SAINT CATHERINE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
COMUNIDAD CATÓLICA DE SANTA CATALINA

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

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

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

From the Desk of Deacon Rick Haeckel…….

Next week we celebrate the birth of Jesus as one like us, human. It also reminds us of one of our Catholic faith’s duality, namely that Jesus is truly God and truly human. That truth is hard to grasp but easy to say. Since Jesus’ incarnation was some two thousand years ago, way beyond our direct experience, it is sometimes said that we Catholics have a harder time seeing Jesus as human than as God. We’ve known Jesus as God since his resurrection long ago. Scripture, especially the Gospels, records Jesus’ life as a man. Reflecting on the human life of Jesus gives us the realization that Jesus felt the emotions, challenges and discouragements we do. I bring this up in order that we accept our innate worth as humans, the humans that God created in and for love.

(Continued on page 3…)

Desde el escritorio de Rick Haeckel, Diácono ….

La próxima semana celebramos el nacimiento de Jesús como uno como nosotros, humano. También nos recuerda una de las dualidades de nuestra fe católica, a saber, que Jesús es verdaderamente Dios y verdaderamente humano. La verdad es difícil de sostener pero es fácil de decir. Como la encarnación de Jesús fue hace unos dos mil años, muy antes de nuestra existencia, si dice que a veces nosotros los católicos se nos hace más difícil ver a Jesús como humano que como Dios. Hemos conocido a Jesús como Dios desde que fue resucitado hace mucho. La Escritura, especialmente los Evangelios, registra la vida de Jesús como hombre. Reflexionar sobre la vida humana de Jesús nos da la comprensión de que Jesús sintió las emociones, los desafíos y los desalientos que hacemos.

(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:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 6-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5,27-29; Lk 1:67-79

**Sunday:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; 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]

**READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

**First Reading** — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

**Psalm** — All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

**Second Reading** — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God’s being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

**Gospel** — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).


**THE WEEK AHEAD / LA SEMANA PRÓXIMA**

**Sunday/Domingo, December 18**

8:00-12:00pm NUR Bright Beginnings Nursery
9:00-10:15am DC CLOW
3:30-5:30pm CH Worship Choir - Kellett
4:30-5:30pm NUR Faith Sharing group
5:00-7:00pm Rm.8 Spanish Bible Study
7:00-9:00pm MC Life Night

**Monday/Lunes, December 19**

12:00-2:30pm CH Over 50’s luncheon
6:00-7:00pm CR 34 & 35 Community supper
6:00-8:30pm Rm.8 Bell Choir / Angelica Choir
6:00-8:00pm NUR Women’s Stitching group
6:30-9:00pm MC Posada
6:30-7:30pm Rm.11 Cub Scout Den 7 - meeting
7:00-8:30pm Rm.10 Jovenes Para Cristo

**Tuesday/Martes, December 20**

5:00-9:30pm CH Liturgy training/Enviroment
6:30-9:00pm CR 34 & 35 Posada
6:45-9:00pm Rm.8 Stephen Ministry supervision - mtg.
7:00-9:00pm Rm.11 Jovenes Para Cristo Ensallo de Caro
7:00-8:30pm LR Sweepstakes committee

**Wednesday/Miercoles, December 21**

12:00-8:00pm NUR Rose’s choir
5:00-6:00pm CH Children’s choir
5:30-6:30pm MC FF MSM Session
6:30-7:50pm Rm.8 Jesus to Mankind Prayer Group
6:30-7:30pm CH Adoracion
6:30-8:30pm Rm10 Jovenes Para Cristo Choir
7:30-9:30pm CH Alpha & Omega Charismatic Group
8:00-9:00pm NUR Fil Am Committee meeting

**Thursday/Jueves, December 22**

5:30-9:00pm CH Spanish Choir
6:30-9:00pm CR 34 & 35 Posada
7:00-9:00pm Rm.10 RICA
7:00-9:00pm NUR Schola Cantorum

