

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
Martinez, California

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

October 18, 2020

I have called you
by your name,
giving you a title,
though you knew me not.

I am

the Lord

**and there
is no other,**

there is no God besides me.

Isaiah 45:4-5

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LITURGY SCHEDULE (All Masses are Livestreamed)

Pre-On-line registration required for 4:30PM, 8:30 AM and 11:00AM weekend masses

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM AND 4:30 PM (100 PERSON CAPACITY PER MASS - INDOORS)

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM (Upper parking lot - outdoors or until further notice)
11:00 AM (inside church) Drive-thru Communion after the Mass
1:00 PM Spanish Mass (inside church : Effective 10/25/2020)

DAILY ROSARY: Monday - Saturday 7:30 AM

DAILY MASS: 8:00 AM (inside church)

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: 8:30 AM

ADORATION: Thursday, 12-8 PM

RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 3-4 PM

*Appointments are also available - 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

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troyk@stcmtz.org

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 Director Religious Education (K-8)
 Family Sunday Faith Formation Ministry
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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: 9 - 1 PM Tues, Wed, Thur.
SCHOOL WEBSITE:
<http://school.stcatherinemartinez.com>



ST. CATHERINE PRE-SCHOOL 925-229-2255
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



FAITH FORMATION (Grades K-8) CONFIRMATION (9th -12th)



Next Class: Sunday, October 18th
after the 8:30 am Mass

We are still accepting registrations
 See our website for on-line registration.

www.stcmtz.org
October 25th

IGNITE will be Setting up a Prayer Place -
 Día de Muertos, Prayer Pumpkins for a wonderful
 family formation experience.



RCIA -We are currently in the
process of Inquiry.

If you, or someone you know is in-
 terested in learning more about the
 Catholic Faith or has been baptized
 but not received their other sacra-
 ments, this is the program for them.

Sessions are held virtually on Wednesday evenings
from 7-8pm via ZOOM. To receive the link to join us
 or if you would like more information please contact:
 Karen Glen at Ext 4 or Email: scspastoral@gmail.com.

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.

"Let's stay connected" via one of our many
social media platforms:

Parish Website: www.stcmtz.org
Bulletin Submission: stcathmtz@yahoo.com
 Submissions are due no later than 12 PM every Friday for the
 following Sunday.



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.
- Step 4.** Now stay connected!
- Step 5.** Share with others, you know.

I have called you by your name, giving you a title,
though you knew me not.

I am

the Lord

and there is no other,
there is no God besides me.

Isaiah 45:4-5

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
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THE TRAP

It is a scene that could be taken from the daily news feed. A young upstart is confronted by two established leaders. While holding opposing views on many issues, the two band together in an attempt to trap the newcomer. This is not a story from the daily news, however. The newcomer is Jesus in today's Gospel passage. The two established leaders, one a Pharisee and the other a Herodian, think they can trap Jesus by posing a question about the payment of taxes. No matter how he might respond to their question, they would have the means to discredit him. Jesus sees through their hypocrisy and does not fall into their trap. His response gets at the heart of what is truly important: "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

WHAT BELONGS TO GOD?

God creates all that is. Each of us is a marvelous creation of God. All that we have is created through the grace of God and the ways in which we humans use the gifts that have been given to use by God. Thinking about Jesus' question from this perspective leads us to ask ourselves what belongs to God. As the Lord tells Cyrus in today's first reading, each of us is called by name. We belong to God. If we are truly honest in our reflection, the conclusion we will reach is that everything is God's. We are to be good stewards of it all. Jesus' instruction to give "to God what belongs to God" calls us to take seriously the realization that all we are, have, and will be is a gift from God, given to us in trust, that we might use it to further God's kingdom on earth.

