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.

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

From the Desk of Fr. Mark Arnzen, Pastor...
Merry and Holy Christmas to you and your families! Welcome to all who are visiting from far and near. It is a joyful blessing to share with you the Eucharist during this time of Christmas.

Christmastime is celebrated not just for a day but as Catholics we celebrate Christmas for the next 18 days. I know it sounds a little strange when the commercial aspects of Christmas have been advertised beginning in October. The Catholic tradition celebrates Christmas from the Nativity until the Baptism of our Lord: this year on Sunday, January 11th. In between these two days we have the celebration of the Octave of Christmas, eight days of joyous celebration which conclude on January 1st with the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God.

(Continued on Page 3 …)

Desde el Escritorio de Padre Mark Arnzen, Párroco…
Feliz y Santa Navidad para ustedes y sus familias! Bienvenidos a todos los que están visitando desde lejos y de cerca. Es una bendición alegre compartir con ustedes la Eucaristía durante este tiempo de Navidad.

Navidad se celebra no sólo por un día, pero como católicos celebramos la Navidad para los próximos 18 días. Sé que suena un poco extraño cuando los aspectos comerciales de la Navidad se han anunciado a partir de Octubre. La tradición católica celebra la Navidad de la Natividad hasta el bautismo de nuestro Señor: este año el Domingo 11 de Enero. Entre estos dos días tenemos la celebración de la octava de Navidad, ocho días de celebración gozosa que concluirá el 1 de Enero con la Solemnidad de María, la Madre de Dios. Los dos domingos durante este tiempo son celebraciones de la Sagrada Familia y la Epifanía (Fiesta de los Reyes Magos)……

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

Pastoral Staff / Equipo Pastoral
Fr. Mark Arnzen, Pastor - marnzen@jsd.org
Fr. Lieu Vu, Parochial Vicar– lvu@jsd.org
Deacon Rick Haeckel, Deacon - rhaeckel@jsd.org
Deacon Phil Flowers, Deacon - pflowers@jsd.org
Sr. Silvia Frías, MESST Asociada Pastoral - sfrias@jsd.org
Rose Pucan-Meagor, Director of Family Faith Formation and Evangelization rosepm@jsd.org
Deepu Kochuparambil, Youth & Young Adult Ministry - deepuk@jsd.org
Anna Quiñones, Director of Stewardship & Development - aquinones@jsd.org
Fabienne Esparza, Principal - fesparza@stcatherinemh.org

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK
First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).
Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).
Second Reading — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).
Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

8:15AM MASS INTENTIONS

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples.
— Luke 2:30-31

FAITH SHARING QUESTION OF THE WEEK
Adult: “How do your family members know that you are a compassionate person?”
Child: “What family member needs your compassion and kindness right now?”
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE
The word “family” presents evocative images. Rooted in the description of an individual group made up of parents and children it is a relationship so fundamental that we must not lose sight of its importance. In a sense all families are holy but today we celebrate our Holy Family (note the capitals). Only three days ago we welcomed Jesus again as the child he was at birth. True God and true man his humanity placed him in the loving care of his parents, Mary and Joseph. Not so remarkable in itself as that welcome has been repeated since, one supposes, humanity began. The difference of course is that this baby was God entering our world as one like us. Although there is very little written of his actual childhood we do know that he was raised as a man of faith, a learned and good Jew. As is still true today, the first and foremost teachers of faith are our family. Even if “book” learning isn’t stressed, the example of parents and siblings is a fundamental foundation for a person’s faith life. True, as we mature we take on our own individual responsibility for growth as a person of faith. But the foundation of our moral and interpersonal life remains, as in a building, often unseen but so important. With the example of the Holy Family to guide us we owe it to ourselves to reflect on the roots from which our faith springs. Parents with a sense of responsibility for good example and children (no matter their age) with openness to parental guidance … by our human families but also as God’s beloved children.

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MARK
CONTINUED……..

