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 - 24 Hours

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. Allen Navarro, Parochial Vicar……

Spiritual and practical tips on the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Teaching the ignorant
Counseling the doubtful
Admonishing the sinner
Bearing wrongs patiently
Forgiving offenses willingly
Comforting the afflicted
Praying for the living and the dead
Feeding the hungry
Giving a drink to the thirsty
Clothing the naked

(Continued Page 3…)

Desde el escritorio del Padre Allen Navarro, Vicario Parroquial...

Practicas espirituales y consejos en el año jubileo y misericordia.
1. Enseñar a los ignorantes
2. Aconsejar a los que dudan
3. Amonestar a los pecadores
4. Tener paciencia con las decisiones incorrectas
5. Perdonar las ofensas por voluntad propia
6. Consolar al afligido
7. Rezar por los vivos y muertos
8. Dar de comer a los que tienen hambre
9. Dar de tomar a los que tienen sed
10. Vestir a los que no tienen ropa

(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-Meager, Director of Family Faith Formation and Evangelization- rosepm@dsj.org
Deeup 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: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:4-52

READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

First Reading — Hannah gives her son Samuel back to the LORD, leaving him in the temple at Shiloh: “As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD” (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.
Psalm — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or Psalm 128.
Second Reading — We are children of God when we believe in the name of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us (1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24) or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].
Gospel — Joseph and Mary find the lost Jesus in the temple in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions (Luke 2:41-52).

THE WEEK AHEAD/LA SEMANA PRÓXIMA

Sunday/Domingo, December 20
7:00-1:00pm CR 1, PC Foyer & Kit Hospitality
8:00-12:00pm NUR Bright Beginnings nursery
8:45-10:00am LR RCIA Dismissal
9:00-4:00pm MC Giving Tree
1:00-5:00pm Rm 12 FIL/AM Music Band Practice
2:00-5:00pm GYM CR 14-43, Raffle Reception
3:30-5:30pm CH Worship Choir-Kellet
5:00-6:00pm Rm 11 Spanish Bible Study
6:00-10:00pm GYM CR 14-43 Posada

Monday/Lunes, December 21
11:00-2:30pm CR 14-43 Over 50’s Groups
5:00-10:00pm CR 12 Fil/Am Simbang-Gabi
6:00-9:00pm CR 5-6 & KB Community supper
6:00-9:00pm CH Bell choir/angelica choir
6:00-7:00pm CHV Alpha & Omega Planning meeting
6:00-10:00pm GYM CR 14-43 Posada
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 Jovenes Para Cristo/Team Meeting

Tuesday/Martes, December 22
6:00-10:00pm GYM CR 14-43 Posada
7:00-8:30pm LR Raffle Committee

Wednesday/Miércoles, December 23
9:00-11:00am CR1 Women’s Group
12:00-8:00pm NUR Rose Choir
5:00-6:00pm CH Children’s Choir rehearsals
6:00-10:00pm GYM CR 14-43 Posada
6:00-7:30pm CH Spanish Holy Hour
6:30-8:00pm Rm 12 Jesus to Mankind
7:30-9:30pm CH Alpha Omega - Carismatico group

Thursday/Jueves, December 24
OFFICE CLOSED

Friday/Viernes, December 25
OFFICE CLOSED
Merry Christmas!

Saturday/Sábado, December 26
9:00-10:00am LR Men’s Group
9:30-9:30pm MC Jovenes Para Cristo Retreat

8:15AM MASS INTENTIONS
Monday, December 21 † Souls Purgatory
Brad & Myra Mountz
Tuesday, December 22 † Leonora Noval
† Edgar Williams
Wednesday, December 23 † Rienzi Ranasinghe
† Anna Villano
Thursday, December 24 † Christmas Eve
Christmas
Friday, December 25 † Maria Catalina Ngoan Vu
Saturday, December 26 † Joseph Ky Vu

FAITH SHARING QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Adult: “When was it hardest for you to trust in God’s plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?”
Child: “When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?”
FROM THE DESK OF FR. ALLEN
CONTINUED......
Giving shelter to the homeless
Visiting the sick
Ransoming the captive
Burying the dead

Remember? In the gospel of Luke 21:3 Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had."

