

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
Martinez, California

FIFTH SUNDAY OF

Lent

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MARCH
21
2021

I will place my law within them
and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES REQUIRE ON-LINE REGISTRATION

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM - INDOOR / LIVESTREAMED SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: 4:30 PM - INDOOR
SUNDAY: 8:30 AM - INDOOR / LIVESTREAMED
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: 7:15- 7:45 AM Daily (M-F)
Saturday: 3:00-4:00 PM
Sunday: 10:10-10:40 AM (Preschool courtyard)

PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF

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

Fr. Michael Nufable, Ext 6
Parochial Administrator
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

OFFICE HOURS: PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
CLOSED ON WEEKENDS

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

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

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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: TBD

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

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 3-15-2021

8:00 AM Daily Mass

Mon-Sat. Indoor & Livestreamed
(No communion is distributed after mass.)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for Saturday Vigil and Sunday, Holy Masses

Mass Registration opens at 12:30 PM on Monday's
4:30 PM Saturday, Vigil Mass (Indoor)

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

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**

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

Parish Website: www.stcmtz.org

Bulletin Submission email:

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

In the Old Testament, typically sealed covenant commitments were in blood and with sacrifice. In today's first reading, Jeremiah prophesies a new covenant that the Lord will make with his people – the power of which can make the whole world into the New Israel. That covenant came in the person of Jesus.

The central saving act of Jesus Christ was his shedding of blood as a sacrifice for us – dying on the cross so that we might share in God's life. Through the blood of that covenant, all of us, Jew and Gentile alike, can share in God's divine life.

As Christians, we can enter into that new covenant in this Mass. In the fullness of Jesus Christ – body and blood, soul and divinity – present in the Eucharist, God shares his life with us and offers us the opportunity to respond. And so we do. We receive the body of Christ from our Lord's table and receive the blood of Christ from the chalice of our salvation given to us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The shocking thing is that to fill us with His life-giving blood, Jesus had to die. This sacrifice is the core of what Mass is all about. Without it being the actual blood of Christ, the Mass would be nothing more than an empty ritual. Instead, it is a joining of heaven with earth; it is God's divine life with human life.

The Old Testament found that call for a union in the prophets' voices and obedience to the observance of God's laws. But that union was somewhat distant. Today, as indicated in our second reading, the meaning has been restored through the blood of Christ who was made perfect, and became the source of our eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Christians see God through the lens of love, something more profound than mere obedience. The Incarnation of God the Son calls us into a relationship of love, where we are to know God not just with our minds, but more importantly, with our hearts.

God is love, and love always seeks union. In Jesus Christ, that union, perfected, impossible to be broken even by death itself. It is through the sacrificial death of Christ that we find the ultimate union God seeks with us. Such is the profound reality of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who continues to pursue a union with us in the blood of his cross, drawing everyone to himself.

As we enter the holiest week of our spiritual year, beginning next week, with Palm Sunday, when we wave palm branches, commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem – preparing for the most significant event in history – the Resurrection of Jesus – the Easter Mysteries.

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. If you choose to make an appointment please contact the office or **Fr. Mike at (925) 228-2230 Ext 6** . **Normal Saturday Reconciliation time 3-4 PM will begin on March 20th inside the**

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



5th Sunday of Lent - March 21, 2021

Gathering Hymn: Save Your People
Jim Farrell

Refrain:
Save your people, O Lord. Show us the way to
come home. We have been wandering far from your
love. Save your people, O Lord.

1. One thing I ask, O Lord, this I seek:
to dwell forever in your house, that I may gaze on
your loveliness all the days of my life.

2. For you will hide me in the shelter of your wings
and from the arrows of my foes. You set me high on
a mountaintop,
saved me from my distress.

3. Listen, O Lord, to the sound of my call,
for I acknowledge my offense. Wash me and I shall
be purified. I shall be whiter than snow.

