

# St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church Martinez, California

worship

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for forty days,  
tempted by Satan.  
He was among wild beasts,  
and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12-13

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. - Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved. Photo: Howgill/Adobe Stock.

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

#### ALL SUNDAY MASSES REQUIRE ON-LINE REGISTRATION

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM - INDOOR AND LIVESTREAMED  
SUNDAY: 8:30 AM - INDOOR AND LIVESTREAMED (Drive-thru Communion after Mass)  
11:00 AM - OUTDOOR MASS- LIVESTREAMED (Drive-thru Communion after Mass) **103.5 FM**  
1:00 PM - SPANISH MASS - INDOOR

ADORATION- TBD (Private Prayer available after weekday daily mass ) Please call the office for access.

DAILY ROSARY: Monday - Saturday 7:30 AM  
DAILY MASS: 8:00 AM - Indoor and Livestreamed  
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: 8:30 AM

RECONCILIATION: 9-10 AM Saturday's -Indoor  
Sunday's 10:10-10:40 AM (Preschool courtyard) or  
by Appointment. Please call /email the office.

## PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF

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

Fr. Michael Nufable, Ext 6  
Parochial Administrator  
[frmiken@stcmtz.org](mailto:frmiken@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  
CLOSED ON WEEKENDS**

**Sylvia Lloren** Ext. 1  
Office Administrator/Sacramental Coordinator/  
Communications  
[sylvial@stcmtz.org](mailto:sylvial@stcmtz.org)

**Troy Killorn** Ext. 3  
Director of Music Ministry / Maintenance Manager  
[troyk@stcmtz.org](mailto:troyk@stcmtz.org)

**Karen Glen** Ext. 4  
Bookkeeper / Safe Environment Coordinator / RCIA  
[kareng@stcmtz.org](mailto:kareng@stcmtz.org)

**Andrea Watkins** Ext. 5  
Director Religious Education (K-8)  
Family Sunday Faith Formation Ministry  
[andrea@stcmtz.org](mailto:andrea@stcmtz.org)

**Deacon Albert Dizon** Ext. 7  
[dcnalbertd@stcmtz.org](mailto:dcnalbertd@stcmtz.org)

**Deacon David Holland** Ext. 7  
[dcndaveh@stcmtz.org](mailto:dcndaveh@stcmtz.org)

**Paul & Jennifer Holland** Ext. 8  
Co-coordinators, Confirmation Ministry  
[paulh@stcmtz.org](mailto:paulh@stcmtz.org) & [jennyh@stcmtz.org](mailto: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:** TBD

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:** <http://school.stcatherinemartinez.com>

**ST. CATHERINE PRE-SCHOOL** 925-229-2255

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)

## COURTESY REMINDER

Please register your vehicle to park in the upper parking lot. Vehicle registrations are intended for you and your family to remain inside your vehicle. Not for parking your car and sitting outside.

Thank you for understanding and cooperation.

### The Mass schedule update

As of 2-12-2021

**8:00 AM Daily Mass**

(Mon-Sat. Indoor & Livestreamed)

## REGISTRATION REQUIRED For Sunday, Holy Masses

### 8:30 AM Sunday, Mass (Indoor - Livestreamed)

- Communion will be provided for 15 minutes after the Mass in front of the church.

### 11:00 AM Sunday, Mass (Outdoor - Livestreamed)

- Communion will continue to be provided for 15 minutes after the Mass in front of the church.
- Both Pedestrian and Vehicle registration available.

### 1:00 PM Sunday, Spanish Mass (Indoor)

Please continue to sign up via:

**Eventbrite or on our Parish Website.**

The link is also available through **MyParishApp** message and/or our **Facebook** page.

