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.

From the Desk of Deepu Kochuparambil, Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Parents define what love is for their children. So you grew up with a definition of love that is different from others. I was sitting with Ezra, holding him close, and I whispered, "I love you." This wasn't the first time of course, nor will it be the last. But, when I said it to him this time, I thought about how he is just starting to learn words (not speaking yet, but he understands some). As he learns words, he will learn what they mean. If I, as his father, tell him that I love him constantly, then love will be defined for him by how I treat him. Not just when I'm happy and hug him, cuddle him, and smile and laugh with him ...

(Continued on Page 3…)

Desde el escritorio de Deepu Kochuparambil, Director de Jóvenes

Los padres definen qué es el amor para sus hijos. Entonces creciste con una definición de amor que es diferente a los demás. Estaba sentado con Ezra, abrazándolo, y le susurré: "Te amo". Esta no era la primera vez, por supuesto, ni sería la última. Pero cuando se lo dije esta vez, pensé en cómo él está comenzando a aprender las palabras (no habla todavía, pero él entiende algunas). A medida que aprende las palabras, él aprenderá lo que significan. Si yo, como su padre, le digo que lo amo constantemente, entonces el amor se definirá por él por la forma en que lo trato. No solo cuando estoy feliz y abrazándolo, riendo y carcajeando con él, sino también cuando estoy enojado y frustrado, cuando grito, o lo dejo que llore, cuando lo disciplino o lo recompenso, todo eso - definirá amor para él. Es por eso que estoy muy agradecido por mi relación con Dios.

(Continuado en la Pagina 5)
Rectory Office Hours / Horarios de la Rectoría
Monday - Friday (Lunes - Viernes)
8:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday (Sábado) / Sunday (Domingo)
Closed/Cerrado

**Pastoral Staff / Equipo Pastoral**
Fr. Jeronimo Gutierrez, Pastor - jgutierrez@dsj.org
Fr. Randy Valenton, Parochial Vicar– rvalenton@dsj.org
Fr. Russell J. Roide, SJ, Assistant Priest - rroide@dsj.org
Deacon Rick Haeckel, Deacon - rhaeckel@dsj.org
Deacon Phil Flowers, Deacon - pflowers@dsj.org
Deacon Juan Aquino, Deacon - jaquino@dsj.org
Carmelo Jimenez, Hispanic Ministries Coordinator, cjimenez@dsj.org
Rose Pucan-Meagor, Director of Family Faith Formation & 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
John Rinaldo, Business Manager, jrinaldo@dsj.org
Maria Dominguez, Office Manager, mdominguez@dsj.org
Juanita Martinez, Administrative Assistant, jumartinez@dsj.org

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**First Reading** — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).


**Second Reading** — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

**Gospel** — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:**
- Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
- Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a,5-6ab,16-17; Lk 1:5-25
- Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
- Kg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
- 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcdn; Lk 1:46-56
- Mal 3:4-5, 8b-12,14a,16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:**
- Dede Mariani
- Virginia Ardizzone
- Tom Tacci
- Luis Alfonso Lua
- Rose Katen
- Gian Luigi Valentini
- Sergio Madrigal
- Sara Lua
- Leonardo De Palma
- Maria Parisotto
- Joseph Ky & Maria Ngoan Vu
- Sergio Madrigal
STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE
BY DEACON RICK HAECKEL

