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 Alejandria, 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 - 24 Hours

From the Desk of Sr. Silvia Frias, Pastoral Associate......

The month of December is a very special time of year; it is the time to honor our blessed Virgin Mary. We initiate by celebrating our Mother during her Immaculate Conception. As Hispanics we dedicate and we celebrate the Virgin Mary as our Lady of Guadalupe. I thank God for all the love and enthusiasm this festivity brings to our Parish especially when we start the preparations with the novena on nine Wednesdays prior to December 12th and we see how much love we have for our Virgin Mary. Our hearts overflow during the festivities that take place between the 10th and 13th of December.

(Continued Page 3…)

Desde el escritorio de la hermana Silvia Frías Asociada Pastoral....
El mes de diciembre es un tiempo muy especial para venerar a la Santísima Virgen María, iniciamos celebrando a nuestra Madre en su Inmaculada Concepción, advocación con la que ella está presente en nuestro país y como hispanos la celebramos también en la advocación de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, doy gracias a Dios por todo el cariño y entusiasmo que esta festividad trae a nuestra parroquia, ya que, iniciamos los preparativos con el novenario durante los 9 miércoles anteriores al 12 de Diciembre, donde se ve ese gran amor que le tenemos. Ya en los festejos que tenemos entre los días del 10 al 13 de Diciembre nos desborda el corazón.

(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. Jeronimo Gutierrez, Pastor - jgutierrez@dsj.org
Fr. Lieu Vu, Parochial Vicar - lvu@dsj.org
Deacon Rick Haeckel, Deacon - rhaeckel@dsj.org
Deacon Phil Flowers, Deacon - pflowers@dsj.org
Sr. Silvia Frías, MESST Asociada Pastoral - sfrias@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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK
First Reading — From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Micah 5:1-4a).
Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).
Second Reading — By Christ doing the will of God, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5-10).
Gospel — “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Luke 1:39-45).

READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK
First Reading — From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Micah 5:1-4a).
Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).
Second Reading — By Christ doing the will of God, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5-10).
Gospel — “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Luke 1:39-45).

THE WEEK AHEAD/LA SEMANA PRÓXIMA
Sunday/Domingo, December 13
7:00-1:00pm CR 1-4 & Kit Hospitality
8:00-12:00pm NUR Bright Beginnings nursery
8:30-10:30am MC Rm. 10, 11, 12 Cat. Min– FFF Session
8:45-10:00am LR RCIA Dismissal
1:00-5:00pm Rm. 12 FIL/AM Music Band Practice
3:30-5:30pm CH Worship Choir-Kellet
5:00-6:00pm Rm 11 Spanish Bible Study
7:00-9:30pm MC Life Teen Nights

Monday/Lunes, December 14
6:00-9:00pm CR 3-4 & Kit Community supper
6:00-9:00pm CH Bell choir/Angelica choir
6:00-7:00pm CHV Alfa & Omega Planning meeting
6:30-8:30pm NUR Women’s Stitching group
6:45-8:45pm Rm. 12 Prayer Group – A Los Pies de Cristo
7:00-8:00pm Rm. 10 Jóvenes Para Cristo/Team Meeting
7:00-10:00pm CH Advent Reconciliation
7:00-8:30pm LR Finance Comm. Meeting
7:30-9:30pm MC English - Pre-Baptismal Class
7:30-10:00pm GYM Open Gym

Tuesday/Martes, December 15
6:30-9:00pm CH Spanish – Pre-Baptismal Class
7:00-8:30pm LR Raffle Committee

Wednesday/Miércoles, December 16
9:00-11:00am CR1 Women’s Group
12:00-8:00pm NUR Rose Choir
3:00-6:30pm MC Rm. 10, 11 Family Faith Formation session
6:00-6:00pm CH Children’s Choir rehearsals
6:00-10:00pm GYM, CR 1-4 Posada
6:30-8:30pm DC Edge
6:30-8:00pm Rm. 12 Jesus to Mankind
7:00-9:00pm Rm. 10 Spanish Marriage Encounter
7:30-9:00pm MC RCIA Class