Addendum: Other activities and things to do during our jubilee year.

Give your time and means to worthy causes
Join a caring club
Develop a creative hobbies
Learn to forgive and accept forgiveness
Express gratitude and cheerfulness
Trust in God's love for you
Pray and meditate effectively
Clarify your spiritual values
Make up your mind to do God's will
Try to make yourself happy in the Lord
Develop positive attitudes and mindset
Avoid debt and save something each month

May you have a Faith-filled Christmas in this extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy!

NATURE RESTORED
Christ is born, that by his birth he might restore your nature.

—St. Peter Chrysologus

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK
Even though we are in a drought, consider a living Christmas tree that you then plant. Prepare a place outside to receive the tree, it will generate oxygen instead of becoming waste.

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

LITURGY WORSHIP

REFLECTION: The child who is to save us is about to be born ... the mystery of the Incarnation. The first reading, Mi. 5:1-4a, tells us that since the kings from David's house did not do justice to their task, a new David will come from Bethlehem, who is from of old, from eternity, shepherding the people returning from exile. The Gospel, Lk. 1:39-45, tells us that having conceived by the Holy Spirit, Mary, the one who is to give birth, hurries to Ain Karin and, by her son under her heart, make John the Baptist in the womb of his mother jump for joy and Elizabeth recognize the greatness of the Incarnation made possible by Mary's faith. Thus Jesus enters the world as we hear in the second reading, Heb. 10:5-10, offering his body as sacrifice in perfect obedience, abrogating the imperfect sacrifices of the old covenant.

Join us for Christmas Mass
Christmas Eve, December 24th
4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm Mass in Spanish
12:00am Midnight Mass
Christmas Day, December 25th
8:45am, 10:30am
12:15pm Mass in Spanish

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We are approaching the darkest, longest night of the year. For centuries, people in the Northern Hemisphere have kindled fires against the dying of the light, turning away the dark of the winter solstice, and leading the imagination to hope and new beginnings. It is thus easy to understand why these solstice celebrations of non-Christian Europe attracted the annual remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

In time the solstice migrated away from December 25, but the Christmas feast remained in place. From this day, a whole season of celebration developed, stretching from Advent through the days of Christmas, and even beyond to the February 2 blessing of the candles, and beyond that to March 25, the Annunciation, nine months before the next Christmas. Centuries ago, this was New Year's Day, and many reasoned that it was the date of Adam and Eve's fall, and the date of the Crucifixion. The message is clear: don’t let your Christmas be over too soon. Keep the lights blazing into January, and savor the meaning of the feast!

Rev. James Field, Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — De ti, Belén, saldrá el que será el jefe de Israel (Miqueas 5:1-4a).
Salmo — Señor, muestranos tu favor y salvanos (Salmo 80 [79]).
Segunda lectura — Al hacer Cristo la voluntad del Padre, es decir, al ofrecerse él mismo, hemos sido consagrados (Hebreos 10:5-10).
Evangelio —Bendita eres entre las mujeres, y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre (Lucas 1:39-45).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes:   Cant 2:8-14 or Sof 3:14-18a; Sal 33 (32):2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lc 1:39-45
Martes:   1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lc 1:46-56
Miércoles: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Sal 25 (24):4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lc 1:57-66
Jueves:   2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29; Lc 1:67-79
Día:     Is 52:7-10; Sal 96 (97):1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Sábado:   Hch 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Sal 31 (30):3cd -4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Domingo:  Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 o 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Sal 128 (127:1-5 o Sal 84 (83):2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lc 2:41-52

DESPUÉS DEL ESCRITORIO DEL PADRE ALLEN NAVARRO, CONTINUADO….

11. Dar refugio a los que no tienen hogar
12. Visitar a los enfermos
13. Rescatar a los cautivos
14. Enterrar a los muertos
¿Recuerdas? En el evangelio de Lucas 21:3, Jesús dijo, “Les aseguro que esa pobre viuda ha puesto más que todos. Porque todos éosos han depositado donativos de lo que les sobraba; pero ella en su pobreza, ha puesto cuanto tenía para vivir.