4. Thus will I bless you all the days of my life. Lift-
ing my hands, I call your name:
"O Lord, remember your inheritance. Save your peo-
ple, O Lord!"

Text based on Psalm 27. Text and music © 1983, OCP. All
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Penitential Act:

First Reading: Jer: 31: 31-34

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will
make a new covenant with the house of Israel and
the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fa-
thers the day I took them by the hand to lead them
forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my cov-
enant, and I had to show myself their master, says
the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will
make with the house of Israel after those days, says
the LORD. I will place my law within them and

write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and
they shall be my people. No longer will they have
need to teach their friends and relatives how to know
the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know
me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing
and remember their sin no more.

Responsorial Psalm: 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

R. (12a) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading Hebrews 5: 7-9

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he
offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and
tears to the one who was able to save him from
death, and he was heard because of his reverence.
Son though he was, he learned obedience from what
he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he be-
came the source of eternal salvation for all who obey
him.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will my servant be. **R.**

Gospel JN 12: 20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Pass-
over Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in
Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see
Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Phil-
ip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The
hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of
wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoev-
er loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in
this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jess Christ.

Apostles' Creed - (During Lent)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell
On the third day he rose again from the dead
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

Presentation of the Gifts: Have Mercy on Us, Lord
Chant, Mode V

Refrain

**Atténde Dómine, et miserére,
Quia peccávimus tibi.**

Have mercy on us, Lord, Jesus our Savior: Burdened with sin, we implore you!

1. O great Redeemer, King of all creation,
As we are sinners, we deserve your judgement: Jesus, be gracious; hear our prayer of sorrow.

2. Exalted Savior, Cornerstone of heaven,
Gate of salvation, Way to life immortal:
Send forth your Spirit; heal your humbled people!

3. We beg you, Jesus, God immense in power: Listen in kindness as we ask forgiveness: Though sin condemns us, you are strong to save us!

4. We stand convicted, owning our offenses; Guilty before you, yet we seek your pardon: O gentle Savior, great is your compassion!

5. Remember, Jesus, you gave all to save us; Dying for sinners, you endured the Passion: Savior, immortal, grant your gift of freedom!

Text: 11 11 11 with refrain; Latin, 10th cent.; tr. by Melvin Farrell, SS, 1930–1986. English © 1977, OCP. All rights reserved. Music: Chant Mode V; Paris Processionale, 1824.

Sanctus XVIII Holy Holy Chant

Sanctus, Sanctus,
Sanctus Dóminus Deus Sábaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra glória tua.
Hosánna in excélsis.
Benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini.
Hosánna in excélsis.

Letra y música: Graduale Romanum, 1974.

We Proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer / Sign of Peace

Agnus Dei XVIII Lamb of God Chant

1, 2. Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccáta mundi:
miserére nobis.

3. Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccáta mundi:
dona nobis pacem.

Letra y música: Graduale Romanum, 1974.

Communion:

**Lord, I am not worthy
That you should enter under my roof,
But only say the word
And my soul shall be healed**

Communion: Unless a Grain of Wheat
Bernadette Farrell

Refrain
Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die, it remains but a single grain with no life.

1. If we have died with him, then we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

R.

2. If anyone serves me, then they must follow me; wherever I am, my servants will be.

R.

3. Make your home in me as I make mine in you; those who remain in me bear much fruit.

R.

4. If you remain in me and my word lives in you, then you will be my disciples.

R.