**Friday/Viernes, December 23**

OFFICE CLOSED

9:30-10:30am Bible Study
7:00-10:00pm CR 34-35 Posada

**Saturday/Sábado, December 24**

4:00-5:00pm CH Christmas Eve Mass
4:00-5:00pm CR 1-4 Christmas Eve Mass
6:00-7:00pm CH Christmas Eve Mass
8:00-9:00pm CH Misa de Noche Buena

8:15am Mass Intentions

Monday, December 19 † Tom Tacci
† Sergio Madrigal
Tuesday, December 20 † Sergio Madrigal
† Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday, December 21 † Sara Lua
† Sergio Madrigal
Thursday, December 22 † Sergio Madrigal
† Maria N. Vargas
Friday, December 23 † Rienzi Ranasinghe
† Frank Gamez

**FAITH SHARING QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

Adult: “What would Jesus see to praise about you right now?”

Child: “What good thing have you done so far during Advent to be like Jesus?”
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE
BY DEACON RICK HAECKEL

We use language, more specifically words, to be able to express meaning. Today’s Gospel uses a word that strikes a chord. “Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man…” We’ve heard this phrase often but the word righteous stands out, not because we don’t think that Joseph doesn’t merit that description, but because we seldom use or hear that word today. Being righteous says so much more that being right, yet being right gets great play. Wanting to be right can lead us to overlook the need for the essential correctness of our position in favor of defending that we are “right” and someone or thing is “wrong.” How sad, when we feel we have to be right (when the situation is not a fundamental truth) we can abrogate our moral self in favor of justifying our position when we truly know upon rational reflection, that the truth suffers from the need to be “right.” Well perhaps we need to reflect on being righteous, like Joseph. Righteousness implies that essential truth and goodness are not found always in facts but rather in reasoning which reflects our moral compass. The current times demonstrate that part of our Advent repentance and renewal asks that we look again at the need to be right rather than righteous. Being right is a momentary “win” … perhaps won at the cost of exaggeration or even stretching the truth. Such wins are hollow, transitory events. Seeing the other’s side when we differ, avoiding anger and demonizing the other, offer us a sense of inner worth… even righteousness. Joseph was “wrong” by his contemporary standards, but his acceptance of Mary’s pregnancy brought us the incarnation of God with us. Without comparing our lives to his we nevertheless have the opportunity when faced with decisions which are difficult to slow down, to reflect, to evaluate our motivations, to … be righteous people.

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK
As gift time approaches consider alternatives to store bought wrapping paper. Leftover fabric, lightweight wall paper, colorful scarves, even Sunday comics work just as well. Reuse is even better that recycling what we no longer need.

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!

FROM THE DESK OF DEACON RICK…..

Next we contemplate Jesus’ divinity as the second person of the Trinity. Here we have no direct correlation with our experience. Father, Son and Holy Spirit as one God is another challenge, one which is beyond our temporal understanding. Believing this truth is an act of faith, the faith which is a gift from God. Sometimes we struggle and even doubt as we live in a world in which sensate realization dominates. But the yearning to cognitively understand is part of our normal worldly life. When we reflect on our faith it is natural that we want Jesus and the Trinity to be “known” as we know ourselves. This uncertainty, rather than being an impediment, is in fact a gift. Our spiritual life is part of our everyday being but often lies resting in the back of our minds. We bring it forward in prayer and good works. It’s in the struggle to come to an understanding of the unknowable that the great gift of God coming among us as a human gives us grace, peace and solace. The Christ child we celebrate touches and softens our heart, inviting us to reflect on our own growth as spiritual children of God. Much of this seems pretty cerebral, lacking in direct application in our day to day living. That sense of lacking is in reality an invitation to an openness to find God in our lives. Have we grown in sensing God with us, are we better able to be Christ for one another, can we see others as God’s children too? This journey of growth is fed by the presence of Jesus. The child whose birth and death we celebrate is real food. Jesus is with us always; the awareness of that truth begins to manifest itself in our lives when we act as He asks, by loving God and one another. That is the truth made understandable, may we return often to be fed in order for us to feed others.

