From the Desk of Fr. Mark Arnzen, Pastor...

The Second Sunday of Advent is the midway point of our journey toward the great day of blessing that is the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. This time of preparation invites each and every Christian to renew with the promise of the hope of God’s joyous rebirth to new life. Two important events will occur in this coming week. Tomorrow, December 8th is the celebration of the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of Mary. On this day we come to recognize and honor the Mother of God who was, through the grace of the Father’s love, born without original sin. We believe as Catholic Christians that the special grace Mary received prepared her to say “yes” to the invitation of God to bear our Savior Jesus.

(Continued on Page 3 …)

Desde el Escritorio de Padre Mark Arnzen, Pastor...

El segundo domingo de Adviento es el punto de medio camino de nuestro trayecto al gran día de la bendición que es la Natividad de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Este tiempo de preparación invita a todos los cristianos a renovar la promesa de la esperanza de renacimiento gozosamente de Dios a una vida nueva. Dos eventos importantes se producirán en esta semana que viene. Mañana, el 8 de Diciembre es la celebración de la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de María. En este día venimos a reconocer y honrar a la Madre de Dios, que era, a través de la gracia del amor del Padre, nacida sin pecado original. Creemos que como cristianos católicos que la gracia especial María recibió la preparó para decir “sí” a la invitación de Dios para darnos nuestro Salvador Jesús. A través del don del nacimiento de Jesús se nos ofrece el don de la reconciliación con Dios y su pueblo. (Continuado en Pagina 5…)

MASSES / MISAS
Monday-Saturday: 8:15am
Saturday: 5:30pm
Sábado: 7:30pm
Sunday: 7:15, 8:45, 10:30am
5:30pm
Domingo: 12:15pm

CONFESION / CONFESIÓN
Saturday / Sábado: 4:00 - 5:00pm (Or by appointment / O hacer una cita.)

ADORACIÓN /ADORATION
Wednesday / Miércoles 6:30pm
1st Friday 9:00-12:00pm

17400 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 779-3959
Fax: (408) 779-0289
www.stca.org
Email: Office@stca.org

Catechetical Ministry
(408) 779-9604

St. Catherine School
(408) 779-9950
www.stcatherinemh.org
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).


Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19: Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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SECONd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE

Today's reading from 2nd Peter bears a powerful reminder about the difference between God's time and our human time. People were impatient; "why hasn't Jesus returned?" The writer tells us in poetic words, "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day." The powerful message continues telling us that the Lord is providing us time to repent, so that none are lost. How does that jibe with modern thought? Too frequently anyone who doesn't produce "right now" is graded poorly or even dismissed. The inherent seeking for perfection isn't bad of itself but patience must be an essential element in evaluating others (and even ourselves). Advent anticipation provides us a reminder that patience is an essential aspect of readiness. We mustn't think that preparation is wasted if what we prepare for doesn't occur when we want. The act of preparation in our spiritual journey gives time for repentance; not just for sins we may have committed but also time to prepare our hearts for the indwelling of God. Patience without focus, or just "hanging out" is a missed opportunity. Opening ourselves, both in mind and heart, to remember and re-recognize that God is with us leads to peaceful reflection of the wonder of God's promise for us… that we are loved and cherished… that we are valued and worthy. Be sure to take time this Advent to spend time with God; both in living the joys of the season and also in quiet restfulness, listening for God's voice.

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK

If you shorten your shower by just one minute, you'll save hundreds of gallons of water each year and reduce hot-water-heater energy consumption.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Have you moved recently and need to update your mailing information with the parish? Email us at office@stca.org, drop us a note in the Sunday collection or call us at (408) 779-3959. We need your complete name, old & new address and your new telephone number if that has changed. Don't miss out on all the great news we mail/email to our parishioners!

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MARK

CONTINUED......

Through the gift of Jesus' birth we are offered the gift of reconciliation with God and his people. The second important celebration this week is our Advent Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00p.m. In preparing our hearts to receive Jesus we are asked to remove the roadblocks and obstacles that prevent us from being the children of God we are called to be in our relationships. We can often think that we don't need the Sacrament of Reconciliation because "we are good people." This is true but we also understand that the accumulation of the small sins, those habitual sins, can begin to hinder how we are able to love one another and God. Seeking the healing grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is trusting that we can grow deeper in love with God and our family and neighbors.