5. Those who love me are loved by my Father; we shall be with them and dwell in them.

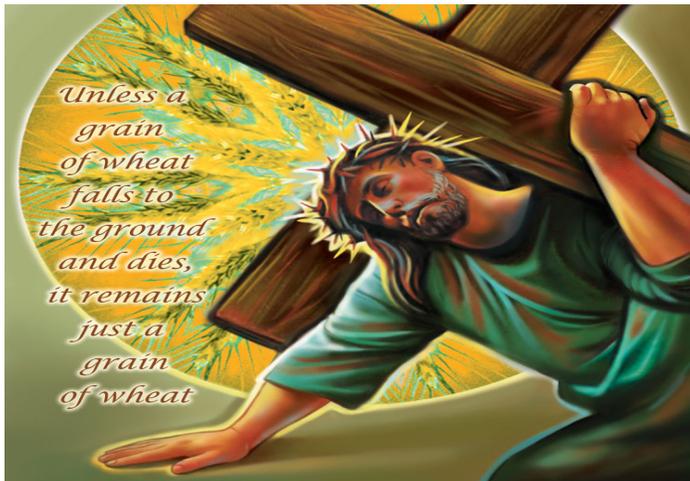
R.

6. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; peace which the world cannot give is my gift.

R.

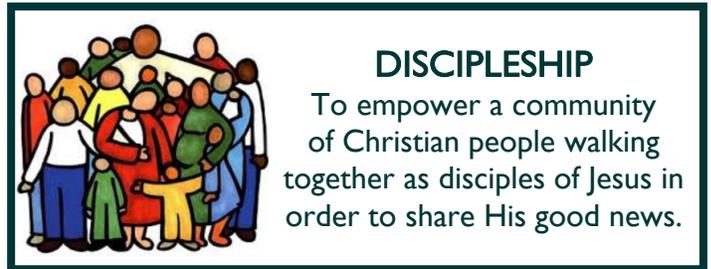
Text: Based on John 12:24–26; 14:23, 27; 15:4–5, 7–8; 2 Timothy 2:11–12. Text and music © 1983, Bernadette Farrell. **Published by OCP. All rights reserved.**

Sending Forth: *All Depart in a Silence*
Please Exit through the side doors of the church.



March 25th at 7 PM.

Come and pray the Rosary with our Hispanic Community. Every last Thursday of each month in front of Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine



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

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT	3/20	8:00	Souls in Purgatory†
		4:30	Joseph Best†
SUN	3/21	8:30	Mitch & Ann Costanza†
		11:00	Dorothy Stratmeyer†
		1:00	Int. St. Catherine Parishioners
MON	3/22	8:00	Int. Eric Smithwick - Birthday
TUES	3/23	8:00	Kirk & Brydie Kuykendall†
WED	3/24	8:00	Int. St. Catherine School Families
THUR	3/25	8:00	Int. Olivia Concepcion - Birthday
FRI	3/26	8:00	Int. Anton Ranuio - Birthday
SAT	3/27	8:00	Teresa Narodzonek†
		4:30	Int. St. Catherine Parishioners
SUN	3/28	7:00	Anthony Arias†
		8:30	Agapito Ramos†
		11:00	Int. St. Catherine Parishioners
		1:00	Int. Maria Elena Vasquez - Birthday



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

John Divizich
Maria Morales



2021 Memorial Votive Candles

Available to honor the deceased. They are located in the Sacred Heart of Jesus alcove inside the church and can be reserved for one year, renewable thereafter. Forms are available on the website and at the parish office. (925) 228-2230 Ext 1

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



I will place my law within them
and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

JEREMIAH 31:33

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Photo: St. Nicholas Cathedral, Galway, Ireland; Ric Egerbright and Danita Delimont/Adobe Stock.

THROUGH SUFFERING

The prophet Jeremiah, in today's first reading, is looking beyond the often-messy history of Israel and Judah to a time when the people will no longer be disobedient to God, because God's law will be "written on their hearts"—that is, their natural inclinations and desires will be oriented toward God's will. The psalmist gives voice to the sorrow that Israel and Judah experienced in their separation from God "Have mercy on me, O God . . . A clean heart create for me." According to Saint Paul, the earthly Jesus, "son though he was," like his ethnic ancestors, he "learned obedience from what he suffered." The Gospel reading is part of Jesus' discourses not long before the Last Supper. Instead of a social encounter with Philip's friends who had come to see him, Jesus is grappling with his approaching death and its ultimate meaning for the world.

