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 Fr. Randy Valenton, Parochial Vicar...

Understanding the Nativity Scene

Christmas is one of the most important gatherings that bring families together. Indeed, friends and neighbors are also welcomed into our homes with loving arms as we anticipate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. This is the main reason for the season; to celebrate, witness and experience the incarnation of the Word in our daily lives. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn.1:14). Most Catholics have grown up associating nativity scenes with Christmas, so it is hard to imagine that the first nativity scene only appeared about 800 years ago and more than 1200 years after the birth of Christ. The story of the first nativity scene is actually an important reminder that we are called to be good stewards.

St. Francis of Assisi staged the first nativity scene in a cave outside of the town of Greccio, Italy on Christmas Eve night 1223. It is said that St. Francis was inspired to re-create the nativity scene because he was disgusted with the greed and materialism that was rampant in Italy at that time.

(Continued on Page 3…)

Desde el escritorio del Padre Randy Valenton, Vicario Parroquial...

Comprendiendo la Escena del Nacimiento

La Navidad es una de las reuniones más importantes que une a la familia. De hecho, los amigos y vecinos también son bienvenidos en nuestros hogares con los brazos abiertos mientras anticipamos el nacimiento de nuestro salvador Jesucristo. Esta es la razón principal de la temporada. Celebrar, testificar y experimentar la Encarnación de la Palabra en nuestra vida diaria. "Y la Palabra se hizo carne y habitó entre nosotros" (Jn.1:14). La mayoría de los católicos han crecido asociando las decoraciones navideñas con el Nacimiento, por lo que es difícil imaginar que el primer Nacimiento apareció hace unos 800 años y más de 1200 años después del nacimiento de Cristo. La historia de la primera escena de la Natividad es en realidad un recordatorio importante de que estamos llamados a ser buenos guardianes custodios.

(Continuado en la Pagina 5)
MC = Milani Center   CR1-4= Parish Center Conference Rooms
CH = Church Sci = Science Room  LR = Living Room
DC = Daycare  PR = Presentation Center Nur. = Nursery

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 TODAY
First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).
Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).
Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).
Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).


READINGS FOR THE WEEK
During the 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]
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128: 1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

QUESTION OF THE WEEK
Adult: “When have you followed the example of Mary and said, “Let it be done to me as you say?”

Child: “Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?”
FROM THE DESK OF FR. RANDY......

In planning the scene St. Francis wrote to his friend Giovanni, “I want to do something that will recall the memory of that child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by.” The idea of a nativity scene was so radical that St. Francis first wrote to Pope Honorius III for permission before he moved forward with his plans.

The nativity scene that St. Francis planned was a live but silent scene. Hay was piled into a cave outside of town and a manger was set up where the Baby Jesus would lay. It was also important to St. Francis that a live ox and ass be part of the scene because he wanted the people of the town to be moved by the reality that Jesus was born among the animals. To this day, an ox and an ass are standard figures in a nativity scene even though they are not mentioned in the Gospel accounts of Our Lord’s birth. Just as St. Francis intended, when we look at these animals and the humbleness of the nativity scene we are reminded that if God did not provide a fancy birth for His Son, surely we do not need all of the fancy, new and expensive things that we often associate with Christmas or think that we should have.

According to stories told about St. Francis, on Christmas Eve 1223 he gathered all his religious brothers from the places where they served and together with the people from the town and the hillsides he led them to the place where he had worked to set up his first humble nativity scene. This simple scene lit only by the stars above and the lanterns and candles they carried delighted the people. They celebrated Mass there and St. Francis preached to them, reminding them of how poor and simple the Christ Child’s birth truly was.

After the Mass was over and the people all went home, the brothers wanted to clean up the hay, but St. Francis told them to leave it so that it could bring health to the animals of the forest. Legend says that many sick animals came from all over that night to eat the hay and all were cured. Quickly the idea of setting up live nativity scenes became popular throughout Italy and within a hundred years, every church in Italy had a nativity scene.

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 is not the work of just a few people. Everyone who celebrates the liturgy has a role to play. And the work we do together can change the world.

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 Yinger 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 Church and 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. Help is needed throughout the day and evening. Small candles need to be changed every four hours.