Thursday/Jueves, December 17
6:00-10:00pm GYM, CR 1-4 Posada
7:00-9:00pm CH School Advent Program
7:00-9:00pm Rm. 12 RICA
8:00-9:00pm NUR Schola Cantorum rehearsal

Friday/Viernes, December 18
9:00-11:59pm CH 24 Hour Adoration
9:30-10:30am CR 1-2 Bible Study
7:00-10:00pm GYM, CR 1-4 Kit & NUR Posada General
5:00-6:00pm MC Grupo Amigos Play Practice

8:15AM MASS INTENTIONS
Monday, December 14 † Ruth Doyle
Brad & Myra Mountz
Tuesday, December 15 † Julian Yvastorza
† Frank Lawrence Sofo
Wednesday, December 16 † Antonio Ferreira
† Filomena Ferreira
Thursday, December 17 † Dede Mariani
† Henry Ferreira
Friday, December 18 † Tom Tacci
† Vernon John
Saturday, December 19 † Sid Bordelon
† All Souls in Purgatory

FAITH SHARING QUESTION OF THE WEEK
Adult: “In what areas of your life do you need God’s forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in expressing your repentance?”
Child: “What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?”
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE
BY DEACON RICK HAECKEL
Have you ever heard an answer to a serious question that you pondered only to think “well that’s too easy” or “too good to be true.” It’s not that we search for hard answers but it seems like we want something that asks that we apply ourselves in a new or different way. Well, Paul’s words to the Philippians today seems to fit into the too good to be true category. They (and we) are to know that “the Lord is near” to “have no anxiety at all” and by “prayer and petition” make our “requests known to God.” And as if that weren’t enough we hear that “Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” What might seem on the surface to be too easy and too good to be true is in fact a beautiful expression of what it means to discover the path of simple trust in God. There is difficulty though, we remove ourselves as the center of action in our life’s journey. That’s hard, we’re used to depending on our own skill and talent to make our way in this journey of life. We still must do that but it can’t be the first place we turn for guidance. When we reflect in prayer to God about our wants and needs we realize that living in “the peace of God” makes what we thought was a difficult choice a walk with and in the way of Jesus. Big choices are still big to us but they assume their proper importance when they are offered to God in prayer. The answer comes in different ways and in God’s time but always with peace knowing we are held and loved by God.

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK
It may seem a bit strange but consider bringing your own utensils (or chopsticks) to use in place of plastic or other non-recyclable utensils. Reusable utensils save disposal and production costs and materials.

DO YOU SING IN THE SHOWER?
How about the car? How about at church? If you said yes to either of these questions then we need you. Who are we? We are the Angelicus Choir and we sing at 8:45 mass on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. We rehearse on Mondays at 7:00pm right here in the church. Call (408-778-0494) or email (mmajjasie@charter.net) Michelle to inquire.

FACEBOOK
Join us on Facebook and keep up to date on what the parish is doing. https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Catherine-of-Alexandria-Church/293047417474856

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: __________________________ |

FROM THE DESK OF SR. SILVIA
CONTINUED......
This festivity rattles our entire community as we express our love for our Blessed Virgin Mary. However, I always ask God to allow this happiness and joy we feel during these days to be felt throughout the entire year. We then proceed with the novena for “las posadas.” This tradition was introduced in Mexico during the conquest by the French. Las Posadas would help with the evangelization and preparation for the birth of Jesus. We can also celebrate this festivity in our Parish.