Advent is a time of expectations, our own and those of the people of Jesus’ time. As a matter of fact, expectation is a fundamental aspect of life. From the simple expectation that the sun will arise tomorrow morning. As children, we expect to grow up and find success, but often our adult expectations are tempered by the reality of present day circumstances. It must have been similar in Jesus’ day, they awaited the prophet Isaiah’s promised “day of vindication by our God.” That expectation is the basis for the Gospel inquiry of John the Baptist by the Jews from Jerusalem. Was he the promised one? If not, who was this person about whom many spoke so highly? As successful as John was in attracting followers to repentance, he knew that ‘the one who is coming after me” would fulfill the desires and expectations of those who would hear and understand. Advent expectation invites us to celebrate the joy of the coming of God as one like us. What a powerful affirmation of our innate goodness. Our lives are meant to be a continuing discovery that Jesus’ message continues to be the truth of God’s presence. A presence that challenges us to measure our expectations of ourselves against the clarion call of Christian witness. We aren’t fortunate enough to have been among the crowds who heard and saw what it meant to be a true child of God. A person whose self interest is tempered by becoming a person for others … even at times requiring us to overcome or outgrow our own felt needs. What a gift we have in seeing the Christ child, God made one like us, beginning his discovery of how God was to be made present in the world by his own life. It is not prideful to realize that we too have that same call. A major obstacle is the many voices calling us away from ministering, to others and to ourselves, with the salve of shared love. This is a time to revisit those “things” we feel we need in light of the simplicity that honoring God asks of us. In light of that examination, a useful starting place reminds us of the saying that we’re only as rich as what we can afford to give away. Start with love and the rest follows.

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK
We all, believe it or not, are green. We’re green with envy :-). Try changing being envious of things or of other people. Rather, practice simplifying our desires so that we become envious only of those who love better and more freely. It won’t cost money but it will require practice… pick someone to emulate.

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!

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
Liturgical Ministry and Contact Information

**Liturgical Ministry and Contact Information**

**Liturgy Coordinator**
- Diana-Lynn Inderhees dinderhees@dsj.org

**Altar Server**
- Karen Barone kbarone@wildblue.net

**Environment Coordinator** (church and parish center)
- Diana-Lynn Inderhees dinderhees@dsj.org

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion/Sacristan**
- Karen Barone kbarone@wildblue.net

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

**Linen Care**
- Diana-Lynn Inderhees dinderhees@dsj.org

**Music**
- Lisa Kellett lisakellett517@gmail.com

**Proclaimer of the Word (Lector)**
- Jim Yingar jfyinger@gmail.com
- Pat Rudolph patricia95037@yahoo.com
- Roselynn Pucan-Meagor rpucanmeagor@dsj.org

**Saints Chapel**
- Ralph Ortega ralphndebbie@icloud.com

**Usher**
- David Dindak david@coasttocoastdatasearch.com

**Wedding Coordinator**
- Desiree Michel dmichel@charter.net

Liturgical Ministers Needed

**Sacristans** - needed for all Masses. You need to be an extraordinary minister of holy communion to be a Sacristan. Please contact Karen Barone directly to schedule a training at Kbarone@wildblue.net.

**Environment Coordinator** for the Church and the Parish Center. Please contact Diana-Lynn Inderhees at dinderhees@dsj.org. Check the website for general details. A coordinator is needed now to begin Lent and the Easter Season.

**Saints Chapel** - clean chapel area and put out new candles. Looking for help throughout the day and evening. Small candles need to be replaced every four hours. Contact: Ralph Ortega at ralphndebbie@icloud.com

Help Needed

**Christmas Season Environment Change**
Join us as we prepare the environment of the Church and Parish Center for the Christmas Season on Friday, December 22nd and Saturday, December 23rd from 9:00am until 12:00pm on both days. Things that need to be done: putting lights on the Christmas Trees, placing the wreaths, streaming the cloth for the altar and setting up the Sanctuary in the parish center, etc. Come for whatever amount of time you can. Please contact Diana-Lynn Inderhees at dinderhees@dsj.org for more information.

4th Sunday of Advent

There is a normal Mass schedule on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 23rd and December 24th except there will not be a 5:30 Sunday Mass.

**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th
4:00pm (Church and Parish Center)
6:00pm
8:00pm Mass in Spanish
12:00am Midnight Mass in English

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th
No 7:15am Mass
8:45am
10:30am
12:15am in Spanish
No 5:30pm Mass

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**
Join us for a bilingual Mass on Monday, January 1st at 10:00am. Please note that there will not be an 8:15am daily Mass.