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

**Parish Website:** [www.stcmtz.org](http://www.stcmtz.org)

**Bulletin Submission email:**

[stcathmtz@yahoo.com](mailto:stcathmtz@yahoo.com)

**Submissions are due no later than 12 PM every Friday for the following Sunday.**

**Exception: Early Holiday Deadlines**



**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.

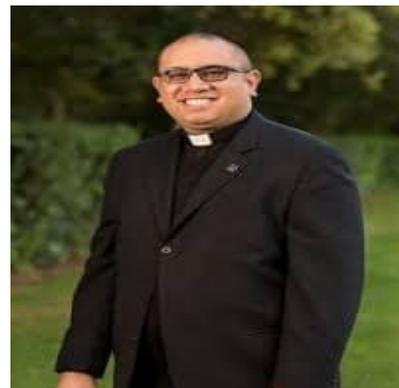
**Step 3.** Search for St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Martinez.

**Step 4.** Now stay connected!

**Step 5.** Share with others, you know.

Go to the **menu**, click **share**, and choose who you want to share!

## *From the Desk of the Parochial Administrator*



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We enter a sacred season of reflection and repentance of spiritual discipline and renewal in the wilderness.

We're in a place where pretense fades away and honest vulnerability becomes possible. In the wilderness, we no longer keep up the public image of effortless perfection. We are free to confess the confusion and the reality of our lives. In the wilderness, for the most part, is where we live our lives. It is the place between certainty and doubt, hope and fear. In nature, Jesus finds his voice and his vocation, and when he emerges forty days later, his words echo those of John the Baptist: "the Kingdom of God has come near; repent; believe."

Mark's Gospel tells us that divine authority's immediate recognition does not mark Jesus' life and ministry success. Instead, the same Spirit who descended at his baptism drives Jesus farther out into the wilderness, where he will spend forty days tempted by Satan, surrounded only by wild beasts and angels. The ministry of Jesus begins in the wilderness.

The loneliness of God's servant is a theme that persists throughout the Gospel. It all begins in the wilderness, home to prophets of Israel and to Israel itself in the years of wandering. Jesus is there too. At his baptism, the voice and vision belong to Jesus alone. The words "you are my Beloved" are singular. It is not Israel who takes on the mission of proclaiming God's reign, it has been set in motion as stated in Isaiah. As Isaac before him and Joseph, it is Jesus who is beloved, men whose lives belonged to God and who suffered much for God's people. Jesus' proclamation of the "Gospel of God" follows immediately upon John's arrest, who had also been preaching repentance.

What tempted Jesus? What tempts us? At Jesus' baptism, the Spirit enters him, and therefore God is with him. It would seem that Jesus is well equipped to fight temptation since the presence of God is with him. We're told that the Holy Spirit is with us. This should help us to know that God's presence is, therefore, even with us. But do we believe this? We are often tempted to think that God is absent. God is not here. He has withdrawn. Why do we believe this? Well, there are many reasons. If we are honest, there are many, many excruciating times when God is silent. However, we can look at Jesus in his temptations and know that God was present with him. Our temptations may not be those of Jesus, but we, too, have the promise that God is with us in all of our trials.

I invite you every **Friday at 7 pm during Lent for Stations of the Cross in the Church**. After the Stations of the Cross, there will be some time for Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Please register because of the limit that we can have in the Church.

May your Lenten journey be graced with spiritual growth and insights as we move together toward the great festival of Easter.

In Christ,  
Fr. Mike

**"Day In and Day Out, For The Greater Glory of God"  
"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure" – St. Pope John Paul II.**

Fr. Mike is available for confession from **10:10 - 10:40AM** every Sunday prior to the 11 AM Mass. In the Preschool courtyard. Or on Saturday's from 9-10 AM in the church. If you choose to make an appointment please contact the office or **Fr. Mike at (925) 228-2230 Ext 6**

**11AM Sunday, Holy Mass  
(Outdoor) is now being  
transmitted on 103.5 FM**

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



## 1st Sunday of Lent - February 21, 2021

**Gathering Hymn:** Led by the Spirit  
KINGSFOLD / Bob Hurd

1. Led by the Spirit of our God, we go to fast and pray  
With Christ into the wilderness; we join his paschal  
way. "Rend not your garments, rend your hearts.  
Turn back your lives to me." Thus says our kind and  
gracious God, whose reign is liberty.