Both celebrations this coming week remind us that God's grace helps us to say "yes" to his invitation to bear Jesus in our daily lives. The joy of the Gospel is in recognizing that the life of virtue helps us to grow closer to God's plan in our lives. This joyful yes is the true spirit of our Christmas blessing.

God bless,

Fr. Mark

Welcome! Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether long-time residents or newly arrived in the parish. We thank God for you. If you are not registered, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office.

Name:__________________________________________
Address:________________________________________
City:_________________________ Zip:__________________
Phone:_____________ Email:________________________
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGY WORSHIP

REFLECTION: Today we hear in all three readings: The Lord is coming! Prepare a way for the Lord and receive Him into your hearts. At a time when the people of Israel had been a captured and enslaved people in Babylon (Iraq today), the prophet Isaiah in the first reading, Is. 40:1-5, 9-11, prepares the people and looks forward to the day when a messenger will come with news of great joy: God is here and will lead His people to freedom and safety, bringing them back to their homeland. John the Baptist in the Gospel, Mk. 1:1-8, prepares the people by announcing the Good News: The Lord is coming. John the Baptist begins to prepare the people by calling for a change of heart that their sins may be forgiven. Thus, Peter (probably written by an unknown author around 100-125 A.D. who assumes the name of the Apostle) in the second reading, 2 Pt. 3:8-14, tells us that God is patient with us. God gives us opportunity to lead the kind of lives God asks of us---a holy life.

ADVENT WREATH: St. Catherine Church is decorated with the Advent Wreath, symbolizing Jesus Christ as the Light (Jn. 8:12). Customarily, the Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles, three violet and one rose, representing the four weeks of Advent. The number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, Rejoice Sunday.

As we continue with the Second Sunday of Advent, we have a unique opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbors to “Come Home to St. Catherine this Christmas,” deepening our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Monday, December 8th, is a holy day of obligation and is Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America.

MASS SCHEDULE
6:15 a.m. (bi-lingual), 8:15 a.m. (English)
6:00 p.m. (English) and 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)

TIPS FOR YEAR-END CHARITABLE GIVING

All sorts of assets make good year-end gifts to benefit St. Catherine’s Church. This includes cash, stocks, mutual funds, fully paid life insurance, and real estate. These assets can be given outright and most may also be used to fund a planned gift, such as a Charitable Gift Annuity or Deferred Payment Gift Annuity.

If making a gift by cash or check, either deliver your gift in person or be sure it is postmarked by December 31st. The date you deliver or mail your donation is generally recognized as the gift date for tax purposes. Please note: the date on the actual check is not recognized by the IRS as proof of your intent to give on a particular date.

You may also give online by credit card via PayPal or Parish Pay before or on December 31. You may designate your gift for any particular fund (s). Just be sure the gift is made prior to midnight, December 31. The gift date is when the donation is charged to your credit card, even if you don’t pay your bill until 2015.

If you want your gift to be structured in the form of a planned gift for increased tax or income benefits, (such as a Gift Annuity), paperwork can be completed after December 31. However, be sure the asset is received by the St. Catherine’s, Diocese or Catholic Foundation (would process our gifts) by December 31. This is vital.

Plan ahead. Gifts of stock, paid-up life insurance, real or personal property all take a certain amount of preparation. Plan ahead accordingly; Speak with Anna Quinones at the Office of Development for instructions on how to make gifts of certain assets. aquinones@djs.org or 408.779.3959. Always consult with your own advisors, prior to making a gift.

Receipt for taxes: You will receive a receipt for your donation that contains all the necessary substantiation required for tax purposes.

Memorials and Gifts in Honor: Any gift you make may be given as a memorial for a loved one or a gift in honor of someone living. If you wish, a card/acknowledgement letter will be sent to the person (s) you specify, acknowledging your gift without mention of amount. Gifts in memory or in honor make very special and meaningful Christmas gifts. Please send your gift with a designation of memorial or honor tribute and address of the family to receive the acknowledgment. You may also come into the Rectory and personal assistance is available.
SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

