FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / PRIMER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

From the Desk of Fr. Jeronimo Gutierrez, Pastor……..

Dear parishioners,

Happy New Year! Yes! Today, November 27th begins a New Liturgical Year in the life of the Catholic Church. Today, the Season of Advent gets started a season in which everything during our Liturgies promotes and intense personal and communal preparation to receive the Lord when he comes again and to celebrate his Nativity on Christmas day. How can we prepare ourselves to do this? Let me suggest you the following: what if you make the firm resolution to come to Mass for the four consecutive Sundays of Advent and once here you have the most conscious and active participation than ever before? Why am I suggesting this?

(Continued on page 3…)

Desde el escritorio de Padre Jeronimo Gutierrez, Pastor …. 

Estimados feligreses,
¡Feliz Año Nuevo! Sí, este domingo 27 de noviembre comienza un Nuevo Año Litúrgico en la vida de la Iglesia católica. Hoy comienza el tiempo de Adviento el cual se caracteriza por promover una intensa preparación personal y comunitaria para recibir al Señor cuando él venga de nuevo y para volver a celebrar el nacimiento de Jesús el día de Navidad. ¿Cómo pudiéramos hacerlo? Permitame hacerle la siguiente sugerencia: qué le parece si por los próximos cuatro domingos usted se hace el firme propósito de ir a la santa Misa sin fallar, y estando ahí, participar de una manera más consciente y activa.

(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. Randy Valenton, Parochial Vicar - rvalenton@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
Diana-Lynn Inderhees, Liturgy Coordinator - dinderhees@dsj.org

Readings for the Week
Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Readings for the Coming Week
First Reading — He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-10).
Psalm — Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Psalm 72).
Second Reading — Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9).
Gospel — Produc good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Matthew 3:1-12).

8:15am Mass Intentions
Monday, November 28 † Pete Giordano
† Tsan-Chien Peng
† Sergio Madrigral
† Irina Pazavc
† Doris Noble
† Sergio Madrigral
† Maria Leyva
† Leonard De Palma
† Teresa Flores
† Sergio Madrigral
† Martha Ngoc Nguyen
† Sergio Madrigral
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:___________________

Would you like to receive envelopes?   Yes / No

HAVE YOU MOVED?
Because, last year shortly after my arrival to this parish a person came to my office for a Baptism interview. When I asked to which Mass she attended, she honestly answered me that she had stopped coming to Mass because it was lifeless and boring and she was attending to a Christian Church. Why are you doing that? I asked. Because at that church we all participate and the celebrations are meaningful and joyous.

I shared that story right away with the assemblies of the two Spanish Masses and encouraged them to have a much better participation at Mass. I asked them to respond to the dialogue between the priest and the assembly really laud and to sing in the same manner. I tried to promote a more meaningful and joyous celebration of the Mass.

So, what if during the next four Sundays of Advent you make of the celebration of the Mass the most important moment of your week? What if this New Year you don’t just murmur the answer to the Mass dialogues and songs but participate with all soul and all your heart?

Fr. Jerónimo

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

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK
Winter is almost officially here. Take some time to check that windows close tightly. Put an extra blanket by the bed. Challenge yourself to set the thermostat one degree cooler than last year. It may seem a small savings but when we all share in the effort, we and our world win.

STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE
BY DEACON RICK HAECKEL
Sometimes we take for granted the admonitions contained in our scriptures, particularly when they seem to be so often ignored. Consider the challenge in Isaiah today. After seeking the call of God and finding it in the “word of the LORD in Jerusalem,” which says “one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.” The world has certainly not taken this to heart. Becoming peacemakers instead of antagonists requires that we look deeply into the radical call to eschew violence … in all its forms. We have experienced both the agony and the satisfaction which comes from war. Resisting violence against us, the result of WW II was peace. So much so that it was called the “war to end all wars,” would that it could have been so. The conflicts that have followed have demonstrated the futility of armed conflict. By its nature conflict breeds the antithesis of loving our neighbor. We do well when our neighbor, whether person or country, is friendly; less so when the other is seen as opponent to be vanquished. It has been said that there are no winners in a war. That is more clearly seen in the long term as former enemies can and have become friends. The temptation is to live only in the short term when the victor and the vanquished are clearly evident. Back to Isaiah who spoke in the larger concepts. Most if not all agree that peace is preferable to conflict… but the clamor which arises from the desire to be “right” is often hard to overcome. We must start to overcome at the lowest level, at the person level. We won’t always be successful as we endeavor to avoid conflict but we are answering the call of our Savior, the Prince of peace, to love as he did. Advent is a time of reflection, a time to re-center ourselves as disciples who walk the difficult path that leads to peace.

FROM THE DESK OF FR. JERONIMO…..

Because, last year shortly after my arrival to this parish a person came to my office for a Baptism interview. When I asked to which Mass she attended, she honestly answered me that she had stopped coming to Mass because it was lifeless and boring and she was attending to a Christian Church. Why are you doing that? I asked. Because at that church we all participate and the celebrations are meaningful and joyous.

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Fr. Jerónimo
Liturgy

Liturgy isn’t the work of just a few people. Everyone who celebrates the liturgy has a role to play. And the work we do together can change the world.

Have you found your role? Please contact Diana-Lynn Inderhees at dinderhees@dsj.org.

Liturgy Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Liturgy Environment Coordinator is needed. Check the website for general details.

Saints Chapel - clean chapel area and put new candles out. Looking for Thursday and Friday help before or after the 8:15am daily Mass.

Greeters—welcome parishioners before each Mass. Do you have a few minutes before Mass? You are welcome to greet your fellow parishioners and guest to our parish as they arrive in the vestibule.

Sacrists - needed for all Masses especially at the 5:30 Saturday and 5:30pm Sunday Masses.

Altar Server Albs Maintenance Coordinator—Albs need to be washed once a month and taken to the dry cleaner twice a year.

Linen Care—Need a volunteer to wash and iron Mass linens on the 5th Monday of the month.

Volunteer Hospitality/Greeter Ministry coordinator St. Catherine would like to have a formal Hospitality / Greeter ministry.

Lead Usher for the 5:30 Sunday Mass—usher responsibilities and to engage our youth in ministry (youth help with the collection)

Liturgical Ministry and Contact

Liturgy Coordinator / Environment (church)

Diana-Lynn Inderhees dinderhees@dsj.org

Karen Barone kbarone@wildblue.net

Extraordinary Ministry of Holy Communion Minister / Sacrists

Signe Montosa montosa@msn.com

Kareen Barone kbarone@wildblue.net

Funeral Ministry

Karen Barone kbarone@wildblue.net

Tami Hopwood hopwoodtt@msn.com

Hospitality Ushers

David Dindak david@coasttocoastdatasearch.com

Music

Lisa Kellett lisakellett517@gmail.com

Proclaimer of the Word (Lectors)

Jim Yinger jfyinger@gmail.com

Pat Rudolph patricia95037@yahoo.com

Before the Second Vatican Council in the mid-1960s, Advent had a strong penitential tone, reminiscent of Lent. From as long ago as the fourth century, some Christians began a solemn fast on St. Martin’s Day, November 11. This “Saint Martin’s Lent” extended all the way to Christmas, and was widely followed in the dioceses of France and Germany, and in the Middle Ages in England. Fasting was required, and dancing and similar activities were banned for the duration. The fast had a social function, too, assuring that the winter food supplies would stretch into spring.

