We, at St. Catherine Parish, are a growing, diverse, and welcoming Catholic Community, called to live and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through Worship, Discipleship and Service.

La Parroquia de Santa Catalina de Alejandría, es una comunidad en crecimiento, acogedora y diversa, llamada a vivir y proclamar la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo por medio de la Oración, el Discipulado y el Servicio.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO**

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

**CONFESSION / 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

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

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is our last stop before the big day. It is a time to rest in prayer and celebrate the blessing of God's love with the larger parish community. Therefore, let us all take a deep breath, allow the peace of the Holy Spirit to fill our bodies and lift our prayers of thanksgiving to our Father in heaven for the blessing of his Son, Jesus who comes to redeem the world.

Three short things.
1. Each year I ask for your patience and welcoming joy as we celebrate our Christmas Masses with our fellow parishioners. We will see many new faces and some old and familiar faces that have been absent from Sunday Mass for many months.

(Continued on Page 3 …)

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

El Cuarto Domingo de Adviento es la última parada antes del gran día. Es un tiempo para descansar en la oración y celebrar la bendición de amor de Dios con la comunidad parroquial. Por lo tanto, vamos todos a tomar una respiración profunda, permitimos que la paz del Espíritu Santo llene nuestro cuerpo y que levante nuestras oraciones de acción de gracias a nuestro Padre en el cielo por la bendición de su Hijo, Jesús, que viene a redimir al mundo.

Tres cosas cortas.
1. Cada año, les pido su paciencia y alegría de bienvenida al celebrar nuestras Misas de Navidad con nuestros feligreses. Vamos a ver muchas caras nuevas y algunas caras viejas y familiares que han estado ausentes de la misa del domingo por muchos meses.

(Continuado en Pagina 5…)
Rectory Office Hours / Horarios de la Rectoría

Monday - Friday (Lunes - Viernes)
8:00am - 12:00pm, 1:00 - 7:00pm

Saturday (Sábado)
Closed/Cerrado
8:30am - 12:00pm

Sunday (Domingo)
8:30am - 12:00pm

Pastoral Staff / Equipo Pastoral
Fr. Mark Arnzen, Pastor - marnzen@dsj.org
Fr. Andrey Garcia, Parochial Vicar- agarcia@dsj.org
Deacon Rick Haeckel, Deacon - rhaeckel@dsj.org
Rose Pucan-Meagor, Director of Family Faith Formation and Evangelization- rosepm@dsj.org
Deepu Kochuparambil, Youth & Young Adult Ministry - deepuk@dsj.org
Anna Quiñones, Director of Stewardship & Development - aquinones@dsj.org
Fabienne Esparza, Principal - fesparza@stcatherinemh.org

THE WEEK AHEAD / LA SEMANA PRÓXIMA

**Sunday/Domingo, December 21**
All Day
MC Giving Tree
7:00-5:00pm
GYM, CR1-4, Kit Raffle Reception
8:00-12:00pm
NUR Bright Beginning Nursery
6:00-9:00pm
CR1-4 & Kit Posada

**Monday/Lunes, December 22**
All Day
GYM, CR1-4 Christmas Setup
6:00-9:00pm
CR1-4, Kit Posada
7:30- 9:00pm
MC English pre-Baptism Class
7:00-10:00pm
Rm.10 Jóvenes Para Cristo—MtG

**Tuesday/Martes, December 23**
All Day
CH, GYM, CR1-4 Christmas Tree Setup
6:00-9:00pm
CR1-4, Kit Posada
7:00-9:00pm
MC Spanish Bible Study

**Wednesday/Miércoles, December 24**
Office Closed/Oficina Cerrada Christmas Eve
4:00pm
CH & GYM Christmas Vigil mass
6:00pm
CH Christmas Vigil mass
8:00pm
CH Spanish Christmas Vigil mass

**Thursday/Jueves, December 25**
Office Closed/Oficina Cerrada Christmas Day
12:00am
CH Midnight Christmas mass
8:45am
CH Christmas Day mass
10:30am
CH Christmas Day mass
12:15pm
CH Spanish Christmas Day mass

**Friday/Viernes, December 26**
Office Closed/Oficina Cerrada

9:00-10:00 Rm.12 RICA Class
1:00-5:00pm CR3-4 File—Am—Band Practice

MC = Milani Center  CR1-4= Parish Center Conference Rooms
CH = Church  Sci = Science Room  LR = Living Room
DC = Daycare  PR = Presentation Center  Nur. = Nursery

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**First Reading** — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6,12-14) or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

**Psalm** — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or Psalm 105.

**Second Reading** — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]) or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

**Gospel** — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).


READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday: 1 Sm 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab; 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday: 2 Sm 1:5-1; 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
       Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

FAITH SHARING QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**Adult:** “When have you followed the example of May and said, “Let it be done to me as you say”?”