LECTURAS DE HOY
Primera lectura — Prepara el camino del Señor; proclama la buena nueva (Isaías 40:1-5, 9-11).
Salmo — Muéstranos, Señor, tu misericordia y danos tu salvación (Salmo 85 [84]).
Segunda lectura — El Señor no tarda en guardar su promesa donde está la justicia de Dios (2 Pedro 3:8-14).
Evangelio — Juan Bautista apareció proclamando un bautismo de arrepentimiento ( Marcos 1:1-8).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA
Lunes:  Gn 3:9-15, 20; Sal 98 (97):1-4;
Ef 1:3-6, 11-12; Lc 1:26-38
Martes:  Is 40:1-11; Sal 96 (95):1-3, 10ac, 11-13;
Mt 18:12-14
Miércoles: Is 40:25-31; Sal 103 (102):1-4, 8, 10;
Mt 11:28-30
Jueves: Is 41:13-20; Sal 145 (144):1, 9, 10-13ab;
Mt 11:11-15
Viernes: Zec 2:14-17 o Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcede, 19; Lc 1:26-38 o Lc 1:39-47, o cualquier lectura del Común de la Sangüísea María Virgen
Sábado: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Sal 80 (79):2ac, 3b, 15-16,
18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Domingo: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lc 1:46-50, 53-54;
1 Tes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

FELICITAMOS LOS CUMPLEAÑOS DEL MES DE DICIEMBRE:
Sabado, 6 de Dec  Domingo, 7 de Dec
Misa de 7:30p.m.  Misa de 12:15pm
Jazmin Marin  Manuel Panuco
Beilia Castillo  Elena Gonzalez

Damos gracias al Señor por todas las bendiciones concedidas a cada uno de nuestros ministros en su cumpleaños y el que compartan su tiempo y talento en nuestra Parroquia. Pedimos al Señor los haga crecer en su fe y les recompense su generosidad.

JÓVENES PARA CRISTO
Se les invita a las personas mayores de 18 años a reunirse todos los Viernes en el salón 10 en la escuela a las 7:00pm. ¡Los esperamos!

GRUPO CARISMÁTICO
Los invitamos cada miércoles de 7:30pm a 9:30pm en la iglesia.

DESEDE EL ESCRITORIO DE PADRE MARK
La segunda celebración importante esta semana es nuestro Adviento Servicio de Reconciliación el Martes, 9 de Diciembre a las 7:00 p.m. Al preparar nuestro corazón para recibir a Jesús, se nos pide que retiremos los bloqueos y obstáculos que nos impiden ser los hijos de Dios que estamos llamados a ser en nuestras relaciones.

Muchas veces podemos pensar que no necesitamos el sacramento de la reconciliación porque "somos gente buena." Esto es verdad, pero también entendemos que la acumulación de los pequeños pecados, esos pecados habituales, puede empezar a dificultar cómo somos capaces amor entre sí y con Dios. La búsqueda de la gracia sanadora del Sacramento de la Reconciliación es confiar en que podemos crecer más profundamente en el amor con Dios y con nuestra familia y vecinos.

Ambas celebraciones esta semana que viene nos recuerdan que la gracia de Dios nos ayuda a decir "sí" a su invitación para llevar a Jesús en nuestra vida cotidiana. La alegría del Evangelio es en el reconocimiento de que la vida de virtud nos ayuda a acercarnos más al plan de Dios en nuestras vidas. Esta alegre sí es el verdadero espíritu de nuestra bendición de Navidad.

Dios los bendiga,
Padre Mark

NO SUFRAS
“No dejes que se inquiete tu corazón. No le tengas miedo a esa enfermedad, ni a ninguna otra enfermedad o angustia. ¿No estoy aquí acaso, quien es tu Madre? ¿No estás bajo mi protección? ¿No soy tu salud? ¿No eres feliz en mi redil? ¿Qué más deseas? No sufras ni te inquietes por nada”.
—Palabras de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe a San Juan Diego, 1531

ADORACIÓN DEL SANTISIMO
Los invitamos a la Adoración del santísimo y a un tiempo para reflexión personal, todos los Miércoles a las 6:30pm en la Iglesia.
MUJER SE DICE “MARÍA”

Creó Dios al ser humano a imagen suya. A imagen de Dios los creó, hombre y mujer los creó. (…) Vio Dios cuanto había hecho, y todo era bueno (Gén 1, 27. 31).

El hombre y la mujer estaban dotados de esa perfección en su entendimiento, en su voluntad y en sus afectos, que los hacían semejantes a Dios. El corolario de aquellas perfecciones era la libertad, que convertía al ser humano en capaz de amar y le permitía unirse en amor a su propio Creador. Pero fue precisamente la libertad la que el hombre volvió hacia las criaturas, dándole a Dios la espalda. En aquel momento, todo se vino abajo.

