

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church  
Martinez, California



God SHED HIS  
Grace  
ON THEE!

LITURGY SCHEDULE  
July 4th, 2021

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: 4:30 PM

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM (LIVESTREAMED) 10:00 AM , 12:00 PM (SPANISH MASS)

DAILY ROSARY: Monday - Saturday 7:30 AM

DAILY MASS: Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: 8:30 AM

ADORATION: Thursday's 5-9 PM

RECONCILIATION: 7:15- 7:45 AM Daily (M-F)

Thursday: 5:30 - 6:30 PM ; Saturday: 3:00-4:00 PM

## 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  
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Karen Glen Ext. 4  
Bookkeeper / Safe Environment Coordinator / RCIA  
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TBD  
Religious Education (K-8)  
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Deacon Albert Dizon Ext. 7  
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### 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: Call School Office

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

<http://school.stcatherinemartinez.com>

ST. CATHERINE PRE-SCHOOL: Call School Office

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)

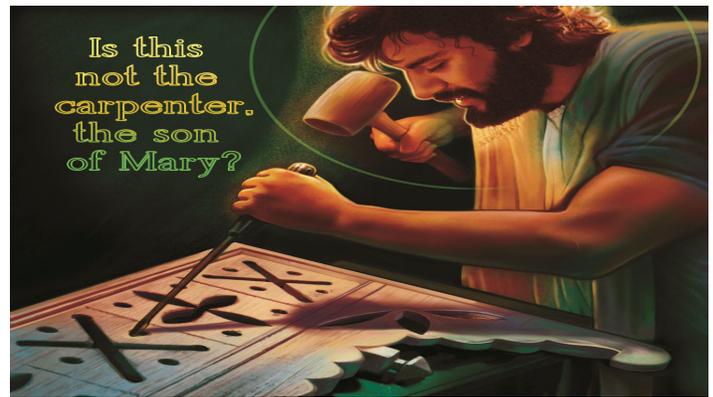


The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of the holiday .



The Outdoor Sunday, Holy Mass will end on July 4th.

We will start having 10 AM MASS inside the church beginning July 11th, 2021



Please check our website for class dates, requirements and to register. For more information Please call Sylvia at the parish office Ext 1.

“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 12PM every Friday for the following Sunday.

Exception: Early Holiday Deadlines



Facebook:

<https://OfficialStCatherineofSienaChurch>



MyParishApp:

Please download: [myparishapp](https://www.gettyinto.com/myparishapp) to your phones.

Step 1. Text App to number 88202.

Step 2. Download the app via the link.

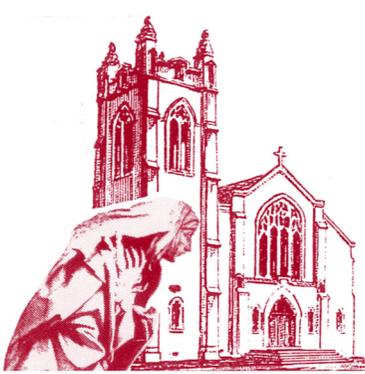
Step 3. Search for St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Martinez.

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!

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



*From the Desk of the  
Parochial Administrator*



Peace in Christ, sisters, and brothers,

Are we able to see the presence of God in others? Are we able to recognize that God speaks through others? Do we see and acknowledge the prophets of our own time? Today's readings call us to open our hearts, our minds, and our whole being to the presence of God in others.

In both The Old Testament and New, the understanding is that a true prophet must speak according to the Word of God and not according to the words of men. The Prophet Ezekiel speaks the same message as the other prophets, and that message is always the same: faithfulness to God's Word revealed in Holy Scripture, love for God, love for others, care for the needy and the oppressed.

The message of the Scriptures remains the same from the beginning to the end of the Scriptures. The message always demands that we give up our concerns and be concerned only for God and God's message for us. The moment we begin to seek our good, our enrichment, our way of thinking, it is then we become unfaithful to the Word of God.