JEREMIAH: LOOKING BEYOND EXILE AND SUFFERING

The readings today remind us how close we are to Easter—only two weeks from now. They also remind us that the path to resurrection and Easter always includes suffering and death. The prophet Jeremiah spent his whole life proclaiming the word of God to kings who would not listen. As an old man, he saw Jerusalem defeated and the inhabitants taken into exile. Jeremiah himself suffered in being left behind, but in today's reading, he is looking beyond those sufferings to a time when the previously disobedient people would be transformed and live in harmony with God's law.

LOOKING FOR JESUS, FINDING THE CROSS

In the Gospel reading, friends of Philip come to him and ask about meeting Jesus. When Philip and Andrew take the request to Jesus, he begins a cryptic discourse on discipleship, transformation, and divine judgment. We never hear whether Philip's friends got to personally meet Jesus. Perhaps they simply blended in with the crowd.

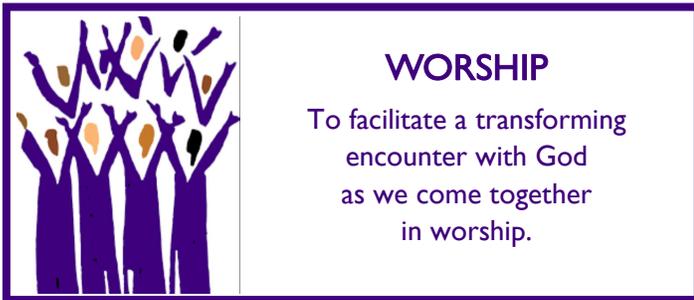
Jesus says, "[W]hen I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." The narrator says that Jesus' words indicate how he will die; the readers already know Jesus will be crucified. Jesus also speaks of divine judgment driving out the world's rulers and of the need to be transformed, like a seed growing into a productive plant. He warns about loving our life and losing it. Unlike Jeremiah's detailed vision, Jesus only hints at what kind of transformed life his death will bring.

What if we, like Philip's friends, want to get close to Jesus? Does that mean that the discourse on death and judgment is addressed to us? If Jesus will draw everyone to himself as he is "lifted up," does being closer to him mean joining him on his cross? (Do we want to be that close to Jesus?) Do we want to be transformed? If we say "yes," the liturgy these next two weeks can show us the only way the Church knows to get closer to Jesus: to be willing to be "lifted up" with him in his suffering—and in our own.

TODAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31–34
Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15
Hebrews 5:7–9
John 12:20–33

FIFTH
SUNDAY OF
MARCH 21, 2021
LENT



WORSHIP

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



How the cross came to be the symbol of Christianity

Early Christians were hesitant to use a crucifix, which they saw as degrading, in the practice of their faith. For two centuries, followers of the new Christian faith avoided making a badge of honor out of the instrument of Christ's death. Many non-Catholics still liken wearing a crucifix to hanging an electric chair around one's neck.

The crucifix was seen as degrading

This was how the first Christian communities would have seen it too. **Crucifixion was a form of execution designed to be both excruciating and humiliating.** It was a deliberate public degradation. For pioneer Christian converts with a Judaic background, the figure of a crucified God was worse than degrading; it went against centuries of their religion and culture. No wonder they turned to words instead.

In the beginning there was "the Word"

Christ loved words and telling stories with them. "I am the Alpha and the Omega" is used multiple times in the New Testament. As Greek was the lingua franca of the eastern Mediterranean, early Christians used the Greek alphabet to create a written symbol by which they could identify each other. Words were powerful in Hebrew, too. To this day, the Hebrew word for God (abbreviated to YHWH) is seldom spoken or written in full. It is referred to as "The Name."

The early Christians were equally reticent about promoting the name or image of God. "Fish" was their first choice as a reference to Christ. Partly because their Savior spoke of being a "fisher of men," and also because the Greek word for fish (ichthus) can have a double meaning: Jesus (**I**esos) Christ (**C**hristos) of God (**t**heou) Son (**u**ios) Saviour (**s**oter).