Quién dude del pecado original debe tener los párpados pegados entre sí con cera. Basta abrir los ojos para darse cuenta de que el estado actual del ser humano dista mucho de la perfección para la que fue creado por Dios. Tras aquella primera caída, la apetencia del hombre quedó vuelta hacia el mal, entregada de modo desordenado a las criaturas y apartada de los bienes celestiales. Desde entonces surgen en el hombre deseos de mentira, odios, envidias, soberbia, pereza, lascivia… ¡Para qué seguir!

Dijo Dios a la serpiente: enemistad pongo entre ti y la mujer, entre tu linaje y el suyo. Él te pisará la cabeza mientras tú acechas su talón (Gén 3, 15). Compadecido, prometió Dios un remedio a tanto daño, y prometió que ese remedio vendría a través de la mujer, la misma que había sido mediadora en el pecado. Y, pasados los siglos—que así, con esta “pachorra”, se las gusta Dios en el vientre de Ana cubrió con sus manos a una pequeña criatura para que Satanás no la marcase con el sello que Eva había puesto en sus manos. Volvía a la tierra el Paraíso; volvía a existir un lugar bajo el sol donde el Maligno no había puesto en sus manos. Volvía a la tierra el Paraíso; volvía a existir un lugar bajo el sol donde el Maligno no tenía poder alguno; el Paraíso Terrenal se llamó María.

¿Puede Dios crear una piedra tan pesada que Él mismo no la pueda levantar? No tengo la menor idea. Pero, si la crease, no sería Dios; sería un idiota. Sin embargo, ¿puede Dios crear un ser tan hermoso que Él mismo caiga rendido de Amor ante sus encantos? Puede. Puede, y ¿puede Dios crear un ser tan hermoso que Él mismo caiga rendido de Amor ante sus encantos? Puede. Puede, y lo hizo. Esa criatura es María. La belleza de la Inmaculada brilla en las tres llamadas con que Dios distinguió a la mujer. En Elle se unieron las tres, y las tres recibieron un “sí”. Dijo “sí” a ser Virgen, consagrada por entero al Amor del Dios amante. Dijo “sí” a ser madre, que entrega su cuerpo como tierra fétil y da su vida para que una nueva vida nazca. Dijo “sí” a ser esposa, y creadora, con su amor y su abnegación, del hogar más cálido que jamás ha existido en la tierra: el Hogar de Nazareth. De este modo, dejando, con su sencillez y su obediencia, que el Poderoso hiciera obras grandes por Ella, (cf. Lc , 49) lució y luce hoy ante Dios como la más hermosa de las criaturas.

Si a través de la mujer vino la perdición, también a través de ella ha venido la salvación. A día de hoy, la crisis moral que padecemos llegará a su fin cuando la mujer deje de mirarse en las portadas de las revistas y vuelva a mirarse en la Inmaculada. Ese día, cuando, quizá asqueada de su estúpida aventura, lleve sus ojos de nuevo a Dios y se sienta reflejada en María, Occidente comenzará de nuevo a amar a Cristo. Y lo hará como siempre se ha hecho todo: a través de la mujer.

La mujer que se ha convertido en modelo y prototipo, la que llena los telediarios y las portadas de las revistas, la que protagoniza nuestras películas y llena las series de TV, es la mujer que ha dicho “no” a las tres llamadas de Dios sobre ella. Es la mujer que se avergüenza de la virginidad como de un baldón; la que, a los 15 años, no se atreve en el instituto a decir que es virgen porque se reirán de ella, y procura hacer lo posible para desprenderse de su virginidad como de un estrispe. Es la mujer capaz de matar a su hijo en sus entrañas con tal de no afrontar el sacrificio de ser madre; la que piensa que la maternidad es un obstáculo para su “realización personal y profesional”, y la que grita que tiene derecho a planificar su progenie en razón de sus planes egoístas. Es la mujer que ya no quiere ser la esposa que crea hogar, sino la que trabaja fuera de casa, como el hombre; pero es también la misma que, a la vez que se le llena la boca hablando de la igualdad de sexos, siempre buscará a otra mujer para que cuide a sus hijos y realice las tareas domésticas a cambio de dinero. Es curioso, nadie quiere un “tato”; todas quieren una “tata”...

