

St. Joseph of Cupertino Catechetical Ministry Family Letter—December 2009

Dear Families,

Thank you so very much for your generous response to our Outreach project for Thanksgiving. The food was delivered and received by the families with many thanks. We were able to bring food to twenty-nine families. You once again demonstrated what a caring community we have at St. Joseph of Cupertino. **THANK YOU!**

The flyer for our Christmas Outreach to the Alviso families went home before Thanksgiving. Students who were absent will have their flyer mailed home. The gifts will be due on December 13. We will deliver the gifts on Thursday, December 17.

During this holiday season, we in the catechetical office would like to thank you for the love and support you bring with your children to this Catechetical Program. Ultimately this is **YOUR** program, not ours, and we are privileged to serve this community in Christ. We wish you a prayerful and peace-filled Advent and a joyous Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Tam Tran
Director of Catechetical Ministry

Rosie Carmona
Administrative Assistant

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



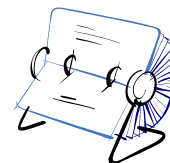
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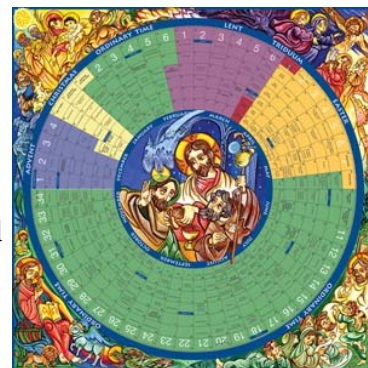
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On Sunday, November 29, we celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical year beginning with the season of Advent. During Advent, we focus on God-with-us (“Emmanuel”) through his Son, Jesus. We prayerfully await Jesus coming to us in glory at the end of time; we prayerfully rejoice in Jesus coming to us in the Eucharist and in the goodness we offer others; and we prayerfully prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago. If you need ideas that will help you bring special meaning to Advent for your child, don’t hesitate to contact the Catechetical Office. We can share our ideas and all of us will experience a more meaningful Advent Season.

We begin Year C of our three-year liturgical cycle. The gospel readings for this liturgical year will come mostly from Luke. Many think the author was a Gentile (non-Jewish) Christian named Luke, who may have traveled with Saint Paul. The Gospel is addressed to Theophilus, which means “friend of God” in Greek. So this Gospel is for anyone who wishes to be a friend of God.





Sacrament Preparation

Family Interviews:

Interviews are from November 30 to December 9. All children who are preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation are required to meet with either the School Religion Coordinator, Shirlene Do, or the Catechetical Director, Tam Tran. Email reminders will be sent two days before the scheduled appointment. Please make sure your child brings the *Making Things Right* book to the meeting.

First Reconciliation:

Second graders and older children who have not yet celebrated the sacrament will be celebrating their First Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 15, at 7 pm in the church. Families will participate together in a communal penance service, followed by individual confessions for the children. In preparation for celebrating this sacrament, please help your child to learn the Act of Contrition. The catechists do go over this prayer, but do not dedicate the entire class time in learning the prayer.

Upcoming Parent Meetings:

Second graders and older children who have not yet celebrated the Sacrament of Eucharist are called **Restored Order** because they will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation prior to Eucharist— hence *restoring* the order to what it was one hundred years ago. The meeting for the parents of these children is **Tuesday, January 26, at 7:30 pm in the Community Center.**

Older children who have already celebrated the Sacrament of Eucharist, but wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, are *not restoring* the order, so are referred to as **Confirmation Only**. The meeting for the parents of these children is **Tuesday, January 19, at 7:30 pm in the Community Center.**

Early Childhood Education News

The Early Childhood program will be focusing on the season of Advent and understanding the true meaning of Christmas. We will be sending home materials that will allow you to participate in age-appropriate activities with your child at home. Please help your child balance the rampant materialism seen all around us with a sense of how we, as Christians, prepare for Christmas with acts of kindness.



Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Mass honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held here at St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish on Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. The celebration will begin with rosary at 6:30 p.m. All parishioners are invited to participate in this very special celebration followed by a fiesta in the parish hall. The organizers of the feast are looking for children to take part in the procession. If your family will be attending this mass, please ask your children to take part in the procession. There is no practice. The children would arrive at 6:30pm and be given a flag of the world to carry. They are also encouraged to wear their traditional cultural attire if they wish. Children need not be of Hispanic heritage to participate in the procession. All nationalities are encouraged and welcome!

Activities for the Family *(these are two fields trips that the Junior High will be attending)*

Crèche Exhibit—Come celebrate the wonder of the birth of the Christ Child in a world of 500 nativities from 80 countries in a festive holiday setting with live music. Visit www.christmascreche.org for dates and times.

Bethlehem, Experience the Birth—Journey to the Biblical city of Bethlehem. Be a part of history and witness the events that led up to the birth of Jesus Christ. See Joseph and Mary search the city for a place to stay, see the lowly shepherds get visited by an angel and then proclaim the good news, see the noble entry of the wise men and their entourage looking for the new born king. Enjoy the music, drama, lights, and exotic animals as you "Experience the Birth". Visit <http://www.bethlehemsc.com/index.cfm> for dates and times.