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE**

**TRAINING AND RENEWAL SESSIONS ARE IN THE CHURCH FROM 7:00 TO 9:00PM**

NEW EMHC(S) AND LECTIONARIES MUST ATTEND BOTH TRAININGS

EMHC—EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

| 1/16/18 | NEW EMHC TRAINING - THEOLOGY |
| 1/30/18 | NEW EMHC TRAINING - Procedure |
| 2/6/18  | EXISTING EMHC RENEWAL |
| 3/6/18  | NEW LECTOR TRAINING - THEOLOGY |
| 3/13/18 | NEW LECTOR TRAINING—Procedure |
TERCERO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Regocijense en el Espíritu del Señor que nos trae buenas noticias (Isaías 61:1-2a, 10-11).
Salmo — Se alegra mi espíritu en Dios mi Salvador (Lc 1:46-50, 53-54).
Segunda lectura — ¡Alegrénse! Conserven su integridad en el Espíritu y guárdense sin mancha hasta la venida del Señor (1 Tesalónica 5:16-24).
Evangelio — Cuando preguntan a Juan Bautista quien es, dice, “Soy la voz que grita en el desierto” (Juan 1:6-8, 19-28).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Jer 23:5-8; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Martes: Jue 13:2-7, 24-25a; Sal 71 (70):3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lc 1:5-25
Miércoles: Is 7:10-14; Sal 24 (23):1-4ab, 5-6; Lc 1:26-38
Viernes: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lc 1:46-56
Sábado: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Sal 25 (24):4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lc 1:57-66
Domingo: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lc 1:26-38

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

Nombre (s): ____________________________
Dirección:______________________________
Ciudad:_______________________________
Código postal:_____________
Numero teléfono:______________________
Email:_______________________________

¿Desea recibir sobres de contribución?
_____Yes _____No
¿Desea recibir información de la parroquia?
_____Yes _____No

DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DEL DEEPU……

Mi relación con Dios me ha ayudado a aprender cómo estoy llamado a amar mejor. Ahora soy un mejor padre que cuando tuvimos a Joshua. Entonces, su definición de amor probablemente sea diferente de lo que será la definición de Ezra. Por eso es tan importante que enseñemos a nuestros hijos sobre Dios y su amor. Para ayudarlos a crecer en su relación personal con Dios. Porque no importa cuánto lo intente, sé que continuará fallando de alguna manera para mostrar a mis hijos el amor que se merecen. Pero ellos conocerán el amor de Dios. Cuando expresan amor a los demás, no será un falso sentido de amor, o una definición imperfecta, sino que será un amor que es más perfecto como el de nuestro Padre. Cuando buscan el amor de los demás, no se conforman con el amor de alguien que es simplemente físico, que es fugaz o inmoral, o que no es el amor total que merecen. Buscarán un amor que imite el amor de Dios, uno que nunca los defraudará y que cumple la definición de amor que han llegado a conocer.

Si usted no lo ha sentido, o cree que no lo es, por favor, sepálo: es amado. Perfectamente. Incesantemente. La invitación de Dios para ti no es solo seguirlo a ciegas. Su invitación es dejar que Él te ame como mereces ser amado, y permitir que ese amor te transforme en la perfección que Él creó para que seas.

FACEBOOK
Únase con nosotros y manténgase al corriente de lo que pasa en nuestra parroquia. Visite nuestra página en www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Catherine-of-Alexandria-Church/29304741747856

NOTIFICACIONES DE EMERGENCIA
¡Dios es Grande Todo el Tiempo, Todo el Tiempo Dios es Grande!

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE
El día 16 de diciembre comienza la Novena de Aguinaldos en Colombia y otras partes de Latinoamérica. La novena consiste en 9 partes que se repiten por 9 noches:
1. Oración inicial
2. Oración Mariana
3. Oración de José
4. Reflexión del día
5. Gozos
6. Oración al Niño Jesús
7. Un Salmo
8. Invocación final
9. Villancicos (cánticos navideños)

Los participantes buscan aguinaldo (regalo). Para esto los colombianos tienen la costumbre de jugar “pajita en boca” buscando quien no trae una pajita en boca. La persona que no pueda mostrar que trae pajita en boca tiene que dar un regalo a quien lo descubrió. Los aguinaldos son recuerdo del regalo que nos dio Dios en su Hijo Jesús, prenda de su amor. Y si Dios nos da un aguinaldo tan grande es porque Dios no tiene pajita en boca cuando nos dice que nos ama.