Apéndice: Otras actividades y sugerencias de lo que puedes hacer durante nuestro año jubileo.

1. Dar tiempo a buenas causas
2. Formar parte de un club que brinda bondad
3. Desarrollar pasatiempos de interés
4. Aprender a perdonar y aceptar el perdón
5. Expresar gratitud y alegría
6. Creer en el amor de Dios
7. Orar y meditar efectivamente
8. Clarificar sus valores espirituales
9. Seguir y hacer la voluntad de Dios
10. Hacer el intento de ser feliz y al Señor
11. Desarrolle actitudes positivas
12. Tratar de evitar las deudas e intentar ahorrar un poco cada mes.

Deseo que tengan una Navidad llena de fe en este año de la misericordia.

LOS SANTOS Y OTRAS CELEBRACIONES

Domingo: Cuarto Domingo de Adviento
Lunes:   San Pedro Canisio; Invierno
Miércoles: San Juan de Kanty
Jueves:   La Vigilia de Navidad
Viernes:  La Natividad del Señor
Sábado:   San Esteban; Kwanza

AMAR AHORA

Que amen ahora quienes nunca antes amaron; que los que siempre amaron amen aún más ahora.

—Anónimo
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

¡ESTA ES LA ULTIMA OPORTUNIDAD DE ENTAR AL SORTEO ANUAL DE LA IGLESIA DE SANTA CATALINA!

Venga al sorteo en el centro parroquial el domingo, 20 de diciembre, a partir de las 2:00pm y vea en vivo como 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. Esta es la ultima oportunidad que usted tiene para comprar boletos. ¡No necesita estar presente para ganar, pero seria mucho mas 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 financiará 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!

¡Nos vemos ahi!

POSADAS
Los invitamos a participar en el novenario de las posadas. Las posadas se llevaran acabo en nuestra parroquia. Todas las posadas inician a las 6:30 pm. La posada general a las 7:00pm.

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NATURALEZA RESTAURADA
Cristo nació para que por su nacimiento nuestra naturaleza sea restaurada. —San Pedro Crisólogo

EL CENTRO DE COMPASIÓN DE GILROY NECESITA CALCETINES
El centro de compasión de Gilroy (8425 Monterey Road) provee servicios básicos a todas las personas sin hogar en el condado de Santa Clara. Necesitan una donación urgente de calcetines para hombre y mujer para esta temporada de frío. El centro esta abierto de lunes a viernes de 6am-mediodía. Visite su pagina en http://gccsoco.org/

CENA GRATIS
Ahora en la Iglesia de Santa Catalina hay una cena para la Comunidad cada lunes de 6:00-7:00pm en el Centro Parroquial. Comida caliente gratuita también está disponible en cada martes en la Iglesia Luterana de 5-6 pm, todos los miércoles en la Iglesia Metodista Unida de 6-7pm y los jueves en la Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana de 6-7pm. Los esperamos!

LUZ
Toda la oscuridad del mundo no puede apagar la luz de una pequeña vela. —Anónimo
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Esta semana recordamos a los niños judíos que fueron asesinados por orden del Rey Herodes en Belén. Esa tragedia que ocurrió cuando el viejo y celoso rey se enteró del nacimiento de un nuevo rey de los judíos. Él mandó a matar a todo niño que tuviera menos de dos años. El llanto de las familias que perdieron sus pobres inocentes se ha convertido en risas en varios países latinoamericanos. El 28 de diciembre en muchas partes es conmemorado como el día de los inocentes que viene siendo el April Fools Day de Latinoamérica. En ese día se hacen bromas para burlarse de los amigos. Si la broma funciona al pobre que fue engañado se le llama “inocente”.

