"(Luke 1: 40). Our Rosary Devotion to the Mother of Jesus assumed into heaven is the central key to our faith and senses. (Luke 15: 17). **She is the Mother of Church and her beautiful statue here at St. Catherine's "New Church" is worth more than a thousand words.** Amen. May God bless you all.

Cc. 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 16, 2020** TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### **Believe outside the box**

A natural tension exists between the familiar and unfamiliar, the neighbor and stranger, our kind and every other kind. Even Jesus seems initially to have limited his mission to “the lost sheep” of Israel. A clever woman, a Canaanite, persuades him to think outside the box on this issue. Later, Saint Paul abandons the box altogether, taking the gospel to the Gentiles outright. We’re the beneficiaries of that decision. These days, as we wrestle with how much we’re obliged to share our land and its richness with others, we might consider the crumbs that fell from the table to us. TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28 (118). *“It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.”*

**Monday, Aug 17, 2020**

### **Be a good steward**

When it comes to Christian stewardship, there’s an awful lot we are supposed to take care of—the whole world to be exact! Pope Francis said, “In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God’s gifts!” The key to stewardship is remembering that it’s not ownership—your talents, your treasure, all of creation were bestowed on you. Show your gratitude to God by using them responsibly and sharing them with others lovingly and generously. TODAY’S READINGS: Ezekiel 24:15-24; Matthew 19:16-22 (419). *“Sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.”*

**Tuesday, Aug 18, 2020**

### **Build a human economy**

People’s livelihoods have been hit by COVID-19’s closure of workplaces. Protests over racial inequality shine an unforgiving light on economic inequality. The Catholic Church has a lot to say about how the economy should work to promote the common good. The Catechism of the Catholic Church denounces two economic extremes—communism’s centralized control, but also capitalism’s tendency to make individualism and the market into modern-day idols. Above all, let us remember what the U.S. Catholic Bishops have written: “The economy exists for the person, not the person for the economy. . . . A fundamental moral measure of any economy is how the poor and vulnerable are faring.” Keep that in mind as you make big and small economic decisions. TODAY’S READINGS: Ezekiel 28:1-10; Matthew 19:23-30 (420). *“By your great wisdom applied to your trading you have heaped up your riches.”*

**Wednesday, Aug 19, 2020** MEMORIAL OF JOHN EUDES, PRIEST

### **Beyond thank you**

Today is World Humanitarian Day, a day established in 2018 by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers who step up in times of crises. If ever there is a year for us to honor and advocate for such workers, it is this year. As the world has faced a global pandemic, we have been challenged more than ever to

recognize the essential workers in our midst who have risked their lives for our well-being. Today is a good day to think about ways to support humanitarian workers beyond a simple thank you through a donation, a call of advocacy to an elected official, or joining alongside them in their work. TODAY’S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:1-11; Matthew 20:1-16 (421). *“The last shall be first and the first shall be last.”*

**Thursday, Aug 20, 2020**

MEMORIAL OF BERNARD, ABBOT, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### **Faithful through thick and thin**

Today is the Memorial of Bernard of Clairvaux, whose impact on Europe in the 12th century was profound and whose influence lives on worldwide in Cistercian monasteries and Catholic theology. He was a scholar (whose books are still readily available), a skilled arbitrator, mystic, monk, reformer, and leader of Europe’s second crusade (a violent venture that ended badly). Through his successes and mistakes, Bernard of Clairvaux aimed to follow Jesus. We are called to do the same. Do one thing today that puts your heart, mind, or skills to the service of God. TODAY’S READINGS: Ezekiel 36:23-28; Matthew 22:1-14 (422). *“Tell those invited: ‘Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.’”*

**Friday, Aug 21, 2020** MEMORIAL OF PIUS X, POPE

### **The right of kings that was wrong**

Shortly after the turn of the 20th century, Giuseppe Sarto was elected Pope Pius X, but not without controversy. The leading vote-getter of the papal conclave was Mariano Rampolla, but Polish Cardinal Jan Kosielsko exercised a veto in the name of Emperor Franz Joseph. That swung the vote to Sarto. It was the last time a reigning monarch exercised a longstanding right of veto in a papal conclave. Government interference in church leadership has always been an issue, though today less so in most (though not all) parts of the world. Pray for a worldwide church that answers to only one Lord, Jesus. TODAY’S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Matthew 22:34-40 (423). *“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”*

**Saturday, Aug 22, 2020**

MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### **She wears her crown well**

Though queenship is a concept quite foreign to a democratic society (especially one that threw off royal rulership at its founding!), when applied to Mary it can be understood as an expression of the Holy Mother’s central role in the reign of God. Though today’s feast, established in 1954, is quite recent in terms of the larger sweep of church history, associations of Mary with queenship go back to the angel Gabriel’s announcement that Mary’s son would inherit the throne of King David. Allow Mary to reign in your heart, especially at times when you are called on to take a leap of faith, as Mary certainly was when Gabriel revealed her mission to her. TODAY’S READINGS: Ezekiel 43:1-7b; Matthew 23:1-12 (424). *“Son of man, this is where my throne shall be.”*

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