En el corazón de la Novena está el refrán de Gozos:
Dulce Jesús mío / mi niño adorado
ven a nuestras almas / ven no tardes tanto.

Muy buen mensaje para el Adviento.
—Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glè, 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 ayudaran en sus vidas y crecer en su fe. Los esperamos todos los viernes a las 7:00pm en el Centro Milani.

La Rifa Anual del Coche de Santa Catalina
Acompáñenos este Domingo, 17 de Diciembre a las 2:00pm en el Centro Parroquial O’Donnell para el Rifa Anual del Carro!
• Disfrute de refrigerios cortesía del equipo escolar de Santa Catalina.
• ¡Participe en la rifa de entrada para ganar premios gratis!
• Únase a la emoción de la rifa en vivo: ¡podría ser un afortunado ganador!
• No tiene que estar presente para ganar, ¡pero seguro que es divertido si lo es!

Su compra de un boleto de la Rifa del Carro de $60 puede ponerlo detrás del volante de un auto nuevo con un precio de etiqueta de hasta $40,000. Como alternativa al premio del carro, el afortunado ganador puede optar por recibir $30,000 en efectivo. ¡Este boleto tiene 5 grandes premios que incluyen un fin de semana en el Casino Black Oak!

¡El Boleto de $20 para la Rifa de las Vacaciones ofrece un Viaje de su Vida! Usted nombra el lugar y su boleto ganador lo financiará hasta $7,500 o, alternativamente, el afortunado ganador puede optar por recibir $,000 en efectivo. ¡Este boleto tiene 5 grandes premios para ganar, incluyendo un nuevo Drone, dinero en efectivo y un viaje a Disneyland!

¡Buena suerte para todos los que participan en la Rifa de este año!

MIDIENDO EL ÉXITO
El éxito debe medirse, no por la posición a que una persona ha llegado, sino por su esfuerzo por triunfar.
—Booker T. Washington

¡ALÉGRATE!
¡Isaías realmente nos proclama una buena nueva! La venida del Señor no trae tristeza, culpa, miedo, ira ni condena. No, la venida del Señor es fuente de júbilo y consuelo. No basta con decirlo una vez, las lecturas de hoy están llenas de júbilo. El Magníficat de María reemplaza a nuestro salmo hoy y nuestra segunda lectura nos anima a alegrarnos, dar gracia y rendir alabanza. Éste es el significado principal de la palabra griega para eucaristía. Se nos insta a alegrarnos y dar gracias, porque la venida del Señor trae júbilo, curación, libertad, perdón y vindicación. ¡Hace que la tierra eche brotes de vida nueva! ¡Buenas noticias!

HORAS DE LA OFICINA PARROQUIAL
La oficina Parroquial tiene nuevas horas de oficina. Estará abierta la oficina de Lunes a Viernes de 8:00am a 6:00pm.

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TERCERO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

FORMACIÓN DE FAMILIAS EN LA FE
Como cada sábado hay catequesis para padres de familia.
El 18 de noviembre los padres de familia realizaron un proyecto de Acción de Gracias.
Todos participaron muy bien. También se tuvo una reflexión de la importancia de dar gracias a Dios por todo.

En la Misa para niños del tercer sábado del mes de noviembre el padre Jerónimo explicó en su homilía la importancia de compartir nuestros dones con los demás.
Los niños estuvieron muy atentos y participaron en la Misa muy bien.
Gracias padres de familia por asistir junto con sus hijos y ser parte de la familia de Santa Catalina de Alejandría.

PAZ INTERIOR
Adquiere paz interior, y una muchedumbre a tu alrededor encontrará su salvación.
—San Serafín

TENGO FE
Mi hijo, tengo fe en el mejoramiento humano, en la vida futura, en la utilidad de la virtud, y en ti.
—José Martí

SAN VINCENTE DE PAUL DE SANTA CATALINA
La Tiendita Comunitaria de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul — ¡Ya está abierta por más días!
- Martes(10AM - 12PM)
- Jueves(10AM - 12PM)
- Cada primer Sábado del mes(10AM -12PM)

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!

