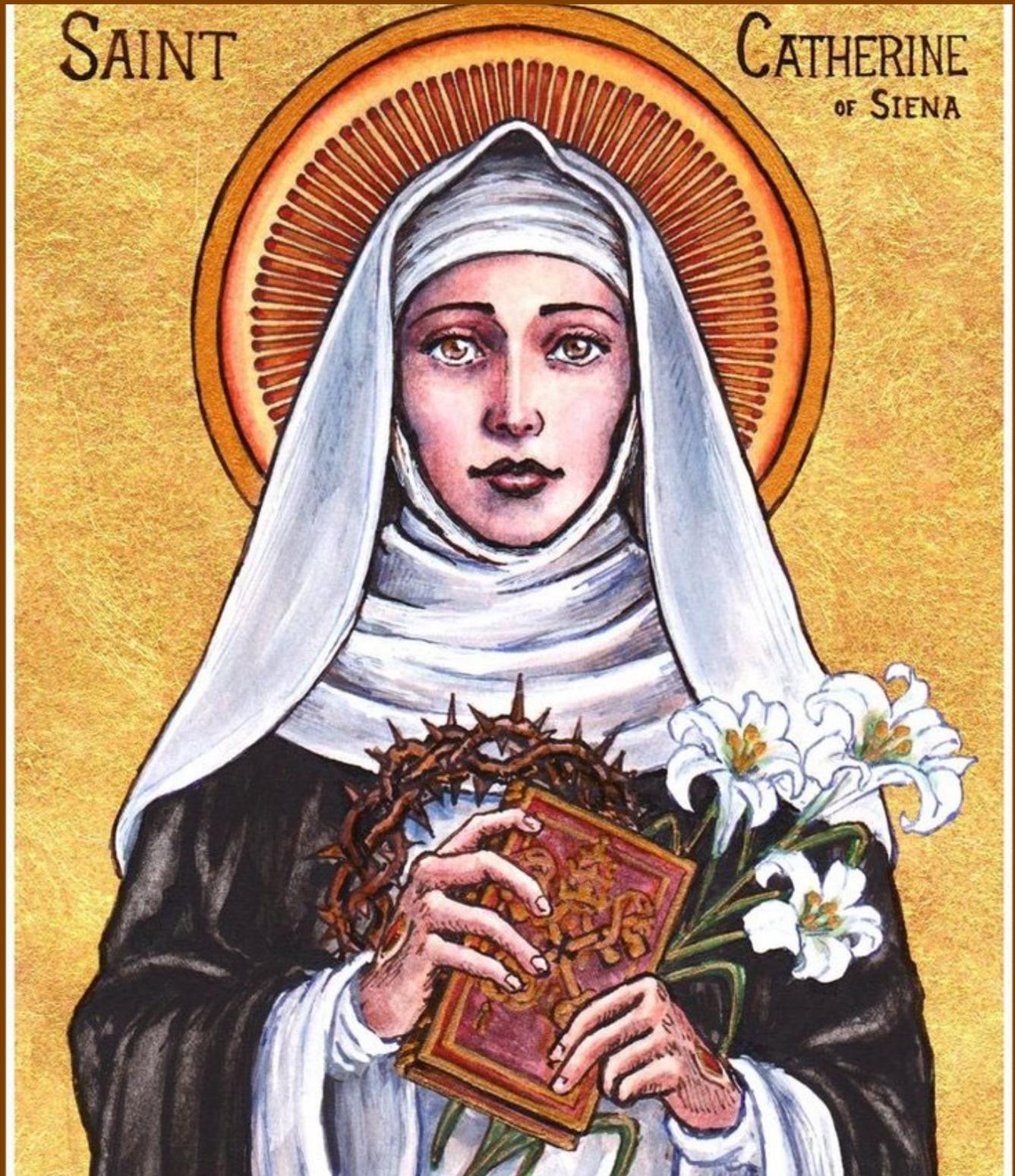


**St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
. Martinez . California . December 25 . 2018 .**



2019 FIVE YEAR PLAN 2023

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

December 2018



Dear friends in Christ,

May the grace of our Lord be with you and those you love. St. Catherine of Siena Parish is going to be 150 years old in 2023. What a history! At the moment of her conception, there was a great Mission: going out into the world and sharing the Good News to all. Since 1873, the Church remains as the spiritual heart of the city of Martinez, beating with faith, love, and mercy of God. It has been a nuclear plant of spiritual power and resource with which men and women of Martinez for one and a half centuries have lived out their faith in the world. In truth, this city is inconceivable without the presence of St. Catherine and her spiritual prowess.