2. Led by the Spirit, we confront temptation face to  
face, And know full well we must rely on God's re-  
deeming grace. On bread alone we cannot live, but  
nourished by the Word We seek the will of God to do:  
this is our drink and food.

Text: CMD; based on Joel 2:12-13; Matthew 4:1-4; Mark 1:12-15;  
John 4:5-42; Bob Hurd, © 1996, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. All  
rights reserved. Music: trad. English Melody; English Country Songs,  
1893; adapt. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958.

### Penitential Act:

**First Reading:** Gen 9:8-15  
God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am  
now establishing my covenant with you and your de-  
scendants after you and with every living creature that  
was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and  
wild animals that were with you and came out of the  
ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never  
again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the  
waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to  
devastate the earth." God added: "This is the sign that  
I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant be-  
tween me and you and every living creature with  
you:

I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the  
covenant between me and the earth. When I bring  
clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the  
clouds,  
I will recall the covenant I have made  
between me and you and all living beings, so that the  
waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all  
mortal beings."

**Responsorial Psalm:** PS 25:4-9

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those  
who keep your covenant.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,

Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior. **R.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and  
your love are from of old.

In your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O LORD. **R.**

Good and upright is the LORD,  
thus he shows sinners the way.

He guides the humble to justice,  
and he teaches the humble his way. **R.**

### Second Reading

1 Pet 3:18-22

Beloved:

Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the  
sake of the unrighteous,  
that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the  
flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he  
also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had  
once been disobedient while God patiently waited in  
the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in  
which a few persons, eight in all, were saved  
through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves  
you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the  
body but an appeal to God for a clear con-  
science, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
who has gone into heaven  
and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authori-  
ties, and powers subject to him.

### Gospel Acclamation:

**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of  
endless Glory**

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word  
that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of  
endless Glory**

## Gospel

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for forty days,  
tempted by Satan.

He was among wild beasts,  
and the angels ministered to him.  
After John had been arrested,  
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:  
"This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

### Profession of Faith

(During Lent - Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
*At the words that follow, up to and including "the Virgin Mary," all bow.*  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

**Holy, Holy, Holy / Great Amen**  
**The Lord's Prayer / Sign of Peace; Lamb of God**



## Communion: The Supper of the Lord

Laurence Rosania

### Refrain;

**Precious body, precious blood, seen as bread and wine; here the Lord prepares the feast divine. Bread of love is broken now, cup of life is poured: come, share the supper of the Lord.**

1. This is the bread of God coming down from heav'n, giving life to us, to all the world. **Refrain;**
2. "I am the living spring of eternal life; you that drink from me shall not thirst again." **Refrain;**
3. "I am the bread of heav'n giving life to you; you that eat this bread shall never die." **Refrain;**
4. "All those who feed on me have their life in me, as I have my life in the living God." **Refrain;**
5. All praise to you, O Christ, present in this feast; in this bread, we share in one life, one Lord.

### Refrain

Text: Verses 1-4 based on John 4, 6. Text and music © 1994, 2012, Laurence Rosania. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

## Sending Forth:

**During the Season of Lent we shall depart in a silent prayerful manner.**

**Please wait in your pews for the ushers to dismiss you.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

## 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.stemtz.org](http://www.stemtz.org) or call the office, and we can help you with any update.

**Stations of the Cross**  
**Every Friday beginning at 7PM**  
**Please register on-line through**  
**our Website, Facebook, or**  
**Parish App.**



## Parish Hall and School (Boiler) Heat and Air

# UPDATE

### Timeline of Events

In the fall 2019 the St. Catherine of Siena Parish leadership presented a “State of the Parish” report to the parish, school, and community at large. The needs of the Parish, School and Cemetery facilities were addressed in this report, which was published in the Parish bulletin and on our website @ stcmztz.org. The Five Years of Grace Facilities Team drafted a plan to address the urgent needs of the community. The Parish at this time did not have funds available to cover the 2.5 million dollars of repairs and improvements that were needed. St. Catherine of Siena Parish had been in a 20-year building project which was brought to an end and the donors were invited to reclaim their money or have it repurposed to the capital needs of the parish and/or school. The Parish Finance Committee and the Five Years of Grace Facilities Team worked to prioritize the projects with the consideration of the donor’s requests.