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
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGY

Liturgy isn’t the work of just a few people. Everyone at 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.

Liturgical Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Environment Coordinator needed. Check the website for details.

Saints Chapel - clean chapel area and put out new candles. Help needed during the day. Contact: Ralph Ortega at ralphndebbie@icloud.com

Greetings - welcome parishioners before Masses. Do you have a few minutes before Mass? You are welcome to greet parishioners and guests to our parish as they arrive in the vestibule.

Sacrists - needed for all Masses especially at the 5:30pm Saturday and 5:30pm Sunday Masses. Please contact Signe Montosa directly for training. See below.

Volunteer Hospitality/Greeter coordinator
We want to form a formal Hospitality/Greeter ministry.

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

Liturgical Ministry and Contact

Liturgy Coordinator
Diana-Lynn Inderhees dinderhees@dsj.org

Altar Servers
Karen Barone kbarone@wildblue.net

Saints Chapel
Ralph Ortega ralphndebbie@icloud.com

Environment (church)
Diana-Lynn Inderhees dinderhees@dsj.org

Ministers of Holy Communion / Sacrists
Signe Montosa montosa@msn.com
Karen Barone kbarone@wildblue.net

Funeral Ministry
Karen Barone kbarone@wildblue.net
Tamara Hopwood hopwoodtt@msn.com

Hospitality Ushers
David Dindak david@coasttocooldowndatasearch.com

Linen Care
Diana-Lynn Inderhees dinderhees@dsj.org

Music
Lisa Kellett lisa kellett517@gmail.com

Proclaimer of the Word (Lectors)
Jim Yinger jflyinger@gmail.com
Pat Rudolph patricia95037@yahoo.com

Upcoming Mass Schedules

Ministry Sign Up Sheets are in the Sacristy.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th
4:00pm in the church
4:00pm in the parish center
6:00pm
8:00pm in Spanish
12:00am Midnight in English

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th
8:45am
10:30am
12:15pm in Spanish

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

Training and renewal sessions are held in the church from 7:00 to 9:00pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/31/17</td>
<td>NEW EM TRAINING - Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/7/17</td>
<td>NEW EM TRAINING - Procedure</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/14/17</td>
<td>NEW LECTOR TRAINING - Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/21/17</td>
<td>NEW LECTOR TRAINING - Procedure</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/7/17</td>
<td>EXISTING EM - Renewal</td>
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SAINTS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter Solstice
Thursday: St. John of Kanty
Friday: The Vigil of Christmas
Saturday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

GETTING EVEN

The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you.

—Anonymous

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas.

—Charles Dickens
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — La señal del Señor es que la virgen estará embarazada y dará a luz un hijo varón (Isaías 7:10-14).

Salmo — Va a entrar el Señor: Él es el Rey de la Gloria (Salmo 24 [23]).

Segunda lectura — Jesús, descendiente de David biológicamente, fue establecido el Hijo de Dios en poder. (Romanos 1:1-7).

Evangelio — María, la comprometida de José, quedó embarazada por obra del Espíritu Santo (Mateo 1:18-24).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Jue 13:2-7, 24-25a; Sal 71 (70);3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lc 1:5-25
Martes: Is 7:10-14; Sal 24 (23);1-4ab, 5-6; Lc 1:26-38
Miércoles: Cant 2:8-14 o Sof 3:14-18a; Sal 33 (32);2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lc 1:39-45
Jueves: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lc 1:46-56
Viernes: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Sal 25 (24);4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lc 1:57-66
Sábado: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Sal 89 (88);2-5, 27, 29; Lc 1:67-79
Domingo: Vigilia: Is 62:1-5; Sal 97 (96);4-5, 16-17, 2729; Hch 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Noche: Is 9;1-6; Sal 96 (95);1-3, 11-13; Tit 2:11-14; Lc 2:14-17
Aurora: Is 62:11-12; Sal 97 (96);1, 6, 11-12; Tit 3:4-7; Lc 2:15-20
Día: Is 52:7-10; Sal 98 (97);1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

FELICITAMOS LOS CUMPLEAÑOS

DEL MES DE DICIEMBRE

Sábado, Diciembre 17
Alicia Hernandez

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.