I thank everyone and all the groups for your generosity and help. Thanks to you, we keep our traditions going. I hope that our Lord, through the intercession of our Blessed Virgin Mary, may bless you and your home.
LITURGY WORSHIP

REFLECTION: This is Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. Both the first reading (Zep. 3:14-18) and the second reading (Phil. 4:4-7) tell us: Rejoice because the Lord is near not only because Christmas and thus Christ’s first coming (Incarnation) is near but also because the imminent Parousia (second coming of Christ) causes joy. Thus, John the Baptist in today’s Gospel, Lk. 3:10-18, tells us the Lord who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
MONDAY, 7:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 14, 2015

Many priests will be available.
You do not have to wait too long!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, “Gaudete Sunday,” is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: Gaudete is Latin for “Rejoice!” This year’s Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary’s visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary’s presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it’s all because of the clams!
TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — ¡Canta! ¡Da gritos de júbilo! ¡Gózate y regocijate! El Señor tu Dios está entre ustedes y es un poderoso salvador (Sofonías 3:14-18a).

Salmo — El Señor es mi Dios y salvador (Isaías 12).

Segunda lectura — ¡Alégrense! El Señor está cerca. Presenten sus peticiones a Dios (Filipenses 4:4-7).

Evangelio—Juan dice a sus oyentes que compartan sus posesiones con los necesitados; que sean honrados; que no amenacen ni acusen a otros injustamente (Lucas 3:10-18).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes:   Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Sal 25 (24):4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Miércoles: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Sal 85 (84):9-14; Lc 7:18b-23
Jueves:   Gén 49:2, 8-10; Sal 72 (71):1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Viernes:  Jer 23:5-8; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Sábado:   Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71 (70):3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lc 1:5-25
Domingo: Mi 5:1-4a; Sal 80 (79):2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lc 1:39-45

FELICITAMOS LOS CUMPLEAÑOS DEL MES DE DICIEMBRE

SÁBADO, 12 DE DICIEMBRE

Alicia Hernandez
Sandra Maldonado

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.

DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DE LA HERMANA SILVIA FARIÁS, CONTINUADO…

Es una fiesta que, nos hace vibrar a toda la comunidad, al expresar nuestro amor a la Santísima Virgen, pero siempre le pido a Dios que toda esa alegría que expresamos en estos días, continúe durante todo el año. Después continuamos con el novenario de las posadas que es una tradición que los franciscanos introdujeron en México durante el tiempo de la conquista para que por medio de estos días se diera una evangelización y preparación al Nacimiento de Jesús, y que también podemos tener estas celebraciones en nuestra parroquia.

Agradezco profundamente a todas las personas y grupos por su generosidad y ayuda para seguir adelante con nuestras tradiciones y que nuestro Señor por intercesión de la Santísima Virgen siga bendiciendo sus hogares.

VIVIR PARA SER BUSCADO, Y VIVIR PARA BUSCAR

Tanto Herodes como los Magos han pasado a la Historia. Herodes lo deseaba y a los Magos les daba absolutamente igual... Pero ninguno de ellos son hoy conocidos por méritos propios. De no haberse hecho carne el Hijo de Dios en Belén, no estaríamos hoy hablando ni de uno ni de los otros. Herodes era el tipo de persona que quiere ser recordado, pero supongo que hubiese preferido que hablásemos de él como el gran constructor del último templo de Jerusalén, y no como el cruel asesino de niños inocentes. En cuanto a los Magos... Me figuro que, una vez encontrado Aquél a quien buscaban, su paso a la Historia ha sido, para ellos, irrelevante. Quien tiene lo que busca puede permitirse el lujo de despreciar lo demás.

La misma línea sigue dividiendo a los hombres hoy día: hay personas, como Herodes, que viven para ser buscados. Aman la notoriedad, les gusta que cuenten con ellos, procuran que siempre se les vea y no están a gusto en el anonimato. Si no son mirados o escuchados, temen dejar de existir. Otros, como los Magos, viven para buscar.