Contact: Ralph Ortega at ralphndebbie@icloud.com

4th Sunday of Advent

There is the normal Mass schedule for 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 WILL BE IN THE CHURCH FROM 7:00PM UNTIL 9:00PM**

NEW EMHC(S) AND LEKTORS MUST ATTEND BOTH TRAININGS EMHC—
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/16/18</td>
<td>NEW EMHC TRAINING— THEOLOGY</td>
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<td>1/30/18</td>
<td>NEW EMHC TRAINING— Procedure</td>
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<td>2/6/18</td>
<td>EXISTING EMHC RENEWAL</td>
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<td>3/6/18</td>
<td>NEW LECTOR TRAINING— THEOLOGY</td>
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<td>3/13/18</td>
<td>NEW LECTOR TRAINING— Procedure</td>
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**MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN LIEU OF FLOWERS**

A donation in memory of a loved one is a meaningful way to express sympathy for bereaved family members 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 aquinones@dsj.org with any questions.
CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — El Señor promete a David que su casa permanecerá para siempre (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Salmo — Cantaré eternamente las misericordias del Señor (Salmo 89 [88]).

Segunda lectura — Pablo ora para que Dios sea glorificado mediante Jesucristo (Romanos 16:25-27).

Evangelio — El ángel Gabriel anuncia a María que ella concebirá al hijo de Dios (Lucas 1:26-38).

Sábado: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Sal 96 (95):7-10; Lc 2:36-40

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

DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DEL PADRE RANDY

San Francisco de Asís organizó la primera escena de la natividad en una cueva en las afueras de la ciudad de Greccio, Italia, en la Nochebuena de la noche de 1223. Se dice que San Francisco se inspiró para recrear la escena de la Natividad porque estaba disgustado con la codicia y el materialismo que era desenfrenado en Italia en ese momento. Sentía que la gente había olvidado que Jesús vino a nosotros no como un rey rico sino como un niño pobre. Al planear la escena San Francisco escribió a su amigo Giovanni, “Quiero hacer algo que nos recordara de ese niño que nació en Belén y ver con los ojos corporales los inconvenientes de su infancia, cómo se acostó en el pesebre y cómo el buey y el asno se permanecieron ahí.” La idea de un pesebre era tan radical que San Francisco primero le escribió permiso al Papa Honorio III antes de seguir adelante con sus planes.

La escena de la Natividad que San Francisco planeó fue una escena en vivo, pero silenciosa. Ahí fue amontonado en una cueva en las afueras de la ciudad y se instaló un pesebre donde reposaría el Niño Jesús. También fue importante para San Francisco que un buey y un asno vivieran fuera de la escena porque quería que la gente de la ciudad se conmoviera ante la realidad de que Jesús nació entre los animales. Hasta el día de hoy, un buey y un asno son figuras normales en un pesebre, a pesar de que no se mencionan en los relatos del Evangelio del nacimiento de Nuestro Señor. Tal como quiso San Francisco, cuando miramos a estos animales y la humildad de la escena de la Natividad, debemos recordar que, si Dios no dio un nacimiento lujoso para su Hijo, seguramente no necesitamos todo lo lujoso, nuevo y costoso, cosas que a menudo asociamos con la Navidad o creemos que deberíamos tener.

Según las historias contadas acerca de San Francisco, en la víspera de Navidad de 1223 reunió a todos sus hermanos religiosos de los lugares donde servían y junto con la gente de la ciudad y las laderas los condujo al lugar donde había trabajado para establecer su primera humilde escena de natividad. Esta simple escena iluminada solo por las estrellas de arriba, las linternas y las velas que llevaban deleitaban a la gente. Celebraron la Misa allí y San Francisco les predicó, recordándoles cuán pobre y simple era realmente el nacimiento del Niño Jesús.

Después de que la Misa terminó y la gente se fue a su casa, los hermanos querían limpiar el heno, pero San Francisco les dijo que lo dejaran para que pudiera traer salud a los animales del bosque. La leyenda dice que muchos animales enfermos vinieron de todas partes esa noche para comer el heno y todos se curaron. Rápidamente, la idea de montar escenas de nacimientos vivientes se hizo popular en toda Italia y en cien años siguientes cada iglesia en Italia tenía un nacimiento.

¡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:_____________
Número teléfono:________________________
Email:_______________________________

¿Desea recibir sobres de contribución?
_____Yes  _____No

¿Desea recibir información de la parroquia?
Yes  No

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CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

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

¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!
La oficina Parroquial estará cerrada desde el Viernes 22 de Diciembre hasta el 1 de Enero. Abriremos de nuevo el Martes, 2 de Enero.
¡Feliz Navidad!

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

LA PROMESDE DE DIOS
El largo pasaje de Samuel expone de manera maravillosa la promesa de Dios a la dinastía de David: que su trono siempre estaría ocupado gloriosamente por sus descendientes. Oculta en el misterio de la profecía está la promesa del Salvador, el Mesías, Hijo de Dios e Hijo de David. El profeta Natán, quien habla en nombre de Dios, desbarata poéticamente el plan de David de construir una casa para Dios y anuncia que el plan de Dios es construir una “casa”, una dinastía, para David. De esta dinastía de David provendrá el Mesías, el Cristo, quien no llegará con el esplendor majestuoso con el que reinó David, sino que vendrá como un hombre humilde, que gobernará por los siglos de los siglos. Cuando Dios hace un regalo; lo que recibimos es asombroso: es muy distinto a lo que podríamos haber imaginado.