In 2018 with the Formation of Lumen Christi Academies, the overall responsibility of the school and its facilities was shifted from the Parish community to the network of schools, asking the Parish to continue to provide for the faith and spiritual needs of the students, families and staff. One of the benefits of the school moving to this network was the accessibility of shared funding to enhance each individual school. In January of St. Catherine of Siena School, a Lumen Christi Academy received a generous grant from the Shea Foundation for the renovation of the school building. With the onset of COVID 19, the renovation of the school took some unexpected turns and the total monies available to complete the projects necessitated the scaling back of some of the work originally planned.

In May of 2020 a meeting was held that included the Paul Bongiovanni/CFO of the Diocese of Oakland, Rodney Pierre-Antoine/Director of Lumen Christi Academy, Jessica Griswold/Principal of St. Catherine of Siena School, Fr. Anthony Le/Parochial Administrator of the Parish, Troy Killorn/Facilities Manager and the Shea Foundation representatives. Knowing the condition of the boiler system was a major concern, as to its functionality and longevity, the topic was discussed at this time. The Shea Foundation’s generous grant was already allocated to specific needs of renovation – interior remodel and painting of the school, new windows, new lighting, security doors and a partial painting of the exterior of the school. The St. Catherine of Siena Parish contracted with the Shea Foundation vendors to complete the exterior painting of the school building, the lighting in the parish hall and kitchen and the addition of the keyless entry doors/security to the parish hall. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions and strict OSHA protocols, additional vendors could not have access to the building during the planned renovation. The St. Catherine of Siena Facilities team planned for an evaluation of the boiler upon Shea Foundation vendors completion of the project. The timeframe for completion was extended, but we were able to gain access in September.

The Parish contracted with Bay City Boiler to open, clean, and inspect the boiler. In late October we received a bid to retube the boiler for \$25,580, which would have been a temporary fix. The bid to replace the boiler was \$47,155 with an additional cost of at least \$8700 more to do repairs on what was visible to the degree the tubing could be examined. Bringing the total to \$55,855.

At this time there was no additional inspection of the radiant heat lines that run through the building by Bay City Boiler. Some of the heating lines have been abandoned in the lower part of the building. In past attempts to improve the quality of heat for the building "Heat-a-lators" were added to the main floor to force heat into the classrooms and offices and these show visible signs of leaking. The estimated cost of a full and safe repair of the system is not available without further cost to evaluate the system which would include opening ceilings and walls to inspect.

The Five Years of Grace facilities team, under the leadership of Troy Killorn had concurrently investigated a more efficient heating and cooling system for the school. Bids were acquired for the cost of the units, as well as the upgrades to the electrical system which are necessary to accommodate the units. The proposals are for individual room units that will provide both heat and air conditioning. These units will heat and cool quickly and are energy efficient. This upgrade will save money over the years in utility costs and enable the addition of solar panels for additional cost savings in the future.

Due to circumstances outside of our control the processes have been delayed over the winter months.

On January 1, 2021, Father Michael Nufable was assigned to St. Catherine of Siena Parish, as the new Parochial Administrator. Fr. Michael was quickly brought up to speed on the details and delays in the project. As our new Parochial Administrator, Fr. Michael is responsible for all major decisions in consultation with the Diocese of Oakland. The Diocese of Oakland is legally the owner of all Parish and School properties and must approve major repairs and renovations. The process for approval of all major projects requires the submission of all evaluations, bids and liability information. We have officially requested the project to be approved. We are asking for this approval outside of the normal policies and procedures we are asked to follow for these types of projects.

On Monday, January 25th we were able to convene a meeting of the Diocese, the Parish, and the contractors to execute a plan of action. This meeting delegated the responsibilities of each vendor and entity for the execution of the project. The details of the project were submitted to the City of Martinez for approval and permitting.

On Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> we met with St. Catherine of Siena staff, Jessica Griswold/Principal, Rodney Pierre Antoine/Director, Lumen Christi Academies and Paul Bongiovanni/CFO, Diocese of Oakland to discuss the plan and timeline for the project. The estimated time for the completion of the project once approval is received from the Diocese, the City of Martinez and PG&E is 3 to 4 weeks. The project involves the HVAC installer, an electrical contractor, and a general contractor. Permits are needed from the City of Martinez and PG&E. The project may be staggered to help facilitate a faster timeline.

It is best for the contractors to have unlimited access to the building during the installation of the units. The issue of Safe Environment must be considered if the children are present. Jessica will consider the plan for adaptation, distance or hybrid learning based on the information Troy will give her regarding the actual start dates and construction needs.

The overall cost of the project is estimated to be about \$175,000 dollars. St. Catherine of Siena Parish has funds to execute the project in our Building and Renovation Fund, from the repurposed monies of the Building/Activity Center Project. In a collaboration with the Parish, Lumen Christi Academies will share in a percentage of the cost from their Capital Grant funds.

Thank you!

God Bless!

Fr. Michael Nufable—Parochial Administrator, St. Catherine of Siena Parish  
Jessica Griswold – School Principal, St. Catherine of Siena School  
Rodney Pierre-Antoine – Director, Lumen Christi Academy



## STEWARDSHIP

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

### WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

<b>February 14, 2021</b>		<b>ONLINE</b>
<b>Weekly Offering:</b>	<b>\$2,415.00</b>	<b>\$2,287.00</b>
<b>Maintenance:</b>		<b>\$ 60.00</b>
<b>School Scholarship:</b>		<b>\$ 90.00</b>
<b>St. Vincent de Paul:</b>		<b>\$ 135.00</b>

Thank you for your continued support both spiritual and financial.

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

- 1) **On-line Giving:** [www.stcmtz.org](http://www.stcmtz.org)
- 2) **My parish App:**  
**CLICK on the "giving icon"**
- 3) **Diocesan Support for the Parishes**  
Go to the **Diocese of Oakland** home page  
**CLICK on the Giving tab**  
Select the **Parish Support** option  
<https://www.oakdiocese.org/parish-support>



**"LAST CHANCE ORDER TODAY"**

Drive Through  
**(CRAB FEED)**  
February 27th, 2021  
St. Catherine of Siena School



**\$70 Crab Dinner includes**

*3 pounds of crab, pesto penne pasta, salad, dinner rolls and dessert by Zandonella Catering*

*Pickup times from 3:30-6pm*

Reserve dinners and drinks at:  
[www.bit.ly/36bGucR](http://www.bit.ly/36bGucR)



## 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 2021 calendar year are now being accepted. Please fill out the form located on our website: [WWW.STCMTZ.ORG](http://WWW.STCMTZ.ORG)

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>SAT</b>	<b>2/20</b>	<b>8:00</b>	McLoughlin & Curtin Families†
<b>SUN</b>	<b>2/21</b>	<b>4:30</b>	Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parishioners
		<b>8:30</b>	Glenn & Ruth McFarland†
		<b>11:00</b>	Lupe Guerra†
		<b>1:00</b>	Guadalupe Viveros, Enrique Mendoza†
<b>MON</b>	<b>2/22</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Int. Ryan Ramos - Birthday
<b>TUE</b>	<b>2/23</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Rose Delchinit†
<b>WED</b>	<b>2/24</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Int. St. Catherine School Families
<b>THUR</b>	<b>2/25</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Malline Stuckey†
<b>FRI</b>	<b>2/26</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Merton Downing†
<b>SAT</b>	<b>2/27</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Int. Dominic Buscaglia - Birthday
		<b>4:30</b>	Rose and Santo Tavormina
<b>SUN</b>	<b>2/28</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Gina V. Juan†
		<b>11:00</b>	Juan Delchinit†