Wordplay with Christ's name is discussed more often than references to His cross. This shows how important the symbol was, before it was represented physically. **Around the year 200, the theologian Hippolytus wrote about making the sign of the cross on the forehead "as this is a sign of His Passion."** Soon after, it was being recommended as a cure for scorpion stings. The idea of the cross had clearly taken hold.

The Staurogram

A contender for the earliest physical representation of Christ's cross is the Staurogram. Composed of the Greek letters Tau and Rho, its sound was reminiscent of the Greek word to crucify, "staroo." Used mostly in written texts from the 2nd century, it actually resembles a person on a cross.

The Chi Rho Symbol

More widespread in its coverage was the Chi Rho symbol, which combined the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek to form an image that looked less like a cross than the Staurogram. The Chi Rho is more reminiscent of the papal crossed-keys symbol. This is no coincidence, as popes continue to use both. **These symbols convey some of the imperial splendor of Constantine the Great, who first adopted the Chi Rho.** For good measure, the letters Alpha and Omega are sometimes added.

Graffiti or sacred imagery?

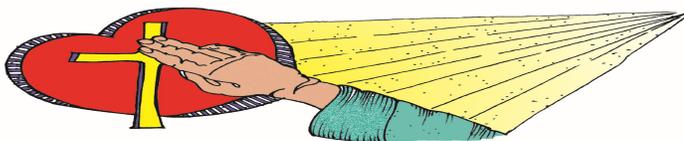
As Christianity traveled westwards it encountered cultures that not only enjoyed graven images, but often had no written language. The first example is, notoriously, a piece of graffiti by an anonymous semi-literate in Rome. It was certainly not by the hand of a Christian and there are many reasons to be doubtful about this image. It may count as a crucifixion but not the Crucifixion.

Putting a correct date on many of these supposed crucifixion scenes is another problem. It is thought that a carved gemstone in the British Museum could be the earliest non-blasphemous image of the crucifixion. It's a troubling item, though. The amulet might have been produced by a heretical sect and clearly shows Christ attached to the cross with ropes instead of nails. *Continued on next page*

Continued from Worship page...

The ivory casket Crucifixion of Christ

My favorite contender as the first unequivocal representation of Our Lord's death is an ivory casket, made in Rome around 420. **It has all the attributes that we would recognize today.** Mary and St. John mourn at the foot of the cross, while the Roman soldier Longinus is spearing the side of Christ. The victim is attached with nails. As a bonus, we can see the remorseful Judas hanging from a tree. Most convincing of all is that it brings us back to the written word. Above the head of the crucified man is half of the Latin title we know so well: "King of the Jews."



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

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



SUSTAINABLE IN EL SALVADOR

Drought has become a big problem across El Salvador, making it difficult for farmers to produce enough crops to support their families. But new farming techniques— and a new generation of young farmers—are making a difference. What would you do if your livelihood was threatened? How can you support young people in your community and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Activity Center/Gymnasium: PACE I, II, FTP
Week Ending 3/14/2021

YEAR TO DATE : Household/Individuals

Repurposed: \$791,064.75 254

Reclaimed: \$345,153.90 79

As of 03/14/21 \$345,153.90 has been paid to back to Donor's.



STEWARDSHIP

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

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>March 14, 2021</u>		<u>ONLINE</u>
Weekly Offering:	\$3,320.00	\$2,284.00
CRS:	\$ 382.00	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers:	\$ 60.00	\$
Organ:		\$ 25.00
Maintenance:	\$	\$ 60.00
School Scholarship:		\$ 90.00
St. Vincent de Paul:	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00

Thank you for your continued support both spiritual and financial.



St. Catherine of Siena Parish's goal this year is \$23,000.

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!



Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for helping Jesus in disguise. Your contributions make a difference for the poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information on how to give.