DEMEL ESCRITORIO DE RICK HAECKEL ONTINUADO……

Traigo esto para que aceptemos nuestro valor innato como seres humanos, los seres humanos que Dios creó en y por amor.

Luego contemplamos la divinidad de Jesús como la segunda persona de la Trinidad. Aquí no tenemos correlación directa con nuestra experiencia. Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo como un solo Dios es otro desafío que está más allá de nuestra comprensión temporal. Creer esta verdad es un acto de fe, la fe que es un don de Dios. A veces luchamos e incluso dudamos mientras vivimos nuestras vidas en un mundo en el que domina la percepción sensorial. Pero el anhelo de comprender cognitivamente es parte de nuestra vida mundana normal. Cuando reflexionamos sobre nuestra fe, es natural que desee-mos que Jesús y la Trinidad sean "conocidos" como conocemos a nosotros mismos.

Esta incertidumbre, en lugar de ser un impedimento, es de hecho un regalo. Nuestra vida espiritual es parte de nuestro ser cotidiano, pero a menudo miente descansando en la parte posterior de nuestras mentes. Lo llevamos adelante en oración y buenas obras. Es en la lucha para llegar a una comprensión de lo incognoscible que el don de Dios que viene entre nosotros como un ser humano nos da gracia, paz y consuelo. El niño Cristo que celebramos toca y suaviza nuestro corazón, invitándonos a reflexionar sobre nuestro propio crecimiento como hijos espirituales de Dios.

Mucho de esto parece bastante cerebral, carece de aplicación directa en nuestra vida cotidiana. Ese sentimiento de falta es en realidad una invitación a la apertura para encontrar a Dios en nuestras vidas. ¿Hemos crecido en sentir a Dios con nosotros, somos más capaces de ser Cristo el uno para el otro, podemos ver a los demás como hijos de Dios también? Este viaje de crecimiento es alimentado por la presencia de Jesús. El niño cuyo nacimiento y muerte celebramos es un verdadero alimento. Jesús siempre está con nosotros; La conciencia de esa verdad comienza a manifestarse en nuestras vidas cuando actuamos como Él nos pide, amando a Dios ya los demás. Esa es la verdad que se hace comprensible, que volvamos a menudo para alimentarnos para que podamos alimentar a los demás.
Un regalo de Navidad para su parroquia
La Navidad es el Domingo, 25 de Diciembre.

Con el fin de equilibrar el presupuesto de la parroquia cada año nos basamos en los generosos regalos de la colección de Navidad. También confiamos fuertemente en los regalos semanales del Ofertorio hechos 52 semanas del año. Tanto sus regalos de Navidad como semanales nos ayudan a administrar el presupuesto operativo durante el invierno cuando las facturas de calefacción son altas y cuando surgen costos inesperados.

Le pedimos que sea tan generoso como sea posible con su regalo de Navidad a la parroquia. Si es posible, utilice su sobre semanal y su sobre de Navidad esta Navidad.

En caso de que aún no se haya dado cuenta de que la Navidad es en un domingo, no le pediremos que vaya a la misa dos veces, pero su apoyo es muy apreciado.

¡Gracias por su generosidad durante todo el año y en Navidad!