Por el mismo motivo, la crisis moral que padecemos llegará a su fin cuando la mujer deje de mirarse en las portadas de las revistas y vuelva a mirarse en la Inmaculada. Ese día, cuando, quizá asqueada de su estúpida aventura, lleve sus ojos de nuevo a Dios y se sienta reflejada en María, Occidente comenzará de nuevo a amar a Cristo. Y lo hará como siempre se ha hecho todo: a través de la mujer.

Fr. José-Fernando Rey Ballesteros

TRIGÉSIMO SEGUNDA
RIFA ANUAL DE SANTA CATALINA
El Pajar Madrugador a terminado, pero todavía hay tiempo para considerar su regalo de Navidad temprano. ¿Qué tal un coche nuevo! Entre en el Sorteo 32ª Anual de Santa Catalina hoy.
Recuerde, que su compra de un boleto de $60 para el automóvil, le puede dar la posibilidad de ganar un coche nuevo Ford, Chevrolet o Honda con un precio de etiqueta hasta $40,000 o $30,000 en efectivo.
Los boletos de $20 para las vacaciones, ofrece un viaje de sus sueños! Nombre el lugar de sus vacaciones y el boleto ganador financiará hasta $7,500 o, $5,000 en efectivo. Este boleto tiene 5 grandes premios para ganar, incluyendo un nuevo iPad de Apple, dinero en efectivo y un viaje a Disneyland!

Unos paquetes de boletos están todavía disponibles!
Visita nuestra mesa de venta al salir de la misa.
Aceptaramos Visa, Master Card y American Express, dinero en efectivo y cheques
ESTUDIO DE BIBLIA

Los invitamos al estudio de Biblia con el Padre Andrey los Martes a las 7:00pm en el centro Milani.

PREPARACIÓN A LOS SACRAMENTOS PARA ADULTOS

A las personas de 18 años en adelante que les falte alguno de los Sacramentos de Bautismo, Comunión o Confirmación, pueden pasar a la Rectoría a registrarse, las clases inician en el Salón 12 todos los Jueves a las 7:00pm. Les pedimos traer Biblia y Cuaderno.

POSADAS

Para prepararnos a la Navidad con el novenario de las posadas invitamos a las familias a ser parte de esta celebración, por ahora tenemos: Posada general el 19 de Dic. A las 7:00pm, los demás días empezaremos a las 6:00 pm. El 21 a cargo del grupo del Estado de México. Para más información comunicarse con la Hna. Silvia al (408) 779-3959 ext. 280.

MINISTERIO DE ENFERMOS

Las personas que tengan un familiar enfermo que no pueda asistir a la misa, puede dar sus datos en la Rectoría al Tele. 408-779-3959 para que miembros de este ministerio pasen a visitarlos a sus casas y llevarles la comunión.

SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

EL TIEMPO DE ADVIENTO
LA HORA DE ANTICIPACIÓN & REFLEXIÓN

Esta temporada tome tiempo para renovar su relación con Jesús al pasar tiempo en oración cada día. Adviento libros de oración y folletos de reflexión; el Pequeño Libro Azul, y otros para niños, adolescentes, familias y adultos están disponibles en el vestíbulo de la iglesia, la Oficina Parroquial y la Oficina de Formación de Fe Familiar.

PREPARACIÓN A LOS SACRAMENTOS PARA ADULTOS

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GRUPO AMIGOS

Se les invita a todos los muchachos y muchachas que estén en la high school para asistir al Grupo Amigos. Es un lugar para hacer buenas amistades y para aprender nuevas cosas que ayudaran en sus vidas y crecer en su fe. Los viernes a las 7:00pm. Esperamos verlos!

CATECISMO DE NINOS

“Educando Hijos en la Plenitud de la Fe”

Empezaremos las series de estos interesantes temas. Cada día tiene su tema y será una secuencia. Así que los invitamos a todos los padres de familia en general que tienen niños en catecismo. Nos reuniremos los sábados a las 9:00am y Las fechas son las siguientes:

Diciembre 13

¡Los esperamos!

ESTUDIO DE BIBLIA

Los invitamos al estudio de Biblia con el Padre Andrey los Martes a las 7:00pm en el centro Milani.

CENA GRATIS

Ahora en la Iglesia de Santa Catalina hay una cena para la Comunidad cada noche de lunes de 6:00-7:00pm en el Centro Parroquial. Todos son bienvenidos. Ven y únete a nosotros! Una comida caliente gratuita también está disponible en Morgan Hill cada martes en la Iglesia Luterana de 5:00-6:00pm, todos los miércoles en la Iglesia Metodista Unida de 6:00-7:00pm y los jueves en la Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana de 6:00-7:00pm.