La inocencia normalmente se atribuye a los niños o a los ingenuos, pero en si la inocencia es una virtud cristiana, de los que hemos sido perdonados por Cristo. Esta inocencia no es ingenuidad mas bien es la candidez, simplicidad y generosidad de una persona que conoce bien lo duro que es la vida y aún así mantiene la esperanza.

—Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

¡BIENVENIDO!

Nuestra más cordial bienvenida a todos los que están celebrando con nosotros, ya sean residentes de largo plazo o recién llegados a la parroquia. Damos gracias a Dios por ustedes. Si aún no estás registrado, por favor, llene este formulario y colóquelo en la canasta de la colecta o mandarlo por correo a la oficina de la parroquia.

Nombre: _____________________________
Dirección:____________________________
Ciudad:____________ Código postal:______
Numero teléfono:______________________
Email:________________________________

¿SE HA MUDADO?

¿Se ha mudado recientemente y necesita actualizar su nueva dirección con nuestra parroquia? Mándenos un correo electrónico a Office@stca.org, déjenos una nota en la colección de los Domingos, o también puede llamarnos al (408) 779-3959. Necesitamos su nombre completo, su dirección anterior, su actual dirección, y su nuevo numero de teléfono si es que este también ha cambiado. No se pierda de las estupendas noticias que mandamos por correo o por correo electrónico de nuestros feligreses.

UN ORDEN NUEVO

“Oh, pequeña aldea de Belén”; un clérigo de Filadelfia llamado Phillips Brooks escribió este popular villancico a mediados de los 1800, pero el profeta Miqueas hubiera podido hacerlo primero. Miqueas sabía que el tesoro grande viene en estuche pequeño. En la primera lectura de hoy, él sabía que del pueblito de Belén vendría el Señor.

El escritor de la carta a los hebreos explica que Cristo vino a nosotros para hacer la voluntad de Dios de establecer un nuevo orden y ser un sacrificio perfecto. Y Lucas nos dice que Isabel y Juan, el pequeño en sus entrañas, comprenden que grandes maravillas han llegado con la venida del Señor.

Este es el Cuarto Domingo de Adviento. Mañana celebramos de nuevo el fruto de tu vientre, María. Como se nos dice en Hebreos, el nuevo orden de Jesús se está creando hoy mismo. Y como proclama Miqueas, su grandeza llega ahora mismo hasta los confines de la tierra.

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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, bebes, y algunos artículos para el hogar y muebles. El domicilio de la tiendita es 13570 Depot St. San Martin, CA 95046.
This Christmas Crèche is labeled as “standard” in store catalogues. It has it all: Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angel, shepherds, and magi (the wise men), etc. But do the Gospels agree? The account of Jesus’ birth appears in Matthew chapters 1-2 and Luke chapters 1-2. If you read Luke’s account of the birth of Jesus looking for the wise men, you will not find them there. If you read Matthew expecting to find an inn, a manger, shepherds and angels, you will not find them there. So, why are the stories so different?

The Gospel writers are writing down a tradition communicated to them, not personally witnessed. Each is concerned with telling us what happened but more importantly what it means in relation to salvation history as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

In Luke Jesus comes for everyone but especially for the lowly, the shepherds shivering in the field, and in solidarity with the poor. Thus Luke needs to tell us that Jesus’ first bed is nothing but straw in a trough used to feed animals.

In Matthew the meaning is that Jesus is the fulfillment of the salvation history of Israel: a king born in Bethlehem, like David. Thus Matthew needs to tell us that Jesus was venerated by other kings.

Our Christmas Crèche is a composite. We must then read both Gospels to find our entire Christmas tradition and to have a full, rich and resonating understanding of Jesus Christ, God’s anointed, Savior of the World.
JESUS IS A SWEET BABY GENIUS

Don’t believe me? Read that 2nd reading again. Heck, you don’t even have to read the whole thing, just the second line:

“When Christ came into the world, He said:…”

Still don’t get it?

HE TALKED WHEN CAME OUT OF THE WOMB!