Presupuesto de Misa de Domingo: $22,271
Presupuesto del Ofertorio de Navidad: $65,000

"El tiempo que uno pasa en la presencia del Sagrado Sacramento es el mejor tiempo que uno puede pasar en la tierra. Cada momento que uno pasa con Jesús hará una unión mas profunda con el y hará su alma eternamente mas gloriosa y bella in el cielo y ayudara para traer paz eterna en la tierra."
Sta. Madre Teresa de Calcutta
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 pm. 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.)
- Edo. de México
- Diciembre 19 @Milani
- Diciembre 20 @Centro Parroquial
- Monaguillos
- Diciembre 22 @Centro Parroquial
- Coros
- Diciembre 23 @Centro Parroquial
- Ext. de la Sagrada Comunión.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fecha</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jueves 8 de Diciembre</td>
<td>7:00 pm Misa La Inmaculada Concepción de María</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viernes 9 de Diciembre</td>
<td>7:00pm 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domingo 11 de Diciembre</td>
<td>10:00am Procesión, nos reuniremos por la calle Depot y estacionamiento del Centro Cultural Comunitario por las Calles Dunne y Monterey en Morgan Hill</td>
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<td>11:00am Bendición de las imágenes.</td>
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<td>12:15pm Misa solemne en la Iglesia y en el centro Parroquial</td>
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<td>2:00pm Entretenimiento y Comida</td>
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<td>Lunes 12 de Diciembre</td>
<td>12:00am-4:00am Serenata Guadalupana por Parroquianos</td>
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<td>4:00am Mañanitas con Mariachi</td>
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<td>5:00am Misa</td>
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<td>4:00am-8:00am Pan y chocolate en el salón parroquial</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Misa Bilingüe</td>
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GRUPO DE FAMILIA
AL-ANON RAYITO DE LUZ
Este grupo invita a personas que tengan familiares o amigos que sufren la enfermedad del alcoholismo a sus sesiones aquí en Morgan Hill, son los jueves de 7 a 9 de la noche en: 16890 Church St #16, comunicarse con Juanita para más información con Juanita al tél. (408)706-8361.

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!
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Office of Development & Evangelization

TIPS FOR YEAR-END CHARITABLE GIVING

All sorts of assets make good year-end gifts benefiting St. Catherine’s Church. This includes cash, stocks, mutual funds, fully paid life insurance, and real estate. These assets may be given outright and most may also be used to fund a planned gift, such as a Charitable Gift Annuity or Deferred Payment Gift Annuity.

If making a gift by cash or check, either deliver your gift in person or be sure it is postmarked by December 31st. The date you deliver or mail your donation is generally recognized as the gift date for tax purposes. Please note: the date on the actual check is not recognized by the IRS as proof of your intent to give on a particular date.

You may also give online by credit card via PayPal or Parish Pay on or before on December 31. You may designate your gift for any particular fund(s). Just be sure the gift is made prior to midnight, December 31. The gift date is when the donation is charged to your credit card, even if you don’t pay your bill until 2016.

If you want your gift to be structured in the form of a planned gift for increased tax or income benefits, (such as a Gift Annuity), paperwork can be completed after December 31. However be sure the asset is received by the St. Catherine’s so that the Diocese or Catholic Foundation can process our gifts by December 31. This is vital.

Plan ahead. Gifts of stock, paid-up life insurance, real or personal property all take a certain amount of preparation. Plan accordingly; speak with Anna Quinones at the Office of Development for instructions on how to make gifts of certain assets. aquinones@djs.org or 408.779.3959. Always consult with your own advisors prior to making a gift.

Receipt for taxes: You receive a receipt for your donation that contains all the necessary substantiation required for tax purposes.

Memorials and Gifts in Honor: Any gift you make may be a memorial to a loved one or a gift in honor of someone living. If you wish, a card or acknowledgement letter is sent to the person(s) you specify, acknowledging your gift with no mention of the amount. Gifts in memory or in honor of make very special and meaningful Christmas gifts. Please send your gift with a designation of memorial or honor tribute and the address of the family receiving the acknowledgment. You may also come to the Rectory where personal assistance is available.