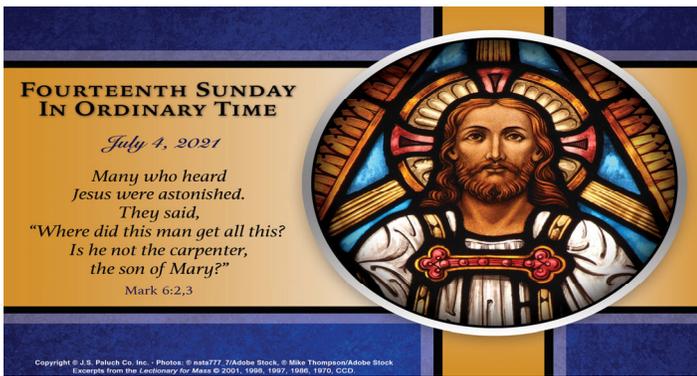
The second reading today is from the Second Letter to the Corinthians. Here we also listen to God's Word: "I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong." We are invited to embrace the Word of Jesus Christ with all our strength and all our being. When we do embrace this Word of God, we shall surely suffer and know our weaknesses. This is a form of prophecy because the more we welcome Christ and follow His way, the more our lives speak about God and His incredible love for us. We prophesy simply by living.

The Gospel today is from Saint Mark and takes us back to the challenge of rejection. We should remember that Ezekiel told us that it does not matter if a prophet is recognized or not. What matters is that the Prophet speaks the Word of God. Today's Gospel points out that we can reject a true prophet simply because we don't believe that God acts in the ordinary events of our lives and seemingly ordinary people.

To understand God, we must be attentive first of all to His revealed Word. When that revealed Word is our whole way of living, then we begin to recognize His Word in all the other realities of our lives. Today God invites us: listen to the prophets! Let us open our hearts and minds and beings! Harden, not your hearts today! God loves us and wishes to speak with us.

In Christ,  
Fr. Mike





**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

*July 4, 2021*

*Many who heard  
Jesus were astonished.  
They said,  
"Where did this man get all this?  
Is he not the carpenter,  
the son of Mary?"*

Mark 6:2,3

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**Entrance: Praise to the Lord**

LOBE DEN HERREN

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the king of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Come, all who hear: Now to his altar draw near, Joining  
in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who shall prosper our work and defend us;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, Who with his love will befriend us.

3. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in us adore him! All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the "Amen" sound from his people again, Now as we worship before him!

Text: 14 14 47 8; Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: Erneueren Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665; adapt. fr. The Chorale Book for England, 1863.

**First Reading: EZ: 2: 2-5**

As the LORD spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me: Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have revolted against me to this very day. Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you. But you shall say to them: Thus says the LORD GOD!

And whether they heed or resist—for they are a rebellious house—they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm:** 123: 1-4

**R. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his Mercy.**

**Second Reading 2 Cor 12:7-10**

Brothers and sisters:  
That I, Paul, might not become too elated, because of the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in

weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me.

Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

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

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor **R.**

**Gospel Mk 6: 1-6**

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Presentation of the Gifts: Open My Eyes**

Jesse Manibusan

**Verses**

1, 5. Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face. Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

2. Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice. Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

3. Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you. Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

**Bridge**

And the first shall be last, and our eyes are opened and we'll hear like never before.

And we'll speak in new ways, and we'll see God's face in places we've never known.

4. I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love. I live within you. Rest now in me.

## Profession of Faith

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
*(At the words that follow, up to and including "and  
became man," all bow)*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin  
Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of  
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glo-  
rified, who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
And I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are Full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*We Proclaim you Death, O Lord, and profess your Resur-  
rection until you come again.*

Or  
*When we eat this bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim  
your Death, O lord, until you come again.*

Or  
*Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resur-  
rection you have set us free.*

Great Amen

## The Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer / Sign of Peace / Lamb of God

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter  
under my roof, but only say the word and my soul  
shall be healed.**

**Communion:** Come to Me  
Gregory Norbet

## Refrain

**Come to me, all who labor and are heavy bur-  
dened, and I shall give you rest. Take up my yoke  
and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of  
heart, and you'll find rest for your souls. Yes, my  
yoke is easy and my burden is light.**

1. You, God, are my shepherd. I shall never be in need.  
Fresh and green are the meadows where you give me rest.
2. Beside peaceful waters you restore my true self; There  
you lead me to walk in the path of a new life.
3. Should I be surrounded by the shadows of death, I will  
not fear, for you are steadfast in your love.
4. Before my deep hunger you spread out your feast. My  
skin you anoint with the richest of oil.
5. Pursue me, O God, with your fathomless love. In your  
tent let me dwell all the days of my life.