READINGS & REFLECTIONS

Sunday, Mar 21, 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

See inside for more information

Sometimes your reputation precedes you. The prophet Jeremiah is famous for lamentations, but he is less known for the centerpiece of his message: that everything we need to know about how to live is already planted in our hearts. On this International Forest Day, let's not miss the forest for the trees on another great truth rooted deeply in our midst. Trees are friends: bearing fruit, shade, and beauty wherever they're planted. They are also necessary allies in achieving planetary sustainability, food security, and poverty eradication. Play your part in protecting God's greenery.

TODAY'S READINGS: Year B: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33 (35). "I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts."

Monday, Mar 22, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Tap into the virtues of water

As part of its observance of the 2020 World Water Day, the Vatican published *Aqua fons vitae*. Orientations on water: symbol of the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth. The document, meant to support the human right to clean water, reminds us that "by means of the water made holy by the Spirit," God gives us life and renews us. The way we respect water is an indicator of how we are "taking care of the early garden" entrusted to us. In observance of World Water Day, educate yourself and others about the challenges the world faces in ensuring access to clean water: the holy source of all life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11 (251). "Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

Tuesday, Mar 23, 2021

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

To reveal Christ, go the distance

In 2018, Pope Francis met with the bishops of Peru, invoking the patron saint of Latin American bishops—Turibius of Mogrovejo. "This holy bishop is frequently portrayed as a 'new Moses,'" said the pope. "The Vatican has a picture in which Saint Turibius appears crossing a great river whose waters open before him like the Red Sea, so that he could get to the other shore, where numerous native peoples awaited him." Turibius cast aside life in Spain to live among native Peruvians. What can you cast aside so others might see Christ in you?

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 (252). "Their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses."

Wednesday, Mar 24, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Be transformed by justice

This is an anniversary of martyrdom. The archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero, was murdered on this day in 1980 as he presided at Mass in the chapel of a church-run hospital for cancer patients and the terminally ill. Romero, an unassuming man who in earlier years had ministered to the country's elite, experienced a late-in-life transformation that took him from quiet acceptance of the status quo to courageous critic of his government's repression of the poor. His weekly sermons championed justice, challenged the government, and eventually cost him his life: "It is not the will of God for some to have everything

and for others to have nothing," the government, and eventually cost him his life: "It is not the will of God for some to have everything and for others to have nothing," he said. "It is not enough to attend Mass on Sunday . . . God wants the garment of justice. God wants his Christians dressed in love." Begin to dress the part by questioning the "way we always do things."

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253). "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Thursday, Mar 25, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Prepare to say yes

Today we celebrate the Annunciation, that famous conversation between the angel Gabriel and Mary, in which Mary embraced what must have been the frightening prospect of bearing the Son of God. Mary's yes is seen as the model for all Christians in response to our individual callings, and in response to everyday choices to do what is most loving, moral, and just. Perhaps today you will be called to make a choice for faithfulness; prepare yourself now to say yes to God, as did Mary.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545). "Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'"

Friday, Mar 26, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

Meet violence with hope

Violence has made an all-too-comfortable home in our lives. It's in our TV shows and movies, our politics, our streets, and even our own hearts. In a pastoral message on violence in 1994, the U.S. Catholic Bishops wrote, "Hostility, hatred, despair, and indifference are at the heart of a growing culture of violence." How do we meet these experiences with compassion and offer a safe place for peace? "The path to a more peaceful future is found in a rediscovery of personal responsibility, respect for human life and human dignity, and a recommitment to social justice. The best antidote to violence is hope."

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42 (255). "[They] picked up rocks to stone Jesus."