**Child:** “Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?”

CONTINUAL CHRISTMAS

A good conscience is a continual Christmas.

— Benjamin Franklin
Our response should be one of joyful welcome and a smile of blessing as we find our parking lots full and our seats occupied. We follow the example of Jesus Christ in welcoming both stranger and friend into the house of Our Lord. Say a small prayer of welcome and remember the blessing of God is in each and every person we meet.

2. I encourage you to invite someone to come to church with you on Christmas. I know the church seems overflowing on Christmas; so inviting more doesn’t make a lot of sense when we don’t have enough room to begin with. What a blessing! You may know a neighbor or friend who does not go to Mass anymore for a variety of reasons. Pickup the phone, send a text, Facebook them or even knock on the door and extend the invitation of God’s love as we come to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

3. Lastly, thank you to our Parish Sweepstake Committee for all of their hard work and dedication in bringing our raffle to a wonderful conclusion today. Many hours have been spent in preparing for this day and planning for the celebration of family and friends. We also give thanks for Mrs. Esparza, the teachers and staff of our parish school for their preparation of the food and decorations at our raffle celebration. Thank you.

May the peace and blessing of the newborn King rest upon you and your family during this season of blessing.

Happy Christmas,
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:_________________
A Christmas Gift for St. Catherine’s

In order to balance our parish budget every year we rely heavily on the generous gifts that come to us through the Christmas collection. We also rely heavily on the weekly Offertory gifts that are made 52 weeks out of the year. Both your Christmas gifts to St. Catherine’s and your weekly Offertory gifts help us manage our operating budget through winter when heating bills are high and unexpected unbudgeted costs. For this reason, we ask you to please be as generous as possible with your Christmas gift to the parish. If possible, use both your weekly envelope/online giving and your Christmas envelope/online giving this Christmas. We need your support. Thank you for your generosity both throughout the year and at Christmas!

Parish Website and Electronic Giving Help You Stay Connected

Christmas is a wonderful time for us. In addition to the very special meaning of the liturgical celebration, we are always happy to see so many parishioners whose schedules may not allow them to attend Mass at our parish on a regular basis. If you are one of those who cannot visit our parish as much as you like, you might want to check out our website at www.stca.org. There you will find our weekly bulletins; information about parish programs and find out who is on our parish staff.

You will also find an Online Giving link on the front page, below Ways to Give. Our online giving program allows parishioners to continue to support the parish even when they are out-of-town, too busy to remember an envelope, working weekends, or attending Mass at another parish. If you would like to learn more about this easy, safe and secure way of giving, please contact Anna Quinones, aquinones@dsj.org or Jeanette Thatcher jthatcher@dsj.org or follow the simple instructions found on the website.

REFLECTION: Christmas is around the corner. In a few days we are going to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift from God to humanity. Today’s readings invite us to meditate on the Incarnation of the Word: God is taking on the form of humanity. The first reading, 2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, takes us back 1000 years before Christ to the time of King David in Jerusalem. God gave the people of Israel a special sign of his presence among them, the Ark of the Covenant, when God liberated them from the land of slavery, Egypt, to the promise land. The Ark was still kept in a tent while King David had built for himself a nice comfortable palace. David decided it was not right that the Ark, the special sign of God’s presence with His people, was still kept in a tent. So he told his prophet Nathan that he would build a temple, a house for God. Nathan said “good idea,” but God said “no.” God said David had shed too much blood in his role as king, so God would have David’s son, Solomon, build the temple after David died. God was pleased with David’s idea and blessed him. One of the special blessings was that David’s house would never die out; we hear this blessing in today’s first reading: God’s promises to His people, the house of David, of peace and security which will last forever. In today’s Gospel, Lk. 1:26-38, God’s promise is extended to all peoples as fulfillment in the birth of Jesus Christ, the Word became flesh, God made man, when Mary said her “YES” to the Angel Gabriel. God is able to fulfill the promise that He made to David: Mary conceives God’s own Son who will rule over God’s people forever. Thus, St. Paul in the second reading, Rom. 16:25-27, affirms that God’s plan of salvation, kept a mystery for so long, is finally revealed in Jesus Christ so that all peoples may believe in God.