Text based on Matthew 11:28–30; Psalm 23. Original text and music:  
Gregory Norbet, OSB; © 1971, 1994 (revised text), The Benedictine Foun-  
dation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permis-  
sion

## Sending: America the Beautiful MATERNA

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of  
grain, For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited  
plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee, And  
crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining  
sea.
2. O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impas-  
sioned stress A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across  
the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw, Con-  
firm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law.
3. O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy  
more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine, Till all  
success be nobleness, And every gain divine.
4. O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the  
years Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by hu-  
man tears!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee, And  
crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining  
sea.

Text: CMD; Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929.  
Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903.

# Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

JULY 4, 2021

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Many who heard Jesus  
were astonished. They said,  
“Where did this man get all this?  
Is he not the carpenter,  
the son of Mary?”

MARK 6:2,3

## PAYING THE PRICE

In the Sunday Lectionary, the first reading is usually chosen from anywhere in the Hebrew Bible to tie together with the Gospel. Currently, the second reading is from Saint Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. Often the second reading is not so closely related to the day's Gospel selection, because those books are read in a more continuous fashion from week to week. But today, all three of the scripture readings go together very well. Ezekiel struggles with the job he is given by the Lord, speaking to a rebellious people. Paul is dealing with a “thorn in his side,” that is, the difficulties of his own personal weakness and foibles, and learning to rely on God's grace. Mark's Gospel introduces us to a Jesus who is struggling to be believed and accepted in his native country. In all three passages, the major figures are following the will of God and paying the price of rejection by the community for their efforts.

## I DON'T GET NO RESPECT

Years ago there was a popular comedian named Rodney Dangerfield, and he would riff about his family life or his work and his catchphrase was “I don't get no respect!” You knew this refrain was coming, and was part of the punch line, so you waited to hear it and usually laughed or groaned with it. The idea of Jesus being disrespected is a much more foreign feeling. It is easy to forget that Jesus was both human and divine. We can easily romanticize his life and ministry and forget his struggles and the difficulty he had being heard, understood, and respected, especially in his own country. Placed in the larger context of Mark's story, this was very early in Jesus' ministry, and the message he was proclaiming was not what the people wanted to hear. Jesus was not speaking about the Messiah that the Jews were hoping for. Add that together with the fact that people are often hardest on their own. Somehow “local boy makes good” just didn't sit well with them, and they didn't want to have anything to do with Jesus or his message. Jesus was caught off guard by this.

## A MESSAGE FOR OUR TIME

There are times when being Catholic, or even being Christian is very countercultural. It used to be you belonged to a parish, and that was your home, based on your geographic boundaries or ethnicity. But now people change parishes depending on pastors, styles of music, or the Mass schedule. In these days of Covid-19, many who stayed away because of social distancing have not yet found their way back. Many never recovered from their disillusionment over the abuse scandals. Others left Catholicism for non-denominational churches, or explored other paths such as Buddhism. Still others consider themselves “spiritual but not religious” or are labeled “nones.” Frequently, families who once sat together every week in church are now scattered all over the spiritual spectrum. In the face of all this, let us pray for the strength of Ezekiel to continue to preach our faith by the lives we live, despite everything in our culture that rebels against religion. May we have the wisdom of Paul to persevere despite our weaknesses and the thorns in our side. And like Jesus, may we always find the faith we need to endure, even when those around us do not.

## TODAY'S READINGS

Ezekiel 2:2–5  
Psalm 123:1–2, 2, 3–4  
2 Corinthians 12:7–10  
Mark 6:1–6

*Welcome*  
we're glad you are here!

## FACILITIES

To assure that our Church and facilities testify to the greater honor and glory of God.



**The Pipes, the pipes are calling!** Are the pipes at the front of the church real? This is a question that many have asked, the answer is... **YES**. Many of the pipes that you see at the front of the church are actual "windblown" pipes. What you see is part of an organ that was originally installed in Saint Peter's Episcopal Church in San Francisco. They survived the earthquake of 1906, however during the 1989 earthquake, the church suffered irreparable damage, the organ was removed and the building demolished. The pipes were removed by the Schoenstein Organ Company and placed in storage. In the late 90's Dr. Zipf from Sacramento added them to a pipe organ installed in his home until recently. He generously donated the Façade base and Pipes to Saint Catherine's which fit perfectly on both sides of the altar. In the future the pipe ranks can be expanded and connected to our current organ. We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Joe Carmichael for his assistance in acquiring and installing the pipes. Many of you may not know this, but our church originally had a Pipe Organ installed on both sides of the choir loft between the stain glass windows. It was an Organ manufactured by the Wick's Pipe Organ Company. The organ was removed in the early 1980's and replaced with an Allen Computer organ. That organ became unplayable and was going to be very costly to repair, we were blessed to be able to acquire the Rodgers organ from Saint Dominic's of San Francisco. If you have any other questions regarding the organ or the pipes, just ask our wonderful Music Director, an organist Mr. Troy Killorn.