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE
De las muchas tradiciones latinoamericanas para celebrar el Adviento y la Navidad, las Posadas parecen ser lo mejor conocido en EE. UU. Tienen su origen en la última mitad del siglo XVIII cuando las estrepitosas Misas de Aguinaldo dejaron de ser celebradas en México. Para remplazar la festividad de esas Misas, los laicos decidieron celebrar en sus casas tomando lo que habían visto dramatizado en los templos, esto es, el recorrido de José y María mientras buscaban posada en Belén. Como las “Antifonas de la O” de la liturgia oficial cristiana, estas Posadas llegaron a ser celebradas nueve noches consecutivas.

200 años después, muchos latinos continúan celebrando las Posadas en EE. UU. Recuerdo como de niño cantábamos “En el nombre del cielo” recorriendo las calles del barrio hasta llegar a la casa donde nos abrirían con cantos, tamales, galletitas y chocolate. Ese recorrido de José y María lamentablemente sigue todos los días en los pasos temerosos y cansados de tantos inmigrantes en este país. Como la Sagrada Familia, otras familias latinoamericanas continúan buscando hospedaje con la esperanza de dar a luz una nueva vida para sus hijos e hijas.

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

LOS SANTOS Y OTRAS CELEBRACIONES
Domingo: Cuarto Domingo de Adviento
Lunes: La Natividad del Señor
Martes: San Esteban; Kwanza
Miércoles: San Juan apóstol
Jueves: Los Santos Inocentes
Viernes: Quinto día de la Octava de Navidad; Santo Tomás Becket
Sábado: Sexto día de la Octava de Navidad

LA SOLUCIÓN
Si usamos sabiamente los abundantes tesoros naturales del planeta, comenzando con eliminar el militarismo y la guerra, todo ser humano podrá vivir una vida próspera y saludable.
—Dalai Lama

NO DEMASIADO
Si tienes demasiadas cosas que hacer, con la ayuda de Dios encontrarás el tiempo para hacerlo todo.

—San Pedro Canisio

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GRUPO AMIGOS
Se les invita a todos los jóvenes que estén en la preparatoria para que asistan al Grupo Amigos. Grupo Amigos es un grupo para hacer buenas amistades y para aprender nuevas cosas que ayudarán en sus vidas y crecer en su fe. Los esperamos todos los viernes a las 7:00pm en el Centro Milani.

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CUARTO 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 niños y ser parte de la familia de Santa Catalina de Alejandría.

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.

FELICIDADES A LOS GANADORES DE LA RIFA DE CARRO 2017

Rifa del Pajaro Madrugador
Primer Premio* $1,000 Cash – VAC – #1880 – Abonfile Guzmán - MH
Segundo Premio: $500 Cash – VAC – #0656 – Craig Hodges - MH
Tercer Premio: $250 Cash – VEH - #0021 – Fredrick Thomas - MH
Cuarto Premio: Martin Ranch Winery – VAC #0672 – Ralph Ortega - MH

Rifa del Paquete Extraordinario
Primer Premio: $2,000 Cash - #098 – Bill Chiala - MH
Segundo Premio: $1,500 Cash - #283 - Bruce Unger - MH
Tercer Premio: $500 Cash - #217 – Gene Guglielmo - MH
Cuarto Premio: $400 Cash – #009 – Michael & Margot Kakalec - MH
Quinto Premio: $350 Cash – #260 - Michael Taylor - MH

Rifa de la Vacaciones
Primer Premio: Vacation or $5,000 Cash - #1758 – Donna Dicker - MH
Segundo Premio: Trip to Disneyland or $1,500 Cash - #1423 – Joe & Paula Barbara - MH
Tercer Premio: $1,000 Cash - #2173 – Laura Salem - MH
Cuarto Premio: Parrott Bebop Drone - #0977 – Tim Phillips - MH
Quinto Premio: $500 Cash – #2013 - Salvador Villarruel - Gilroy
Sexto Premio: 2 Tickets to 2018 Pebble Beach Pro Am - #1686 – Brian Greene - MH

Rifa del Carro
Primer Premio: Vehicle up to $40,000 sticker or $30,000 Cash - #1851 – Alejandro Algarra - MH
Segundo Premio: $1,500 Cash - #1168 – Ray Marine - SM
Tercer Premio: $1,000 Cash - #1690 – Crystal Stoykovich - MH
Cuarto Premio: $500 Cash – #1497 – Gerardo Martinez - MH
Quinto Premio: Overnight Getaway to Black Oak Casino - #1011 – Mary Herrera - MH
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 is through donations from our parishioners that we are able to carry on our work.