CHRISTMAS TIME

CHRISTMAS EVE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 2014
4:00 p.m. (Church & Parish Center), 6:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m. (Spanish), Midnight Mass (Bilingual)

CHRISTMAS DAY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25th, 2014
8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. (Spanish)
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

LECTURAS DE HOY
Primera lectura — El Señor promete a David que su casa permanecerá para siempre (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).
Salmo — Cantaré eternamente las misericordias del Señor (Salmo 89 [88]).
Segunda lectura — Pablo ora para que Dios sea glorificado mediante Jesucristo (Romanos 16:25-27).
Evangelio — El ángel Gabriel anuncia a María que ella concebirá al hijo de Dios (Lucas 1:26-38).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA
Lunes: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcdn; Lc 1:46-56
Martes: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Sal 25 (24):4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lc 1:57-66
Miércoles: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29; Lc 1:67-79
Viernes: Hch 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Sal 31 (30):3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sábado: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Sal 97 (96):1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

FELICITAMOS LOS CUMPLEAÑOS DEL MES DE DICIEMBRE:
Sábado, 20 de Dec
Misa de 7:30p.m. Domingo, 21 de Dec
Misa de 12:15pm

Gaspar Canales Belen Arellano
Karina Sanchez Jesus Serrato
Elvia Castaneda

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.

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.

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

Desde el escritorio de Padre Mark
CONTINUADO...
Nuestra respuesta debe ser una de alegre bienvenida y una sonrisa de bendición cuando encontremos nuestros estacionamientos llenos y nuestros asientos ocupados. Seguimos el ejemplo de Jesucristo para dar la bienvenida tanto al extraño y al amigo en la casa del Señor. Digan una pequeña oración de bienvenida y recuerden que la bendición de Dios está en todos y en cada persona que encontramos.

2. Los animo a invitar a alguien a venir a la iglesia con usted en la Navidad. Sólo que la iglesia parece desbordar en Navidad; no hace mucho sentido invitar a más personas cuando no tenemos espacio suficiente para empezar. ¡Qué bendición! Pueda que usted conozca a un vecino o amigo que no va a misa más por una variedad de razones. Llame el teléfono, envíe un texto, ponga un mensaje por Facebook o incluso toque una puerta y extiendan la invitación del amor de Dios, ya que venimos a celebrar el nacimiento de nuestro Señor.

3. Por último, gracias a nuestro Comité de nuestra Rifa Anual de la parroquia y todo el trabajo y dedicación en traer nuestra rifa a una conclusión maravillosa hoy. Muchas horas se han gastado en la preparación para el día de hoy y la planificación para la celebración de la familia y amigos. También damos las gracias a la señora Esparza, los maestros y el personal de nuestra escuela parroquial para su preparación de la comida y la decoración en la celebración del sorteo. Gracias.

Que la paz y la bendición del recién nacido Rey reposará sobre usted y su familia durante este tiempo de bendición.
Feliz Navidad,
Padre Mark

LA NAVIDAD EN EL CORAZÓN
¡Navidad! Es la estación para encender el fuego de la hospitalidad en la sala, y el fuego y de la simpatía en el corazón.
-Washington Irving
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

LA LLAVE Y LA PUERTA

La libertad humana no es, precisamente, una anécdota. De ella ha querido depender el propio Dios en su acción salvadora. Porque María dijo “sí”, Dios pudo hacerse pequeño, tan pequeño e indefenso como un feto recién concebido, y recibió el cobijo amoroso de unas entrañas purísimas. Porque los hombres dieron “no”, ese mismo Dios acabó naciendo en un establo, entre la inmundicia de los animales. Porque Marta y María dieron “sí”, el Señor tuvo, durante su vida pública, un lugar en Betania donde era recibido con cariño. Porque los hombres dieron “no”, ese mismo Señor murió cruelmente en una cruz.