The two Sunday’s during this time are celebrations of the Holy Family and the Epiphany (Feast of the Three Kings) that hold important and life giving messages of our call to discipleship in Jesus Christ. Christmastime is a moment of welcoming and gathering when family, friends and neighbors join together in celebration. Often, as family, we travel from great distances to be together at Christmas and we find ourselves making special effort to connect and visit with people, who we don’t see throughout the year, even when they live only short distances away.

This longing to gather together is part of God’s call for the family to grow in strength and love as the icon of God’s presence in the world. The Holy Family, which we celebrate this Sunday, December 28th, is the invitation to look within our own families and discover God’s call to holiness. It is looking deeply into the love of family and are able recognize how we live God’s call to holiness when we choose to gather in the unity of love.

We understand that within families there are conflicts and arguments but we also experience the love and reconciliation that are joined our heavenly Father’s call for compassion and mercy. During Christmastime we are invited to enter into the life of the Holy Family and share the joy of new life and the bountiful love of God as we grow as holy families in the image of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We invite you to come and join us, as God’s holy Family, throughout the coming year.

God Bless and 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: _________________________
As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to St. Catherine Church. The benefits of income tax deductions, capital gains savings and other financial benefits are significant advantages that provide an incentive to make a gift at the year-end. A gift can also help support St. Catherine’s for years to come.

There are many different ways of contributing a gift. However, two of the easiest and most direct methods to gift are donations of cash and appreciated stock or other investments. You can also make other financially advantageous gifts such as real estate, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, will/trust bequests and IRA/retirement accounts.

Your generosity can help support any one of the funds listed below or the greatest need of our parish designated by our Pastor Father Mark Arnzen.

- Greatest Need—Designated use by the Pastor
- St. Catherine Building Fund
- St. Catherine Charity Account
- St. Catherine Church Endowment Fund
- ReachOut
- St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you for your continued support of St. Catherine Church programs & ministries.

To make an online gift, please visit our www.stca.org in the Ways to Give section on the front page or contact the Parish Office - Anna Quinones or Jeanette Thatcher for more information 408.779.3959 St. Catherine Church is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All gifts made by December 31st are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

REFLECTION: We celebrate the Feast Holy Family Joseph, Mary and Jesus as model of all family and societal life because Jesus has chosen to remain with us in the very heart of family life. It is a great joy to see you as part of our family at St. Catherine Parish. As you leave our church to go home, we want YOU to remember always that we as parish family care about you. St. Catherine is your home, your family.

- If you are a member of our parish family, we want to say we love you and we will strive even more in 2015 to nourish and nurture your spiritual growth.
- If you are not yet a member of our parish family, we want to say a warm welcome to you and we will be there when you come knocking at our door for whatever reason. God’s Good News, Jesus Christ, is for everyone and we want to share Him and His Love with you in an ongoing loving relationships.
- If you are a visitor from another parish family, we thank you for worshipping with us and for sharing with us the pleasure of your company. Next time if you find yourself in Morgan Hill, please don’t forget to stop by and visit us again.
- If for some reason you still fell that you don’t belong anywhere or to anyone, we promise as a parish family to express the prayer that does not leave your lips, and to share the love that remains bottled up in your heart. God became a human being in Jesus Christ so that no one would ever feel unwelcome or unwanted. We, the parish family of St. Catherine Parish, would like to always be the joyful heralds of this Good News.

HERE’S WISHING YOU YOUR LOVED ONES

A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS
&

JOYFUL AND BLESSED NEW YEAR

In God’s love and in St. Catherine Family’s caring,
Parish & School Staff
LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE JESÚS, MARÍA Y JOSÉ

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Los que honran a sus padres recibirán bendiciones y pagarán sus pecados (Sirácide 3: 3-7, 14-17) ó Génesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

Salmo — Dichoso el que teme al Señor, y sigue sus caminos (Salmo 128 [127]) ó Salmo 105 (104).