YEAR END TAX SAVING CHECK LIST

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Give before the end of the year to reduce your income taxes. Review your gifts given to date to ensure you have donated to the causes important to you and in the amounts you intend. Now is also a good time to make sure you have proper receipts and documentation.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

If you have contributed to a Flexible Spending Account, make sure you have used all the money in the account. Now might be the time to get that eye exam or other medical procedure you have been delaying.

MORTGAGE INTEREST

You can pay your January mortgage payment early and add to your mortgage deduction this year. Just check with your accountant on how to do this, especially since the number you report might differ from what your lender sends on Form 1098.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Call your accountant now to ask what state and local taxes may be paid in 2016 that will reduce your federal income taxes for the same year. Alternatively, if delaying payment may help you, discover the best strategy.

INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING

After determining your taxes for 2016, work with your accountant to see if you should adjust the withholding on your W-2 form.

GENERAL INTERCESSION POLICY

The final part of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass is the opportunity for the people of God to exercise their priestly calling by praying for the needs of all humanity. We do this during the “General Intercessions.” They are called General Intercessions because they are to be just that, general, for the needs of all.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal suggests these intentions:

- For the Church…..
- For public authorities and the world……
- For those in need…………
- For the local community
  - Significant events…………
  - For the sick…………
  - For the dead………..

At St. Catherine’s we follow that suggestion. When we pray for the dead we are praying for all those who have died but we specifically mention only names of those who have died recently (within the last month). Remember, even though we do not mention your loved ones by name they are always included in our prayer/liturgy.

For anniversaries of death we encourage you to contact the parish office to schedule a weekday Mass Intention which are prayed during the 8:15am mass Monday through Saturday.
THEY THINK HE’S A RIGHTEOUS DUDE

How righteous are you? I don’t ask this in a judgmental way, but in reflective way. In the Gospel today, Joseph is called a righteous man who wouldn’t expose Mary to shame. In our age of being so connected to so many people through social media that would definitely mean not posting, tweeting, or snapping anything about it - but I think it would mean even more than that. It would mean to not share that information with anyone that didn’t truly need to know. How often do we fail to do something like this, and for much less life-altering events? Think about it - what Joseph was intending to do was no small matter. He was going to marry this girl, and then finds out that she’s pregnant! And he knows he didn’t have sex with her. What would most of us do? We’d be a wreck! We’d be miserable and depressed, and angry. We’d be vengeful and want to share that news with the world, so as to ruin her life as she did to us.

And yet Joseph doesn’t do this. Because he is a righteous man. I think we underestimate Joseph a lot of times. We look at him as someone who is quiet (not a single word he says is recorded in Scripture), loyal, and somewhat of a pushover. But that couldn’t be further from the truth. Joseph was a strong, courageous man, obedient to God alone. He wasn’t swayed by other people’s opinions. He didn’t worry about his reputation (well, maybe he did - but he didn’t let that influence his decision). He was such a trustworthy man that God entrusted His Son to him. We are all influenced greatly by the people who raise us, so to think that Joseph had little to do with who Jesus became is ridiculous. How much like Joseph we should want to become! Instead of putting others down - regardless of what they may have done to us - so that we may make ourselves look better. We should want to be such an amazing example of faith and love.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

I know I bring this up almost every year, but the reminder is needed - the Christmas season is from December 25th to January 6th (the Epiphany). So while the rest of the world says Christmas is over and put everything away, I challenge you to keep up your trees, lights, decorations and music for all 12 days. And when people ask why, you tell them because it’s still Christmas season.

And then on the 6th, put all that away until after Thanksgiving. I don’t want to see it before then.
I read a beautiful reflection on God’s love and Advent by Sr. Chris Koelhoffer in her booklet, Pope Francis: Living Advent With Joy and Peace: Encouragement and Prayers:

“Once again we mark the arrival of Advent. This holy season trumpets God’s extravagant love for us, a love beyond reckoning. Into our beautiful yet wounded world comes Emmanuel, God-with-us, carrying the promise of fresh hope to enliven our hearts. No matter how broken or seemingly hopeless our world may sometimes feel, the Advent messages are rich with joyous expectation and longing, insisting that God can and does bring forth life where none seems possible.”