Escribo esto para explicar que, durante los días que ahora vivimos, nos estamos jugando la Navidad. La Navidad es un acontecimiento tan universal como el amanecer. Cada mañana amanece para todos, pero quien decide quedarse en la cama y no abrir las cortinas de la habitación hasta las doce del mediodía se queda sin su amanecer. Del mismo modo, amanecerá de nuevo Cristo en el mundo, pero quien no le abra de par en par las puertas del alma se quedará sin Navidad, aunque se encuentre delante de una exposición de nacimientos. No basta que llegue el 25 de diciembre para que sea Navidad; tampoco basta con poner la mesa y reunir a la familia. Es preciso un acto libre de entrega, como el de la Virgen, que abra las puertas del corazón al Dios que nace.

En este día 21 de diciembre, en que la sagrada Liturgia nos propone la lectura del relato de la Anunciación, pedimos a Dios Padre, en la oración colecta de la misa, “la gracia de aceptar sus designios con humildad de corazón”... Ése es el acto libre de entrega al que me refiero, el mismo que realizó la Virgen.

En cuanto a los designios de Dios, cada cual mire a Dios y a su propia vida. “Designio de Dios” es su Voluntad expresa: sus mandamientos, su plan sobre nuestra vida, la enseñanza de la Iglesia o las indicaciones del confesor o director espiritual. De que aceptemos esos preceptos depende el que nuestras puertas se abran. Y es también “designio de Dios” su Voluntad de beneplácito, es decir, aquellas situaciones que, sin ser queridas directamente por Él, son consentidas por su Amor para un bien mayor: una enfermedad, un sufrimiento físico o moral, una contrariedad de cualquier tipo, un fracaso afectivo o profesional... También debemos aceptar por Él esas situaciones para que nuestras puertas se abran a su Amor.

No basta cualquier aceptación... La oración colecta que he citado no dice “la gracia de aceptar, aunque sea a regañadientes, sus designios”, sino “la gracia de aceptar sus designios con humildad de corazón”. La aceptación debe ser rendida, gozosa aún en medio del esfuerzo o del dolor. No basta decir: “¡Vale, Señor! Te dejaré que te salgas con la tuya”. Es preciso decir: “Dios mío, me fío de ti. Amo tu Voluntad aunque me duela, y quiero cumplirla y aceptarla con alegría, porque Tú sabes más que yo y me amas”. Démonos prisa. Está a punto de amanecer. Es preciso que, hoy mismo, sin dilaciones estúpidas, realizemos ese acto de aceptación de la Voluntad de Dios en nuestras vidas. De otro modo, no habrá Navidad para nosotros. En la antífona del Magnificar de hoy llamamos a Cristo “llave”... Pero, para que una llave realice su cometido, es preciso que la puerta consienta en abrirse. En María se abrió de par en par. En nosotros... De nosotros depende.

José-Fernando Rey Ballesteros

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!

TRIGÉSIMO SEGUNDA

RIFA ANUAL DE SANTA CATALINA

¡Eso es todo!

Última oportunidad para entrar en el Sorteo Anual de Santa Catalina.

Este fin de semana es la rifa. Ven al centro parroquial a partir de las 2:00 p.m. el domingo 21 para ver el dibujo en vivo! Disfrute de refrescos y aperitivos gratuitos e inscribirse para los premios gratuitos de la puerta también. Esto también será su última oportunidad de comprar boletos para el sorteo.

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!

No vemos allí!
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

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.

La Oficina Parroquial estará cerrada el 24 de Dic—27 de Dic.

Les deseamos un muy Feliz Navidad de nuestra equipo pastoral a su familia.

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

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!

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento
21 de Diciembre de 2014
El Santo, que va a nacer de ti, será llamado Hijo de Dios.
—Lucas 1:35

CELEBRACIÓN de ANIVERSARIO de BODA
Parejas que van a celebrar su quinta (o menos), 25a, 40a y 50a (y más) aniversario de boda están invitados a esta maravillosa celebración.
Catedral Basilica de San José
14 de Febrero 2015 a las 2:00 pm
Los formularios de inscripción están disponibles en la oficina de la parroquia o en línea en www.dsj.org/WeddingAnniversaryMass. Los formularios de inscripción se deben entregar a no más tardar el 30 de Enero de 2015.
Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con Sylvia Blanch (408) 983-0128

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.

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.