(Continuado en Pagina 7…)
TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

EL SORTEO ANUAL ESTÁ LLEGANDO A SU FIN

¡El tiempo se acaba! Obtenga sus boletos el día de hoy para el trigésimo tercer sorteo anual de la Iglesia de Santa Catalina. Venga al sorteo en la parroquia el domingo, 20 de diciembre y vea cómo son premiados los boletos ganadores. Disfrute de comida y un poco de alegría de las fiestas. También tendrá la oportunidad de ser entrado en un sorteo gratuito donde podrá ganar premios. ¡No necesita estar presente para ganar, pero sería mucho más divertido si estuviese presente!

Su boleto de tan solo $60 para el sorteo del automóvil podría ponerlo detrás del volante de un automóvil o camioneta de su elección con el valor de hasta $40,000 o como un alternativo al premio del automóvil, el ganador afortunado puede escoger recibir $30,000 en efectivo.

El boleto de $20 para el Sorteo de Vacaciones le ofrece el viaje de su vida. Usted nombra el destino y su boleto ganador lo financiera hasta $7,500 o si usted prefiere, $5,000 en efectivo. ¡Este boleto tiene más oportunidades para ganar, incluyendo un Apple iPad nuevo, dinero en efectivo, y hasta un viaje a Disneyland!

¡Aún tenemos algunos Paquetes Extraordinarios a la venta!

Visite nuestra mesa hoy a la salida de misa.

Aceptamos Visa, Master Card y American Express (también se acepta dinero en efectivo y cheques).

POSADAS

Los invitamos a participar en el novenario de las posadas. Las posadas se llevarán acabo en nuestra parroquia. Si alguna familia desea hacerse cargo de un día, por favor comuníquese con la Hna. Silvia Frías Z. MESSST llamando a la oficina parroquial al (408) 779-3959. Todas las posadas inician a las 6:30 pm. La posada general a las 7:00pm.

FECHA LUGAR ENCARGADOS
Dic. 16 Centro Parroquial Ministros
Extraordinarios
De la Comunión

Dic. 17 Centro Parroquial Fam. Resendiz
Dic. 18 (7:00pm)

POSADA GENERAL

Dic. 20 Centro Parroquial Edo. México
(5:00pm)

Dic. 21 Salón Milani

Dic. 22 Centro Parroquial Coro de Niños

Dic. 23 Centro Parroquial Misterio de Lectores
(6:30pm)

SAN VICENTE DE PAUL

La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul de Santa Catalina tiene una tiendita comunitaria, que estará abierta todos los martes y Jueves de 10:00am a 12:00pm para personas que necesitan ropa para hombres y mujeres GRATIS. Al igual hay ropa de niños, bebés, y algunos artículos para el hogar y muebles. El domicilio de la tiendita es 13570 Depot St. San Martin, CA 95046.

Sacarán agua con gozo de la fuente de salvación.

— Isaías 12:3

Tercer Domingo de Adviento
13 de diciembre de 2015

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TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

VIVIR PARA SER BUSCADO, Y VIVIR PARA BUSCAR, CONTINUADO...

Anhelan la Verdad y, en silencio, recorren su camino tras la Estrella en pos de la luz. No miran excesivamente a los lados, y no desean ser mirados por nadie si no es como el dedo que señala el camino. Juan Bautista era uno de ellos; cuando la Luz se hizo, no dudó en desprenderse de todos sus discípulos para habitar en la lóbrega soledad de la cárcel y morir allí a escondidas.

Cada uno, al final, encuentra lo que busca. Herodes era Rey en Jerusalén y los Magos salieron de incógnito. Nadie sea tan ingenuo de pensar que, en este mundo, los puestos más altos son ocupados por los más capaces. Gran parte de las veces, en este mundo llega alto quien pesa poco, quien flota como el corcho para lograr auparse y ser buscado, mirado y admirado por todos. Mientras eso sucede, los Magos, Juan Bautista, y los santos siguen su camino en pos de Aquél que ocupará, en este mundo, el último puesto y morirá como blasfemo en una Cruz.

