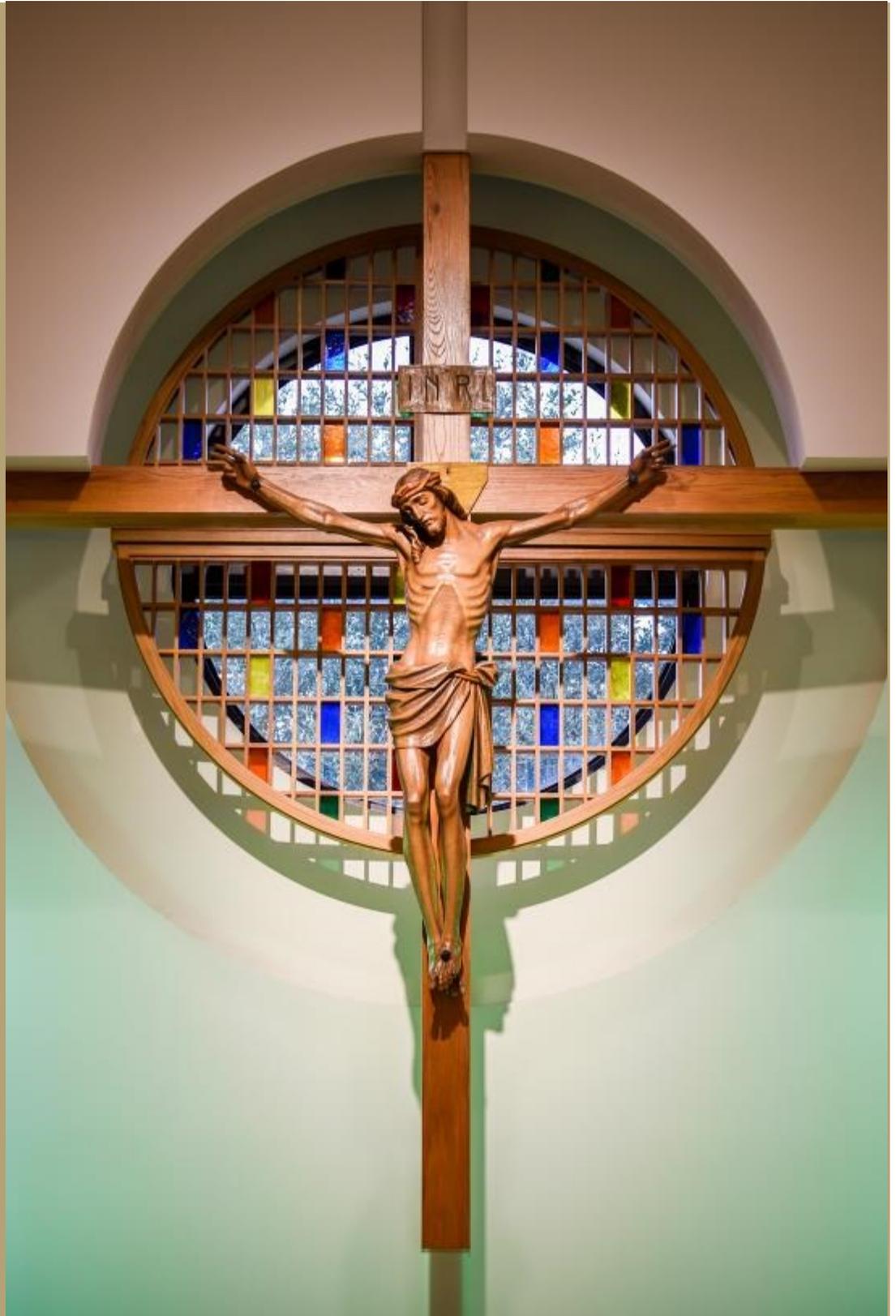




ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Feb 11, 2018



<p>PASTOR Fr Niall Nolan, fnriall@stcatherine-houston.org</p> <p>BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR Marcela Swihart, marcela@stcatherine-houston.org</p> <p>PARISH COMMUNICATIONS Mary C. Jones, communications@stcatherine-houston.org</p> <p>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR Robin L. Hayes, REcoordinator@stcatherine-houston.org</p>	<p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM Sunday 8:30 AM and 11:15 AM</p> <p>WEEKDAY MASS Tuesday - Friday, 12:15 PM</p> <p>RECONCILIATION Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 PM</p> <p>OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday, 10 AM - 4 PM</p>
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Dear Friends,

The times of both our Masses for Ash Wednesday are across the page. To make sure you get back to work on time from the noon Mass, we will have no music; everything will be kept simple and within the spirit of the Lenten season. Even though you will not be going back to work from the evening Mass, we will be doing likewise; most of you will be on your way home from work and probably tired, hungry and maybe annoyed by some of your fellow commuters' driving styles! A parishioner remarked to me a few years ago on her way into Ash Wednesday Mass, "Please, don't punish us for coming to Mass." I won't!

As in past years, we expect a packed church on Ash Wednesday which is commendable. It is heartening to see that many of you are willing to dust the cobwebs off what may well have become a lackadaisical Church life in order to renew and deepen your faith through your Lenten commitment to prayer, fasting and donations to the poor (almsgiving).