At the Second Vatican Council, some bishops argued that a revival of the long winter’s fast would give the Church a chance to establish the message and themes of the Incarnation long before the holiday hubbub took hold. This proposal didn’t pass, and Advent emerged as a four-week period of reflection, expectant waiting, and joyful preparation for the coming of the Lord. The season has two principal phases, with the first beginning this Sunday. The second phase commences on December 17, when the liturgy begins to unfold the story of the Savior’s coming. Interestingly, the Eastern Church maintains a strongly penitential note in Advent, which is called “Winter Lent.” “The Nativity Fast,” or “Christmas Lent,” and has laws forbidding people to absent themselves from liturgy from December 17 onward.

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

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Todas las naciones confluirán hacia el monte del Señor (Isaías 2:1-5).
Salmo — Qué alegría cuando me dijeron: “Vamos a la casa del Señor” (Salmo 122 [121]).
Segunda lectura — Ya es el momento de que se despierten del sueño (Romanos 13:11-14).
Evangelio — Velen, pues, y estén preparados para la venida del Hijo del hombre (Mateo 24:37-44).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Is 4:2-6; Sal 122 (121):1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Martes: Is 11:1-10; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lc 10:21-24
Miércoles: Rom 10:9-18; Sal 19 (18):8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Jueves: Is 26:1-6; Sal 118 (117):1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Viernes: Is 29:17-24; Sal 27 (26):1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Sábado: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Sal 147 (146):1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Domingo: Is 11:1-10; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DE PADRE JERÓNIMO CONTINUADO……..

¿Porqué sugiero eso? Déjeme le cuento que el año pasado una persona vino a mi oficina a la entrevista anterior al bautismo de su bebé. Cuando le pregunté a cual Misa venía, honestamente me contestó que ya no iba a Misa porque era muy aburrida, que estaba asistiendo a una iglesia cristiana. Y, ¿porqué lo hace? Me dijo que en la iglesia cristiana las celebraciones son muy bonitas, que la gente participa mucho y que cantan muy alegres.

Inmediatamente, compartí esa historia con la asamblea de las Misas en español y les pedí que contestaran y cantaran en voz alta, que hicieran que la celebración fuera significativa y alegre. No he alcanzado el nivel que esa persona me platicó de las liturgias cristianas pero se ha mejorado muchísimo.

¿Qué le parece si estos cuatro domingos de Adviento usted hace de la Misa dominical el momento más importante de su semana? ¿Qué le parece si este Año Nuevo usted no sólo murmurará las respuestas y los cantos sino que contesta a los diálogos y canta con todo su pecho y su corazón?

P. Jerónimo

¡Dios es Grande Todo el Tiempo, Todo el Tiempo Dios es Grande!

FELICITAMOS LOS CUMPLEAÑOS DEL MES DE NOVIEMBRE

Sábado, 26 de Noviembre
Gitzelle Villa
Marisol Gonzalez

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

CUMPLE HOY

Si lo que hiciste ayer todavía te parece enorme, seguro que no has hecho mucho hoy.

—Anónimo
PRIMER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

MISIÓN DE ADVIENTO
Los invitamos a misión de Adviento que tendremos el 30 de Noviembre y 1 de Diciembre a las 7:00 pm en la Iglesia. El P. Gerardo Menchaca nos compartirá la reflexión: **Adviento: una esperanza que no muere.** Los esperamos.

ESTAR PREPARADO
Debes estar preparado. Es así de simple. Al comenzar este tiempo de Adviento, el Señor Jesús nos llama a estar preparados para su venida. En esta época del año, gran parte de nuestra atención se centra en estar preparados para los detalles que acompañan las fiestas. Compramos regalos; decoramos nuestro hogar por fuera y por dentro; preparamos comidas especiales para esta época; escribimos y enviamos tarjetas de Navidad; asistimos a conciertos navideños; nos preparamos para recibir a los familiares y amigos en nuestro hogar o para visitarlos en sus hogares. No podemos ignorar los detalles que forman parte de este tiempo. Quizás este Adviento sea un tiempo para prestar atención a todos esos detalles con un enfoque diferente. Mientras nos preparamos para celebrar la fiesta de Navidad, ¿qué tal si reconocemos plenamente la presencia del Señor mientras realizamos estas tareas? El Señor muchas veces viene a nosotros de formas maravillosamente sorprendentes. Estemos preparados.