HORARIO DE MISAS NAVIDENAS
Domingo, 24 de Diciembre Habrá misa regular en español a las 12:15pm.

Domingo, Diciembre 24 Noche Buena
4:00pm Misa en Ingles
6:00pm Misa en Ingles
8:00pm Misa en Español
12:00am Misa en Ingles

Lunes, Diciembre 25 Navidad
8:45am and 10:30am Misas en Ingles
12:15pm Misa en Español

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.

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- Los jueves en la Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana de 6:00pm-7:00pm.
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Office of Development & Evangelization

NEW ONLINE GIVING PARTNERSHIP AND PROGRAM

INTRODUCING

Vanco Payment Solutions.

MANAGE YOUR GIVING ONLINE

St. Catherine Church is excited to announce a new exciting partnership with Vanco epayment services. Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet.

Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit our church website at www.stca.org
2. Click on NEW ONLINE GIVING PROGRAM
3. Click on the Create Profile button
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions

More info on Mobile Giving and Text to Give coming soon!
If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Anna Quinones at aquinones@dsj.org or 408.779.3959

IN THIS SEASON OF GIFT GIVING TO FAMILY, FRIENDS AND THOSE LESS FORTUNATE, WE HOPE YOU’LL ALSO CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE CHURCH. IT’S THROUGH DONATIONS FROM OUR PARISH THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CARRY ON OUR WORK.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, WE OFFER ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS THAT HELP YOU CONTRIBUTE WHEN YOU DON’T HAVE CASH OR YOUR CHECKBOOK, OR WHEN YOU’RE TRAVELING DURING THE HOLIDAYS AND CAN’T ATTEND MASS.

OUR ONLINE, MOBILE APP, AND TEXT OPTIONS EMPOWER SELF-SERVICE GIVING AND ARE FASTER AND MORE SECURE THAN HAVING CHECKS OR CASH PROCESSED MANUALLY.

STOP BY THE PARISH OFFICE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.stca.org/online-giving TO LEARN MORE.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
I recently was on vacation to Australia and New Zealand. It was a last minute trip - something I've never done before, and something I definitely didn't imagine doing at this stage in my life. My wife, the amazing blessing that she is, suggested me joining her brother on a portion of his trip to those countries. Yeah, I got to go for a trip to a country without the kids to join her brother for a little over a week!

It was a great trip - I didn't have to pack diapers (although wipes would've been a good idea - they are just so handy!), strollers, car seats, or any of the annoying parts about traveling with children. We saw some beautiful sites - seemingly getting more and more breathtaking as we went. New Zealand was without a doubt the most beautiful place I've ever been. We did some small hikes and one big one (it was a last minute trip, so I didn't have as much time to not get my body ready), but so very worth it.

It was an incredible opportunity to go and take in so much of God's creation. The beauty that He has put together over time is astounding - to sit and just be in it is something I hope to do again. And then I started thinking about how many people do what we were doing: travel the world, or the country, or wherever - to enjoy the beauty of nature. So many people make trips - whether for a day, week, month, or more - to go to landmarks and sites all over the world to see what the world has to offer. But there is beauty to be found on every continent and in every country, in every state, city and town. We just don't pay attention - we allow ourselves to get distracted by all the other things. We'd rather look on Instagram for faraway places, because we take for granted the bits of beauty around us.

The same goes for people. Human beings are a beautiful creation. We are the most beautiful of God's creations. But, as we do with nature, we only make time for people when it pleases us, and the rest of the time we take them for granted.

We are creatures in need - needing to be accepted, to be wanted to be desired. To be noticed. Yet we walk by people all the time—at school, work, etc. Do we look at them? Do we acknowledge them? If we do, most often we see what we like about them and grow jealous. Or we see what we don't like and we look down in judgment.