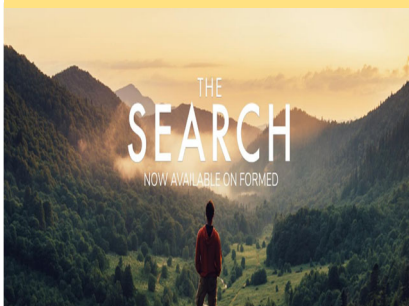
THERE IS NO GOD BESIDES ME

Most of us can admit that we do not readily think of our lives and possessions as belonging to God. Doing so calls us to think much more deeply about how we use our time, material goods, talents, and gifts in our daily lives. When we take to heart that everything that we are and have belongs to God, we learn to put God first. No longer can materialism or worldly success be our god, nor the unbounded activity that fills much of our lives. Each of us has been "loved and chosen" by God to bring Christ's presence to the world, through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Thessalonians 1:4). We do this by giving what belongs to God back to God through the proper use of our lives, gifts, and resources.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
Psalm 96:1, 3-5, 7-10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Matthew 22:15-21

Always something new to discover on FORMED.



Go to internet and
type [http://
formed.org](http://formed.org)
Enter our parish
name and city.
Start enjoying on
your phone or
computer.

The Search // Episode 5 // Who is Jesus?

The most beautiful part of this story is this we can know God's love, personally. This is the person of Jesus. But how did this seemingly insignificant carpenter born into poverty in a dusty corner of the Roman Empire become the most pivotal figure in all of history. Christianity isn't simply a philosophy for life – the center of Christianity is a person. We look at the life of Jesus and what he came to do. Ultimately, we need to decide if Jesus really was who he said he was. We can't sit on the fence. Because if Jesus really was who he said he was, we need to make him the Lord of our lives, and everything changes.



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 18, 2020

Gathering: All Hail the Power of Jesus'
CORONATION / Oliver Holden / Edward Perronet

1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem To crown him Lord of all; Bring forth the royal diadem To crown him Lord of all.

2. Hail him, you heirs of David's line,
Whom David Lord did call, The God incarnate, Man divine, And crown him Lord of all; The God incarnate, Man divine, And crown him Lord of all.

3. Crown him, you holy saints of God, Who from his altar call; Extol him in whose path you trod, And crown him Lord of all; Extol him in whose path you trod, And crown him Lord of all.

Text: 86 86 86; Edward Perronet, 1726–1792; alt. by John Rippon, 1751–1836. Music: Union Harmony, 1793; Oliver Holden, 1765–1844.

Penitential Act:

Gloria: Glory to God in the highest...

First Reading IS 45: 1, 4-6

(Proclaimed in Spanish)

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him, and making kings run in his service, opening doors before him and leaving the gates unbarred: For the sake of Jacob, my servant, of Israel, my chosen one, I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. I am the LORD and there is no other, there is no God besides me. It is I who arm you, though you know me not, so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun people may know that there is none besides me. I am the LORD, there is no other.

Responsorial Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

R. Give the Lord glory and honor.

Cantemos la grandeza del Señor. Cantemos al Señor un canto nuevo, que le cante al Señor toda la tierra. Su grandeza anunciemos a los pueblos; de nación

En nación sus maravillas.

R.

For great is the LORD and highly to be praised; awesome is he, beyond all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are things of naught, but the LORD made the heavens.

R.

Alaben al Señor, pueblos del orbe, reconozcan su gloria y su poder y tribútenle honores a su nombre. Ofrezcanle en sus atrios sacrificios.

R.

Worship the LORD, in holy attire; tremble before him, all the earth; say among the nations: The LORD is king, he governs the peoples with equity.

R.

Segunda lectura

1 Tes 1, 1-5

(Proclaimed in English)

Pablo, Silvano y Timoteo deseamos la gracia y la paz a la comunidad cristiana de los tesalonicenses, congregada por Dios Padre y por Jesucristo, el Señor. En todo momento damos gracias a Dios por ustedes y los tenemos presentes en nuestras oraciones. Ante Dios, nuestro Padre, recordamos sin cesar las obras que manifiestan la fe de ustedes, los trabajos fatigosos que ha emprendido su amor y la perseverancia que les da su esperanza en Jesucristo, nuestro Señor. Nunca perdemos de vista, hermanos muy amados de Dios, que él es quien los ha elegido. En efecto, nuestra predicación del Evangelio entre ustedes no se llevó a cabo sólo con palabras, sino también con la fuerza del Espíritu Santo, que produjo en ustedes abundantes frutos.