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE
El calendario cristiano comienza con el tiempo de Adviento durante el mes de diciembre. ¡Adviento! Interesante palabra. Viene del latín y quiere decir “Allí viene” o “Ya está llegando”. Pero, ¿de quién hablamos cuando proclamamos “Adviento”? ¿Del Rey de gloria?, ¿el Príncipe de la paz?, ¿el Hijo de Dios Altísimo?, ¿el salvador de Israel? Sí, sí, sí y sí, pero más todavía del Hijo del Hombre, del niño de María, el niño Jesús de Nazaret. Allí viene y ya está llegando. Tenemos que estar preparados. Pero, ¿cómo prepararnos para la llegada de un rey que es pobre?, ¿de un príncipe que nació entre una mula y un buey?, ¿de un niño que ya es todo un hombre y además es Dios?, ¿de un pobre bebé que también es juez y señor? He allí el dilema del Adviento cristiano. Es un llamado a vivir la paradoja (contradicción) de un tiempo que está a medias, donde el Reino de los Cielos ya está pero todavía no completamente, pues existe pero no en su plenitud. Es un llamado a buscar en el templo, en el mall, en el barrio, en el hogar, en el trabajo y en el propio corazón, para ver si “allí viene” el dueño de la casa. Es un llamado a estar atentos y vigilantes porque no sabemos ni cuándo ni cómo Jesús regresará por nosotros. Pero cuando regrese nos pedirá cuentas y nos abrazará a la misma vez. Porque viene como juez y hermano nuestro, como rey y compañero; como Dios y ser humano. Así es como los cristianos inician el año litúrgico, y a la misma vez, terminamos el año seglar con la paradoja de nuestra fe.
—Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

GRUPO AMIGOS
Se les invita a todos los jóvenes que estén en la preparatoria para que asistan al Grupo Amigos. Grupo Amigos es un grupo para hacer buenas amistades y para aprender nuevas cosas que ayudarán en sus vidas y crecer en su fe. Los esperamos todos los viernes a las 7:00pm en el Centro Milani.
¡EL SORTEO ANUAL LLEGA A SUS ÚLTIMAS SEMANAS! ES TIEMPO DE CONSIDERAR SU REGALO DE NAVIDAD.

¡Qué tal un automóvil nuevo! Entre en el 34° sorteo anual de la iglesia de Santa Catalina el día de hoy.

Su compra de un boleto de tan solo $60 para el sorteo del automóvil podría ponerlo detrás del volante de un automóvil de su elección con el valor de hasta $40,000. Como una alternativa al premio del coche, el afortunado ganador puede optar para recibir $30,000 en efectivo.

¡El boleto para el sorteo de vacaciones es de $20! Usted nombra el lugar y su boleto ganador tendrá que financiarlo hasta $7,500. O alternativamente el ganador puede optar para recibir $5,000 en efectivo. ¡Este boleto tiene cinco grandes premios para ganar, incluyendo un nuevo Apple iPad, efectivo y unas vacaciones a Disneyland!

Aun tenemos algunos Paquetes de Bono a la venta. Aumente sus probabilidades de ganar y proporcione una donación sólida a su comunidad. Por $350 reciba 4 boletos para el sorteo del vehículo, 5 boletos para el sorteo de las vacaciones y se ingresa en cinco sorteos adicionales incluyendo nuestro Gran Premio de Bono de $2,000.

Visite nuestra mesa al salir de misa hoy.

Aceptamos Cheques, Efectivo, Visa, MasterCard, y AmEx.

POSADAS

Vamos a tener la celebración de las posadas en la parroquia. Iniciarán a las 7:00 p.m., excepto la del día 18 a las 5:00 p.m. Los esperamos a prepararnos con esta novena a la Navidad.