## STEWARDSHIP

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

June 20, 2021

<b>Weekly Offering:</b>	\$ 4,892.00	<b>ONLINE</b>	\$ 2070.00
<b>Peter's Pence:</b>	\$ 852.00		\$ 200.00
<b>Seminary:</b>	\$ 60.00		
<b>St. Vincent de Paul:</b>	\$ 140.00		\$ 35.00
<b>School Scholarship:</b>			\$ 130.00
<b>Maintenance:</b>			\$ 55.00

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



## DISCIPLESHIP

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>SAT</b>	<b>7/3</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Adam J. Glent†
		<b>4:30</b>	Molly Widner†
<b>SUN</b>	<b>7/4</b>	<b>8:30</b>	McLoughlin & Curtin Families†
		<b>10:00</b>	Claude & Marie Greerty†
		<b>12:00</b>	Maria Montest†
<b>MON</b>	<b>7/5</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Jovina Essex
<b>TUES</b>	<b>7/6</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Int. The Lloren Family
<b>WED</b>	<b>7/7</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Int. Dizon Grandchildren
<b>THUR</b>	<b>7/8</b>	<b>8:00</b>	The Narodzonek Family†
<b>FRI</b>	<b>7/9</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Hank Bailey†
<b>SAT</b>	<b>7/10</b>	<b>8:00</b>	Emmanuel Vega†
		<b>4:30</b>	Agapito & Erlinda Bonifacio†
<b>SUN</b>	<b>7/11</b>	<b>8:30</b>	Mitch & Ann Costanza†
		<b>10:00</b>	Giovanni Costa†
		<b>12:00</b>	Int. St. Catherine Parishioners

**If you would like to request a Mass Intention for the 2021 calendar year, please fill out the form located on our website: WWW.STCMTZ.ORG mail or drop off at the office. All Masses before November 13th are filled.**



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**

**Colleen Farley**

**Marty Ochoa**

**Fr. Ricardo Chavez**

**Walter Hall**

**St. Catherine of Siena Pastoral Care to the Sick & Homebound**

**Do you know someone who is homebound and/or ill & would like to receive the Eucharist or just a visit from a friendly face?**

**If so, please email:**

**Deacon Dave Holland at:**

**dcndaveh@stcmtz.org or (925) 228-2230 Ext 7**

**with your neighbor's name, address and telephone number.**

**St. Catherine Pastoral Care to the Sick & Homebound will arrange for a visitor from the parish.**

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

1) **On-line Giving:** [www.stcmtz.org](http://www.stcmtz.org)



2) **My parish App:**

**CLICK on the "giving icon"**

## ATTENTION

**Reservation no longer required .**

**If you have been vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask indoors.**

**However, non-vaccinated persons, including minors must wear masks indoors.**

**Every other pew will remain closed as we ease into the new normalcy.**

**Exit promptly out of the side doors only.**

**Livestream of the daily mass has ended**

**No more Drive-up communion (after the 10 AM mass)**

**Please keep conversations for outside once you enter and are seated inside the church.**

**Please note:**

**Bathroom facilities will not be accessible due to health and safety concerns.**

### 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





## WORSHIP

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

## What is the difference between a transitional and a permanent deacon?



*A transitional deacon will typically become a priest, while permanent deacons usually do not.*

There are two ways of fulfilling the order of deacons in the Catholic Church. One way is as a “**transitional**” deacon and the other is as a “**permanent**” deacon.

Sometimes the bishop will ordain both transitional and permanent deacons at the same ceremony, which can make it difficult to tell the difference.

First of all, the USCCB provides a succinct definition of a deacon and his particular role in the Church. *“A deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. There are three groups, or ‘orders,’ of ordained ministers in the Church: bishops, presbyters and deacons. **Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came ‘to serve and not to be served.’** The entire Church is called by Christ to serve, and the deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a servant-Church.”*

The diaconate is the first “order” in the sacrament of holy orders, and **for those called to the priesthood it is the first order they receive.**

**All men on their way to the priesthood must first be ordained a deacon. This is called the “transitional” diaconate, because it marks a transition to the presbyterate.**

However, **not all deacons become priests.**

Some men are called by God to serve the Church in a way that does not involve the priesthood. **This permanent diaconate is a ministry of service**, both liturgically (primarily through preaching, acting as an ordinary minister of holy communion, and celebrating baptisms and officiating at weddings and funerals held outside a Mass), and in the many service ministries of parish and diocesan life. Married men may be ordained to the permanent diaconate.