Could you imagine how Mary and Joseph freaked out (not to mention the horse and lamb and donkey and whatever other animals you have in your nativity set)?? Mary finishes pushing little baby Jesus out, and instead of crying, He looks them in the eyes and says, “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me.” And what He says is true because Mary did prepare that body for Him. I mean He didn’t really say that - He probably said it in Aramaic. But still, that Kid was pretty smart. I think it’s safe to say by His knowledge and ability to speak at birth, that He is the smartest person ever. So if He believes in God, who are we to argue?

THROW A HAIL MARY

As I’ve mentioned before, I don’t watch sports much. But I’m pretty sure that this phrase is a reference to a hockey move (totally kidding sports fans, I know it’s a baseball thing). A lot of people, especially non-Catholic Christians (I can’t just say Christians because we as Catholics are Christian - I know, crazy, right?) think it’s not only weird but an all out heresy that we have a prayer to Mary. They think we worship her (WE DO NOT), and that we need to be more Scripture based and not make stuff like the Hail Mary up. Well, if you were paying attention to the Gospel (which I know you were because you’re awesome like that), you know where we get this prayer from (at least the first part).

Side note, I think it’s kind of funny that the Church added “Jesus” to the end of that part of the prayer: “Blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.” In case anyone was confused by what we meant by the fruit of Mary’s womb, they made sure nothing was left to question.

The second part was added by the Church as a petition. It is “the Church’s reflection on Mary’s intercessory role...it reflects the Church’s teaching of her preeminent place in the Communion of Saints…” (marian.org). The first part we give thanks, the second part we ask for her prayers - NOTE that we don’t worship her, but we ask her to pray to God for us. Where do we get this idea from? The Wedding at Cana. The people went to Mary when they ran out of wine, and Mary told Jesus to do it. Seems like a pretty good (and Biblical!) reason to ask Mary pray for us. So next time you get asked about the Hail Mary, you know what to say. And don’t thank me, thank Google. Some people might think that I know all these things. I have learned a lot over the past few years, but anytime I don’t know something, I pray to St. Google, and usually get my prayers answered in less than a second. So thank Google. Or St. Isidore since she’s the patron saint of the internet.

BTW, Do you guys like this format? One solid page instead of two columns? I don’t know which one people would prefer so if you do have a preference, let me know.
4th Week of Advent

This year the Fourth Week of Advent is five days long. Thursday evening is Christmas Eve and Friday, Christmas. For all of us, the story behind these days can draw us in, and invite us to bring our lives to the mystery of how Jesus came into this world and why.

Our best preparation for the Holy Night ahead and the Joyful Morning to follow is for us to reflect upon how he came. He came in the midst of scandal and conflict. He came in poverty. He was rejected before he was born. He was born in a feed trough. He was hunted down. And he grew up in obscurity.

He did not shun our world and its poverty and conflict. He embraced it. And he desires to embrace us today, in this day. Right where we are. Right where we are feeling most distant. Right where we are feeling least “religious” or “ready.” If we let him come into our hearts to be our Savior these challenging days, we will find ourselves entering the sacred night and morning of Christmas “joyful and triumphant” as never before.

Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming.

Come, O Lord.

Excepted from “The Fourth Week of Advent”, Praying Advent, Creighton University’s Online Ministries web site: http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/collaborativeMinistry/online.html. Used with permission.”

Middle School Ministry Youth Donate to St. Vincent de Paul Society

The youth in Middle School Ministry, through their Stewardship Project, recently presented a check for $551.55 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Mrs. Carol Lillig received the check on behalf of the ministry and the youth shared how the funds were raised.

Twenty-six youth were each given $10.00 for the “reverse offertory” and asked to prayerfully consider how they can use the seed money along with their time and talents to benefit the community. The youth were given 5 weeks to complete the project and any funds returned over and above the total seed money would be donated to the church ministry of the group’s choosing.

Several youth combined their funds to organize bake sales, including purchasing ingredients and packaging material. Others did extra chores around the house. Another youth donated directly to his school’s food drive by buying canned goods and asking for additional donations in his neighborhood.