On my trip, I tried to be intentional about looking at everyone I passed by, smiling, and maybe saying "hi." All too often I was ignored. While I was with my brother, it didn't bother me much, other than wondering why people just ignored each other (which I know I do in my 'normal' life too). But there were some parts of the trip when I was on my own, and when I was not looked at at all, when I was ignored or avoided, I felt lonely. I'll be upfront with you: I got a little depressed at those times. Even though I knew I have so many people who care and love for me, in those moments I felt alone. And what made it worse was that I didn't have any service on my phone when I walked around, so I couldn't try to contact anyone unless I found a place with free Wifi. I can't tell you how many times I pulled my phone out of my pocket, only to remember I couldn't use it for anything but taking pictures. No wonder so many people walk around looking at their phones and not at the people around them - they've been ignored and feel like they go unnoticed, so they go to the thing where they can always feel connected, always feel seen.

I challenge you - and myself as well - to pull your eyes away from your phone as you walk around. Notice the people around you (and try to do so without jealousy or judgment). You don't need to stop and have a conversation with everyone you see, but kind eyes and a smile can go a long way to making people feel a little less alone in this great beautiful world.
IT'S PINK (GAUDETE) SUNDAY!

I was at an Advent Morning of Prayer the other day and I heard a song that I hadn't heard in a long time:

I've Got The Joy Joy Joy Joy
   Down in My Heart
   Down In My Heart
I've Got The Joy Joy Joy Joy
   Down in My Heart
   Down In My Heart
   To Stay!

It was one of the many songs that I grew up with in the church that I went to when I was a kid. Music has a way of bringing us back to our childhood, reminding us of old friends or recalling fond memories. This song is great for this third Sunday of Advent as Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.”

“Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians chapter 4. It says “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.”

Christian joy goes deeper than happiness. It is a sense of contentment in the soul produced by the Holy Spirit. During Advent, when we open up our hearts, let God out and take the time to look around with eyes of the heart, we can clearly see those we love and know how much we are loved by our God. Wow!

Do you have joy in your heart?
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. CATHERINE 35TH ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES

Join us Sunday, December 17th at 2:00pm in the Parish Center for the 35th Annual St. Catherine’s Sweepstakes Live Drawing!

- Enjoy complimentary refreshments and snacks provided by the Staff of St. Catherine’s School
- Enter to win free door prizes!
- Join in the excitement of the live drawing – you just might be a lucky winner!
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, the lucky winner can choose to receive $30,000 in cash. This ticket has 5 great prizes including a weekend get a way to Black Oak Casino!

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 alternately the lucky winner can choose to receive $5,000 in cash. This ticket has 5 great prizes to win, including a new Drone, cash and a trip to Disneyland!

Good Luck to Everyone participating in this year’s Sweepstakes!

MORE STEPHEN MINISTERS NEEDED

Stephen Ministry has been in operation at our church for some time. In order to continue and expand this ministry of care, we are beginning another Stephen Ministry training class in January. To take advantage of this opportunity to share the love that God has given you, please consider joining this ministry. For more information on becoming a Minister or receiving care from one, please contact Claranne Schirle at 408-782-1413 or kenandclaranne@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY SUPPER HOLIDAY MEALS

We WILL be having our regular Monday night Community Supper on Christmas, Monday, December 25th and New year’s Day, Monday, January 1st. All are welcome!

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Our Parish Office Hours have changed! The office will be open Monday to Friday, 8:00am until 6:00pm.

ICF

The Italian Catholic Federation wants to thank the community of St. Catherine’s who supported the Pasta Fundraiser this last April and the Maurizio’s Fundraiser in August. The Italian Catholic Federation has given a check for $8,000 to the St. Catherine’s Church Renewal fund! Gratitude and Blessings!

OVER 50’S MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Join the Over 50’s for their monthly luncheon this Monday, December 18th at 12:00pm in the O’Donnell Parish Center. Sandwiches, chips & dip will be served. Please bring a dessert/cookies to share and canned goods for Reach Out.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday, December 22nd to January 1st and we will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Merry Christmas!