Ofrenda Semanal de la Corresponsabilidad

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¡GRACIAS POR SU GENEROSIDAD Y

Parish Giving

Notas de Corresponsabilidad: La Corresponsabilidad se define como la recaudación total de las misas de fin de semana, Navidad y Pascua. La “Meta Semanal” es el número que refleja la cantidad que tendría que ser recogidos cada semana para cumplir con nuestro presupuesto anual.
It is not too late

It is never too late to start the process of becoming a Catholic Christian. If you are considering the Catholic Church, come and see me. Whether you are not baptized or baptized in another Christian faith, I would like to help you join the Catholic Church.

I hope to meet you where you are in your journey toward God and help you to enter into the community of the Church through a process that satisfies your needs and starts when you want.

You may if you want drop into our RCIA classes. Any adult—whether you have completed the sacraments of initiation or not—is welcome to join us. Call or email Deacon Phil for a schedule of topics.

408-779-3959
pflowers@dsj.org

Next Wed Night Class: Dec 10: Jesus & Kingdom of God. 7:30pm in Milani Center
How Do You Share What You Love?

Whatever it is, when you get excited about something you love, you share it.
Eat an amazing burger? Post it, tweet it, snap it, or (God forbid), talk to somebody about it.
Watch a great movie? Same thing.
And not only do you share it, but you are excited to share it. You don’t even wait to be asked about it—you just can’t wait for people to experience what you just experienced so you can talk about it with them and share in the excitement.

Joe Paprocki, who was a speaker at last week’s Faith Formation Conference, said, “If you want someone to love the game of baseball, you don’t give them the rule book. Same goes with our faith.”
Why don’t we do this with our faith? Sure, we talk to people about what we believe in—but almost always we only share when we’re asked. And when we share, we usually aren’t all that excited.
Part of the reason is probably because it doesn’t seem like anything new. It’s not exciting to talk about something that we’ve been a part of all our life. That’s why people who converted to the faith in their adult life are way more into it and excited about it—because it’s new to them.
But something doesn’t need to be new to be exciting—think about your favorite movie, or food, or book, or sport’s team. You can watch that movie, eat that meal, read that book, or watch your team play, again and again, and you’re still excited every time. You want people to be excited with you, and you invite them to experience it with you.

That’s what we should be doing with our faith—sharing our love of Jesus with others. But it’s not about saying, “This is what I believe, you should believe it too.” It’s about saying, “This is why I love Jesus. And, because I love you, and I care for you, I want you to experience it too.” And then let them make their own decision.
C.S. Lewis once said, “Christianity, if false, is of no importance and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”
If you believe in Christ, then believe it is of infinite importance, and share it with others.

INTERESTED IN CONFIRMATION?

This Sunday, Dec. 7th, we are welcoming NEW teens into the Confirmation program! Please join us, with a parent, from 3:30-6:30 (which includes attending the 5:30 Liturgy). If you know of a teen in high school who is looking to start their Confirmation journey, please invite them.
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Companions In Faith
Family Faith Formation at St. Catherine’s Church

Images from the Nativity Exhibit

We would like to extend a very special thank you to Blanca Cinco and family, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the many volunteers who made the Nativity Exhibit possible! What a wonderful way to begin Advent season!

~

PARENT FAITH FORMATION SERIES

“At Home With Our Faith: Celebrating Advent and Christmas”

Join us for a 2-part Parent Faith Formation series on “At Home With Our Faith: Celebrating Advent and Christmas”. All parents are welcome to join in the scripture discussions and faith sharing about how our families can better live the spirit of Advent and Christmas in our homes.

Wednesdays, Dec 3 & 10, 3:15 pm and 4:45 pm
Thursdays, Dec 4 & 11, 10:00 am
Saturdays, Dec 6 & 13, 9:00 am (SPANISH)
Sundays, Dec 7 & 14, 9:00 am
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
Give before the end of the year and reduce your income taxes. Review your gifts to date to ensure you have given to the causes important to you and in the amounts you intend. Now is also a good time to make sure you have proper receipts and documentation.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS
If you have contributed to a Flexible Spending Account, make sure you have used all the money in the account. Now might be the time to get that eye exam or other medical procedure you have been delaying.