In this case, **permanent deacons will always be deacons**, though in rare circumstances (often after the death of a spouse) they may be ordained to the priesthood if the bishop gives special permission. The vocation to the permanent diaconate is a special call in the Church and remains a powerful channel of grace for those men who desire to serve the Church without becoming a priest.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saint Peter tells the epic story about the key event in European and world history: the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire, focusing on the leader of that new religion. St. Peter is played by the renowned Egyptian actor, Omar Sharif (Lawrence of Arabia, Doctor Zhivago). The film illustrates the strong reaction of Romans and Jews from a political and religious standpoint, and it also deals with the immense obstacles Christianity encountered in the early stages of its development.

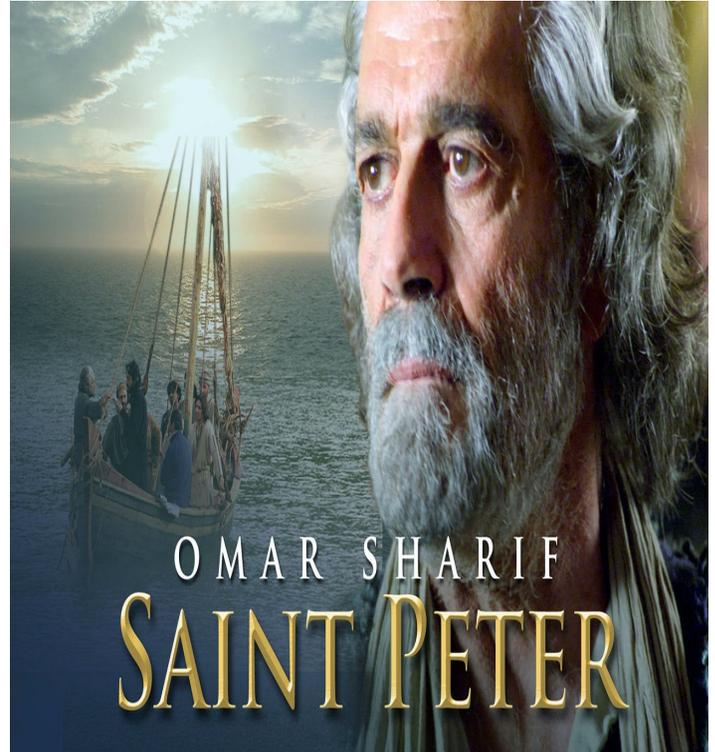
As a dedicated follower of Christ, Peter spreads the message of the Gospel across the land, often staying only one step ahead of those determined to persecute him. As the tension between Christians and Romans grows, blood runs in the streets. Peter and Paul meet and together they form a strong friendship in preaching about Christ.

While fleeing persecution in the Eternal City, Peter sees Jesus walking toward him saying, "Peter, I am coming to Rome, to be crucified again." Peter realizes he must follow Christ to the end, and returns to Rome to be crucified like his master.

This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind. It may contain violence indicative of the life and times of the saint or character portrayed. We would recommend Parental Guidance and that parents preview it

# FORMED<sup>®</sup>

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.



Go to internet and type <http://formed.org> \*\*Enter our parish name and city.  
Start enjoying on your phone or computer. **ENGLISH and SPANISH** *OUR GIFT TO YOU!*

## RCIA

*"Rite of Christian Initiation  
for Adults"*



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, meets on Wednesday evenings from 7 pm to 8:30 pm in the Parish Center. If you, or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or has been baptized but not received their other sacraments, this is the program for them. Inquiry is the period to learn more about the Catholic Faith in a comfortable and non-committal environment. The team of Parishioners look forward to walking with you in this journey of faith. If you would like more information please contact:

Karen Glen at (925) 228-2230 ext. 4



If you haven't been vaccinated please come to the Order of Malta free Clinic.