R. Aleluya, aleluya, aleluya

Gospel

MT 22:15-21

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion:

Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

Ofertorio—Presentation of the Gifts:

Here I Am, Lord Dan Schutte

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. Yo, Señor de la nieve y la lluvia. he soportado el dolor de mi pueblo, he llorado por amor a ellos. Me rechazan. Quebraré sus corazones de piedra. les daré corazones solo para el amor les daré mi palabra. ¿A quién enviaré?

Estribillo:

Aquí estoy Señor ¿Acaso soy yo, Señor?

Te he escuchado llamar en la noche. Iré yo, Señor, si me guías. Sostendré a tu pueblo en mi corazón.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and music © 1981, OCP. All rights reserved.

Holy, Holy, Holy... Santo, Santo, Santo

Save Us, Savior - Por Tu Cruz

Great Amen

Cordero de Dios / Lamb of God

Communion: Ubi Caritas Bob Hurd

Estribillo (en Latín)

Ubi caritas est vera, est vera: Deus ibi est, Deus ibi est.

Verses

1. The love of Christ joins us together. Let us rejoice in him, and in our love and care for all now love God in return.

1. Unidos como un solo cuerpo, en la communion demostremos nuestro amor a quien primero amó.

2. In true communion let us gather. May all divisions cease and in their place be Christ the Lord, our risen Prince of Peace.

2. Reunidos y alimentados, ya libres del rencor, vivamos nuestra communion en Cristo, Salvador.

3. May we who gather at this table to share the bread of life become a sacrament of love, your healing touch, O Christ.

3. Que el pan de vida que nos une nos cambie el corazón para dar al prójimo amor y sanación.

4. For those in need make us your mercy, for those oppressed, your might. Make us, your Church, a holy sign of justice and new life.

4. Y para los necesitados de amor y de bondad seamos la esperanza, justicia y paz.

5. May we one day behold your glory and see you face to face, rejoicing with the saints of God to sing eternal praise.

5. Concédenos ya ver tu Gloria y en tu presencia estar; y, unidos a los santos, cantarte sin cesar.

Text: Refrain and vss. 1, 2, 5, based on Ubi Caritas, 9th cent.; verses 3, 4, Bob Hurd; Spanish by Pedro Rubalcava. Text and music © 1996, 2004, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. All rights reserved

Sending Forth:

For the Fruits of This Creation

ARHYDYNOS / Fred Pratt Green

1. For the fruits of this creation, Thanks be to God; For the gifts of ev'ry nation, Thanks be to God; For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping, Future needs in earth's safekeeping, Thanks be to God.

2. In the just reward of labor, God's will be done; In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done; In the worldwide task of caring For the hungry and despairing, In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.



STEWARDSHIP

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

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

October 11, 2020

		ON-LINE
Weekly Offering:	\$3,639.00	\$ 2,135.00
Catholic Voice:/organ	\$ 150.00	\$ 45.00
Home Mission :	\$ 35.00	\$
Diocesan Priest:	\$ 50.00	\$
Maintenance:		\$ 20.00
School Scholarship		\$ 60.00
St. Vincent de Paul		\$ 55.00

Activity Center/Gymnasium: PACE I, II, FTP

No change in activity from 10/2 through 10/9

Repurposed Donations: Week Ending 10/9/2020

Households/Individuals: 0
Amount: \$0

Reclaimed Donations:

Households/Individuals 0
Amount: \$0

YEAR TO DATE

Week Ending 10/9/2020

Household/Individuals
Repurposed: \$776,784.75 243

Reclaimed: \$278,863.26 73

***As of 10/14/20 \$250,591.08
has been paid to back to Donor's .*



DISCIPLESHP

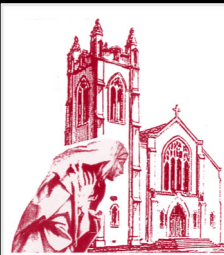
To empower a community
of Christian people walking
together as disciples of Jesus in
order to share His good news.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT	10/17	8:00	Int. Matt & Debbie Pelizzari- Anniversary
		4:30	Pearl & Joe Balestrieri†
SUN	10/18	7:00	Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish
		8:30	Agapito & Erlinda Bonifacio†
		11:00	Mario Rose†
MON	10/19	8:00	Int. Judith Abesamis
TUE	10/20	8:00	Kirk & Brydie Kuykendall †
WED	10/21	8:00	Int. St. Catherine School Families
THUR	10/22	8:00	Special Intention
FRI	10/23	8:00	Rusty Rupp†
SAT	10/24	8:00	Remedios Conmigo †
		4:30	Victoria Del Prado†
SUN	10/25	7:00	Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish
		8:30	Vilma & Giovanni Costa†
		11:00	Deceased Members of the ICF†
		1:00	Dolores & Joe Cardenas†

**Mass Intentions for the 2021 Calendar year
are now being accepted. Please fill out the
form located on our website
WWW.STCMTZ.ORG**

For Emergency Anointing of the Sick
(Only for those who are experiencing
an imminent death) **Call (925) 228-2230 Ext 6**



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

Richard Cabral
Victims of the Coronavirus
Victims of recent California Fires



For World Mission Sunday... **Here I Am, Send Me!** Today, on World Mission Sunday, we respond, "Here I Am, Send Me," to our baptismal call to mission, and we offer, at the Eucharistic celebration, our prayers and our generous financial support, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, to continue the mission of Jesus. Today we are "sent" out to witness to mission in the world through our prayers and sacrifices for our brothers and sisters around the world. As little as... è \$25 helps support a catechist for a month in remote Latin America è \$75 provides for the work of religious Sisters caring for orphaned children in Africa è \$100 assists families in sending their children to schools in Asia As always, your prayers are your most treasured gift to the Missions. Your prayers and financial help, offered today, **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**, support mission priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay catechists who are Christ's witnesses to a world so in need of His healing, love, and peace.



HERE I AM, SEND ME AQUÍ ME TIENES, MÁNDAME A MI

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH | A PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETY
LA SOCIEDAD PARA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LA FE | UNA OBRA MISIONERA PONTIFICIA

ONE SUNDAY FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

In his message for World Mission Sunday this year, Pope Francis asks us to respond to our baptismal call to mission by saying, "Here I Am, Send Me." This is the mission that all Christians have received, and God gives us the grace to live it out wherever we may be.

UN DOMINGO PARA EL MUNDO ENTERO

En su mensaje para el Domingo Mundial de las Misiones de este año, el Papa Francisco nos pide que respondamos a nuestro llamado bautismal a la misión diciendo: "Aquí Me Tienes, Mándame A Mi." Esta es la misión que todos los cristianos han recibido, y Dios nos da la gracia de vivirla donde sea que estemos.

OCTOBER 18, 2020

PRAY AND GIVE GENEROUSLY | ORAR Y DAR GENEROSAMENTE



**The Catholic Church
designates October as the
Month of the Holy Rosary.
We invite you all to join
in the 2020
BLOCK ROSARY**



The Holy Rosary: Prayer for Peace and the Family. Let us honor Mary under her title of Our Lady of the Rosary by praying with group recitation every evening at 6:00 p.m. Let us honor Mary, Mother of God and our Mother by praying as a family, even more special way when we pray with our young children. A host family with family members take turn in praying the decades of the Holy Rosary or recite the special prayers for the day.

We invite ministry groups or organization groups and especially families to host a night.

To reserve a date to host, please contact: Yolly D (925) 270-9830 or accez@aol.com ; Karen Glen (925) 228-2230 ext. 4; kareng@stcmztz.org Many dates still available. Check out the website for available days.



“GIVE THE LORD GLORY AND HONOR.”



Dear Families in Christ,

In today's Holy Gospel (Matthew 22: 15-21), Jesus's adversaries question Him about the controversial topics of Roman law, belief, and behavior. The Pharisees and the Herodians plotted to entrap Him in speech. Jesus was too bright and smart. He has an impossible reputation for cleverness, wisdom. This episode is one reason why the Pharisees and the Herodians opposed each other regarding the deceptive snare question related to paying taxes to Rome.