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



## Rice Bowl

This Lent our faith community will be joining millions of Catholics across the country by participating in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl. Your family is invited to pick up a rice bowl packet beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and join in this simple, yet powerful Lenten practice. CRS' Rice Bowl invites us to pray with our families and communities, fast in solidarity with those who are hungry, learn about others around the world, and give sacrificial contributions to help those in need. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more information. Return your bowls to the church office at Easter. 25% of your contributions remains in the diocese and provides annual grants to organizations feeding the poor. The St. Catherine of Siena Conference of SVdP thanks CRS Rice Bowl of the Oakland Diocese for a \$350 grant received this year. The funds will be used to replenish food in the pantry that is given to our neighbors weekly on Saturdays. You are encouraged to support the 2021 Lenten CRS' Rice Bowl effort.

### St. Catherine of Siena Conference

In today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 193 families with food as well as utilities and rent (with assistance from outside Grants). We invite you to join in our Vincentian ministry through service to our neighbor and sharing your gifts through almsgiving.  
God Bless You!

#### Visits with People in Poverty – Your Donations

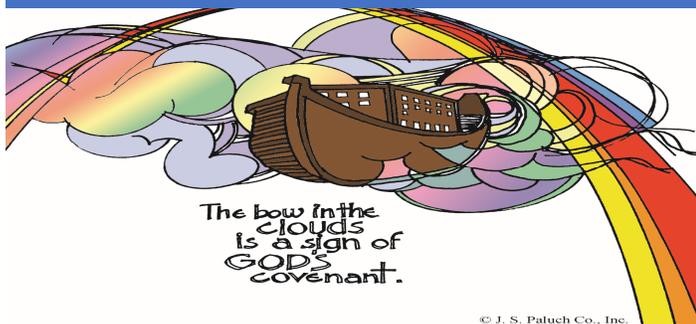
The vocation of the Society's members is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so be a witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Your donations have helped members execute their commitment through person-to-person contact. In 2020, Vincentians reached out in the following ways

#### SERVICES BY VINCENTIANS



- Visited **32** households to offer material and spiritual help.
- Helped **1112** families through food pantry
- Served a total of **1145** families
- Served a total of **3847** people

For more information contact Anne (925) 787-0857 or (925) 788 -7409



© J. S. Patuch Co., Inc.

### LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

The annual **"40 CANS IN 40 DAYS"** food drive, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will be ongoing throughout the Lenten Season.

Collection barrels will be set up in the in the outside parking lot for all Sunday Masses. Please drop off your canned goods during this time only. Each family is asked to donate at least 40 cans of food over the 40 days of Lent. The donated cans will be presented to the local food bank.

Please, **no frozen food, boxed food or expired cans.** For more information please contact Orlando Conti (925) 586-9071



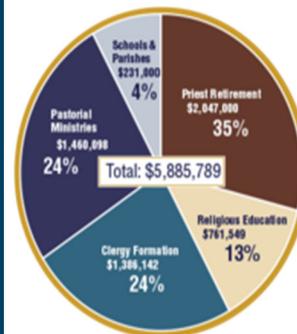
Come and pray the rosary.

Our Hispanic Community will begin praying the rosary in front of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the last Thursday of each month. Beginning on Feb 25th, 2021 at 7 PM. "All are invited".



This year has been challenging for so many. Now, more than ever, the good work of the Church is needed in our community. From Faith Formation for students and adults, to important ministry works, to supporting our schools and parishes, our Diocese is making a difference in people's lives every single day — thanks to the prayers and contributions of our catholic community.

We are appreciative of every gift we received this past year. It is because of you that we are able to support the work St. Catherine of Siena Parish's goal this year is \$23,000. that furthers Christ's mission in the Diocese of Oakland.



**The goal for the 2021 Bishop's Appeal is \$3 million.** The funds raised will help offset the costs of services and ministries.