Segunda lectura — Vivan una vida de amor sincero, sean agradecidos, hagan todo en el nombre del Señor Jesús (Colosenses 3:12-21) ó Hebreos 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

Evangelio — María y José llevan a Jesús al templo para consagrarlo al Señor (Lucas 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Sal 96 (95):1-3, 5b-6; Lc 2:22-35
Martes: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Sal 96 (95):7-10; Lc 2:36-40
Miércoles: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Sal 96 (95):1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Jueves: Nm 6:22-27; Sal 67 (66):2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lc 2:16-21
Viernes: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Sal 98 (97):1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Sábado: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Sal 98 (97):1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Domingo: Is 60:1-6; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Ef 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

FELICITAMOS LOS CUMPLEAÑOS DEL MES DE DICIEMBRE:

Domingo, 28 de Déc
Beatriz Guevara

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 santisimo 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.

DESEDE EL ESCRITORIO DE PADRE MARK
CONTINUADO...

que sujetan mensajes importantes y dan mensajes de vida que asistan con nuestra llamada al discipulado en Jesucristo. La navidad es un momento de la acogida y la recolección cuando la familia, amigos y vecinos se unen en la celebración. A menudo, como familia, viajamos desde grandes distancias para estar juntos en Navidad y nos encontramos haciendo un esfuerzo especial para conectar y visitar a la gente que no vemos todo el año, incluso cuando viven sólo cortas distancias. Este anhelo de reunirse es parte de la llamada de Dios para que la familia crezca en fuerza y amor como el icono de la presencia de Dios en el mundo. La Sagrada Familia, que celebramos este Domingo, 28 de Diciembre, es la invitación a mirar dentro de nuestras propias familias y descubrir el llamado de Dios a la santidad. Es mirar profundamente en el amor de la familia y ser capaces de reconocer cómo vivimos la llamada de Dios a la santidad cuando elegimos a reunirnos en la unidad del amor. Entendemos que dentro de las familias hay conflictos y discusiones, pero también experimentamos el amor y la reconciliación que se une al llamado de nuestro Padre celestial por la compasión y la misericordia. Durante la Navidad se nos invita a entrar en la vida de la Sagrada Familia y compartir la alegría de la nueva vida y el amor generoso de Dios a medida que crecemos familias como santos en la imagen del Padre, del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo. Los invitamos a venir y unirse a nosotros, como santa familia de Dios y también a lo largo del año que viene.

Dios los bendiga y Feliz Navidad,
Padre Mark
EL VENCEDOR VENCIDO

Ruth protegió con su cuerpo al pequeño Jacob, y la espada del soldado, destinada a dar muerte al niño, en su lugar segó el cuello de la madre.

Se dice que cualquier madre está dispuesta a dar la vida por su hijo. Pero, en el caso de Ruth, el sacrificio tuvo más de religioso que de instintivo. Hacía apenas dieciocho meses que lo había dado a luz, a los cuarenta y seis años, cuando ya no albergaba esperanza alguna de ser bendecida con un fruto de sus entrañas. Después, al tenerlo al fin entre sus brazos, se dio cuenta de que el niño había dejado algo en su interior. No era nada material: era como un rayo de luz, una esperanza, la intuición de que aquella criatura había nacido para desempeñar una misión asignada por Yahveh. Por eso, cuando los soldados enviados por el rey Herodes para matar a todos los niños nacidos en Belén durante los dos últimos años irrumpieron en su casa, se apoderó de su alma la idea de que la misión nacida de Dios era más importante que su propia vida. No fueron las células, fue el espíritu quien movió el cuerpo de Ruth para que cubriese al pequeño y preservase la misión encomendada por Yahveh a aquel niño.