MORTGAGE INTEREST
You can pay your January mortgage payment early and add to your mortgage deduction this year. Just check with your accountant on how to do this, especially since the number you report might differ from what your lender sends on Form 1098.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES
Call your accountant now to ask what state and local taxes may be paid in 2014 that will reduce your federal income taxes for the same year. Alternatively, if delaying payment may help you, discover the best strategy.

INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING
After determining your taxes for 2014, work with your accountant to see if you should adjust the withholding on your employer's W-2 Form.

WANT TO HELP REACHOUT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
Nob Hill is selling a $20 bag of groceries for just $10 and is donating ALL bags sold to our Reachout program. We are currently helping 400 families a month, so one of these bags will really help us feed the less fortunate of our community. Thank you for your continued support.

STEPHEN MINISTRY
Are you struggling through a hard time in your life? Are you trying to be strong and handle it alone? It doesn’t have to be that way. Whether it’s adjusting to a divorce, the loss of a loved one or coping with the issues of aging, a parish Stephen minister can support you. Each Stephen Minister has been trained extensively in Christian caregiving to listen in confidence and without judgment. To find out how this ministry can be of assistance to you or to request a Stephen minister, please contact Sergio at (408) 340-0454 or Claranne at (408) 782-1413.

EARLY BIRD MAY BE OVER, BUT STILL TIME TO CONSIDER YOUR EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT
How about a new car! Enter the 32nd Annual St. Catherine’s Sweepstakes today. Your purchase of a $60 Vehicle Sweepstakes ticket may put you behind the wheel of a brand new car with a sticker price up to $40,000. As an alternative to the car prize, the lucky winner can choose to receive $30,000 in cash. The $20 Vacation Sweepstakes Ticket offers a Trip of a Lifetime! You name the place and your winning ticket will fund it up to $7,500 or alternatively the lucky winner can choose to receive $5,000 in Cash. This ticket has 5 great prizes to win, including a new Apple iPad, Cash and a trip to Disneyland!

A few Bonus Bundles are still available! Visit our table as you walk out of mass today. We accept Cash, Checks, Visa, Master Card and AmEx.

TAIZE
Taize prayer is an ecumenical service, open to all faiths. This prayer and song around the Cross is held in the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Chapel every 3rd Friday of the month. In a spirit of peace and reconciliation, our Taize Service is attended by people of all ages. Join us at 43326 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539. For more information, please contact: Sister Marcia Krause, OP at 510-502-5797.

Join Former 49er Randy Kirk For his Annual KIRK’S KIDS TOY DRIVE Benefiting St. Catherine Parish Giving Tree & Community Solutions SANTA & NFL FRIENDS WILL JOIN ME FOR AN EVENING OF CHARITY & MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL!

When: Monday, December 15th, 5-9 PM
Where: The Box Seat 15650 Vineyard Blvd. Morgan Hill
Bring: An unwrapped toy or gift card.
49er Raffle: For every gift of value at $10 and over you receive a raffle ticket(s). Raffle during half time.

YEAR END TAX SAVING CHECK LIST

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ENVIRONMENT - CHANGE OF SEASONS
Have you helped with the environment of the church and or parish center? Would you like to help with the environment now? There are many small projects that bring everything together. You can attend meetings or just take on a project. For the Christmas Season, mark your calendar for December 23rd at 9:00am. Please contact Diana-Lynn Inderhees at inderhga@charter.net to find out more.

FREE COMMUNITY SUPPER
St. Catherine Church hosts a free Community Supper every Monday night from 6:00-7:00pm in the Parish Center. All are welcome. Come join us!
A free hot meal is also available in Morgan Hill each Tuesday at Advent Lutheran Church from 5:00-6:00pm, every Wednesday at United Methodist Church from 6:00-7:00pm, and each Thursday at Community Christian Church from 6:00-7:00pm.

PURE HEARTS
Those whose hearts are pure are the temples of the Holy Spirit. —St. Lucy

MEN’S FAITH SHARING GROUP
Open Invitation to all men.
Come and join us as we grow, share and discuss our faith. We meet Monday mornings in the O’Donnell Parish Center from 6:30 to 7:30am to discuss our faith and relationship with God through discussions of Catholic books. Coffee and refreshments are provided.