They plotted the entrap question and signaled the controversy that's about to unfold. The Pharisees are also smart. They coached and sent the Herodians, so they don't overplay their part and scheme. The question suggests that a storm is coming and brewing over Jesus. It appears to be a manipulative ploy. The Herodians ask Jesus: "Teacher, we know you are a truthful Man, tell us then, is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" This tricky question was to harm or impair Jesus' reputation either way. By answering the question, Jesus will alienate the people who oppose the tax and antagonize authorities who imposed the tax.

Well-aware of the questioner's malice, Jesus answered, you hypocrites?" Without waiting for a response, Jesus throws some truth at them. And instead of giving them a simple "Yes or No," Jesus asks them to do something to show Him the Roman coin used to pay taxes. "Show me the coin." One of them digs out a Roman coin and hands it to Jesus. Jesus keeps their attention focused on the coin by asking whose image and inscription it bears. When they answer: "Caesar," they fall into traps. Since the questioners are playing a part, they set up, pretending to ask a genuine question. They bring in, and they planned to disarm Jesus with flattery so that Jesus, they hope, must answer their question to appear untruthful and acting contrary to His teaching. Their flattery and trickery were a self-incriminating response since too overt a trap might spook the prey. So they spoke the cloying praise calmly; they pose the question matter-of-factly. Jesus' follow-up questions are also crisp and challenging.

"Whose is this and whose inscription?" The Pharisees answered, "Caesar," Jesus surveying them and the crowd and seeing into their hearts. Jesus is deliberate and unrushed. He said, **"Yes," Give to Caesar what belongs to him, but beware that you don't surrender to Caesar what rightfully belongs to God.**

Once again, Jesus' teaching is clearly defining the law that underlines the command to love our neighbors delivered by Jesus (Leviticus 19:18). His brilliant teachings are purely common sense, formulated with the highest standard of conscience propelled by oath to God. The Pharisees and Herodians are no match for Jesus' mental acumen!

By God's oath to render to Caesar what is rightfully his, Jesus awaits answering their real question. He limits to Caesar only that authority that is legitimately his. Jesus makes it clear that they belong to God and not to the State. If the State intrudes into this sacred territory, then the faith person is no longer obliged to render to Caesar. The things of God—are what Jesus knows and speaks. His challengers, Pharisees, and Herodians walked away, and they agreeably, peacefully disappear after being amazed and silenced on this topic. Give to Caesar what is Caesars's, but give to God what is God's. **It means the intimate love of God and our neighbors.**

C.C. Salonga



BENEATH HIS CROSS

Every 1st Thursday of each month a group of men and women meet before the presence of our Eucharistic Lord during Adoration to pray for all priests all over the world, including by name, those priests nearest our hearts and those who may be troubled or struggling. It feels really good to give back to our priests who sacrifice all they have for us, for Christ, and for His church. If you are intrigued by the idea of a prayer cenacle for priests, and want to see more good and holy priests doing Christ's work here on earth, then come and join us at **6 pm** on **November 5th**. There is an opportunity after the cenacle for silent prayer, reading or reflection until the **Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament** at **8 pm**.

We strongly urge all parishioners to register, to become informed on key issues, and to vote. The Church does not support or oppose any candidate, but seeks to focus attention on the moral and human dimensions of issues. We do not authorize the distribution of partisan political materials on parish property.

USCCB:
FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

Earlier this year, the USCCB released videos to inspire prayer and action in political life. A series of videos complement *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* the bishops' teaching document for the faithful on the political responsibility of Catholics. The goal is help the faithful participate in public life, prioritize faith over partisan politics, engage with civility and respond to pressing issues of the day. Additional supplemental resources are available at: www.faithfulcitizenship.org and Civilizelt.org.