- Diciembre 16 (POSADA GENERAL) @Centro Parroquial
- Diciembre 18 @Centro Parroquial (Inicia 5:00 p.m.)
- Diciembre 19 @Milani
- Diciembre 20 @Centro Parroquial
- Diciembre 22 @Centro Parroquial
- Ext. de la Sagrada Comunión
- Edo. de México
- Diciembre 19 @Milani
- Monaguillos
- Diciembre 20 @Centro Parroquial
- Coros
- Diciembre 22 @Centro Parroquial
- Danza Litúrgica
- Diciembre 23 @Centro Parroquial

La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul de Santa Catalina tiene una tiendita comunitaria, que estará abierta todos los Martes y Jueves de 10:00 am a 12:00 am 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.

La Comunidad Parroquial de Santa Catalina de Morgan Hill los invita a participar a la festividad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe 2016

Horario de Festividades Guadalupanas

Jueves 8 de Diciembre
7:00 pm  Misa La Inmaculada Concepción de María

Viernes 9 de Diciembre
7:00 pm  Misa en la iglesia de Guadalupe en San José, Ca. Nos reuniremos aquí en la Iglesia a las 5:00 pm para ir hacia allá.

Domingo 11 de Diciembre
10:00 am  Procesión, nos reuniremos por la calle Depot y estacionamiento del Centro Cultural Comunitario por las Calles Dunne y Monterey en Morgan Hill
11:00 am  Bendición de las imágenes.
12:15 pm  Misa solemne en la Iglesia y en el centro Parroquial
2:00 pm  Entretenimiento y Comida

Lunes 12 de Diciembre
12:00 am-4:00 am  Serenata Guadalupana por Parroquianos
4:00 am  Mananitas con Mariachi
5:00 am  Misa
4:00 am-8:00 am  Pan y chocolate en el salón parroquial. Habrá venta de menudo
7:00 pm  Misa Bilingüe
I am humbled, honored and excited to visit and speak at your parish. My name is John Sablan, a child of God, a devoted husband and father and Catholic speaker & evangelist.

Answering the call to evangelize, it is my goal to inspire others to come to a deeper love and knowledge of our Catholic faith in order to better serve God, the Church and the world. It is in this speaking ministry that I hope to share the story of God’s love in my life to motivate you to live out a life of faith with zeal, fervor and fire!

I have over 12 years of ministry experience both at the parish and diocesan level ranging from all age groups and am working on my Master’s degree in Theology from Augustine Institute. I am currently an aspirant in the permanent diaconate formation process within my diocese and God willing, will be ordained in 2019.

Please join me on:
Sunday, December 4th at 7pm - 830pm
Monday, December 5th at 7pm - 830pm
Tuesday, December 6th at 7pm - 830pm

I look forward to meeting you, God Bless. John
For more information contact. Anna quinones at aquinones@dsj.org

Doing without things that most of us take for granted is a way of life for some families in our community. Some children cannot go to social events, expect certain toys for Christmas or their birthday, or even have a Christmas tree because their families cannot afford these expenses. Fortunately, the families of St. Catherine Parish have the Parish Giving Tree / Adopt A Family Christmas Program to help make the dreams of their children come true...

This program is more than just giving and receiving. It is mainly about sharing one’s love and strength with someone else who feels tired and run down. By participating in this type of program, “…the strength of our ever loving Christ child becomes present and joy fills the air.”

If you, your family or a group of families would like to adopt a family, please contact Anna Quiñones at aquinones@dsj.org or cell phone 408.234-0225.

Of course you may choose to take a star from the Giving Tree as you do every year. On your star there will be information about an Adult or Child, Female/Girl or Male/Boy, clothing size, and or toys.