Are we listening to the Advent message of hope, peace, joy and love? Who are the people around us who need to hear them? How are we pointing the way to Jesus?

God’s love is insistent - always present, always forgiving, always merciful. This Advent season, let God’s love for us and our love for others shine through in gifts of kindness, compassion, time and presence.

**BECOMING CATHOLIC**

- Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith?
- Have you been away and want to come back to the church and not sure how?
- Were you Baptized a Catholic but have not received First Communion or Confirmation?

We want to help you get started! email or call Rose at rosepm@dsj.org or (408) 779-9604 to see how we can help you and provide resources that are appropriate to your needs. Whether you have been baptized in another faith tradition or have never been baptized and are seeking information, We Welcome You!

**CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS 2017**

Children’s Faith Formation sessions will resume on the following dates:

- **January 7**—Saturday classes
- **January 8**—Sunday classes including ECE and CLOW
- **January 11**—Wednesday classes
ELECTRONIC UPDATES
If you have an email address and would like to hear all the great things that are happening at our parish, please contact us. We email parishioners whose 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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR ST. CATHERINE’S GOLF CLASSIC
May 19th, 2017
Same Fun, Different Day!

KNITTING GROUP
Are you a passionate needle crafter and desire to be in community with others 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 6:00-8:00pm. All are welcome. Contact Diane at 408-839-3553 for questions or if you would like to learn to knit or crochet.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

God is great all the time, all the time, God is great!
This is it!
**Last Chance to enter the 34th St. Catherine Annual Sweepstakes.**

It’s drawing weekend! Come to the parish center beginning at 2:00pm on Sunday the 18th and experience 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 and support your community. 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!

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

The St. Vincent de Paul Community Closet is getting low on children’s clothing, and with the winter weather approaching, we’d appreciate your help! If you’re going to be shopping during the holidays, consider selecting a new children’s outfit to donate. Or during vacation, sort through the children’s clothing at home, and leave any gently used outfits in a bag, marked SVDp, at the parish office during business hours (M-F 8am-7pm, or Sunday 8am-noon). We are especially in need of boys and girls clothing, sizes 2T through 12. We also serve many unsheltered individuals and families, who often request shampoo, soap, and toothbrush/toothpaste, if you’d like to donate these items. Our parish SVDp Community Closet is located at 13570 Depot St. in San Martin, and passes on your donations, free of charge, to those in need. We serve over 200 individuals a month! We are open to the community every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am-noon, and the first Saturday of the month from 10am-noon. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Carol Lillig 408-857-4516.

**SVDP THANKS YOU!**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Catherine would like to express our gratitude to the parish community for its generous response to our appeal for funds and volunteers! Because of your financial support, and clothing and other donations throughout our fiscal year (October 2015-September 2016), our volunteers (100 plus strong!), through our HelpLine, were able to serve over 700 local brothers and sisters in need, and another 2500 people at our Community Closet! You keep families together, and in their homes, well-clothed and well-loved. We are grateful, and will remember you and your loved ones in our prayers.

**“LIFE SHARING” TIME BEFORE 5:30 SUN- DAY EVENING MASS DURING ADVENT**

We offer an opportunity for all of us to learn a little bit more about the lives of our fellow parishioners. We give people a chance to tell us about themselves, experiences that has made them the persons they have become (so far) and about their response to the words and actions of Jesus. We hope that learning from the lives of our friends will improve our lives and help us make the world a better place. We offer this “life sharing” time before the 5:30pm Sunday evening mass each week during Advent. (That’s 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18.) We start at 4:45. We have asked four people to take a turn talking each week. They share a few stories from their lives for 10 minutes or so. Then we spend 20 minutes or so talking about what they had to say. We finish at 5:15 and head over to mass. If this sounds good to you, please join us. We meet in Milani Center. Any questions? Call, text or email Joe or Carol Lillig. Carol 408-857-4516 lillig@garlic.com Joe 408-781-3847 jplillig@gmail.com