For your convenience we offer electronic giving options that help you to 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.
Check Your Pride at the Door

God kinda puts David in his place, doesn't he?
Here's David, living in his nice house, and then he remembers that he left God in a little tent, and realizes he needs to make God a better house.
Then God tells David (through Nathan), "Um, you kidding right? I don't know how you forgot, but you need me, I don't need you."
Yeah, God said that - word for word. Well, not really of course, but basically that's what He meant. God reminds David of everything God did for him, and how after David's dead God will keep on keepin' on.
Silly David - know your place.

And yet.
Here I am, knowing that I do the same thing with God. I know that God has blessed my life. I know that He has given me so much, and all the good that I do or say comes from God. My most inspiring words - whether I'm speaking or writing - are from God. When I have extra patience for my children, when I have forgiveness for my wife, when I offer someone a piece of bacon - that is God working through me. But then when I'm not in the mood to pray but do it anyway, I feel like I'm doing God a favor. "Fine God, I'll sit with you for a few minutes."

Now, I know that God does want me to spend time with Him - but that's for my own good, not His. And although God didn't exactly say it as I wrote it, it's still very important for me to remember (life or death important, actually): I need God. I need God in every inch of my life.
Which is what we're about to celebrate on Monday. We are celebrating, and thanking God with all of our being, for being here, on earth, for us. Because without Him, we are nothing.
That's why we go to Mass - not because God needs us to or the Church requires us to - but because we need it. And if you're not planning on going to Christmas Mass (Saturday & Sunday morning Masses are for the 4th Sunday of Advent), read this tweet from Ed Condon (@canonlawyered): "If the idea of going to Mass twice in two days is upsetting, it's fairly safe to say you're approaching Christmas with the wrong spirit."
The Advent season of anticipation and waiting leads us to the celebration of Christmas and the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Christmas is not the end of the journey but a step on our path toward God. Pray the following prayers with your family throughout the Christmas season. May you continue to grow closer to one another as you grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Gather as a family around a lit candle or hold a candle in your hand while you pray as a reminder that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

**Christmas Family Prayer**

*Jesus our Light,*

we remember the day you were born.

We give thanks that we do not walk in darkness because we know you are with us.

Shine bright in our house and in our hearts.

Remind us to treat one another with care, love, patience, forgiveness, and compassion so that we may carry your light and your love to all people. Amen.

**Christmas Parent Prayer**

*Jesus, Light of the World,*

I ask for your guidance, support, strength, and creativity to share this light with my family.

Help me be an example of faith in my words and actions so that my children will also bear your light. Amen.

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- Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church?
- Are you unbaptized but recognize a need for spirituality in your life?
- Are you baptized Catholic but never received the sacraments of Confirmation or First Holy Communion?
- Are you baptized in another faith tradition and are seeking initiation into the Catholic faith?

We invite you to explore and discover what it means to follow Jesus as a Catholic Christian, learning with others in a community of faith. Every year adults and children (7 years of age or older) are welcomed into the Catholic Community through the Rite of Christian Initiation. It is a learning and loving process through which conversion and transformation of the heart brings you to know Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**

*January 2018 sessions:*

**Wednesday, January 3**

*“Holy Trinity”*

**Wednesday, January 17**

*“The Ten Commandments”*

7:30pm in the Milani Center

For inquiries about school-aged children or for further information, please contact Rose at (408) 779-9604 or e-mail rosepm@dsj.org

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CONGRATULATIONS 2017 WINNERS!

Early Bird Drawing
First Prize: $1,000 Cash – VAC – #1880
   Abonfilio Guzman - MH
Second Prize: $500 Cash – VAC – #0656
   Craig Hodges - MH
Third Prize: $250 Cash – VEH - #0021
   Fredrick Thomas - MH
Fourth Prize: Martin Ranch winery – VAC #0672
   Ralph Ortega - MH

Bonus Bundle Drawing
Grand Prize: $2,000 cash - #098
   Bill Chiala - MH
Second Prize: $1,500 cash - #283
   Bruce Unger - MH
Third Prize: $500 cash - #217
   Gene Guglielmo - MH
Fourth Prize: $400 cash – #009
   Michael & Margot Kakalec - MH
Fifth Prize: $350 cash – #260
   Michael Taylor - MH

