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

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

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD / SANTA MARÍA, MADRE DE DIOS

From the Desk of Jeanette Thatcher, Business Manager……..

Merry Christmas! Even though we begin the New Year today we are still in the liturgical season of Christmas. So I take the liberty of telling you about one of my favorite Christmas gifts.

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, (which means “God is with us.”) Isaiah 7:14

What a wonderful gift, “God with us”. Today and always God is with us, accompanying us, escorting us, living in us. The gift of God with us is for every moment, and God gave every one of us this gift.

(Continued on page 3…)

Desde el escritorio de Jeanette Thatcher, Gerente de Negocios ….

Feliz Navidad! A pesar de que hoy comenzamos el Año Nuevo, todavía estamos en la temporada litúrgica navideña y me estoy tomando la libertad de contarte acerca de uno de mis regalos favoritos de Navidad.

He aquí que la virgen estará con su hijo y dará a luz un hijo, y le darán el nombre Emmanuel (que significa "Dios está con nosotros"). Isaías 7:14

¡Qué maravilloso regalo, “Dios con nosotros”! Hoy y siempre Dios está con nosotros, acompañándonos, escoltándonos, viviendo en nosotros. El don de Dios con nosotros es para cada momento, y Dios le dio a cada uno de nosotros este regalo.

(Continuado en Pagina 5…)
**IGLESIA DE SANTA CATALINA**
**SAINT CATHERINE CHURCH**

**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

**The Week Ahead/La Semana Próxima**

**Sunday/Domingo, January 1**

- 7:15-8:15am CH Mass
- 8:45-9:45am CH Mass
- 10:30-11:30am CH Mass
- 12:15-1:15pm CH Misa
- 3:30-5:30pm CH Worship Choir Kellet
- 5:30-6:30pm CH Mass

**Monday/Lunes, January 2**

- OFFICE CLOSED

**Tuesday/Martes, January 3**

- 6:30-9:00pm CH Clase Pre-Bautismal Español
- 6:30-8:30pm CR3-4 KOC Board meeting
- 7:00-9:15pm Rm.8 Stephen Ministry supervision mtg.
- 7:00-9:00pm Rm.11 Jovenes Para Cristo Ensallo de Coro

**Wednesday/Miércoles, January 4**

- 9:00-10:30am CR1 Women’s Group
- 12:00-8:00pm NUR Rose’s Choir
- 5:00-6:00pm CH Children’s Choir
- 6:00-7:00pm Rm.11 Cub Scout Den 1 meeting
- 6:30-7:50pm Rm.8 Jesus to Mankind prayer group
- 6:30-7:30pm CH Hora Santa
- 6:30-8:30pm Rm.10 Jovenes Para Cristo Choir
- 7:00-9:00pm CR34M Community Supper
- 7:30-9:30pm MC RCIA
- 7:30-9:30pm CH Alpha & Omega Group
- 8:00-9:00pm NUR Fil/Am Committee meeting

**Thursday/Jueves, January 5**

- 5:30-9:00pm CH Spanish Choir
- 6:30-7:30pm MC Cub Scout Den meeting
- 6:30-8:30pm Rm.11 Grupo Amigos MESA meeting
- 7:00-8:00pm CR1-2 Teen Safe Environment training
- 7:00-9:00pm LR Liturgy Committee meeting
- 7:00-9:00pm Rm.10 RICA

**Friday/Viernes, January 6**

- 9:00-11:59pm CH 24 hour Adoration
- 9:30-10:30am CR1-2 Bible Study
- 7:00-9:00pm MC Grupo Amigos
- 7:00-9:00pm LR Consejo Hispano

**Saturday/Sábado, January 7**

- 12:00-8:00am CH 24 hour Adoration
- 9:00-10:15am Rm.8,10,11 FF session
- 8:30-10:00pm CH Spanish Passion Play - practice

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**8:15am Mass Intentions**

- Monday, January 2 † Dennis Kennedy
- † Evelia Juarez
- Tuesday, January 3 † Ann Kochuparambil
- † Betsey Coleman
- † Anna Villano
- † Frank Nelson
- Wednesday, January 4 † Jean Castle
- † Rick Chiala
- Thursday, January 5 † Maria N. Vargas
- † José Hernandez Cervantes

**Faith Sharing Question of the Week**

**Adult:** “How has God blessed and kept your family? What can you do as a family this week to show your gratitude for these blessings?”