In the same Missionary spirit, many years ago, we rededicated ourselves to a renewed parish Mission which is to *follow Jesus, by welcoming all, sharing our gifts, and giving glory to God*. In other words, we committed ourselves to four main pillars of our Catholic community: Missionary Discipleship, Christian Hospitality, Stewardship, and Worship. They are inter-related and interconnected as we are called and connected in the same Body of Christ—the Church—by the gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion. One can not be without the other and vice versa.

As time goes by, we, as a community, painfully experience a steady decline both in terms of Catholic population in Martinez and participation at St. Catherine of Siena. For example, in the 60s, we still had close to 2000 people going to Church every Sunday. Now, we have about 700 people regularly attending Sunday Masses. There are as many reasons as there are people leaving the Church and our community. Facing this challenging crisis now, however, is not the time to assign blame nor to fall into despair. True, it is terrible to be in the middle of a crisis of faith and morality. This moment of crisis is nonetheless an opportunity—a turning point—a decision-making time for us all to reclaim the Mission of our parish and once again come together to follow Jesus, our Lord.

We can no longer afford to watch the St. Catherine ship sink without doing something. We can no longer be content with what we have and watch it fall apart each day. Thus, we come together and ask the Lord for guidance. In the end, it is His Church built on the solid foundation-Himself; and, it is His promise to be with us to the end.

This pastoral Five-Year Plan is inspired by this trust and rededication to our Mission. It is meant to bring us back to our original calling to follow Jesus, welcome others, share our gifts, and worship Him, the Lord of all. It should offer us a road map to travel together without getting lost or trapped in the things that are

non-essential and detrimental to the life of our faith community. This is a call for the whole parish community as the **One Body of Christ**, to undergo a “**Divine Renovation**,” by transforming itself from a “Maintenance Parish” to a “Missionary Parish.” It demands that our disposition will have to change from keeping the status quo (our regular routine parish life) to a whole parish-oriented life with its ministries and organizations inspired and driven by the same Mission, particularly in Catholic Christian life of worship, missionary discipleship, stewardship and hospitality. Our existing worship and gathering spaces will also have a special place in this plan because they are visible signs of faith and community with and through which we give glory to God and advance our Mission.



When we talk about a whole parish-oriented approach, we mean *all* people, *all* ministries, and *all* organizations who serve under the name of St. Catherine who will embrace the same Mission. Whichever ministry or organization is not willing to accept this Mission, we respectfully ask them to reconsider their presence here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish. We believe with His lead and our collaboration we will move the St. Catherine of Siena ship forward into a hopeful future. Here, we are blessed with a diverse community, rich with generous people, multi-cultures, languages, and beautiful devotions. We must realize that our faith mandates us to love, embrace, and work with each other as brothers and sisters for the same Mission. In other words, we can only thrive if we embrace the call to communion and collaboration which goes out to *all* members of our Church. We must prepare ourselves to encounter and share with others with a genuine spirit of welcome and hospitality and collaboration. God counts on us to do this. We count on each other to live it. We have no doubt that the Lord is calling us forward with hearts on fire for His Mission. In response to His call, we all will commit ourselves to a new springtime of renewal and growth.

With faith, hope, and love we remain yours in Christ,

The Five Year Plan Team:

Fr. Anthony Le	Deacon Albert Dizon	Deacon Dave Holland	Karen Sandri
Karen Glen	Joy Belleza	Cindy Buscaglia	Marissa Perez
Mary Cook	Anne Crisp	Veronica Alvarez	Sarah Koller
Carolyn Susin	Gina Marks	Sylvia Lloren	Dennis Koller
Larry Schweinfurter	Pauline Porter		



From all of us to all of you: May God bless you richly throughout this holiday season; and, may He fill your life with hope, joy, love, and peace throughout the New Year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH MISSION

To follow Jesus by welcoming all, sharing our gifts, and giving glory to God.