The videos are available on the USCCB's YouTube channel in four languages (English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese)

**You are invited to an
All Souls Mass
Monday, November 2nd, 9AM at
the St. Catherine Cemetery
(NO 8AM DAILY MASS)**

**7PM Church or outdoor Mass
will also be celebrated.**

**You are invited to bring a
picture of your departed loved
one to be displayed at the
church through the month of
November.**

***You may drop off your picture in the vestibule (left of the front doors) or at the parish center during normal office hours.
**Make sure you place your name and phone number on the back of your picture.
*** Please do not forget to sign-up for the evening mass on our website.
Thank you**

FORMANDO LA CONCIENCIA PARA SER CIUDADANOS FIELES

A comienzos de este año, la USCCB (Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos) publicó videos para inspirar la oración y la acción en la vida política. Una serie de videos complementa *Formando la conciencia para ser ciudadanos fieles*, el documento de enseñanza de los obispos para los fieles, sobre la responsabilidad política de los católicos. El objetivo es ayudar a los feligreses a participar en la vida pública, priorizar la fe sobre la política partidista, comprometerse con civismo y responder a los problemas urgentes del día.

Los videos están disponibles en el canal de YouTube de la USCCB en cuatro idiomas.

(Inglés, español, tagalo y vietnamita), vea abajo los videos en español:



WORSHIP

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



3 Lessons from the life of St. Wenceslas that we need this fall

In many ways, this lionhearted saint is an ideal intercessor for our time.

Hearing the words “Good King Wenceslas” makes most people think of a Christmas carol written about a king—but they’re wrong on both counts. St. Wenceslas was not a king during his lifetime, but a duke of Bohemia. After Wenceslas’ martyrdom, Holy Roman Emperor Otto I posthumously declared him a king, which is why he’s described that way in the song. **And that beloved Christmas carol? It wasn’t intended to be sung at Christmastime originally, but year-round, especially in the springtime and on St. Wenceslas’ feast day (today!).** The song became associated with the Christmas season because its events take place on St. Stephen’s Day (December 26).

His story is little known today, but Wenceslas is, in many ways, an ideal intercessor for all of us living in 2020. As we prepare for autumn and winter, his story can be a ray of light and hope in the months ahead.

A SPIRIT OF GOODWILL TOWARD ALL

St. Wenceslas lived in a time of extreme and violent political unrest, and through it all, he was known as a peacemaker and unfailing source of charity. A biographer writes of his generous deeds, which inspired the present-day carol:

... Rising every night from his noble bed, with bare feet and only one chamberlain, he went around to God’s churches and gave alms generously to widows, orphans, those in prison and afflicted by every difficulty, so much so that **he was considered, not a prince, but the father of all the wretched.**

His persistent kindness and gentle spirit, whether the person in need was known to him or a complete stranger, are just the example we could all use these days. **In a time when many seem to look for any excuse to disparage those who don’t agree with them, St. Wenceslas’s indiscriminating goodwill is truly a light to the world.**

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP

It’s all too easy to turn away from other people’s struggles, telling ourselves, “Someone else will help,” or “That doesn’t concern me.” **But as Christians, it’s our duty and privilege to treat each person we meet with the love of Christ.**

When St. Wenceslas saw a person in need, he did whatever he could to help them, even if the timing was bad (as on a “cruel” and bitterly cold winter’s night). Even though he was the political ruler of his area, he seemed to ask himself, **“What are my obligations as a Christian to those around me?”** instead of asking, “What do others owe me?” It’s a refreshingly other-centered attitude, and asking ourselves the same question might just help us all get through 2020.

THE GRATITUDE OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ALL YEAR ROUND

In a way, St. Wenceslas’s association with Christmas is fitting. **His story reminds us to keep the spirit of Christmas in our hearts all year.** This doesn’t mean celebrating Christmas in September, but rather remembering and holding onto the feelings and actions that make Christmas feel so special.

At Christmastime, we feel grateful for what we have, we seek out ways to be generous, and we greatly delight in the simple pleasures of home and family. Could there be a better approach to the coming of chilly weather? As many people expect to spend increasing time at home this winter, we can look for reasons to be thankful and enjoy the good, simple gifts that are all around us.

If we need a little help imitating St. Wenceslas in any of these ways, don’t forget to ask for his prayers. Surely this lionhearted saint would be only too glad to give anyone what he can best give from Heaven, which is his intercession.