**Child:** “When have you felt most blessed by God? What can you do to help someone in your family feel the same way?”
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE
BY DEACON RICK HAECKEL
The description of the infant Jesus with Joseph and Mary in today’s Gospel has a special warm place in our hearts. The difficulties they encountered in finding a place to stay must have been daunting, a stable, with an ox and an ass as companions? It certainly shows that Mary and Joseph were able to adapt to put it mildly. Now that much time has passed we see beautiful crèche scenes and are properly inspired by them. The Holy Family is “our” family, one that exemplifies what family is meant to be. Today we honor our Blessed Mother Mary under the title Mother of God. God certainly jumps out at us, but the title Mother is also profound. Mary, in modern terms, is the co-creator with the Father and the Holy Spirit. As the vessel in which Jesus was formed she has an unbreakable connection to her son. The few references we have in scripture to Mary solidify the image of motherhood. She not only bore Jesus she also remained attentive to him as he grew and ultimately witnessed his crucifixion. The wonder of the resurrection must have been an indescribable joy for her (as it surely is for us :-). Consider the scene at Bethlehem, a birth witnessed by shepherds who told of it to an “amazed” audience. In simple reverie, share that same amazement. Our lives as Christian disciples ask that we be shepherds, sharing the Good News of Jesus with us. We like them are to live “praising and glorifying God for what we have heard and seen.” Whenever God seems far away take a moment to reflect on the connection of mother and child. Although addressing a slightly different setting, Paul Simon’s 1972 song “Mother and Child Reunion” names a powerful image. Our Lord through his Blessed Mother is “only a motion away.” These haunting words soothe and inspire as we celebrate Mary the Mother of God.

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK
This is going to take some work… but… instead of discarding Christmas gift wrapping paper save it for use later as birthday or any occasion gifting. Think of the surprise of the recipient “You’ve had my gift since Christmas?” Remember that reuse is even better than recycling.

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 JEANETTE…..
GOD - Often I am overwhelmed by the thought of God. God made the infinite universe as well as the details of every grain of sand. God transcends our knowledge of time and space. Our brains can’t even begin to imagine all that God is. To try and grasp the thought of God I take Him to heart in terms I can relate to: father, savior, creator, loving, kind, just, forgiving, all powerful, caring, source of peace. God is magnificent and intimate at the same time.

WITH - God choses to be with us. During times of joy, certainty and confidence God accompanies us. In times of sorrow, uncertainty and tragedy God carries us. He is present whether we follow in his ways or have fallen into the despair of sin. It is amazing that He is steadfast even if we ignore His presence or reject Him altogether. God is an ever present part of our lives.

US – God is present to every person on this earth. Those we think of as saints, our neighbors, enemies, and even those we think of as evil. God does not discriminate. It comforts me to know that God is with each of us providing a way to peace through His light.

Today and throughout your life, I hope you ponder and embrace this most wonderful gift from God, His eternal presence in your life. Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

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

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
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

**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.

**Liturgy 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

**Greeters** - 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)

**Liturical 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 / Sacristans  
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@coasttocoastdatasearch.com

Linen Care  
Diana-Lynn Inderhees dinderhees@dsj.org

Music  
Lisa Kellett lisakellett517@gmail.com

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

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**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/31/17</td>
<td>New EM training - Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7/17</td>
<td>New EM training - Procedure</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/7/17</td>
<td>Current EM - Renewal</td>
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</tbody>
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**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

“Octave” comes from the Latin word for “eight,” and since eight is one step beyond seven, the number of days in a week, it has long been seen as a symbol of perfection, completion, and new beginnings. Early Christians called Sunday the “eighth day,” since it was the day after the Sabbath and a day of resurrected life, the Lord’s Day. By the seventh century, people regarded the eight days after Easter Sunday as one great day, an octave, one glorious feast when people were forbidden to fast or kneel. In the seventh century, Pentecost acquired an Octave, too. Christmas didn’t claim the honor of a continuous feast, but it did get an Octave Day. January 1 is the oldest Marian feast, the Octave of Christmas. It was originally a feast of the motherhood of Mary, although for centuries until 1969 it was called the Feast of the Circumcision. Our reformed calendar follows the earlier tradition of celebrating Mary as Mother of God.