OFERTORIO VIA ELECTRONICA
Considere la posibilidad de hacer una donación de ofertorio para la parroquia por vía electrónica. En lugar de su oferta semanal entregado por sobre puede procesar las contribuciones de su cuenta de cheques, de ahorros o cuenta de tarjeta de crédito por vía electrónica a Santa Catalina.
¿Cuáles son los beneficios?
- Le permite configurar y programar la cantidad de su donación mensual de la misma manera que usted piensa de otros compromisos financieros.
- Continuar apoyando a su parroquia durante el viaje, de vacaciones, enfermedad, etc.
- Fácil de ajustar el monto de su contribución automatizado.
- No hay más que escribir un cheque cada semana.

Maneras como poder dar:
A) Utilice la opción su pagador de banco de la factura opción de la función, teniendo en cuenta el número de sobre, tal como será su número de cuenta.
B) Regístrate para utilizar la línea segura ParishPay. Ir al www.stca.org y haga clic en "Give A través de Parish Pay"
C) Dando por medio de PayPal. Vaya a www.stca.org y haga clic en "Give Via PayPal"

Apreciamos su generosidad si contribuyen con un cheque o dinero en efectivo, utilizando los sobres o por vía electrónica. Gracias.
Infancy Narratives

The account of Jesus’ birth and infancy does not occur in all four Gospels. Only Matthew and Luke contain an infancy narrative. But even if you read Luke’s account of the birth and infancy of Jesus (Luke 2:1-38), you won’t find King Herod, wise men, a flight into Egypt or the murder of the innocents. If you read Matthew (Matthew 1:18-25) expecting to find an inn, a manger, shepherds and angels, you will be disappointed. So, why are the stories so different?

Each Gospel writer wrote down a tradition communicated to them, but not personally witnessed by them. Each is concerned with telling us what happened, but more importantly, what it means in relation to salvation history from his perspective.

So in Luke, Jesus comes for all, but especially for the lowly, the shepherds shivering in the field, and in solidarity with the poor. Thus Jesus’ first bed is nothing but straw in a manger used to feed animals.

Matthew wants to convey that Jesus is the fulfillment of the salvation history of Israel: a king born in Bethlehem, like David, venerated by kings. Jesus, like Israel, goes into exile into Egypt, and like Israel, is returned from exile under the protection of God.

We must then read both of these accounts to find our entire Christmas tradition and to have a full, rich and resonating understanding of Jesus Christ, the anointed of God, Savior of the World.

Virginal Conception

From the earliest days, the Church has taught that Jesus was conceived solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. This has been understood as a divine work that surpasses all human understanding and possibility.

St Luke’s Gospel calls Mary a virgin at the Annunciation (Lk 1.27). Then when the angel says she will give birth to Jesus, it has Mary question the angel how this could be possible since she has had no sexual relations (Lk 1.34).

St Matthew’s Gospel names Joseph as the husband of Jesus’s mother (Mt 1.16), instead as his father in his long list of fathers who are the ancestors of Jesus. Next St Matthew quotes Isaiah (Is 7.14) identifying Mary with the word for virgin (as the Septuagint Bible), rather than using a word for young woman (as the Hebrew Bible). Then St Matthew explicitly says Joseph had no sexual relations with Mary before Jesus was born (Mt 1.25).

The earliest theologians of the Church saw the virginal conception as a sign that Jesus was truly the Son of God (that is, he had no human father) but also truly human (that is, he grew in the womb of a human woman, and was born as we are all born into humanity). The virginal conception is also a sign of Mary’s faith: she cooperated through her faith and her obedience by accepting this great and awesome responsibility and giving birth to the Son of God.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We just began a new liturgical year with the 1st Sunday of Advent. Did you know that? Remember how last week I said we cycle through the readings every three years? Well, the year for us Catholics is the beginning of Advent.

But there’s also another New Year coming up. This one gets slightly more press than the Church’s. That’s right, it’s the secular New Year. And what do we do with secular events? Make them more important and way more of a celebration than any religious event.

But why? Most of these secular events aren’t big accomplishments—they just happen. It’s a new calendar year. The year changes. We didn’t do anything to make it happen. Same with birthdays—you didn’t do much, the doctor, nurses, and your mom did a lot. And yet we celebrate the fact that we made it another year.

Now, there’s absolutely nothing wrong with celebrating non-religious things. Honestly, we should celebrate life in general. But we should be just as excited about events related to our faith.