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, Oct 18, 2020

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Share the suffering, ease the burden

People in love behave differently. They “never stand still,” Pope Francis declares. “They’re drawn out of themselves; they’re attracted and attract others in turn.” Believers are lovers in this way, feeling the irresistible urge to share the blessings of faith. That is why, the pope concludes, we must all be missionaries. On this World Mission Sunday, we embrace the call to be lovers of our suffering world. The Rosary’s Sorrowful Mysteries hold the keys: Bring global suffering to prayer, be willing to suffer for the truth, bear wrongs patiently, share the burdens of others, and know what’s worth sacrificing for. **TODAY’S READINGS:** Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21 (145). *“For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and the Spirit and with much conviction.”*

Monday, Oct 19, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN DE BRÉBEUF AND ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Heal the breach

Jean de Brébeuf was a French Jesuit missionary who worked with the Huron in what is today Canada and was martyred in an Iroquois raid. Brébeuf was a skilled linguist and not only learned the Huron language but also the spiritual beliefs already held by the Huron. His fellow Jesuits wrote about how easily Brébeuf adapted himself to the Huron way of life. While he was not always respectful of Huron culture, we can emulate his effort to create bridges of mutual understanding, as our own country is today torn by differences. **TODAY’S READINGS:** Ephesians 2:1-10; Luke 12:13-21 (473). *“You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?”*

Tuesday, Oct 20, 2020

MEMORIAL OF PAUL OF THE CROSS, PRIEST

How deep is your love?

Paul of the Cross, Italian mystic and founder of the Passionist religious order in 1725, was taught by his mother to look to the crucified Jesus as a way to make sense out of suffering. Most of his siblings died; his father’s business barely scraped by. But no matter what hardships the family endured, his mother said, they were nothing compared to God’s deep love. What a seed she planted in her son! “The holy sufferings of Jesus is a sea of sorrows, but it is also a sea of love,” wrote Paul. “Ask the Lord to teach you to fish in this sea.”

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 2:12-22; Luke 12:35-38 (474). *“Be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open.”*

Wednesday, Oct 21, 2020

People, get ready

“Be Prepared” is a motto for the Boy and Girl Scouts that is explained in this way: “You are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty.” That motto could very well be a motto for Christian life. Jesus expects his followers to be alert to the assistance of the Spirit and to act in ways that

bear witness to Christian duty. It is a Christian’s duty to use the gifts of time and talent to build up Jesus’ kingdom of love. When you review the past week, can you find evidence that you are doing your Christian duty by responding to Jesus’ call to love unconditionally? **TODAY’S READINGS:** Ephesians 3:2-12; Luke 12:39-48 (475). *“You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”*

Thursday, Oct 22, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN PAUL II, POPE

Small acts can have great impact

Saint John Paul II’s quarter-century as pope greatly influenced both church and state. Many times his personal witness is what moved people’s hearts. Christians and those of other faiths alike were moved by his willingness to meet with his would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Ağca. While most people’s lives are not lived on the world stage, each of us can bear witness through acts of love, forgiveness, and reverence. What gesture of yours today can bear witness to God?

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 3:14-21; Luke 12:49-53 (476). *“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”*

Friday, Oct 23, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, PRIEST

Fly back when the time is right

The cliff swallows of San Juan Capistrano, California depart the mission town on or around this date, the Memorial of Saint John, the town’s namesake. They return every spring after their 6,000- mile winter migration to Argentina. Pray that, like the swallows of Capistrano, everyone will be able to safely come back to the place they call home, after war, famine, natural disaster, or separation due to pandemic. **TODAY’S READINGS:** Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 12:54-59 (477). *“Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.”*

Saturday, Oct 24, 2020

MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP

Let your light shine!

As a young man, Anthony Claret was torn between his talent in the textile business and the emerging call he felt to religious life. Seeing his talent, his father offered to share leadership of the family business with him. Anthony was famously short of stature, and he pointed out that workers likely would resist taking orders from him. His father suggested they could hide Anthony behind a desk to come up with ideas and put a larger man in charge of the workers. That sealed the deal for Anthony—he wasn’t interested in hiding. Thereafter he was a tireless and talented preacher, confessor, author, and publisher in the service of God. Don’t hide your own gifts—they are God-given and the world needs them!

TODAY’S READINGS: Ephesians 4:7-16; Luke 13:1-9 (478). *“It may bear fruit in the future.”*

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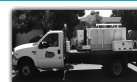
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