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

**THE BLESSING WE RECEIVE**

The blessing we experience in Christ Jesus is proclaimed in Numbers as the special blessing for the people of Israel. They and we are to be blessed by the invocation of God’s loving kindness, the shining glory of God’s face turned toward us in love, not away from us in anger. We are blessed by God’s own peace!

Our wish and our hope are fulfilled in this blessing, which is made visible in the coming of Jesus. In Jesus, the image of the invisible God, God’s face is shown to us and God’s presence is made known to us in faithful and loving kindness.

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LECTURAS DE HOY
Primera lectura — El Señor te bendiga y te proteja. Que el Señor te mire con benevolencia y te conceda la paz (Números 6:22-27).
Salmo — El Señor tenga piedad y nos bendiga (Salmo 67 [66]).
Segunda lectura — Dios envió a sus corazones el Espíritu de su Hijo, que clama “¡Abbá!” (Gálatas 4:4-7)
Evangelio — Los pastores se volvieron a sus campos, alabando y glorificando a Dios por todo cuanto habían visto y oído (Lucas 2:16-21).

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LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA
Lunes: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Sal 98 (97):1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Martes: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Sal 98 (97):1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Miércoles: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Sal 98 (97):1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Jueves: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Sal 100 (99):1b-5; Lc 4:14-22a
Viernes: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Sal 147:12-15, 19-20; Mc 1:7-11 o Lc 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
Sábado: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11
Domingo: Is 60:1-6; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Ef 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DE JEANETTE CONTINUADO......
DIOS - La mayoría del tiempo yo estoy abrumada por el pensamiento de Dios. Dios hizo el universo infinito, así como los detalles de cada grano de arena. Dios trasciende nuestro conocimiento del tiempo y el espacio. Nuestros cerebros no siquiera pueden comenzar a imaginar todo lo que Dios es. Para manejar el pensamiento de Dios lo tomo a corazón en términos que puedo relacionarme; Padre, salvador, creador, amoroso, amable, justo, perdonador, todo poderoso, cariñoso, fuente de paz. Dios es magnífico e íntimo al mismo tiempo.

CON - Dios se preocupa de estar con nosotros. En tiempos de alegría, certeza y confianza, Dios nos acompaña. En tiempos de dolor, incertidumbre y tragedia Dios nos lleva. Él está presente si seguimos todos sus caminos o hemos caído en la desesperación del pecado. Asombroso que Él es firme aun si ignoramos Su presencia o lo rechazamos completamente. Dios esta siempre presente en nuestras vidas.

NOSOTROS - Dios está presente en cada persona en esta tierra. Aquellos a quienes pensamos como santos, nuestros vecinos, enemigos, e incluso aquellos a quienes pensamos como malos. Dios no discrimina. Me consuela saber que Dios está con cada uno de nosotros proveyendo un camino a la paz a través de Su luz.

Hoy y durante su vida, espero que refleje y acepte este maravilloso regalo de Dios, Su presencia eterna en su vida. Feliz Navidad y un Año Nuevo feliz.

PASIONES
Debemos poner nuestras pasiones al servicio de la vida, y no malgastar nuestra vida en servir a nuestras pasiones.

—Richard Steele

TIEMPO
No malgastes tu tiempo, porque es lo que constituye la vida.

—Benjamin Franklin
TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

En Nicaragua y otras naciones latinoamericanas se celebra el final de un año con la “quema del año viejo”. Construyen grandes muñecos con ropa vieja, pólvora y papel que se encienden a medianoche entre los dos años. Celebrar el comienzo de un año nuevo tiene una larga trayectoria en la historia humana. Hace unos 4000 años el pueblo de Babilonia ya festejaba la llegada de un nuevo año con grandes fiestas de primavera. Los judíos, al igual que otros pueblos agrícolas, también celebraban su año nuevo durante la primavera, el primer día de Nisán (a principios de abril).