We are requesting the gifts be returned by Sunday, December 11th; all gifts should be returned to the Church and placed under the Giving Tree on the weekends or taken to the Parish Rectory office during the weekdays. On Sunday, December 18th at 9:30am in the Milani Center, we will begin sorting, preparing and delivering gifts to our families. You can volunteer to help on volunteer at www.stca.org

If you would like to participate by donating money or gift cards all gifts are appreciated. Please make the check payable to “St. Catherine Parish Giving Tree” and deliver it to the Parish Rectory office.
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY HOUR/HAPPY HOUR

Last month we went to the Running Shop & Hops after spending some much needed time in front of the Blessed Sacrament. We had a great time—tasting different beers and playing bean bag toss (or corn hole, whichever you prefer). It was a great opportunity to catch up as well as meet new people. If you’re a young adult, join us this Friday—Holy Hour is from 6-7pm, and Happy Hour (it’s actually too late for an official happy hour, so drinks are normal price) starts at 7:30. Please message me or follow us for more details or to stay updated—@stcatyam (on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook).

FIRST SUNDAY OF

I’m pumped for Advent this year. More than in other years. But for one reason in particular. 

What reason is that Deepu?

Because we have an Advent candles and a new Advent wreath.

…..

So, the reason I’m excited about it is, well, we haven’t really had one before in our new house*…we’ve either had Advent candles and no wreath, or some type of wreath but no actual Advent candles (for the past few years we’ve painted regular candles purple and pink—sure they’re the trendy DIY candles, but it gets a little funky when the paint melts…

The reason why we haven’t had Advent candles is because we kept forgetting to buy them before Advent. But not this year! This year, Beth remembered early enough.

So this year we are finally prepared and ready for Advent.

So what is Advent? It’s the season in the Church’s Liturgical year where we spend time preparing and getting ready for Christmas.

Uh, Deepu, that started the day after Hallow-

Stop right there. I don’t want to hear from people who don’t wait til Thanksgiving to get on Christmas.

Anyways, you might be wondering, why I’m talking about being prepared for the season in which we need to be prepared. Too often, we get caught up in the tree and presents and all that stuff, that we forget to prepare ourselves for the birth of Sweet Baby Jesus. Now, there’s nothing wrong with those things, but we should prepare ourselves to talk with our families about it—to make sure that on Christmas Day we share as a family why Jesus’ birth is so important. If we wait til Christmas Day, we’d probably just say, “Uh, Happy Birthday Jesus” and be done with it.

So spend some time looking up questions to talk about as a family on Christmas Day. Think about one thing you can do differently this year that would bring a little bit more attention or focus to Jesus’ birth and presence in our world. Still do the presents and the feasts and the celebration that your family holds as tradition, but add something so that your family—your kids, your parents, your siblings, your friends—know that you are also celebrating your Catholic faith.

*this might not be factually accurate, but my memory tells me this is true. Beth might tell you differently, and since I have a pretty bad memory, you should probably go with whatever she says.
This Sunday, we begin the season of Advent, a time to wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus. It is also a season of HOPE - hope at a time when we need to remember that there is a light in the darkness.

How can we actively wait in our homes and within our families? Active is the operative word - not the passive, uninspired waiting as if in a waiting room. It is waiting with expectation, with the sure knowledge of the Good News of Jesus, the presence of the Holy Spirit at work around us and the boundless love of God that embraces us. Following are ways that you can actively wait during this Advent season:

- **Watch**
  Look for ways that Jesus is already present and at work in our daily lives. How have you seen Jesus today?

- **Serve**
  Be the hands of Jesus in our community. Serve others through the various parish activities including the Knights of Columbus Christmas Party on December 1st or the Giving Tree on December 17th.

- **Pray**
  Pray together as a family around the family Advent Wreath (make one on November 30th at the Advent Family Celebration!). Slow down and share with each other about the meaning of Advent, focusing on each of the themes of the Sundays of Advent: HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.

Join us as we prepare for the upcoming Advent Season. Gather as community and share in the prayer reflections and family friendly activities including making an Advent Wreath! For further information, please call the Faith Formation office at (408) 779-9604.