**MONDAY NIGHT COMMUNITY SUPPER HELP**

The Community Supper ministry at St. Catherine’s held every Monday night could use a few more volunteers. You would be part of a rotating team that serves the dinner every seventh week. Contact Joe Lillig to sign up at: 408-781-3847.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE OVER 50’S LUNCHEONS
Join the Over 50’s ladies for monthly luncheons at noon in the O’Donnell Parish Center. Bring a dish to share and canned goods for ReachOut. See the schedule below -

December 19th 2017
January 23rd
February 27th
March 20th
April 24th
May 15th

MASS TIMES
When 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.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN LIEU OF FLOWERS
A donation in memory of a loved one is a meaningful way to express sympathy for the bereaved family and to honor the one who has passed. It is also an opportunity for family and friends to support the parish of the loved one; recognizing the Church’s presence and assisting the Church in carrying on spiritual programs and charitable works. When you choose to make a memorial gift to honor a loved one, the parish notifies the family and a tax receipt is issued for your generous gift. Please contact Anna Quiñones, at ahernandez@dsj.org with any questions.

The Parish Office is closed from Friday, December 23rd to Monday, January 2nd, reopening Tuesday, January 3rd.

Happy Holidays!

CHURCH
The church will close at 4:00pm, Monday to Friday from Friday, December 23rd to Monday, January 2nd.

SUMMONED BY GOD
As Christmas draws near, Advent’s scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today’s Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph’s courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God’s holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
Thank you for your support!

Parish Giving

Weekly Offertory Collection: This Week $26,347 Year to Date $488,936
- Weekend Masses
- Total $26,347 $488,936

Weekly Offertory Collection Need (Budget) $22,948
Average Offertory Collection after 23 weeks this fiscal year YTD $21,300
Average Offertory Collection (Month of Nov.) $24,485
Year to date Actual vs. Budget Difference -$19,380

Year To Date Stewardship
July 1 Dec. 4, 2016

Year To Date Collections $488,936
Budget Year to Date $508,316

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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.

TUITION ASSISTANCE—Guardian Angels

St. Catherine School is very grateful for the Guardian Angels in our parish who contribute funds for our Tuition Assistance Program. This year the program provided just under $200,000 of tuition assistance for 51 children with funds received from diocesan grants, the BASIC Fund, interest from our Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund, a $20,000 subsidy from the parish, and donations from generous people like you. Without this support these students would not be able to attend St. Catherine School. The benefactors of St. Catherine School are remembered in the prayers of the students, faculty and staff regularly. For more information regarding our Tuition Assistance Program, contact Fabienne Esparza at 779-9950 or fesperza@stcatherinemh.org.

Thank you for your support!

Christmas Card

Each year students at St. Catherine School submit drawings for our school Christmas card. This year 6th grader Jodi Fields’ design was chosen. Jodi received a matted and framed copy of her design and a gift card. Additionally, the work of several other students received Honorable Mentions: Morgan Raak, Ryleigh Etie, Connor Pallott, Ben Muetzenberg, Jacoba Taylor, Hannah Werkema, Mark Spohn, and Riley Rutter. The Honorable Mention students received gift cards as well. Congratulations to all!

See you at the Car Raffle Reception!! 2pm today in the O’Donnell Center

Students were challenged to bring in $50,000 in pledge money for the Walkathon. If they met the goal, the students were to get free dress for a week and the teachers/staff would wear uniforms for a week. The students met their goal and the faculty and staff stepped up. Imagine going to the grocery store in a uniform on your way home?!?

St. Catherine School will be closed December 19-January 2 for the Christmas Holiday. Classes resume Tuesday, January 3, 2017.