Fue Julio César quien nos dio la fecha del primero de enero como el inicio de nuestro calendario. En 1582 el Papa Gregorio XIII reformó el calendario para darnos el que actualmente está en uso. No obstante, los cristianos continuaron celebrando el año nuevo en primavera para evitar los excesos del “hombre viejo”. Hace 400 años la Iglesia comenzó a celebrar el día primero de enero buscando cristianizarlo lo mejor posible. Por eso en el calendario litúrgico este día es dedicado a María, Madre de Dios.

—Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
La Oficina Parroquial va ha estar cerrada de Viernes, Diciembre 23 hasta el Lunes, Enero 2, va ser reabierta el Martes, Enero 3. ¡Felices Fiestas!

ST. CATALINA DE ALEXANDRIA
ADORACION Y BENEDICION DEL SAGRADO SACRAMENTO
ORARIO DE ADORACION EUCHARISTICA

Vuestra 24 horas de Adoración Eucarística empiezan el Primer Viernes 6 de Enero inmediatamente después del Sagrado Sacrificio de la Misa, concluyendo el Primer Sábado 7 de Enero con bendición a las 8:00A.M.
"De modo que no pueden permanecer despiertos ni una hora conmigo." MT 26:40
"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 él 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

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 ayudaran en sus vidas y crecer en su fe. Los esperamos todos los viernes a las 7:00pm en el Centro Milani.

SAN VINCENTE DE PAUL DE SANTA CATALINA

La Tiendita Comunitaria de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul — Es una tiendita comunitaria para las personas quienes necesitan ropa para hombres y mujeres GRATIS. Al igual hay ropa de niños, bebés, y algunos artículos para el hogar y muebles. El domicilio de la tiendita es 13570 Depot St. San Martin, CA 95046.

¿Interesado en Ayudar?
Si usted está interesado en ayudar regularmente o ocasionalmente en un "primer sábado", contacte a Carol Lillig al 408-857-4516. Los adolescentes y las familias son bienvenidas.

CENAS COMUNITARIAS

Usted y su familia son cordialmente invitados a la Iglesia de Santa Catalina todos los lunes de 6:00pm - 7:00pm para recibir una cena caliente y totalmente gratuita. La cena se lleva acabo en el centro parroquial. ¡Los esperamos!
- Los martes la Iglesia Luterana sirve la cena de 5:00pm-6:00pm
- Los miércoles en la Iglesia Metodista Unida de 6:00pm-7:00pm
- Los jueves en la Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana de 6:00pm-7:00pm.

Iglesia

La iglesia va a cerrar a las 4:00pm, Lunes a Viernes, Diciembre 23 a Lunes, Enero 2.

SAN VICENTE DE PAUL DE SANTA CATALINA
There is an easy way to give specifically to Saint Catherine’s during this Christmas Season.

Please go to Make my Christmas Gift Now! on our homepage to set up a one-time donation or establish annual giving for the holidays.

In order to balance our parish budget every year we rely heavily on the generous gifts that come to us in the Christmas collection. We also rely heavily on the weekly offertory gifts made 52 weeks of the year. Both your Christmas gifts to St. Catherine’s and your weekly Offertory gifts help us manage our operating budget through the winter when heating bills are high as well as meeting unexpected unbudgeted expenses. For these reasons we ask that you please be as generous as possible with your Christmas gift to the parish. If possible use both your weekly envelope/online giving and also your Christmas envelope/online giving this Christmas. We need your support. Thank you for your generosity both at Christmas and throughout the year!

Christmas is a wonderful time for everyone. In addition to the very special meaning of the liturgical celebrations, we are happy to see so many parishioners whose schedules may not allow them to attend Mass at our parish on a regular basis. If you are one of those who cannot visit our parish as much as you would like, check out our website at www.stca.org. There you will find weekly bulletins; information about parish programs and see who is on the parish staff.

