

STEWARDSHIP SAINT for April

Saint Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church

Saint Catherine of Siena, whose feast day is April 29, was the first layperson, and alongside Saint Teresa of Avila, one of the first two women named a Doctor of the Church. She was born Caterina di Giacomo di Benincasa in Siena in 1347, the twenty-fourth of 25 children. She decided early on not to be married, and after several years of prayer and fasting, began an active life of service. She started by nursing the sick at a local hospital. Notable during that time was her aid to victims of the 1374 pandemic.

As a young woman, Catherine believed she had a call to preach the Gospel. She organized a group of people to accompany her on mission trips where she urged her audiences to seek a deeper conversion to Christ in their lives through prayer and repentance. She became so extraordinarily successful that she had to recruit priests to serve as confessors to these large gatherings.

A devoted advocate of the Church, Catherine publicly promoted the offices of papacy, bishop and the clergy as Christ's ambassadors, but she was also a severe critic of the abuses she saw among many members of the clergy and church hierarchy. She believed they should embrace poverty and assume a more humble spirit instead of "living in worldly luxury and ambitiousness and pretentious vanity." "In fact," she maintained, "many laypersons put them to shame by their good and holy lives."

Catherine, though, knew that there could be no lasting reform of the Church without strong papal leadership. In 1376 she met with Pope Gregory XI in Avignon, France, where the papacy had been banished since 1309, and urged him to return to Rome. In one letter, she insisted that he must be "courageous" and not a "coward." Catherine's letter strengthened the pope's resolve and he returned to Rome in 1377.

After Gregory's death the following year and the election of Pope Urban VI, the Great Schism ensued. For the next 39 years, there would be at least two and sometimes three claimants to the papacy. Catherine sent frequent letters to Urban in the hope of moderating his severity towards his opponents. She also wrote to various other church authorities, encouraging them to recognize Urban as the legitimate successor to the Chair of Saint Peter.

Although a prodigious producer of letters, Catherine dictated her thoughts to others because she did not learn to write until near the end of her life. During the years 1377 to 1378, Catherine dictated *The Dialogue*, her reflections on the spiritual life. Many spiritual writers insist that this major work of mystical theology stands beside other great spiritual classics such as those of two other Doctors of the Church, Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross.

Pope Urban invited Catherine to Rome in 1380 to help lend support to his papacy, but on the way she suffered a stroke. She died on April 29, 1380. She was 33 years old.

Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima Parish Visitation

Sat, Apr 6—Our Lady of Mercy, Burnaby	Thu, Apr 11—Corpus Christi, Vancouver
Sun, Apr 7—Canadian Martyrs, Richmond	Fri, Apr 12—St Jude, Vancouver
Mon, Apr 8—Immaculate Conception, Delta	Sat, Apr 13—Sts Peter & Paul, Vancouver
Tue, Apr 9—Holy Rosary Cathedral	Sun, Apr 14—Our Lady of Fatima, Vancouver
Wed, Apr 10—St Casimir, Vancouver	Mon, Apr 15—St James, Abbotsford

For details, contact Ethelyn David @ 604-889-3842



ST. MONICA PARISH

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PASTOR: **Rev. Mark Bautista**
DEACON: **Wilbur Victoria**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday
9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES
WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**
SATURDAYS: **9:00 am & 5:00 pm**
SUNDAYS: **9:00 am, 11:00 am**
& **4:00 pm (YVR)**

CONFESSION SCHEDULES
SATURDAYS: **9:45 am—10:30 am**
20 minutes before Daily Mass

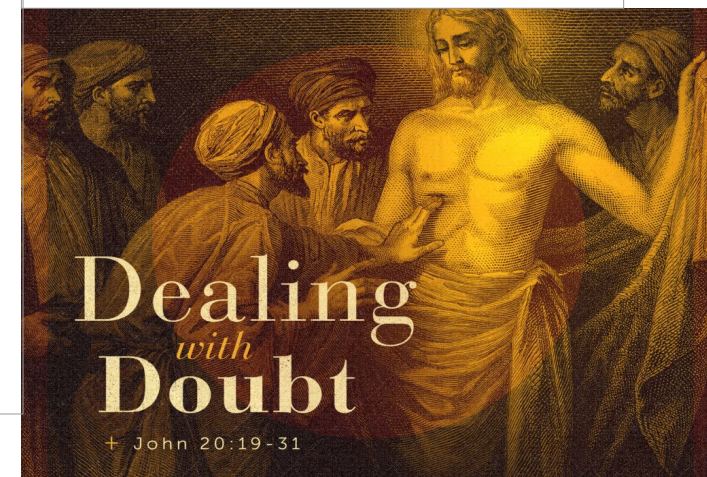
BAPTISM every Saturday @ 11am
WEDDING – Please call the Parish Office
at least 6 months in advance.
FUNERAL, HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL
Please call the Parish Office.