- + Pfizer vaccine for ages 12+
- + Minors must be accompanied by an adult
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# READINGS & REFLECTIONS

**Sunday, Jul 04, 2021** FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## Get Jesus right and get right with Jesus

With so many Christian "brands" out there—Catholic and Protestant, evangelical and contemplative, high church or pop church—it's easy to wonder who's got Jesus right. Interpreting his significance is key to the church's mission. Still, Jesus' identity has been debated since his own generation. Mark's gospel, the earliest written, betrays a perceived shadow on Jesus' paternity: He's identified as Mary's son rather than the son of Joseph, as would have been customary. Later gospels replace what was seen at the time as a less-than-honorable reference by calling Jesus the "carpenter's son." The question remains: Is Jesus more than a human sage? Is he Lord of your life?

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 2:2-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6a (101). "Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon?"

**Monday, Jul 05, 2021** MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL

## Seek the common ground of reconciliation

The world is rife with conflict. Many friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors are at odds over politics, racial strife, and pandemic behavior and vaccines. After all this, it can be hard to ever feel the same way about certain people in our lives. But we're called to be peacemakers nonetheless—and that starts with our personal relationships. Saint Elizabeth of Portugal brokered peace in her family to stop civil war. We've never needed her brand of reconciliation more.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 28:10-22a; Matthew 9:18-26 (383). "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you."

**Tuesday, Jul 06, 2021** MEMORIAL OF MARIA GORETTI, VIRGIN, MARTYR

## A mission of mercy

Pope Francis proclaimed an extraordinary Year of Mercy in 2015, but it was one of the Catholic Church's youngest saints—11-year old Maria Goretti—who took the message abroad. The Pilgrimage of Mercy, featuring Maria's major relics, traveled across the United States that year, attracting multitudes to veneration, prayer, and the sacrament of Reconciliation. Canonized a modern-day "virgin martyr," dying at the hands of a would-be rapist in 1902, this humble Italian girl became "The Little Saint of Great Mercy" for forgiving her murderer upon her deathbed. Who do you need to forgive? Let Maria's example be a reminder of what is possible.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 32:23-33; Matthew 9:32-38 (384). "His heart was moved with pity for them."

**Wednesday, Jul 07, 2021**

## Harden not your heart

In 2018, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a pastoral letter against racism: Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love. In that letter, the bishops remind us that as a nation "we have never sufficiently contended with the impact of racism." In a week when the United States honors the founding principles of this country and that all are created equal, people of faith are called to examine their own perceptions and practices and do their part to ensure equality for all people. Embrace the bishops' invitation to fight the evil of Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Matthew 10:1-7 (385). "As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

**Thursday, Jul 08, 2021**

## Sometimes the miracle is endurance

The gospel for today refers to the amazing powers Jesus conferred upon his followers to cure and revive. But we know many people in Jesus' day and today do not experience a miracle cure but instead must bear a cross. Our faith gives us the wisdom to know how and when to bear suffering when a solution is absent and when to struggle against injustice; both can be paths to God. Indeed, miracles themselves, the church teaches, are not merely wondrous events; they are meant to transform us and bring us closer to God. Which way are you being called right now? To struggle against suffering and injustice? Or to bow to a cross in your life? Over a lifetime, we may be called to both paths.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Matthew 10:7-15 (386). "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons."

**Friday, Jul 09, 2021**

## Hang in there

Each of us will be put to the test when it comes to our faith. How we react to tragedy, scorn, injustice, boredom, betrayal, illness, and loss will present moments of truth for us. Will our faith endure? Saint Paul tells the Romans that "tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope." Paul knew a thing or two about perseverance. His lengthy missionizing sea journeys covered something on the magnitude of 10,000 miles and many months on often rough seas. When you feel tested, turn to Paul for inspiration. Stay the course!

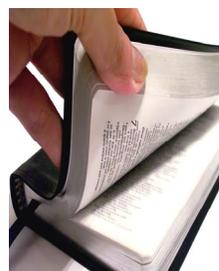
TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30; Matthew 10:16-23 (387). "Whoever endures to the end will be saved."

**Saturday, Jul 10, 2021** OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

## Ever Virgin, ever esteemed

It is ironic but true that the Blessed Virgin Mary is mentioned more times in Islam's Qur'an than in the Christian New Testament. Parts of two chapters of the Qur'an are devoted to Mary. Much like in the gospel of Luke, one chapter tells the story of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The other speculates about Mary's family, her parents and siblings, making linguistic parallels to the family of Moses. As in Catholic tradition, Islam considers the Mother of Jesus the greatest of all women of faith. The spiritual influence of the Virgin Mary transcends even religious differences.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Matthew 10:24-33 (388). "Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known."



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