Es importante saber esto para distinguir de quién fiarse, y para elegir el camino a seguir. Porque a los frívolos e hipócritas los ensalzan los hombres, pero llegará el día en que sean humillados por Dios; Herodes murió pasto de gusanos. Sin embargo, a los santos, a menudo humillados, despreciados e ignorados por los hombres, los ensalza el propio Dios. Si yo buscase santos (y los busco, porque los necesito) no miraría hacia arriba en las cumbres de este mundo, sino hacia abajo, hasta introducirme en las grutas más oscuras donde pocos miran. Y, haciéndolo así, les aseguro que ya he encontrado a unos cuantos. Ellos, como los Magos, me han mostrado a Dios. Ellos han sido, para mí, la Estrella de Belén.

Fr. José Fernando Rey Ballesteros

FORTALEZA Y VALOR

La oración infunde fuerza al débil y valor al temeroso.

—Anónimo

LOS SANTOS Y OTRAS CELEBRACIONES

Domingo: Tercer Domingo de Adviento
Lunes: San Juan de la Cruz
Miércoles: Primer día de las Posadas

CELEBRA

Este domingo, Dios canta y se regocija por nosotros. Leemos hoy en Sofonías que Dios “se llenará de júbilo por tu causa, como en los días de fiesta” (Sofonías 3:18). Sabemos mucho de cantar en festivales. Ya nuestros oídos resuenan con los cantos y villancicos que anticipan la época navideña.

Pablo nos recuerda la fuente de este doble regocijo: Dios, tu poderoso salvador, está en medio de ti (en palabras de Sofonías). Por ser así, nos dice Pablo, podemos alegrarnos y estar en paz. No tenemos que inquietarnos, porque la paz de Dios custodiará nuestros corazones y pensamientos.

Un villancico antiguo representa la Navidad como “el día de mi baile” y nos urge a tomar parte en el baile. ¿Por qué todo el regocijo? Porque “el Señor está cerca” nos recuerda Pablo (Filipenses 4:5). Entonces apunta a la otra razón para el baile: el amanecer de la promesa de paz, la paz que sobrepasa toda inteligencia, y que ya está al alcance de la mano.

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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!

ORACIÓN PARA EL ADVIENTO

Que el Dios de paz nos haga totalmente santos.
Que conserve nuestro espíritu sin mancha, cuerpo y alma, hasta la llegada de nuestro Señor, Jesucristo.
El que nos invita es siempre fiel —Dios nuestro Padre.
Vivamos en esperanza gozosa de la revelación de la gloria de nuestro Dios y Salvador, Jesucristo.
Que sea glorificado por siempre.
Ven Señor Jesús. Que tu gracia esté en todos nosotros.

—De Oraciones Bíblicas, p. 11 por Lucien Deiss, CSSp; copyright 1979, Lucien Deiss. Publicado por World Library Publications
Juan Diego was an Aztec farmer, converted to Christianity by Spanish missionaries. On his way to Mass on Dec 9th 1531, he saw a Lady dressed as an Aztec princess near the hill of Tepeyac, near Mexico City. She told him that she was the Mother of God and said to tell the Bishop of Mexico that she wanted a church built on the hill in order to show her love for all the native peoples.

He went twice to the bishop and was sent away each time, but the Lady gave him a sign to satisfy the bishop. She told him to go to the top of the hill, pick the roses growing near by and put them in his tilma (an apron-like cloak). Although he didn’t expect to find roses in winter, Juan Diego obeyed. When he returned to the Lady, she arranged the roses in his tilma, secured his tilma to his neck and told him to show this to the bishop.