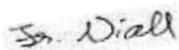
Most, if not all of you, associate Lent with Penance. Penance has been misunderstood as some sort of sacrifice or mortification, when in fact the term derives from the Latin translation of the Greek word for conversion. Conversion is a change of heart and mind or a turning around/reorientation towards God. Lent is the time of reorientation; it is the time to turn back to God, and this is best expressed in our renewed prayer life, leading to the sacrifices we now make to give in charity (time, talent or treasure) to the poor and needy. If you get the first step (prayer) right, the rest (fasting and giving) will follow naturally. Since you begin with Mass on Ash Wednesday, why not consider coming to daily Mass during the week? If that is not possible, then use the daily Scriptures as your source for praying. This would be the perfect way to begin Lent and renew your faith and life in the Church community. More than ever, we need these daily Scriptures to inspire us to action and to a belief in the common good.

You may be thinking about cutting back on all your "virtual" relationships and friends. This would allow you to share a meal with a real friend, only to experience those wonderful awkward silences. Those silences just might make you realize you are so electronically "connected," but so "out of touch" with real people that you are not adequately developing your social and listening skills! Why not also put these electronic devices to a good and productive use during Lent? The Daily Mass Scriptures are available at "Daily Readings from the New American Bible," downloadable into "Podcasts" on the iPhone etc. They are also available at USCCB.org. or through apps like iBreviary, Laudate, etc.

There is no other or better way to develop and deepen your faith and Christian charity than reading and praying the weekday Scriptures during Lent. Now is the time to turn towards God!

"Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world." Evangelii Gaudium - Pope Francis.

God Bless,




ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

• FEBRUARY 14, 2018 •

12:15 PM & 6 PM

FEBRUARY 11, 2018 • SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MOMS' GROUP



Join us **Wednesday, February 21st** from 6 - 8 PM at St. Catherine of Siena for our monthly social and keynote presenter: Diane Goyette.

Diane is a Child Development Specialist, a Keynote Speaker and Master Registered Level Trainer, and a certified Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC). She will be sharing techniques to teach kids self regulation and emotional management. Get your questions answered and learn new techniques for managing tantrums and meltdowns.

Childcare is available for \$5/child (must RSVP for childcare). **Email scsmomsgroup@gmail.com with questions or to RSVP for childcare.**

CLUB 55+ NEWS

• BUS TRIP •

Our trip for the private wine class at Total & More, "An Inspiring Taste of Italy" followed by dinner at Maggiono's, is now sold out. For those attending, the event is Thursday, February 22nd and we will leave the church at 3:30 pm and return by about 9:00 pm. For any questions, please call Diane Goyette at 713-540-7884.

On Saturday, March 10 we will see *On Golden Pond* at the Grand 1894 Opera House in Galveston. Both lighthearted and deeply moving, playwright Ernest Thompson's American theatrical masterpiece is the story of a curmudgeonly father and husband who must confront his strained relationship with his adult daughter and his own not-so-gentle march into old age. We will leave the church at 3:30 pm for dinner at Shrimp 'N Stuff Downtown, and should return by about 11:30 pm. The cost is \$45 per person not including dinner. Please mail your check to Diane Goyette, 5607 Summer Snow Drive, Houston, TX 77041 as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

Save the dates: Upcoming bus trips are scheduled for April 26, May 17, and Jun 19 – details to follow. Contact Diane at diane@goyette.info or 713-540-7884, or Henry at 281-684-7030. As always, the bus trip is open to everyone age 50 and over.

• FEBRUARY MEETING •

The next meeting of Club 55+ will be held on Sunday, February 11, 12:30 - 2 PM. Please plan to join us, enjoy lunch, and find out what's coming up next.

PARISH CALENDAR

• SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

SAT	02/10	5 PM Sunday Vigil Mass † Arturo Rodriguez
SUN	02/11	8:30 AM Sunday Mass 9:30 - 11 AM CCE 11:15 AM Sunday Mass 12:30 - 2 PM Club 55+ Meeting / Luncheon
MON	02/12	Office Hours: 10 AM - 4 PM No Weekday Mass
TUE	02/13	Office Hours: 10 AM - 4 PM 12:15 PM Weekday Mass 6 - 7:30 PM First Communion Preparation
WED	02/14	• ASH WEDNESDAY • <i>Archdiocese Social Ministries Collection</i> 12:15 and 6 PM Masses Office Hours: 10 AM - 4 PM No Bible Study
THU	02/15	Office Hours: 10 AM - 4 PM 12:15 PM Weekday Mass No Bible Study
FRI	02/16	Office Hours: 10 AM - 4 PM 12:15 PM Weekday Mass

• FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT •

Black and Indian Missions Collection

SAT	02/17	5 PM Sunday Vigil Mass † Paul Pavlik
SUN	02/18	8:30 AM Sunday Mass † Joe Pavelka NO CCE 11:15 AM Sunday Mass

"Above all, I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew."

~ Pope Francis, 2018 Lenten Message