Andrés, el padre de Jacob, aterido de miedo, se agazapaba en el rincón de la estancia y se tapaba la cara, incapaz de contemplar aquel espectáculo. No había nacido para héroe; y, a sus más de sesenta años, las fuerzas le flaqueaban. El soldado quedó petrificado al ver rodar la cabeza de la madre. Tras unos segundos de indecisión, apretó de nuevo la espada entre sus manos para degollar también al niño. Pero, en ese momento, las pupilas del pequeño se clavaron en las suyas con una mirada tan seria a la vez que parecía que el propio Dios lo estuviera reprendiendo a través de aquellos ojos. Su mano se detuvo. Señaló con la espada al pobre Andrés y le dijo: «¡Llévatelo, corre, huye, y jamás digas nada a nadie sobre esto, o el niño morirá!»

Era costumbre en Israel, sobre todo entre las familias procedentes de la diáspora, que los niños tuviesen, además de su nombre hebreo, un nombre griego. Por eso Andrés (conocido también por su nombre griego) decidió que su hijo fuera llamado “vencedor del pueblo”, en recuerdo de aquel episodio en que los soldados de Herodes fueron derrotados por su mirada. «Naciste de nuevo aquel día, hijo», le contó cuando el niño fue capaz de asimilar su historia. «Yo recordaba que mi padre me había dicho que nací de nuevo cuando mi madre murió para salvarme de los soldados de Herodes, pero tenía prohibido hablar sobre ello. Por eso le pregunté si pretendía que entrase de nuevo en el vientre de mi madre, pero él no me respondió. Debió decirle que ya había nacido dos veces». Él ya lo sabía, hijo -respondió la mujer-, «pero no es cierto que entonces nacieras de nuevo. Simplemente, por el sacrificio de tu madre seguiste viviendo porque estabas destinado a vivir para unir a mi Hijo. Él, sin embargo, estaba destinado a morir para que tú, hoy, nacieses de nuevo. Tú has rociado a mi Hijo con mirra, Él te rocía con su sangre. Eres un hombre nuevo, y tu vida comienza hoy. Hace treinta años escapaste de los soldados por la sangre de tu madre. Hoy, por la sangre de mi Hijo, escapas del Maligno y de sus tinieblas para vivir en la luz: “Vencedor del pueblo”, Nicodemo, hoy has sido dulcemente derrotado por Dios… ¡Hijo mío!»

José-Fernando Rey Ballesteros

La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José 28 de Diciembre de 2014
Mis ojos han visto a tu Salvador, al que has preparado para bien de todos los pueblos.
— Lucas 2:30-31

ESTUDIO DE BIBLIA

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

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.

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!
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.

OFICINA DE CATECISMO
Para más información, por favor llame al (408) 779-9604 o por correo electrónico: Roselynn Pucan-Meagor rosepm@dsj.org.

PREBAUTISMALES
Esta plática es diseñada para preparar a los padres y padrinos del niño/a que recibirá el sacramento del Bautismo. El programa es requerido antes del Bautismo y se llevaran acabo en la iglesia a las 6:30pm durante esta fecha: Enero 13 2015 *Necesitan registrarse antes de la fecha a la oficina Parroquial al 1-408-779-3959.

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!

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 Basílica 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.

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.

La Oficina Parroquial estará cerrada el 31 diciembre hasta el 2 de Enero en conmemoración del Año Nuevo.
Les deseamos a usted y a sus seres queridos un Año Nuevo muy bendecido!
Christmas Gift

A book as a Christmas gift? I was hoping for a car or at least cash. But I discovered (by reading it) that the gift is inside the book. “Made for More” by Curtis Martin gives by beginning to answer some of the questions that nag all people who know that Christmas is the celebration of the birthday of Jesus.

The Introduction quotes C. S. Lewis (Narnia author): “If heaven and hell exist, nothing else matters; if heaven and hell don’t exist, then nothing matters.” It says the evidence that heaven and hell exist is not a theory or logical argument, but a person: Jesus of Nazareth.

What follows is my summary of the main questions I found at least the start of answers to.

Chapter 1: Who Do You Say that I Am?
Is Jesus just a moral teacher, a liar/lunatic, or God as Catholic Christians claim?