You will also find an Online Giving link on the front page below Ways to Give. The online giving program allows parishioners to support the parish even when they are out-of-town, too busy or forget to remember an envelope, working weekends, or attending Mass at another parish. To learn more about this easy, safe and secure way of giving please contact Anna Quinones aquinones@dsj.org or Jeanette Thatcher jthatcher@dsj.org or follow the instructions found on the website.
It’s 2017 — A New Year!

Big Deal.

I’ve probably talked about this before but this time we’re gonna get real. I have tried to start new habits on January 1st of many years (or January 2nd depending on how I celebrated December 31st - hey, I said we’re gonna get real). But each and every New Year’s Resolution came to an end – either it was too much to live up to or I wasn’t willing to make the changes and sacrifices necessary to see them through. We look at a new year as a fresh start, to do and to be better. But I think resolutions fail not because of our resolve but because of what we’re basing it off of - which in this case, is a date.

Really, a date?

No wonder I’ve failed so many times - and I’m assuming the majority of you have too. The same has happened for other resolutions I’ve made based on dates - the first day of school, where I’m going to actually use my school planner and I will not procrastinate (HA!). Or on Monday, I’m going to start exercising every day. Or after this party, I’m going to eat better portions. Or on this birthday I’ll start praying more...you get the idea (and have probably tried using similar ideas).

We need to base our resolutions on something that means more. Something that can actually keep us going. That’s what it took for me. For a long time I didn’t really rely on Jesus much. Sure I went to Mass (and worked for the Church) - but I didn't allow Christ to be my foundation. I didn’t make changes based on what God was calling me to be. How God was calling me to improve.

But in order to base our resolutions in God we need to know God. In order to know God we need to spend time with God. In order to spend time with God we need to...SPEND TIME WITH GOD.


I don’t know if I mentioned this but prayer is kind of important. If you want to have a better relationship with God you need to pray. If you don’t want a better relationship with God you still need to pray, probably even more. Regardless of how good you think your relationship with God is, it can be better. But it can be challenging to pray more consistently. It definitely was (and is) for me. There are so many things I want to get done in a day and prayer used to always (and sometimes still does unfortunately) take a backseat to everything else. But once I finally started making more intentional time for God I started becoming a better husband, parent, friend, minister and Catholic. How did I get to pray more often? I got a spiritual director. A spiritual director is someone you meet with regularly (at least once a month) to talk about your faith life (and anything else in your life since it all is connected to your relationship with God). They give you guidance and advice. For me, my spiritual director held me accountable to pray consistently - not that he was forcing me to, but because I wanted to be able to tell him when we met that I’ve been praying more.

Once I got a much better prayer life I pray now totally for me and not to impress my spiritual director. It can still be a challenge to fit it in my schedule but I really want to do it now. I want that time with God. And because of my time with God, He leads me to where I need to go. He directs the changes within me that I need to make. Since those changes are based in Jesus Christ, my resolve to work on them - no matter how many times I fail - remains strong. If the failure is big, a good confession gets me going again. Confession’s really the “New Year, New Me,” but better. I go to confession, and it is literally a new start.

I’m no longer trying to improve myself for whatever reasons I made up for wanting the changes. I’m changing for God. There is no giving up and waiting until next year. I just try again.
Today we celebrate the beginning of a New Year filled with good wishes for upcoming year and perhaps a list of New Year’s Resolutions. We also celebrate the 8th day of Christmas - the Feast of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us remember Mary’s role in our faith - her hearing God’s message, believing in God’s plan for her and acting in faith with her “yes”.

The caption in the above drawing by a 1st grader in faith formation expresses this well:

“I feel like Mary and I have a few things in common: We are both confident, caring, brave and kind. We both love God.”

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**
**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**
**PARENT MEETING #2**

**Sunday, January 22**
3:00 - 5:00pm in the Parish Center

**Wednesday, January 25 (make-up session)**
7:00 - 9:00pm in the Milani Center

This meeting is for parents whose children will be preparing to receive First Holy Communion in May 2016. At least one parent should attend the meeting.

**BAPTISM FOR OLDER CHILDREN**

- Do you have a child who is age 7 or older who has not yet been baptized?
- Has your family been away from the church and you are not sure how to come back?