When he went back to the cathedral, Juan Diego opened his tilma and the roses fell out. The bishop and those with him fell on their knees because Juan’s tilma contained an image of the lady who had been seen by Juan and who was actually Our Lady, the Mother of God. The bishop formed a procession and carried the image into his chapel. The plaza filled with thousands of native Americans coming to see and honor the image. Later a chapel, then a beautiful church, was built at Tepeyac. Today millions of people come to see that same tilma with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe—the Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary.
GAUDETE

Go ahead, say that out loud. How is that pronounced? Gah-deet-ay? Gow-dot?
It’s Gow-day-tay (kind of).
So what is it? It basically means rejoice. REJOICE! This Sunday is pink! Pink means we rejoice!
And if you listen/read/follow the readings this Sunday, this Gaudete Sunday, it’s pretty obvious.
To a point.
That First Reading—Shout for joy...Sing joyfully! He will rejoice over you...He will sing joyfully because of you...
That Responsorial Psalm—Cry out with joy and gladness...with joy you will draw water.
That Second Reading—Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!
That Gospel Reading though—nothing about joy. Or at least nothing that screams out joy like the other readings do.
There I was, reading the Sunday Scripture...thinking, “Alright, joy, got it....Yup be joyful...yeah let’s do this joy thing...I’m getting filled with joy this is great...” and then I hit the Gospel and I’m like, ‘Wait...what??”
That Luke, always throwing us a curveball (I don’t do sports so I can only assume I’m using that phrase correctly...but baseball wasn’t around in his time so who cares if I used it right or not?).
And although it doesn’t explicitly talk about joy, that Gospel brought a smile to my face and gave me joy. Not just because it was unexpected, but it talks to the true meaning of our Church, of our faith, of our Savior: we are called to be joyful while we serve, while we sacrifice, while we give of ourselves to others and to God. Christianity isn’t about being somber all the time, or to serve begrudgingly. It’s about being so excited and overflowing with joy because of Christ’s Love that we want to share that with others by serving. By giving our surplus (and non-surplus) to others, by not trying to get more than we should. Of course that doesn’t mean there aren’t moments of sadness—but even in those times of sadness or loss, we can still have a joy within us knowing that we belong to God.
I’ll leave you with this quote from Fr. James Martin, SJ (Society of Jesus = a Jesuit priest) - “Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.” Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life.

depuk@dsj.org
Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC):

Children and youth in the RCIC program continue to learn more about our Catholic faith and build community at the recent Knights of Columbus Reverse Christmas Party and our monthly community meeting. Seven are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (baptism, confirmation and First Holy Communion) during Easter. Please keep them in your prayers this Advent season as they continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus! For information, please call Rose at (408) 779-9604.
WANT TO HELP FEED THE NEEDY DURING THE HOLIDAYS?
Reachout will again be the recipient of food from Nob Hill’s “Food for Families Donate a Bag Program.”
For a $10 donation Reachout receives a bag of food worth DOUBLE that amount. All bags sold in Morgan Hill are given to Reachout! Save yourself some shopping time - buy a $10 bag at Nob Hill and help others!!

SIMBANG GABI 2015
The Fil/Am association celebrates a three evening “Simbang Gabi” beginning:
Saturday, December 19th at the 5:30pm mass. The Fil/Am choir will sing (there is no reception after mass).
Sunday, December 20th at the 5:30pm Youth Mass. The youth choir will sing (there is no reception after mass).
Monday, December 21st, there is a special 6:30pm mass in the Parish Center. Light, warm reception provided by Fil/Am in the Parish Center after mass.

All are welcome.

ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA EUCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE
"My Mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world.
Who can measure the extent of MY GOODNESS?"
Diary of St. Faustina Kowalska
"COME AND TASTE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD!"
Our 24 hour Adoration begins on Friday, December 18th immediately after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and concludes on Saturday, December 19th with Benediction at 8:00am "Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?"Mt 26:40

HELP US REACH 1,000 LIKES?
Do you have a Facebook account? Have you “liked” St. Catherine’s page? Help us reach 1,000 likes! Go onto our Facebook page and like us and you could win a raffle prize! Once we reach 1,000 likes, we will raffle off a prize. Don’t miss out on staying on top of all the events in the Parish.