Chapter 2: Can You Believe What You Read?
Why should we trust the story that the Bible tells?

Chapter 3: He is Risen Indeed!
Jesus’ empty tomb: was Jesus not really dead, was it the wrong tomb, mass hallucination, spiritual resurrection, or was Jesus really risen from the dead as Catholic Christians claim?

Chapter 4: The Kingdom of God on Earth
Does God’s kingdom have a king, a prime minister, and a queen mother?

Chapter 5: Life in the Kingdom
What do the Church’s sacraments have to do with God’s kingdom?

Chapter 6: A Personal Search for Truth
Aren’t evangelical Christians or even agnostics in better touch with reality?

More information

If you want to discuss the questions raised in “Made For More” and you are an adult seeking the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and/or Eucharist), please contact me for an appointment.

Deacon Phil Flowers
pflowers@dsj.org
408-779-3959
I just got back from the National Conference of Catholic Youth Ministers in San Antonio. I've been two a couple before, but I have to say, that this one was the most inspiring. 3 of the 4 keynotes were so full of passion, honesty, and love (the other one wasn't that great, I'll be honest). Some of the people I met on the trip were just inspiring by the way they live their lives and how open they are to God.

But I wonder—Was it really more inspiring because the speakers and people were really that much better than in past years? This question popped in my head because recently I have become more aware and been more purposeful in living my Catholic faith fully. I am still a long way off, but I wonder if it's because my heart and mind are more open now than it was during past conferences that I was more inspired.

So the question now is, how open are you? Are you open to growing in your faith? Are you willing to make the changes and to allow yourself to be inspired? If not, then the homilies at Mass (when the priest speaks to us about the readings and life) will not be inspiring. The readings themselves will not be inspiring. This page will not be inspiring (hard to believe, I know).

I was a witness to something truly miraculous. And I do not throw that word around lightly. On the first night I was in San Antonio, someone was sharing with me their very recent story of struggles in faith. He had been praying about some serious stuff and very soon after felt like he was in a very dark place spiritually.

At the end of the conference, he was approached by a woman that he had met before briefly and the only thing he told her was his contact info. She came up and started talking to him about his struggles with faith (again, something he did not even remotely share with her previously) and not to be afraid and to know that he was a testimony to God. It was truly remarkable. When she first started talking to him, my first thought was that he had shared with her what he shared with me about his struggles. When he told me afterwards that he didn’t, I was like, what the heck?!

You will witness amazing things, miracles even, when you are open to the amazingness of God.

The next NCCYM is in 2016 and will be right here, in our diocese of San Jose! They are combining with our Diocesan Faith Formation Conference for a super ultimate conference. It’s going to be a lot of work but lots of fun to have about SIX THOUSAND Catholic youth ministers, catechists, and teachers from all over the country (and Canada) together to be inspired.

If you are feeling a little jealous and want in on the action, then start volunteering in Youth Ministry or in Faith Formation and you can join us! Some of the people who have talked or performed at NCCYMs of the past are:


If you know who they are, then you know that’s a pretty stellar list—and the best part is is they sometimes perform together. If you don’t know who they are, you can easily Google them (or Bing or Yahoo or Youtube) for an idea. Or if you wanna see some snippets, search #NCCYM on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and you’ll see some good stuff.
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

During this Feast of the Holy Family we are reminded of the importance of family in our religious life. Our faith formation begins at home. What are your earliest memories of your faith at home? Who were the major influences of faith in your family? In your extended family?

Mary’s and Joseph's trust and faithfulness in God’s plan helped them in their responsibilities as they raised God’s son, Jesus. Is our parenting anchored in faithfulness and trust in God and his plan for our family?

In his book Raising Faith Filled Kids, Tom McGrath encourages families to discover the “hidden holiness in family life and to find ways to nurture it in the course of days, seasons, and years.” As we begin the New Year, may our families seek and find God’s extraordinary love and grace in the ordinary happenings in our daily lives.