People go all out for birthdays (guilty) and secular holidays. But how many of us celebrate the anniversary of our Baptism (hereby known as Baptiversary)? Some might argue that you didn’t do much for your Baptism, which is partially true—but every day you live out your Baptismal Vows is a day to be celebrated. How many of us have huge celebrations for our First Communion or Confirmation? And huge celebrations don’t mean spending crazy amounts of money—it just means putting a lot of emphasis on it, and being really excited about it.

So many people say the Church is boring, and it’s never exciting—and they blame the priests and their homilies and the choirs and their music. But maybe it’s us. If we chose to get excited (remember that whole thing about choosing how we feel?), it would be that way. Maybe if we celebrated our religious holidays with more energy, we’d get more out of our faith.

WALK FOR LIFE

In two weeks, on January 4th, we’ll be having a guest speaker at Life Teen to talk to us about Walk for Life up in San Francisco. Our parish is going up together. It should be a wonderful time. If you’re interested, please sign up! It’s $20 and on Saturday, January 24th.

CAROLING & FAMILY POTLUCK

We have our annual Christmas caroling at the retirement home next door followed by a Christmas dinner. This year, we’d like to invite your family to join us and bring a dish to share. We’ll have a jolly good time because hey, it’s Christmas (well, almost)!

NO LIFE TEEN NEXT SUNDAY

Sorry. Have fun on your own.

depuk@dsj.org 874-6742
MARY SAYS “YES”
On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear in the gospel reading about Mary’s courage, trust and devotion to God. The angel Gabriel spoke to Mary and told her that she was chosen for a very special mission: to be the mother of God’s son, Jesus.

Imagine how Mary must have felt when the angel visited her. Ask your children:

- Have them recall a time when they were chosen to do something special?
- How did they feel?
- How would they feel if they were Mary?

Mary said “yes” even through it was difficult and probably impossible to imagine. She trusted God and had faith in his plans for her. What is God asking us to say “yes” to in our lives?

What preparations and activities during the Advent season have helped your family become more aware of God’s grace and presence? As we head closer to Christmas, let Mary’s faithfulness anchor us amidst the busyness of the week and refocus our attention on Jesus, Emmanuel, “God with us”.


FAMILY ACTIVITY: If you have a Nativity set, take the figure of Mary and one of the angels and place them on your dinner table today to remind the family of Mary’s open heart and faithfulness.

IN JANUARY 2015:
JANUARY 7 - Wednesday classes begin
JANUARY 10 - Saturday classes begin
JANUARY 11 - Sunday classes begin

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION/ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENT INFORMATION MEETING
Sunday, January 11
3-5 pm in the Parish Center

This meeting is for parents whose children will be preparing to receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in May 2015. At least one parent should attend the meeting.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!

HOME SCHOOLING
St. Catherine families who home educate, we are starting a support group for you. Activities for the year include regular playtime at a park in Morgan Hill. A monthly family Rosary. Quarterly activities are centered on the Liturgical Calendar. A Mom's night out centered on the reading program: A Well Read Mom. If you are interested contact Minden at 602-791-2727 or mindenagar@yahoo.com.
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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Couples celebrating their 5th (or less), 25th, 40th and 50th (and more) Wedding Anniversaries are invited to this wonderful celebration.
Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph
February 14, 2015 at 2:00pm
Registration forms are available at the parish office or online at www.dsj.org/WeddingAnniversaryMass. Registration forms are due no later than January 30, 2015. For more information, please contact Sylvia Blanch at (408) 983-0128.

The Parish Office will be closed December 24th to December 27th.

Merry Christmas from our Parish Staff to your family.

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.

This is it!
Last Chance to enter St. Catherine’s Annual Sweepstakes.
It’s drawing weekend. Come to the parish center beginning at 2:00 on Sunday the 21st and watch the drawing live! Enjoy complimentary refreshments and snacks and be entered for free door prizes as well. This will also be your last chance to buy tickets for the sweepstakes.

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!

See you there!

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART
Christmas! ’Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart.

—Washington Irving

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2014
The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35
**FOURTH 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 Inderhhees 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.