*All gifts to the Bishop's Appeal go solely to those purposes listed inside. Funds are never redirected to any other use.*

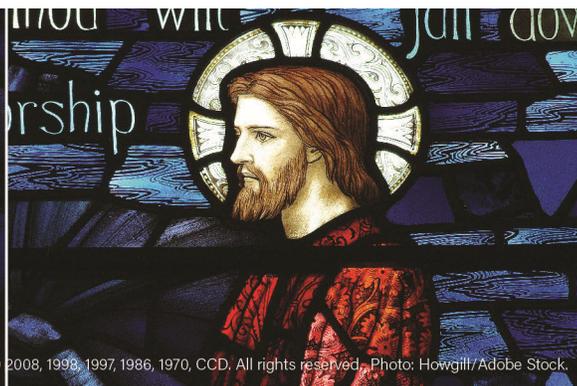
### 2021 BISHOP'S APPEAL PRAYER

As sisters and brothers, bound together in the mission of our great Diocese of Oakland, we come into Your presence, gracious God, with gratitude and awe. We call on our blessed Mother, Queen of the World, along with St. Francis of Assisi and all the great saints who brought forth renewal and new life, to accompany us in the 'rebuilding' of our Church and of our world. With our hearts and hands outstretched to receive the other and impart healing and hope, we dedicate our energies and resources to that new life, which You, gracious God, are bringing forth now, already, in the midst of the disorientation and birthing pains that are also a part of our present circumstances. You, O God, are Creator and Lord of all. For this we, the bishop, priests, ministers and all the faithful of the Diocese, give You abundant thanks. With our beloved St. Francis we, too, cry out: 'Laudato Si' ... Praise to You, O Lord!

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12-13

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. · Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1993, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved. Photo: Howgill/Adobe Stock.



## BAPTISM

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1 Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Christian baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading, from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

### GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluias"? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

### A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

### TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 9:8-15  
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:12-15

FIRST LENT  
SUNDAY OF  
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

## READINGS & REFLECTIONS

**Sunday, Feb 21, 2021** FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Doing the rite thing

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a countercultural choice. They're going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it's a journey of the heart. For all, it's what they've seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let's help keep the inspiration going!

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (23). *"The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

**Monday, Feb 22, 2021** FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE

### Recognize the chair

Jesus loved us so much that he entrusted us to someone he trusted deeply. In fact, in the Gospel of John, Jesus asked Peter three times if his devotion was assured. He named him "rock" so he would be a solid foundation upon which to build the church, and for 2,000 years Peter's successors have had the responsibility of tending his sheep. Today we celebrate the seat of the pope's authority as Christ's representative on Earth, the protector Jesus wanted for his flock. Ask the Holy Spirit to always guide the one who sits in Peter's chair.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). *"I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven."*

**Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021** MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

### Words to live forever by

Polycarp's death in 155 is one of the first accounts of Christian martyrdom in a public arena. The elderly bishop was resolute and serene even as he was burned and stabbed before a frenzied crowd. Included in the accounts is the two hours of prayer Polycarp began upon his arrest, so powerful it unnerved his Roman guards. But Polycarp was also an Apostolic Father, specifically a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Thus, he had firsthand knowledge of John's words from Jesus: "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). *"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

**Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021** LENTEN WEEKDAY

### A good day to make amends

We are one week into this Lenten season, so perhaps it is time to have a conversation with our Lord. Imagine you are walking with Jesus, side by side, and he asks you, "Is there any person you think of who you have hurt or judged, or any action that comes to mind that you know was wrong? Anything you repent?" You take a moment, and standing next to him, you feel his love for you. Regret and sorrow arise as you admit the mistakes that come to mind. You ask for the grace to make amends in whatever way possible. Find a way today to make something right. **TODAY'S READINGS:** Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). *"At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."*

**Thursday, Feb 25, 2021** LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Has prayer moved you?

It is tempting to think about prayer in a transactional way: I ask, therefore God gives. Today's gospel may even appear to encourage this form of thought: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find." But Catholic teaching urges us to see God's response to prayer broadly. Pope Francis explains: "Prayer always transforms reality: if things around us do not change, at least our hearts are changed. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to every man and woman who prays." If you have a prayer that seems unanswered, consider how your heart was moved by the mere act of praying.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). *"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."*