FAMILY PRAYER: God made us a family. We need one another. We love one another. We forgive one another. We work together. We play together. We worship together. Together we learn God’s word. Together we grow in Christ. Together we love all people. Together we serve one God. Together we hope for Heaven. These are our hopes. We ask these things in the name of your son, Jesus, Our Lord, Amen.

FAMILY ACTIVITY: This week, share as a family, the best and hardest moments of this year. Pray, that like Christ, each family member will grow in wisdom, strength and grace in the coming year.

CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION 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
3:00—5:00 pm in the Parish Center

Saturday, January 17 (SPANISH)
9:00—10:00 am in Milani Center

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

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.

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.

WE ARE GOD’S HOLY FAMILY
The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God’s holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

CHILDREN OF ETERNITY
You are children of eternity. Your immortal crown awaits you, to reward your duty and love. You may indeed sow here in tears, but you may be sure there to reap in joy.
—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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.

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.
COMMUNITY SUPPERS
If any parish groups, families, or individuals would be interested in occasionally providing small treats or gift bags for the guests who gather for our weekly Community Suppers, it would be much appreciated. Contact Joe or Carol Lillig lillig@garlic.com for more info.

SAVE THE DATE
Walk for Life 2015
January 24, 2015
St. Catherine’s Parish please join us to attend the "Walk for Life" event in San Francisco along with our Respect Life Committee, Knights of Columbus and our Youth! We have 2 buses departing from St. Catherine’s at 10:00 a.m. and returning by 6:00 p.m. Need to dress in comfortable shoes, in layers watching the weather, and bring a lunch. Price is $22 per person or let us know if you have a hardship so we can help. For registration and more information contact: Irma Mora at: Irma_Mora@sbcglobal.net, cell 408/461-1273, or Sergio Arzate at: S_Arzarte@yahoo.com, cell 408/340-0454.
Event schedule and speaker information at: www.WalkForLifeWC.com

BUY GROCERIES & HELP OUR PARISH
If each family purchased $200 of Safeway or Nob Hill gift cards every month we would receive $8 a month per family. With 1000 families attending church, we could earn $8,000 a month from Safeway, Nob Hill and Target gift cards purchased each week. Stop by the SCRIP table after weekend masses or contact the St. Catherine School Office (408-779-9950).

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.

ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA EUCHARISTICADORATION SCHEDULE FOR 2014-15
MONTHLY 24 HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION 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

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 Parish 8th Annual Crab Cioppino Fundraiser**

**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

Table 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.

**Bright Beginnings Nursery**

Open Again in January

Free Drop In Childcare

Children Ages 1—5 Welcome

8:30 AM—11:45 AM

Located in the O’Donnell Parish Center.

**COAT & BLANKET DRIVE**

*January 10 thru 25*

Time to clean out your closets. Did you coats that do not fit anymore? Do you have extra blankets you do not need? Please bring new or slightly used coats to the Coat Bins in the Church vestibule, or to the Parish Office. They will be given to the Armory, other shelters and St. Vincent de Paul to distribute. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

**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?**

- Allows you to 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 further 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.

**COFFEE AND DONUTS ON SUNDAY**

Come join us to meet other parishioners while enjoying a hot cup of coffee and donut.
St. Catherine School News

Did you know….  
- For the Giving Tree, St. Catherine School families provided gifts and grocery cards for 18 families which included 99 individuals?  
- Each class plans and completes service projects throughout the year?  
- The St. Catherine faculty and staff host the food at the Care Raffle Reception each year?

A student works on a wreath he is making during an after school enrichment class.

St. Catherine School will be closed  
December 22-January 2  
for the Christmas Holiday.  
Classes resume Monday, January 5, 2015.

Save the Date---eWaste Drive  
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.

Our Music program includes vocal music, as well as instrumental. Above fifth graders practice Christmas carols on their recorders.

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!

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.