We are here to answer your questions! E-mail or call Rose at rosepm@dsj.org or (408) 779-9604 for further information and to schedule a time to meet. We Welcome You!

**SAVE THE DATE:**
**The Amazing Race**
January 28-29, 2017

6th-8th grade students are invited to an exciting overnight retreat at Camp Maymac! The theme for the retreat is “The Amazing Race” and it takes place January 28-29. Don’t miss this great opportunity to draw closer to God and friends! Further information and registration forms are available at the Faith Formation Office by calling (779) 9604.
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR’S CAR RAFFLE WINNERS

Early Bird Drawing
Frist Prize: $1,000 Cash - Joseph Beltran
Second Prize: $500 Cash - Joanne McConnell
Third Prize: $250 Cash - Mary DiVittorio

Bonus Bundle Drawing
Grand Prize: $2,000 - Michael Thatcher
Second Prize: $1,500 - Jeanne Gieselman
Third Prize: $500 - Frank & Amy LoNardo
Fourth Prize: $400 - Mc Picazo
Fifth Prize: $350 - Katherine McCarthy

Vacation Sweepstakes Drawing
First Prize: Vacation or $5,000 - Ginny Grimsich
Second Prize: Disneyland trip or $1,500- Joseph Piccini
Third Prize: $1,000 - Sharon Alciati
Fourth Prize: iPad Air - Helen Kelly
Fifth Prize: $500 - Gina Colton

Vehicle Sweepstakes Drawing
First Prize: 2017 vehicle or $30,000 - Clemente Casuga
Second Prize: $1,500 - Alex Salazar
Third Prize: $1,000 - Nicole & Alice Chiala
Fourth Prize: $500 Cash - Carl Nunes

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Car Raffle and a HUGE Thank You to our wonderful committee that makes this fundraiser a success.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: Mary, the Holy Mother of God;
The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord;
World Day of Prayer for Peace;
New Year’s Day
Monday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Wednesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Thursday: St. John Neumann
Friday: St. André Bessette; First Friday
Saturday: St. Raymond of Penyafort; First Saturday;
Julian Calendar Christmas

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

Merry CHRISTmas!

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

ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Our 24 hour Eucharistic Adoration begins on First Friday January 6th immediately after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and concludes on First Saturday January 7th with Benediction at 8:00am
"Could you not keep watch with me for one hour?" Mt 26:40
"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in heaven and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth. " St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Save the Date
Learning & Loving Education Center Charity Event Monday, January 23rd from 3:00-8:00pm at Bubbles Wine Bar, 5th Street and Monterey in Morgan Hill!
Tickets are sold at the door! $30 includes a choice of one Tapas plate, and one glass of Red, White, or Sparkling Wine, Beer or Soft Drink. Join us for Tapas Plate Flatbreads, Brie Crostini's, Pulled Pork Sliders and more! Proceeds are donated to the Learning and Loving Center!

CAN YOU HELP?
A community member is in need of a space heater for these cold, winter days. If you have one you're not using, could you bring it to the parish office, marked, "SVdP Ann Marie"? We’ll deliver. Thank you!
SHALL WE BUILD A NEW CHURCH OR REMODEL THE EXISTING CHURCH?

In 2012 the parish created a Master Plan to guide the future improvements of the campus from physical, spiritual, educational, community, functional and economic perspectives. The plan included building a new church, parish office, youth center and school in phases over several years. The fundraising feasibility study completed in 2014 indicated the parish was not willing to support the cost to build a new church and offices. In the meantime our church continues to age.

Last February Fr. Jeronimo and the Finance committee held a meeting which included the Master Plan Leadership and Feasibility Committees and other parishioners to review the results of the 2012 Master Plan and posed the question of whether the parish should build a new church or expand and remodel the current church. While most people expressed a desire for a new church they did not have confidence that the parish could raise the funds to build a new church. In the end the group asked to see how much a renovated church would cost and what it could look like.