Travel Sweepstakes Drawing
First Prize: Vacation or $5,000 cash - #1758
   Donna Dicker - MH
Second Prize: Disneyland trip or $1,500  #1423
   Joe & Paula Barbara - MH
Third Prize: $1,000 Cash - #2173
   Laura Salem - MH
Fourth Prize: Parrott Bebop Drone - #0977
   Tim Phillips - MH
Fifth Prize: $500 cash – #2013
   Salvador Villarruel - Gilroy
Sixth Prize: 2018 Pebble Beach Pro Am tickets - #1686 – Brian Greene - MH

Vehicle Sweepstakes Drawing:
First Prize: Vehicle up to $40,000 sticker or $30,000 cash - #1851
   Alejandro Algarra - MH
Second Prize: $1,500 cash - #1168
   Ray Marine - SM
Third Prize: $1,000 cash - #1690
   Crystal Stoykovich - MH
Fourth Prize: $500 cash – #1497
   Gerardo Martinez - MH
Fifth Prize: Overnight Getaway at Black Oak Casino - #1011 Mary Herrera - MH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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 re-awaken 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

GHANA
Awaso is a small village in Ghana, Africa. Attaining a high school diploma and living outside the bonds of poverty is out of reach for most of the village children who are unable to pass the required entrance exams. The Awaso Academy, founded in 2010 by Father Paul Mensah, is breaking the cycle of poverty and creating a brighter future by providing quality education. A donation of $1.34 per day, $40 per month, covers all their needs - text books, school supplies, uniforms, transportation, breakfast/lunch and a loving staff. Make a difference in a child’s life today! It’s easy! Visit www.awasohope.org and click “SPONSOR A CHILD”. Please call me if you encounter any difficulties. I’m here to help! Thank you for your support! Monica McClintock monica.mc@me.com 408.218.6007.

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 is bilingual in English and Spanish and the couples have the opportunity to renew their wedding vows. A reception in the Cathedral’s parish hall follows.

Visit our Wedding Anniversary page (www.dsj.org/WeddingAnniversaryMass) to find information.

MARRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR! NEXT WEEKEND, DON’T FORGET YOUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ENVELOPE!
A young couple, living in their car right here in Morgan Hill, expecting a new baby. Our own Holy Family. Families with unexpected expenses, or funds that were expected but never arrived. How to pay the rent? Stress and tears during this holiday season instead of joy and peace. But YOU have made a difference! Your generous donations to the parish St. Vincent de Paul ministry allowed our neighbors in need to dry those tears, breathe a sigh of relief, and prepare a warm place for the new baby. When you’re preparing for mass next weekend bring along your Second Collection envelope for SVdP. The phone rings every day with callers at the end of their rope. Your gift brings hope and a smile to those who are feeling low and alone, and helps them to hang on! Thank you for your continued generosity.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is a time of Welcoming and Hospitality

As we celebrate Advent, we recognize that it is a time of preparation for each and every one of us. For what are we preparing?

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 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.

Annual Car Raffle and Sweepstakes

We had an incredible raffle last Sunday, December 17! Congratulations to all the winners who won cash prizes, vacations, and a car!

As one of our largest fundraisers of the year, we are thankful to the leadership of the Raffle Committee, who, for over 35 years, have committed hours of time and energy to the parish at committee meetings and selling tickets after every Mass for two months. Thank you!

In coming weeks, we will share the news of how much was raised this year.

Merry Christmas!

Wishing you and your family an amazing and Merry Christmas! May God continue to bless you during this season of joy.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP OFFERINGS

We will begin to post this again each week to give you a snapshot of our current budget.

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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<th>Nov 12</th>
<th>Nov 19</th>
<th>Nov 26</th>
<th>Dec 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Stewardship Offering</td>
<td>$20,858</td>
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<td>Weekly Goal</td>
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<td>Weekly Budget Excess (Shortfall)($2,008)</td>
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<td>($5,543)</td>
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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 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.

The students, faculty & staff of St. Catherine School wish each of you a very blessed and joy filled Christmas season! Peace!

St. Catherine School is closed for our Christmas holiday. Classes resume Monday, January 8, 2018

APPLICATIONS FOR 2018-2019

TUITION ASSISTANCE—Guardian Angels

St. Catherine School is grateful for those Guardian Angels in our parish who contribute funds to 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!

Through Stitched Together, a club coordinated by a St. Catherine alumna, students made bears to donate to Learning Partners to assist students in developing reading skills.

GRANDPARENTS/SPECIAL PERSONS DAY

If you have a grandchild at St. Catherine School, your grandchild will ask you to join him or 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, January 31st. 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.