Display your family Nativity set and visit the St. Catherine Nativity Exhibit on December 3-4, 2016! For further information, please contact Blanca Cinco at blanca.cinco@sbcglobal.net or (408) 362-3466. Volunteers are also needed for set up and during the event. Please sign up through I-Volunteer on the parish website.
Come Join Us for
St. Catherine’s
1st Holiday Boutique!
Sunday, November 27th
8:00am - 2:30pm
St. Catherine O’Donnell Parish Center

- Crafts & Local Vendors to fill your holiday wish list!
- Rustic4rusty
- JAFRA
- Squirt & Doodle
- Pampered Chef
- Pet Apparel
- Fleece Blankets
- Bows
- Kim’s Elegant Craft Closet
- Hair Clips & Scarves
- Rosaries, Jewelry & so much more!
The annual sweepstakes is in its final weeks. It’s time to consider your early Christmas present.

How about a new car! Enter the 34th Annual St. Catherine’s Sweepstakes today.

Your purchase of a $60 Vehicle Sweepstakes ticket may put you behind the wheel of a brand new car with a sticker price up to $40,000. As an alternative to the car prize, the lucky winner can choose to receive $30,000 in cash.

The $20 Vacation Sweepstakes Ticket offers a Trip of a Lifetime! You name the place and your winning ticket will fund it up to $7,500. Have a family of 4 and want to include your children? You could enjoy Hawaii for 7 nights or a 7 day Alaska, Caribbean or Mexico cruise vacation. 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! Increase your odds of winning and provide a solid donation to your community. For $350 get 4 vehicle tickets, 5 vacation tickets and be entered into five additional cash drawings including our Bonus Bundle Grand Prize of $2,000.

Visit our table as you walk out of mass today.

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

GHANA MISSION

Advent Lutheran Church is sponsoring a supply drive for the students of Awaso Academy International. Please join us in collecting items to support the students and parents in Awaso, Ghana. Drop off the items at MH engineering, 16075 Vineyard Blvd., Morgan Hill.

Donations Needed-New backpacks, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, expo markers, chalk, 3x5 index cards, folders, and stickers.

Also, soon the parents will be learning to can food. They will need pressure cookers and canning jars.

Thank you for your prayers and support. The students continue to thrive and the school continues to develop.

Questions-email Monica, monicamc@me.com

EXPLORING AGING OPTIONS

Have you started thinking about how you or your loved ones want to spend your older years? If you have, you may be asking yourself questions such as: How do I pay for care and how much does it cost? Will I and/or my parents be physically strong enough to take care of myself/themselves? If I am not, where do I go? Who can help me? How do I maintain my independence? How can I ensure I am able to stay in my home? How can I help my loved ones cope?

Catholic Charities now has an Elder Care Line available to assist you in navigating through different scenarios, and choices that come with aging as well as the services and resources available to aide you on your journey. Catholic Charities Elder care line offers confidential support, encouragement, and referrals for elder care service needs. Our professional elder care specialists understand the needs of seniors as well as their loved ones and offer a host of services and support when you need it most. Our services range from in Home Care Services and Adult Activities Centers to dementia care and coordination of services to fit your needs. Our team will help you think through options and create solutions that fit your individual and family needs.

Contact us today to speak to a Care Advisor: 408-831-0441
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“LIFE SHARING” TIME BEFORE 5:30 SUNDAY EVENING MASS DURING ADVENT

We would like to offer an opportunity for all of us to learn a little bit more about the lives of our fellow parishioners. We would like to give people a chance to tell us about themselves. Tell us about experiences that made them the person they have become (so far). Tell us about their response to the words and actions of Jesus. We hope that learning from the lives of our friends will improve our own lives and help us make the world a better place. We will offer this “life sharing” time before the 5:30 Sunday evening mass each week during Advent. (That’s 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18.) We will start at 4:45. We have asked 4 people to take a turn talking each week. They will share a few stories from their lives for 10 minutes or so. Then we will spend 20 minutes or so talking about what they had to say. We will finish up at 5:15 and head over to mass. If this sounds good to you, please join us. We will be meeting in Milani Center. Any questions? Call or text or email Joe or Carol Lillig.