Thank you, middle school youth and all who supported their projects! You make a difference in our community!
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many of our most treasured traditions link the liturgy of the church with the hearth of the home. The food on the table at certain feasts and fasts helps to extend the mystery into everyday life. Tonight, for example, many families of Italian heritage, especially those with links to the south of Italy, will settle down to the “Feast of the Seven Fishes,” or La Vigilia. It is a command performance for the whole family, as the saying goes: Natale con I tuui, Pasqua conchi vuoi, or “Christmas with your family, Easter with whomever you wish.” Seven different fish, some say one for each day of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, others say one for each sacrament, or one for each day of creation, are served. Eel and shrimp, lobster and crab, calamari, pasta with clam sauce, flounder and hake all abound, but most especially baccala, dried salted cod. Why? Many say that it is a way to pay homage to the beasts of the stable who witnessed the holy birth and relinquished their manger to make way for God. Tonight, if someone asks you to “pass the shrimp,” you’ll be able to shed a little light on a menu that is a delicious treasure in our tradition!

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

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!!

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.

Receive your special gift from the Parish on Christmas Day!

MASS TIMES

Are you traveling and don’t know the mass times for the local church? Go to www.masstimes.org, search by zip code or by address and locate any church’s mass times anywhere.

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 Anniversaries 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
A short reception will follow
Call Sylvia Blanch (blanch@dsj.org) at 408-983-0128 for more information.

LOVE NOW

Let those love now who never lov’d before;
let those who always lov’d now love the more.

—Anonymous
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS NURSERY

Our nursery will be closed Sunday Dec. 27th. We open again January 3rd and every Sunday from 8:30 to 11:45am for children ages 1 to 4. Drop in to meet our caretakers and see our toys. Just drop in, there is no fee.

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/

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.

EVERGIVE

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

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.

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.

God is great all the time, all the time, God is great!

THIS IS IT!
LAST CHANCE TO ENTER ST. CATHERINE’S ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES

It’s drawing weekend. Come to the parish center at 2:00pm Sunday the 20th and watch the drawing live! Enjoy complimentary refreshments and snacks and be entered for free door prizes as well. This is also your last chance to buy tickets for the sweepstakes. You don’t have to be present to win, but it sure is 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!

See you there!

WALK FOR LIFE 2015 - JANUARY 24, 2015

St. Catherine’s Parish, please join us attending the "Walk for Life" event in San Francisco along with our Respect Life Committee, Knights of Columbus and our Youth! We have two buses departing from St. Catherine's at 0:00am and returning by 6:00pm. Dress in comfortable shoes, in layers, watching the weather, and bring a lunch. Price is $22 per person, 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
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Catherine Parish
Annual Crab Cioppino

Saturday, January 16th
Dinner 6:30pm
O’Donnell Parish Center

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

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

Purchase Tickets
- Online www.stca.org
- At the parish office
- After weekend Mass

SUNDAY COFFEE AND DONUTS
Please take time to thank our Sunday Coffee and Donut hosts: Family Faith Formation, St. Vincent de Paul, Learning & Loving Center, Women’s Spirituality Group, Fil-AM Association, Ladies of Charity, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Knights of Columbus.
We will not have coffee and donuts on Dec. 27, but the coffee will be hot and the donuts sweet again on January 3rd.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
The Priests and Parish Staff of St. Catherine’s Church wish you and your loved ones a very blessed and Merry Christmas!
The Parish Office is closed, Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP OFFERINGS

Thank you for giving to support our ministries and programs.

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

Peace!

St. Catherine School will be closed December 21-January 1 for the Christmas Holiday. Classes resume Monday, January 4, 2016.

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, February 3. Your grandchild will be inviting you just after the first of the year. For more information, contact Jeff Layne at 408-612-4213 or jlayne@stcatherinemh.org.

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 $182,000 of tuition assistance for 48 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 fesparza@stcatherinemh.org. Thank you for your support!

Students in grades 4-8 enjoy a retreat during the first few months of the school year. The retreats are designed to promote spiritual development, teamwork and use of anti-bullying strategies. Above and left, are classes on their retreats.

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 by this event helps 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 eco-safehome1@yahoo.com.