2019 - 2023 GOALS



WORSHIP

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



DISCIPLESHIP

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



STEWARDSHIP

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



HOSPITALITY

To form a joyful family community that reaches out and receives one another as Christ reaches out and receives us.



FACILITIES

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

WORSHIP



GOAL: TO FACILITATE A TRANSFORMING ENCOUNTER WITH GOD AS WE COME TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

Overview: At the heart of our community's life is the divine worship. At the heart of the divine worship is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. As we cannot live without a heart, our community cannot live without the Holy Eucharist or the Mass. It is at Mass where we come to encounter the Divine Lord who unites Himself with us in offering up His life for the salvation of all. Those who truly engage and actively participate in the Mass will *take part in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the holy city of Jerusalem toward which we journey as pilgrims, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God, a minister of the holies and of the true tabernacle; we sing a hymn to the Lord's glory with all the warriors of the heavenly army; venerating the memory of the*

saints, we hope for some part and fellowship with them; we eagerly await the Savior, Our Lord Jesus Christ, until He, our life, shall appear and we, too, will appear with Him in glory (Sacrosanctum Concilium 8).

The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. Everything we do must not only lead us to the Lord in the Eucharist, but also flow from Him as our Source of life and energy. Only then can we understand that the other Sacraments of the Church (Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders) are there "to sanctify men and women; to build up the body of Christ; and to give worship to God. And, because they are *signs*, they also *instruct*." Furthermore, these sacraments "not only presuppose faith, but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen, and express it." That is why they are called "sacraments of faith." These sacraments do indeed impart grace, but, in addition, the very act of celebrating them disposes the faithful to receive this grace in a fruitful manner; to worship God duly, and to practice charity and solidarity (Lumen Gentium 59).

Worship Objective 1:

To learn together the Life-Giving Truth of the Holy Eucharist, and thus, be able to actively participate in the Holy Mass

Action Item:

- To revitalize the liturgy committee to ensure the beauty and authenticity of our Roman Catholic liturgy at St. Catherine of Siena Parish.
- By acknowledging the Holy Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian life, we will support and re-commit all liturgical ministries and leaders to on-going liturgical enrichment and formation.
- To update all sacramental programs (Baptism, RCIA, Confirmation, First Communion, First Reconciliation, Communal Reconciliation, Marriage, Funeral, Anointing of the Sick, Quinceanera, Holy Eucharist).

Worship Objective 2:

To foster a deeper appreciation and active engagement in a diverse devotional and sacramental life of our community

Action Item:

- To acknowledge and promote the values of different cultural and traditional devotions such as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Rosary, Novenas to Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and others.
- To offer catechesis on all Sacraments: including marriage preparation, the annulment process, and con-validation.

Worship Objective 3:

To embrace and celebrate the diversity in both cultural and communal celebrations

Action plan:

- To promote a greater sense of community by providing communal and multicultural celebrations.
- To facilitate an opportunity to embrace the universal church.

DISCIPLESHIP



GOAL: TO EMPOWER A COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIAN PEOPLE WALKING TOGETHER AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS IN ORDER TO SHARE HIS GOOD NEWS

Overview: To become a follower of Jesus Christ is to be His disciple. Jesus said, "This is the will of My Father that you should become My disciples." (John 15:8) A disciple literally means "follower" or "one who is learning." Learning and growing in Jesus is a lifelong task. When we cease to learn and grow in Jesus, we cease to be His disciples and will experience stagnation in our spiritual lives. Our intent is to create Missionary Disciples, people who have experienced the Good News of Jesus Christ and are equipped and ready to reach out and share it.

Discipleship Objective 1:

To facilitate an ongoing encounter with Christ so that we may all grow in holiness (Discipleship)

Action Item:

- To provide one major event each year: A women's retreat, men's retreat or Parish mission.
- To arrange for local pilgrimage(s), inviting all parishioners to attend.
- To offer a variety of options for personal growth (through Ignite programs).