Carol 408-857-4516 lillig@garlic.com
Joe 408-781-3847 jplillig@gmail.com

CHECK OUT STEPHEN MINISTRY

Have you been wanting to find out more about this wonderful ministry? Please stop by our ministry table, next Sunday in the Parish Center after morning mass. Stephen Ministers will be on hand to answer your questions about becoming a Stephen Minister or help you determine whether you or someone you know might benefit from the care of the Stephen Minister. Contact Claranne Schirle at 408-782-1413 for more information.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Did you miss Donuts and Coffee during the Summer months? Would you like to join our new Hospitality Committee? The committee will be responsible for organizing and seeing through our Hospitalities on Sundays. Join us for meeting to form the committee on Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00pm the Parish Office’s Living Room.

Married Singles Lifestyle

–The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This program has helped 10’s of 1000’s of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels of marital distress from disillusionment to deep misery. For confidential information about, or to register for the weekend of January 20-22, 2017 call 831-479-1260 or email: Monterey@RetroCA.com or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Remember Your Parish this Christmas

St. Catherine Parish greatly relies on your generous Christmas offering.
Thank you and God bless you!

A Christmas Gift for Your Parish

Christmas is on Sunday, December 25th. In order to balance our parish budget every year we rely heavily on the generous gifts that come to us through the Christmas collection. We also rely heavily on the weekly Offertory gifts that are made 52 weeks out of the year. Both your Christmas gifts to our parish and your weekly Offertory gifts help us manage our operating budget through winter when heating bills are high and unexpected costs arise.

For this reason, we ask you to please be as generous as possible with your Christmas gift to the parish. If possible, please use both your weekly envelope and your Christmas envelope this Christmas.

In case you have not realized Christmas is on a Sunday and we will not ask you to come to mass twice, but your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity both throughout the year and at Christmas!

Sunday Mass Offertory Budget: $22,271
Christmas Offertory Budget: $65,000
**APPLICATIONS FOR 2017-2018**

Applications for the 2017-2018 school year are now available in the school office or on the school website. Please note the application deadline for kindergarten is December 15, while applications for grades 1-8 are due March 1.

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.

**MATH IN THE REAL WORLD**

Fifth graders used their math and tech skills to develop budgets for Thanksgiving dinner. Students were allotted an amount they could spend per person for their Thanksgiving dinner. First they designed a menu, then determined how much food would be needed based on the number of guests they expected for Thanksgiving. Using newspaper ads and visits to the grocery store for pricing, each student developed a spreadsheet which indicated the number of items needed, unit price for each item and total cost for the amount needed. Their spreadsheets also totaled the amount the students would need. If that amount went over budget, the student needed to make some changes to their menu until he/she was within the budget allotted.

This activity introduced spreadsheets and reinforced estimation, as well as addition and multiplication of decimals. Students were very surprised to learn the real world prices of food and the challenge of staying on budget.

**TREATS FOR OUR TROOPS**

Operation Care and Comfort, a San Jose based Military Charity, hosts “Treats for Troops” each year after Halloween. Students donated their leftover Halloween candy to send to the deployed troops overseas. At St. Catherine School over 245 pounds of candy was collected. Students packed and weighed the candy which was taken to Avaya Stadium to be packed with all the other candy collected in Santa Clara county for shipping to various stations overseas. We hope the troops enjoy their treats!

**BUILDING LEADERS**

Six St. Catherine 7th graders were accepted into the Notre Dame High School LEAD program which promotes leadership development. LEAD, along with Student Council and various clubs, such as Rosary Club and National Junior Honor Society, give students opportunities to develop confidence and leadership skills.

St. Catherine School strives to help all students become responsible, contributing citizens who demonstrate Christian values and good decision making.