A new tradition has started...
We are once again inviting newlywed couples!
(Celebrating their 5th year or less)
Bishop Patrick J. McGrath would like to invite all couples celebrating their 5th (or less), 25th, 40th and 50th (or more) Wedding Anniversarys in 2016 to participate in our Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph in downtown San Jose. The couples are invited to renew their wedding vows and will receive a blessing from Bishop Patrick McGrath who will preside at the celebration. Each couple also receives a certificate signed by the Bishop.

February 6, 2016 at 2pm
St. Joseph Cathedral (Parking Details)
A short reception will follow after
Call Sylvia Blanch (blanch@djs.org) at 408-983-0128 for more information.

MASS TIMES
If you have an email address and would like to hear all the great things that are happening at your parish, 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.

ELECTRONIC UPDATES
If you have an email address and would like to hear all the great things that are happening at your parish, 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.

MONDAY NIGHT COMMUNITY SUPPERS
Teens, families, adults, young and old: the parish could use a few more people on some of our Community Supper teams. The commitment is once every 7 weeks from 5-7:30pm. Contact Joe or Carol Lillig if you’d like to help provide good food and good company for our weekly dinner for the community at lillig@garlic.com or 408-857-4516.
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**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 14th, 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.**

**Knitting Group**

Are you a passionate needle crafter and desire to be in community with others here at St Catherine’s? Well, bring your knitting, crocheting, quilt or embroidery projects and join us!

The group gathers in the nursery room in the Parish Center. Drop in anytime on Monday nights from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. All are welcome. Contact Diane at 408-839-3553 for questions or if you would like to learn to knit or crochet.

**Emergency Notifications**

Do you want to receive notifications of emergencies from the Morgan Hill Police Department? Sign up to receive them at [www.alertssc.com](http://www.alertssc.com).

**EverGive**

Have you joined St. Catherine’s on Evergive? Download the Evergive app today! The community code is **STCA**.

**Men’s Group**

The men’s Spirituality Group meets weekly, currently discussing the book *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* by James Martin SJ at 9:00am on Saturday in the Parish Rectory living room. All men are welcome!

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**God is Great All the Time, All the Time, God is Great!**

**Treasures from Our Tradition**

This week, our celebration of Advent makes a transition in ritual and texts. Beginning December 18, the countdown of nine days (a novena) to Christmas sees a heightened sense of expectation, and also a turning from the call of the Baptist in the wilderness to the events leading up to Jesus’ birth. In ancient Spain, December 18 was once celebrated as the “Feast of the Expectancy,” and customs grew up to heighten readiness in the homes.

Some customs arise from monastic life and practice and spill over into our parish life. Beginning tonight, those who pray Vespers will sing in the opening phrase a beautiful title of Christ. These titles belong to a collection of opening phrases called the “O Antiphons” after the awe-inspired “O” sung on the first note. There’s a playful code in the titles: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Flower of Jesse, O Key of David, O Dawn, O Ruler, O Emmanuel. When you take their Latin names—Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, and so on—the titles form an acrostic when you read them backwards: “ERO CRAS.” In Latin, that is translated as “I will be there tomorrow!” It’s as if Christ were answering the prayers of the waiting people in the words of the prayers themselves.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**Celebrate**

This Sunday, God rejoices and sings because of us. We read in Zephaniah today that God “will sing joyfully because of you, / as one sings at festivals” (Zephaniah 3:18). We know plenty about singing at festivals. Already our ears are ringing with the songs and carols that anticipate the Christmas season.

Paul reminds us of the source of our own double rejoicing: God is the mighty savior who is in our midst (in Zephaniah’s words). Because this is so, says Paul, we can rejoice and be at ease. We don't have to worry, for God’s peace will stand guard over our hearts and minds.