2018 NEW YEAR’S EVE BALL

Cheers to a New Year!
Join us! Put on your dancing shoes and join us for an exciting New Year's Eve Ball @ O'Donnell Parish Center. Tickets are still available at $50/person. Contact your favorite Fil-Am Group rep and/or e-mail Lita Aquino @ litat.aquino@gmail.com or Gerry Achanzar @ gerrybulls@gmail.com
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHEF WITH A HEART
Seeking a chef with a heart willing to take on preparations for an annual community dinner. For more info: janet95037@gmail.com

THINKING ABOUT SEPARATION OR DIVORCE?
Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on January 19-21, 2018 call 831-479-1260 or email: Monterey@RetroCA.com or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS
Bishop Patrick J. McGrath once again invites couples who are celebrating their 1st through 5th, 25, 40, and 50 or more years of marriage to the Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph. The Celebration will take place on Saturday, February 3rd, at 2pm. The Mass will be bilingual in English and Spanish, and the couples will have the opportunity to renew their wedding vows. A reception in the Cathedral’s parish hall will follow.

You can visit our Wedding Anniversary page (www.dsj.org/WeddingAnniversaryMass) to find information for the parish mass and bulletin announcements. The online registration link for wedding couples is also found here

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Are you interested in volunteering? Visit our website at www.stca.org, click on VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES on the right to see and sign up for various volunteer possibilities.

Many hands makes light work.

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.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK
Adult: “What work of justice could you do this week to bring someone joy?”

Child: “What could you do for someone this week to make them happy?”

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

ELECTRONIC UPDATES
If you have an email address and would like to hear all the great things that are happening at your parish, please contact us. We email parishioners whose 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.
Advent is a time of Welcoming and Hospitality

As we enter the first week of Advent, we recognize that it is a time of preparation for every one of us. What are we preparing for?

Ultimately, we are preparing for Christ’s entrance into the world on Christmas Day. But more so, it is an opportunity to prepare our hearts for Jesus.

In a world of struggle, pain, and suffering, people recognize that deep need. A deep need that cannot be fulfilled by gifts, sports, food, or drink. Advent is that time where people realize they have a hunger that can only be filled by faith in Christ.

Therefore, during this time of Advent and Christmas, we see more guests and people coming back to the Church who may not normally join us. I invite you to offer a warm welcome to all those that you encounter at St. Catherine during this season. They are here. We may not know why, but we can offer our welcome and hospitality.

After all, belonging leads to believing.

Year End Giving

During the end of the year, many people see an opportunity to give a charitable contribution to their favorite non-profits organizations and religious institutions.

Please consider a year end gift to St. Catherine. Our new online giving platform makes it easy to give a gift. Just visit www.stca.org and click on the “Giving” tab for all the details.

Thank you for your generosity and support of the mission and work at St. Catherine Parish!

4th Sunday of Advent

This year, the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on December 23-24. Christmas Eve Masses, as usual, also fall on December 24. We encourage you to plan ahead so you can join us for both the 4th Sunday of Advent as well as Christmas Masses.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP OFFERINGS

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nov 5</th>
<th>Nov 12</th>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>Nov 26</th>
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Tuition Assistance—Guardian Angels

St. Catherine School is 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 53 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!

Applications for 2018-2019

Applications for the 2018-2019 school year are available on the school website under the Admissions tab. Please note the application deadline for kindergarten is December 15, while applications for grades 1-8 are due March 2. Kinder testing will take place in January with testing for grades 1-8 being held in March.

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/or 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.

St. Catherine School will be closed December 21-January 5 for the Christmas Holiday. Classes resume Monday, January 8, 2018.

Save the Date --- eWaste Drive

The next eWaste Drive sponsored by our Green Team will be Saturday, March 10. Please save those appliances and tech items that you no longer use. Help St. Catherine School and our environment at the same time. The money raised from this event helps fund more energy efficient lighting in our classrooms. This is also a great opportunity to get parent hours or student service hours. Contact Arlene Handa at ecosafehome1@yahoo.com.