**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.

**ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA**

**EUCHARISTIC 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

**ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR**
Hosted by: St. Catherine Church
Learn about:
Reducing Estate settlement costs
- Wills and Living Trusts
- Alternatives to probate - Reducing taxes
- Turning Tax dollars into gifts
- Plan your final arrangements
When: January 20, 2014 at 6pm
Where: St. Catherine School O'Donnell Parish Center
Who: You!
Come and learn more about the importance of Estate Planning. Snack and Drinks will be provided
Please go to ivolunteer on our website to RSVP or contact Anna Quinones - aquinones@dsj.org

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**
Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent; Winter begins
Tuesday: St. John of Kanty
Wednesday: The Vigil of Christmas
Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Friday: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa
Saturday: St. John
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Catherine Parish
8th Annual Cioppino Dinner

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, January 18th
Dinner 6:30 PM
O’Donnell Parish Center

Menu
“Homemade Cioppino”
With Fresh Crab, Shrimp & Clams
Pasta
Green Salad
Fresh Breads
Local Wines
Dessert
Raffle

Tickets Now On Sale
$45 per person
$360 Reserved Tables of 8
$10 children (10 yrs. & under)

3 Ways To Get Them:
2. At the parish office
3. After weekend Masses

“This fundraiser is so much fun and a great value.”

SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Buy SCRIP today for all your holiday needs and those last minute gifts.

ECHOING MARY’S DECISION
The angel Gabriel today confronts Mary with a mystery. The mystery of salvation in Christ is not a mystery that is solved, but a reality beyond our comprehension that we must choose to enter into. In the liturgy of the Eastern Church, everyone waits to see if Mary will enter into the mystery: God waits, Adam and Eve and all the souls of the dead who long for paradise wait, angels wait for new heavenly companions. And there is much rejoicing when her decision is “yes.” We have less dramatic choices offered to us, but the mystery of our salvation in Christ is by no means “solved.” We may understand it a bit better due to Mary’s “yes.” We may be a bit closer to it through the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But it still remains a mystery to which we all must give our own “yes.” Soon we will be singing “O come, let us adore him.” May our Advent prayer, our echo of Mary’s “yes,” continue then, so we may enter into the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ, God among us.

ELECTRONIC GIVING
Please consider making your parish offertory donation electronically. In lieu of your weekly offering envelope you can process contributions from your checking, savings, or credit card account electronically to St. Catherine Church.

What are the benefits?
• You can set and schedule the amount of your monthly giving in the same way you plan for other financial commitments.
• Continue to support your parish while traveling, on vacation, illness, etc.
• Easily adjust the amount of your automated contribution.
• No need to write a check every week.

Ways to Give:
A) Use your bank’s bill payer function option, noting 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”.
C) Pay via PayPal. Go to www.stca.org and click on “Give Via PayPal”.

We appreciate your generosity whether you contribute by check or cash, using the envelopes or electronically. Thank you.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Catherine School News

The students, faculty and staff of St. Catherine School wish each of you a very blessed and joy filled Christmas season!

Save the Date---eWaste Drive

The students, faculty and staff of St. Catherine School wish each of you a very blessed and joy filled Christmas season!

The next eWaste 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. Funds raised will help pay for hand dryers in student restrooms. Contact Arlene Handa at eco-safehome1@yahoo.com for more information.

St. Catherine School will be closed
December 22-January 2
for the Christmas Holiday.

Classes resume Monday, January 5, 2015.

TUITION ASSISTANCE—Guardian Angels

St. Catherine School is very grateful for those Guardian Angels in our parish who contribute funds for our Tuition Assistance Program. This year the program provided over $170,000 of tuition assistance for 47 children through funds received from diocesan grants, the BASIC Fund, interest from our Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund, a $20,000 subsidy from the parish, and donations from generous people like you. Without this support, these students would not be able to attend St. Catherine School.

The benefactors of St. Catherine School are remembered in the prayers of the students, faculty and staff regularly. For more information regarding our Tuition Assistance Program, contact Fabienne Esparza at 779-9950 or fesperza@stcatherinemh.org. Thank you for your support!

Fourth graders enjoyed a Readathon as their reward for earning class points. Before the Readathon started, students got to share the book trailers they had designed. As you can see, everyone loved to read with their pillows and blankets.

GRANDPARENTS/SPECIAL PERSONS DAY

If you have a grandchild at St. Catherine School, your grandchild will be asking you to join him/her for a special day filled with quality time seeing and learning about “a day at St. Catherine School.” Mark your calendar for the morning of Wednesday, January 28, 2015. Your grandchild will be inviting you just after the first of the year. For more information, contact Gina Colton at 779-9950.

Peace!