A medieval carol depicts Christmas as “my dancing day” and urges us to enter into the dance. Why all the merrymaking? Because “the Lord is near,” as Paul reminds us (Philippians 4:5). He then points to another reason for the dancing: the dawn of the promise of peace, the peace beyond all understanding, that is now within our grasp.

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St. Catherine’s Annual Sweepstakes coming to a close

Time is running out! Get your tickets today for the St. Catherine’s 33rd annual sweepstakes. Come to the drawing at the Parish Center on Sunday, December 20th and see the winners drawn live, plus enjoy some food and holiday cheer. Also be entered into a separate free raffle for door prizes. You don’t need to be present to win, but it’s a lot of fun if you are!

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 Checks, Cash, Visa, Master Card and Amex.

We accept Checks, Cash, Visa, Master Card and Amex.

**AN ADVENT PRAYER**

May the God of peace make us completely holy.
May God keep us blameless in spirit, soul and body
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Forever faithful is the One who calls us—God our Father!
Expectant, let us live in joyful hope
for the revelation of the glory
of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!
To him be glory forever!
Come, Lord Jesus! Your grace be with us all.


**STRENGTH AND COURAGE**

Prayer infuses the weak with strength and the fainthearted with courage.

—Anonymous

**GILROY COMPASSION CENTER NEEDS SOCKS!**

Gilroy Compassion Center (8425 Monterey Road) provides basic services to the homeless in South County. They have an urgent need for donations of men and women’s socks during the upcoming cold months. They are open M-F from 6am-noon. Visit their website for more info: http://gccsoco.org/

**St. Catherine Women’s Book Club’s November Selection is:**

Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life by James Martin, S.J.

**MEETING TUESDAY, December 2nd**

7:30-9:00 PM at Peet’s Coffee on Cochrane Rd.
Questions? Contact Paula Barbara paulacbarbara@gmail.com

**RECONCILIATION SERVICES WITHIN OUR DEANERY**

**Saint Catherine Church**
Monday, December 14th at 7:00pm

**Church of the Transfiguration**
Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00pm

**Holy Family**
Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00pm

**Saturday, December 12th at 9:00am**

**Saint Anthony**
Saturday, December 12th at 7:00pm

**Saint Christopher**
Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00pm

**Santa Teresa**
Tuesday, December 15th at 7:30pm

**Holy Spirit**
Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00pm

**Bilingual**

**Sacred Heart of Jesus**
Wednesday, December 23rd at 6:00pm

Bilingual
**APPLICATIONS FOR 2016-2017**

Applications for the 2016-2017 school year are now available in the school office or on the school website. Please note the application **deadline for kindergarten is December 16**. Applications for grades 1-8 are due **March 2**.

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.

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**Christmas Card**

Each year students at St. Catherine School submit drawings for our school Christmas card. This year 5th grader Chandler Kirk’s design was chosen. Chandler received a matted and framed copy of her design and a gift card.

Additionally, the work of several other students received Honorable Mentions: Emma LoNardo, Megan Carpene, Elizabeth Splees, Grace Dudek, Ryleigh Etie, and Jessica Portera. The Honorable Mention students received gift cards. Congratulations to all!

**Kindergartners are writing and solving word problems.**

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**5th and 6th graders made pumpkin pies for the Charity Dinner.**

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**ADVENT PROGRAM**

Please join us for our annual Advent program which is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 pm in the church. Our 8th grade teacher, Mrs. Quinn, is already busy working with her class on the dramatic portion of the program. Other classes are learning the songs and movement for their performances. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Doors will open at 5:30. No seats may be saved before that time. All empty seats that are being saved must be relinquished at 7:00 when the show begins. Once again, students will report to their classrooms before the performance. We always have a FULL house, so don’t be late!

**Save the Date---eWaste Drive**

The next eWaste Drive sponsored by our Green Team will be Saturday, January 23. 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 help fund more energy efficient lighting in our classrooms. This is also a great opportunity to get parent hours or student service hours. Contact Arlene Handa at ecosafehome1@yahoo.com.