WEDNESDAY:
Perpetual Help Novena after 9am Mass
FRIDAY:
Holy Hour after 9am Mass
1st SATURDAY:
Rosary for Vocation after 9am Mass

Second Sunday of Easter

Weekend of April 6/7, 2024

When the risen Christ encounters his disciples in the locked room he adds a new Beatitude to the ones we've heard proclaimed before: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Stewards of the mysteries of God's love do not need proof of the risen Christ. They know it because their lives have been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit who has breathed new life into them and through the Sacrament of the Eucharist which strengthens and sustains them. As stewards of this great gift it is appropriate to reflect on how we in turn add new life into our parish communities.



Stewardship and Our Baptismal Promises

The practice of renewing baptismal promises at Easter is essential for those who take the stewardship of their faith seriously. It focuses the steward's attention on answering Christ's call to follow after him, proclaiming his Gospel in word and deed, putting the Eucharist into action, building up the communion of faith, and sharing Christ's peace with a broken world.

Renewing our baptismal promises and the baptismal focus of holy water is most compelling at the Easter Vigil where the sprinkling is directly connected to the renewal of promises. The use of holy water compels us to reflect on our baptism, calls us back to our central identity as Catholic Christians, and strengthens us anew "as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:10).

The baptismal water of Easter performs a twofold purpose. It baptizes the catechumens and it refreshes our covenant with God in Christ through the renewal of our baptismal promises. It "seals" our resolve to follow Jesus more closely.

Many who say they are Catholic desire to live their lives as if Jesus was still in the tomb. But he is not. Christ has risen and is present among us, calling us each day to follow after him and radiate his example onto the world. Living our baptismal promises inspires us to be good stewards of God's plan as individuals and as a Eucharistic community in the 21st century.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for April

For the role of women: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for April

Oh Blessed Lord! Oh Risen Lord! We look through the crosses we have carried this past year and give you thanks for the awe-inspiring hope that Easter brings. We give you thanks for calling us your friends and allowing us to share in the sacrifice of your body and blood, which is poured out for many. Oh merciful Lord, redeemer and teacher, by the power of the Holy Spirit give us the patience and insight to listen to you during this time of continued uncertainty. Give us the wisdom to find creative ways to put the Eucharist into action; and give us the courage to bring your Easter message of hope to a world that desperately needs your love. To you be glory and honor forever and ever. Amen

You are all invited to the Kick-off Sumba & Line Dancing work-out on Monday, April 8 from 7pm to 9pm. Fees: \$30/month or \$10 drop-in.

Official Enshrinement of San Pedro Calungsod

The Cebuano Society of Canada, in collaboration with the Filipino Catholic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, invites devotees and all faithful to witness the official enshrinement of St. Pedro Calungsod, Filipino patron saint of migrants and youth. Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, and Bishop Julito Cortes, D.D., of Dumaguete, Philippines, will preside over the Holy Mass. On Friday, April 19, 6:00 p.m. at St. Monica's Parish in Richmond.

Marriage Anniversary Mass 2024

"Love isn't easy. No. But the most beautiful thing that a man and a woman can give each other is true love, for a lifetime." - Pope Francis

On Sunday, May 12, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB will be honouring couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Port Coquitlam at 1:30 p.m. Registrations received by Friday, April 19, will receive their certificate at the Mass. Learn more and register at family.rcav.org/mam.

Save the Date: Archdiocesan Mass for Civilly Married Couples

Are you married outside the Catholic Church? Would you like to regularize your union so you can receive the sacraments once again? Now, you have a great opportunity as Archbishop Miller celebrates the Mass Wedding for civilly married couples. It will be a beautiful community celebration that will cost very little for the individual couples! For more information, please contact Deacon Raul Abella at rabella@rcav.org or 778-512-9163.

Registration Deadline: Sunday, July 21

Save the Date: Saturday, September 21, 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Parish in Richmond

How Churches Can Protect Youth from the Explosion in Cyber Exploitation

It is critical for Churches to comprehend the world we live in and create programs to protect youth from exploitation. Join this seminar hosted by Through God's Grace Ministry and learn what every Church needs to know about AI (artificial intelligence) and the technology transformation that endangers and empowers kids and their families. Our keynote speaker is Opal Singleton, a nationally recognized cyber exploitation expert and the author of the book *Societal Shift, A World Without Borders and a Home Without Walls*.

On Saturday, April 20, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 am, via Zoom. Learn more and register via

beholdvancouver.org/events.

It is better to be a child of God than king of the whole world. –St Aloysius Gonzaga