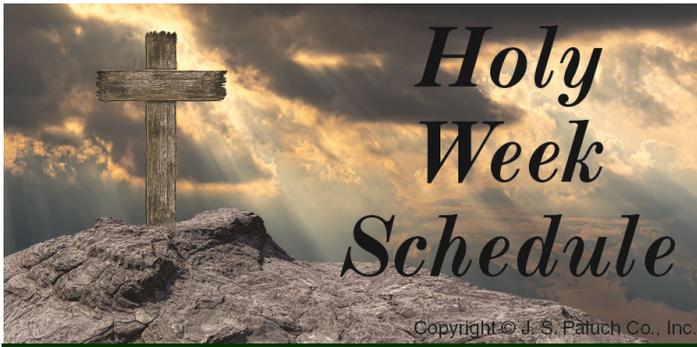
Saturday, Mar 27, 2021 LENTEN WEEKDAY

The long history of judicial corruption

We learn more each day about inequities in our judicial system. Justice, it seems, is more often praised than practiced, especially when it comes to treatment of minorities and those who challenge authority. We could include Jesus in the long list of victims of injustice. At this moment in Lent, as we prepare to enter Holy Week, the wheels of injustice are set in motion by Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest who will play a key role in the coming execution of the prophet of Peace. Pray today for forgiveness for the injustices committed in our names, and in our hearts.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56 (256). "So from that day on they planned to kill him."

**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.**

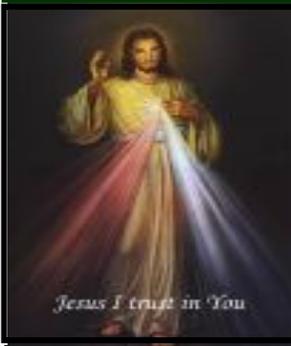


PALM SUNDAY SERVICES MARCH 28, 2021



4:30 PM Saturday, (March 27) Vigil Mass - Indoor
8:30 AM Sunday, Holy Mass - Indoor (Livestreamed)
11:00 AM Sunday, Holy Mass - Outdoor (Livestreamed)
1:00 PM Sunday, Holy Mass (Spanish) - Indoor
Palms will be provided prior to entering the church.

Registration Required.



**DIVINE MERCY
NOVENA**

**Daily 8:30 AM
beginning on
Good Friday April 2nd
through April 10th.**

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.stcmz.org or call the office, and we can help you with any update.

Holy Thursday - APRIL 1

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer

- 7:00 PM - Mass of the Last Supper (Livestreamed Only)
- Parking availability for 20 cars in the lower parking lot only. Parking registration required.
 - Mass will be transmitted by radio transmission for those who register their cars.
 - Communion will be distributed to those in the church and parking lot at the time of Holy Communion.

After the Mass, the Church will remain open until Midnight for Adoration.

*** Pre-registration Required**

Good Friday - APRIL 2

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer

8:30 AM - Divine Mercy Novena

9-11:30 Private Prayer

*** 12:00 PM - Seven Last Words**

1-2:30 PM Private Prayer

*** 3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross**

4-6 PM - Private Prayer

7 PM - The Lord's Passion and Veneration of the Cross. (Livestreamed Only)

- Parking is available for 20 cars in the **lower parking lot**. Parking registration required.
- Mass will be transmitted by radio transmission for those who register their cars.
- Communion will be distributed to those in the church and parking lot at the time of Holy Communion.

The Church will be open for Veneration of the Cross and private prayer following the Liturgy until 9PM

Holy Saturday - APRIL 3

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer

8:30 AM - Divine Mercy Novena

8:00 PM Easter Vigil (Livestreamed Only)

- Parking availability for 20 cars in the lower parking lot only. Parking registration required.
- Mass will be transmitted by radio transmission for those who register their cars.
- Communion will be distributed to those in the church and parking lot at the time of Holy Communion.

Easter Sunday - April 4th

*** 8:30 AM Sunday, Holy Mass - Indoor**

Divine Mercy Novena will follow after the 8:30 Mass

*** 11:00 AM Sunday, Holy Mass - Outdoor**

*** 1:00 PM Sunday, Holy Mass (Spanish) - Indoor**

*** Car parking available in the lower parking yard.**

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