ELECTRONIC GIVING
Please consider making your parish offertory donation electronically. In lieu of your weekly envelop, submit contributions from your checking, savings, or credit card account electronically to St. Catherine Church in either of two ways:
A) Use your bank’s bill payer option; use your envelope number as the account number.
B) Sign up to use the secure on-line ParishPay. Go to www.stca.org and click on “Give Via Parish Pay”.
Either way you can:
- Easily adjust the amount of your automated contribution.
- Avoid writing a check every week.
We appreciate your generosity whether you contribute by check or cash, using the envelopes or electronically. Thank you.

ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA
EUCHEARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE FOR 2014-15
MONTHLY 24 HOUR EUCHARISTICADORATION in the CHURCH BEGINS FRIDAY AFTER the 8:15am MASS and CONCLUDES SATURDAY MORNING
*Note that Jan., Apr. and June Adoration will be on the second Friday of the month due to other events in the church. You can sign up for hours in the vestibule of the church. Contact: Nikky Fardig-nmag@charter.net or 776-6698; Sandra Grisedale-ziasandra@sbcglobal.net or 10-0410; Crystal Dietrich-crystaldietrich@gmail.com or 512-897-6712

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday: St. Juan Diego
Wednesday: International Human Rights Day
Thursday: St. Damasus I
Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday: St. Lucy
Save the Date
8th Annual Crab Cioppino
Saturday
January 17th

THE SEASON OF ADVENT
A TIME FOR ANTICIPATION & REFLECTION
This season take time to renew your relationship with Jesus by spending time in prayer each day. Advent prayer and reflection booklets; the Little Blue Book, and others for children, teens, families and adults, are available in the vestibule of the church, the Parish Office and the Family Faith Formation Office.

THANK YOU HOSPITALITY HOSTS
Thank you to our groups for hosting Coffee and Donuts: Family Faith Formation, Fil / American Assoc., Life Teen, St. Vincent de Paul, School PTG, Destination: Confirmation group, Knight Squad. Thank you also for the Health Fair by Fil / American Assoc. and Family Faith Formation’s World of Donuts and Images of Mary Sunday’s.

Thank you also to all who put their $1.00 in the donations basket to help defray the cost of the donuts.

SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS
SCRIP is a gift card purchased by the School at a discount and then resold to you at face value. SCRIP is a way to pay for everyday items such as gas and groceries, while giving money to the Church and School. It’s simple fundraising and also trouble free gift giving.

These ministries & events will gladly accept SCRIP grocery gift cards (Safeway, Nob Hill, Target, Walmart) and other gift cards as donations:

Giving Tree and Reachout

Buy SCRIP today for all your holiday needs.

ELECTRONIC UPDATES
If you have an email address and would like to hear the news of the parish and Fr. Mark’s famous Friday reflections please contact us. We email parishioners whose email addresses we have about events for the upcoming week. This way you won’t miss any of our exciting events. If you would like to receive the parish’s upcoming events electronically, please email the parish office at office@stca.org with your name and the email address you wish to use.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP OFFERINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nov. 2</th>
<th>Nov. 9</th>
<th>Nov. 16</th>
<th>Nov. 23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Stewardship Offering</td>
<td>$23,888</td>
<td>$21,790</td>
<td>$27,798</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Budget Excess (Shortfall)</td>
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<td>$278</td>
<td>$6,256</td>
<td>($913)</td>
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<td>Year To Date Collections</td>
<td>$374,292</td>
<td>$396,082</td>
<td>$423,850</td>
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</table>

Stewardship Notes: Stewardship is defined as the total collections from the regular weekend Masses, Christmas and Easter. The “Weekly Goal” number reflects the amount that would need to be collected each week to meet our yearly budget.

Parish Giving
Campaign for Human Development - $4,674

Year To Date Stewardship
July 1, 2014 to Nov. 23, 2014

| Year To Date Collections | $444,449 |
| Budget Year to Date | $427,029 |
APPLICATIONS FOR 2015-2016

Applications for the 2015-2016 school year are now available in the school office or on the school website. Please note the application deadline for kindergarten is December 17, while applications for grades 1-8 are due March 4.

The California Schools in the Diocese of San Jose, mindful of their mission to the love of Christ for all, admit students of any race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of San Jose do not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and/or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability in administration of educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.

Save the Date
--- e-Waste Drive

The next e-Waste Drive sponsored by our Green Team will be Saturday, January 31. Please save those appliances and tech items that you no longer use. Help St. Catherine School and our environment at the same time. The money raised from this event will fund hand dryers for our student restrooms. This is also a great opportunity to get parent hours or student service hours. Contact Arlene Handa at eco-safehome1@yahoo.com.