As a result the Finance Committee studied the cost to expand and renovate the church so that it would meet the needs and be comparable to the proposed new church. They formed a sub-committee who:

- Engaged a structural engineer to determine if the existing church could be expanded
- Engaged an architect to prepare conceptual layouts of an expanded church with seating for 780-1,000
- Engaged a firm to prepare a cost model of an architect's conceptual design options
- Reviewed the cost assumptions associated with the new church proposed in the original master plan
- Examined an alternative of making the parish center the church and visa versa.

The Master Plan sub-committee will present its findings Wednesday, January 18th at 7pm in the Parish Center. The presentation includes:

- A conceptual design for a renovated and expanded church
- A cost comparison of a renovated versus a new church
- A discussion of developing the timing to form a Building Committee and a Fund Raising Committee

All parishioners are invited and urged to attend this important meeting. If you have questions, please contact Jeanette Thatcher or Deacon Phil Flowers. Please visit our website www.stca.org for more information.

¿CREEMOS UNA NUEVA IGLESIA O REMODELAR NUESTRA IGLESIA EXISTENTE?

En el 2012 nuestra parroquia creó un Plan Maestro para ayudar a guiar las futuras mejoras de los edificios desde una perspectiva física, espiritual, educativa, comunitaria, funcional y económica. El plan incluía la construcción de una nueva iglesia, oficinas parroquiales, centro juvenil y escuela en fases durante varios años. El estudio de factibilidad realizado en el 2014 indicó que la parroquia no estaba dispuesta en apoyar el costo de construir una nueva iglesia y oficinas. Mientras tanto, nuestra iglesia sigue envejeciendo.

El pasado mes de Febrero el P. Jerónimo y el Comité de Finanzas sostuvieron una reunión que incluyó los Comités de Liderazgo y Factibilidad del Plan Maestro y otros feligreses para revisar los resultados del Plan Maestro del 2012 y planteó la cuestión de si la parroquia debe construir una nueva iglesia o expandir y remodelar la iglesia actual. Aunque la mayoría de la gente expresó su deseo de una nueva iglesia, no tenían confianza en que la parroquia pudiera recaudar los fondos para apoyar la construcción de una nueva iglesia. Al final, el grupo pidió ver cuánto costaría una iglesia renovada y qué aspecto podría tener.

Como resultado, el Comité de Finanzas escogió mirar los costos de expandir y renovar la iglesia para que respondiera a las necesidades y fuera comparable con la nueva iglesia propuesta. Ellos formaron un subcomité que a su vez:

- Contrató a un ingeniero estructural para determinar si la iglesia existente podría ser expandida
- Contrató a un arquitecto para preparar diseños conceptuales de una iglesia expandida con un potencial de asientos para 780 a 1,000 feligreses
- Contrató a una empresa para preparar un modelo de costo de las opciones de diseño conceptual de un arquitecto
- Revisó los supuestos costos asociados con la nueva iglesia propuesta en el plan maestro original
- Examini una alternativa de hacer del centro parroquial la iglesia y viceversa.

El Subcomité del Plan Maestro presentará sus conclusiones el miércoles 18 de enero de 2017 a las 7:00pm en el Centro Parroquial. La presentación incluirá:

- Un diseño conceptual para una iglesia renovada y expandida
- Una comparación de costos de una iglesia renovada y una nueva iglesia
- Una discusión del proceso para formar un Comité de Construcción y un Comité de Recaudación de Fondos

Todos los feligreses son invitados a asistir a esta importante reunión. Si tiene alguna pregunta, favor de comunicarse con Jeanette Thatcher o el Diacono Phil Flowers. Favor de visitar nuestro sitio web www.stca.org para más información.
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 1st.

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.

Students practiced diligently for our Advent Program. Above, first graders rehearsed in Music class. The eighth graders held the starring roles of the Christmas story which framed the program. Each grade, K-7, performed songs that supported the story. Students performed to a packed house just before the Christmas holiday began. This bulletin was submitted before the actual performance, so pictures of the performance itself were not available.

GRANDPARENTS/SPECIAL PERSONS DAY
If you have a grandchild at St. Catherine School, your grandchild will ask 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 1st. Your grandchild will invite 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 just under $200,000 of tuition assistance for 51 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!

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

Sixth graders and their second grade buddies enjoyed time together.

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