Discipleship Objective 2:

To reach out to former parishioners and non-parishioners inviting them to join us in our journey (Evangelization)

Action Item:

- To consult parish registration lists finding those who may have become inactive. Reach out to them via letters or phone calls.
- To sponsor a special Prayer Evening of Reconciliation and Healing with conversation and hospitality.
- To utilize our Lenten Soup Suppers as opportunities for evangelization by inviting the marginalized and poor in our community to join us.
- To be present in the community in a visible way (e.g. tee shirts) and welcoming way (e.g., invitations to join us at the Church).
- To form a group that welcomes new parishioners and those inquiring into the Catholic faith.

Discipleship Objective 3:

To create a community of intentional prayer as a way to connect and engage

Action Item:

- To pray for each other's intentions at Mass.
- To make known we offer a *Book of Intentions* that people can write in.
- To form Prayer Partners and Prayer Chains for those intentions mentioned in the Book of Intentions.

Discipleship Objective 4:

To provide opportunities for catechesis of all parishioners of all ages (Faith Formation)

Action Item:

- To develop Faith Formation as the curriculum for Faith Formation and Confirmation programs.
- To fully engage the RCIA in the liturgical year and the daily life of the Church.
- To highlight and promote involvement in Ignite programs. (Bible Study, Formed, etc.)



STEWARDSHIP

GOAL: TO CREATE A CULTURE IN THE PARISH ROOTED IN GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY

Overview: Stewardship is the conscious act of recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God followed by the intentionally sharing those gifts to those who need them. We strive to put God first in all things and to follow where Our Lord might lead. Stewardship is transformative. Once we embrace the stewardship message, it changes the way we look at every decision we make. Stewardship becomes a total way of life.

Stewardship Objective 1:

To form an engaged stewardship committee

Action Item:

- To invite the parish to participate in an evening about stewardship.
- To grow new ministries and strengthen existing ministries.
- To establish an annual volunteer recognition program.
To generate an annual Stewardship report.

Stewardship Objective 2:

To provide opportunities to engage in learning how to live a life of stewardship

Action Item:

- To facilitate four (4) Ministry Appreciation events a year for our parishioners serving in ministry.
To provide materials and resources to grow in knowledge of stewardship.

Stewardship Objective 3:

To welcome the faithful in sharing their gifts of time, talent and treasure

Action Item:

- To provide information about the ongoing ministries of the parish.
- To increase methods and ways of giving in the digital era.
- To schedule a Commitment Sunday in the Fall.

HOSPITALITY



GOAL: *TO FORM A JOYFUL FAMILY COMMUNITY THAT REACHES OUT AND RECEIVES ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST REACHES OUT AND RECEIVES US*

Overview: Hospitality is made possible through the abundant blessings and mercy of God which allows each “family” member to become the server and the served; each becoming in a special way the servant of each other. The act of hospitality takes on a variety of forms, each allowing us the opportunity to become Christ-like to others. The Bible describes hospitality as an attribute from God, (Gen. 18:2-8) where one finds its image in the biblical proclamation of the relationship between God and His covenant people. Traditionally, hospitality focused on the alien or stranger in need. At St. Catherine’s, our hospitality focus is to follow our Lord Jesus’ example by welcoming all, sharing our gifts, and giving glory to God.

Hospitality Objective 1:

To enhance the Sunday experience

Action Item:

- To ensure a hospitality event is offered for every Sunday Mass with a longer-term plan to expand to Saturday evening Mass. In addition to having ministries and organizations provide hospitality, creating themed days for certain groups of parishioner hosts. Examples could include family days, new parishioners, families of newly baptized, newly married couples, anniversaries, etc.
- To have a budget for paper goods and supplies needed to provide hospitality events and help ease financial burden to those providing hospitality.
- To have open doors with greeters at every door. Have ushers and greeters lead parishioners to hospitality events after Mass. Expand the team of greeters and ushers – encourage participation of male and female youth ushers, and provide badges for them. Have the ushers accompany those in need of finding their seats.