**Friday, Feb 26, 2021** LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

### The low rumble within

Anger is one of our human "passions," the Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs, neither good nor bad in and of itself. Anger can provide us with helpful information that we feel wronged by someone or something. It may be intense or a low rumble within. Lent is an opportunity to become still, listen to our anger, and examine its source. How might we invite God into these rough spaces for healing? Desiring healing does not disregard hurt or suffering; rather we seek to "unhook" from anger to live in peace. Unhooking might mean talking with a loved one who hurt us. It might mean protesting against injustice. It might mean forgiving ourselves. What might be rumbling within your heart?

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). *"Go first and be reconciled."*

**Saturday, Feb 27, 2021** LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Agree to disagree

There is no more timely message for our divided age of partisan politics than "love your enemies." But how is that even possible? One perspective that some find helpful is that "you don't have to *like* someone to *love* them." Love in this context is not a warm, fuzzy feeling but a decision to treat with respect, to "do unto others." A tall order, but it does help to remove the expectation that we have to become fast friends with those we oppose. And maybe it will lead to a time when we can see difficult folks as people with whom we happen to disagree, rather than mortal enemies. Jesus was all about reconciliation. Let's take up the mantle.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229). *"But I say to you, love your enemies."*

**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.**

# Real Estate For Life

- Buying or Selling
- One Phone Call
- Worldwide
- You Will Be Supporting Pro-Life

**"The call is free, the results are priceless."**  
877-Life-871

Chuck Barberini Real Estate • Parishioner • (925) 963-6606  
chuckbarberini.com • CA DRE # 01324660

\$500 donated to St. Catherine of Siena School for every completed transaction.



## Muir Oaks Veterinary Hospital

1180 Muir Road, Martinez  
372-9200

Melody Herder-Jimison, D.V.M.



# catholicmatch<sup>®</sup> California



CatholicMatch.com/myCA

**FINDaPARISH.com**

**Check It Out Today!**

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

# Thank You

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

**The Most Complete Online National Directory of Catholic Parishes**

# ONE PARISH

Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!



Download Our Free App or Visit [www.MY.ONEPARISH.com](http://www.MY.ONEPARISH.com)

**Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!**



Sign up here:

[www.jspaluch.com/subscribe](http://www.jspaluch.com/subscribe)

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



# Protecting Seniors Nationwide



Medical Alert System

**\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly**



- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

**Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608**



**925-228-5242**

[www.erniesplumbingandsewer.com](http://www.erniesplumbingandsewer.com)

**PLUMBING & SEWER SERVICE**  
Since 1965

**Lic# 802333**

**Plumbing • Trenchless Sewer Replacement  
Drain Maintenance & Septic Service • Water Heaters**



# If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

✓ Ambulance 24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

- ✓ Police
- ✓ Fire
- ✓ Friends/Family

FREE Shipping  
FREE Activation  
NO Long Term Contracts

Solutions as Low as  
**\$19.95** a month



This Button SAVES Lives!  
As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!



**CALL NOW! 800.809.3352**



**GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection  
Nationwide, No Land Line Needed  
EASY Set-up, NO Contract  
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA**

**Grow Your Business, Advertise Here.**

**Support Your Church & Bulletin.**

**Free professional ad design & my help!**

email: [kwiatkowskim@jspaluch.com](mailto:kwiatkowskim@jspaluch.com)



[www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com)

**Call Marcy Kwiatkowski**

**925.239.1401**



Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.

Catholic Cruises and Tours (CST 2117990-70)

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

Catholic Cruises/Tours to Worldwide Destinations

Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email

[eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com](mailto:eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com)

[www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com](http://www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com)

# Connolly & Taylor Chapel

Serving the Martinez Catholic Community Since 1921

Full Service Cremation & Burial

"Let's Keep the Tradition"

**925.228.4700**

[www.connolly-taylorchapel.com](http://www.connolly-taylorchapel.com)

4000 Alhambra Avenue | Martinez, CA

FD 154