Hospitality Objective 2:

To expand hospitality services beyond the Sunday Experience

Action Item:

- To provide meals, gift basket, or light cleaning/yard services for those who are in need – families with new babies, those in poor health or with mobility issues, families with financial needs. This can be done in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul.
- To have a St. Catherine of Siena presence at funeral services by expanding Grief Ministry services/outreach.
- To offer quarterly meet and greet events with clergy members for new parish members.

Hospitality Objective 3:

To provide more hospitality services through the Parish Office

Action Item:

- To update the Parish Directory more frequently to receive a list of the newly baptized (children and adults), new parish registrants, newly married couples, those who receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation, and, if possible, new enrollees in the school. Our intent would be to highlight them at hospitality events, in Mass, the bulletin, etc., coupled with a card congratulating them on their new life event.
- To create a packet for new families containing information on the Parish, summary of ministries, organizations and parish services.
- To expand web forms and automation. Have a way to register as a parishioner online in addition to paper document available in the Office to complete. Have a comment box. Make all office services and publications available in Spanish—including office phone number/voicemail.

FACILITIES



GOAL: TO ASSURE THAT OUR CHURCH AND FACILITIES TESTIFY TO THE GREATER HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD

Overview: St. Catherine of Siena Church and School has numerous facilities where maintenance has been deferred for many years. The Facilities goal is to ensure all improvements and additions to St. Catherine's facilities reflect God's glory and transcendence. Our vision is that her facilities be not only safe and welcoming, but Holy. Safe, welcoming, and Holy facilities will promote Our Lord's presence at Mass, give us space for prayer groups and scripture studies, as well as the ability to embrace the poor, the lonely, and the sick in our community. It is essential to keep St. Catherine's community informed as to the goals and objectives as well as the timelines for maintaining, and/or adding to the Church's facilities.

Facilities Objective 1:

St. Catherine's Church, Cemetery, and Rectory - to improve safety, comfort, and maintenance.

Action Item

- **Church:** To replace old carpet, on-going sound system attention, stained glass window repair/protection, ramp repair (in progress), toilet repairs, lighting, exterior painting, roof repairs, Church signage, improving the space between the pews, with special attention given to parishioners with wheelchairs, walkers, and/or having mobility issues. The Church parking lot needs to be more user friendly, making it safe for drivers and pedestrians of all ages. Fr. Anthony is to decide which project has priority.
- **Rectory:** To provide a safe and comfortable living environment for our priest(s).
- **Cemetery:** To establish a weed abatement program to reduce fire hazard and to restore as much of the property as possible to its original cemetery intent.

Facilities Objective 2:

Parish Center, Pre-School, and Youth Shack - to provide a safe, healthy, comfortable, and Holy environment for all individual (handicap accessible).

Action Item

- **Parish Center:** To provide up-to-date equipment for our Parish staff so that they may meet the needs of our community. Items include: repairs to meeting rooms, window replacement, upgrade of office equipment/phones and computers that are outdated, wireless internet, front area office improvements, front lighting for safety, and a ramp for people with disabilities.
- **Pre-School:** To provide kitchen and playground improvements, AC system, and on-going maintenance.
- **Youth Shack:** To improve health hazards such as mold due to leaky roof, and to fix the roof.

Facilities Objective 3:

St. Catherine's School and Hall - to provide a safe, comfortable, and Holy environment for teaching and learning.

Action Item

- **School:** To provide and maintain a well-functioning AC and heater and up-to-date equipment for science labs. Provide painting and maintenance as needed.
- **Hall:** To maintain all parts of this facility including the kitchen so that it remains safe and is not a fire hazard. Some of the floor tiles may need to be replaced.

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We realize that these objectives and action plans are just a beginning which unmistakably demands many prayers, sacrifices, and commitments at all levels. We believe that together with God we can move our community forward. We ask you please continue to ask the Lord for strength and love to serve Him and serve others. After all, it is His Church of which we are parts. He alone can make it strong and fruitful. In Him, we entrust the outcomes of this plan. —The Five Year Plan Team