This Month's Dates to Remember

Thursday, Dec 3	Parish Reconciliation Service, 7 pm in the church
Sunday, Dec 6	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 am liturgy with special emphasis on children Sunday Catechetical Classes in session
Tuesday, Dec 8	<i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i> A holy day of obligation: Mass at 6:30 am, 9 am, and 7 pm
Wednesday, Dec 9	Junior High field trip to the Crèche Exhibit in Palo Alto
Friday, Dec 11	<i>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> 6:30 pm Rosary, 7 pm Mass
Sunday, Dec 13	Sunday Catechetical Classes in session Alviso Christmas Outreach donations due—wrapped gifts should be brought to class today or dropped off in the Catechetical office.
Monday, Dec 14	Junior High field trip to experience Bethlehem first hand in Santa Clara
Tuesday, Dec 15	First Reconciliation, 7 pm in the church
Thursday, Dec 17	Alviso Christmas Delivery—10 am
Sunday, Dec 20	No Sunday Catechetical Classes
Sunday, Dec 27	No Sunday Catechetical Classes
Sunday, Jan 3	Sunday Catechetical Classes resume



***Junior High will meet every Wednesday night from 7:30pm—8:45pm except for Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.*



St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish—2009 Christmas Schedule

Advent Reconciliation

Thursday, December 3, 7 P.M.

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

Masses: 4, 6, 8 and 10 P.M.

(The 4 P.M. mass will have a special focus on children.)

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

Masses: 8, 9:30 and 11 A.M.

Feast of the Holy Family

December 26-27

Regular weekend schedule

New Year's Day (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Friday, January 1, 2010

Mass at 10 A.M. only

(This day is not a holy day of obligation this year.)



101 Gifts to Give All Year Long

1. Smile. 2. Provide a shoulder to lean on. 3. Pat someone on the back. 4. Say "thank you". 5. Give an unexpected kiss... 6. ...or a warm hug. 7. Say, "You look wonderful!" 8. Rub a tired back. 9. Whistle when you're feeling down. 10. Send a thank-you card to an old teacher. 11. Say "Good morning," even if it isn't. 12. Mail an unexpected and caring letter to an old friend. 13. Place a surprise phone call. 14. Wash the dishes when it's not your turn. 15. Empty the trash when it's not your turn. 16. Ignore a rude remark. 17. Send a "one-minute love call." 18. Start off someone's day with a joke or funny story. 19. Make coffee at the office for your secretary, for example. 20. Save the want ads for a job hunter. 21. Write an encouraging letter to the editor. 22. Take a grandparent to lunch. 23. Send a "thinking of you" card. 24. Wave and smile at a parking enforcement officer. 25. Pay your bills on time. 26. Give your used clothes to a needy person. 27. Pass on some good news. Don't pass on the gossip. 28. Say something nice to someone. 29. Lend a favorite book. Don't nag to get it back. 30. Return a friend's favorite book. 31. Play catch with a little kid. 32. Help someone figure out a solution instead of giving advice. 33. Take a box of homemade cookies to work. 34. Visit an elderly shut-in. 35. Laugh at a boring joke. 36. Tell your partner that she is beautiful. 37. Serve breakfast in bed and clean up afterward. 38. Clean the house for Mom and Dad. 39. Share a dream. 40. Walk with your partner on a regular basis. 41. Keep a confidence. 42. Try to understand a teenager. Try again and again. Succeed. 43. Let someone ahead of you in line. 44. Catch someone "doing it right" and say, "Great job!" 45. Say please. 46. Say yes when you'd rather say no. 47. Explain patiently. 48. Tell the truth, but with kindness and tact. 49. Encourage a sad person. 50. Spread a little joy. 51. Do a kind deed anonymously. 52. Share your umbrella. 53. Leave a funny card under a windshield wiper. 54. Tape a love note to the refrigerator. 55. Give someone a flower from your garden. 56. Share a beautiful sunset with someone you love. 57. Say, "I love you" first. Say it often. 58. Share a funny story with someone whose spirits are dragging. 59. Free yourself of envy and malice. 60. Encourage some youth to do her best. 61. Share an experience and offer hopefulness. 62. Find the time. 63. Think things through. 64. Listen. 65. Examine your demands on others. Give some of them up. 66. Lighten up. Find the funny side of a situation. 67. Take a quiet walk when you feel like blowing your top. 68. Be a friend. 69. Be optimistic. 70. Express your gratitude. 71. Read something uplifting to someone. 72. Do what you value and value what you do. 73. If you see litter on the sidewalk, pick it up instead of walking over it. 74. Be genuine. 75. Walk tall. 76. Never miss an opportunity to be affectionate to your loved ones. 77. Invite a loved one to snuggle and lie on the grass on a summer's night while you look at the stars. 78. Look for something beautiful in one person everyday. 79. Take someone on a surprise outing. 80. Ask a friend for help, even when you don't need it. 81. Be quiet in a library. 82. Help someone change a tire. 83. Tell a bedtime story to a little one or ask the little one to tell you a story. 84. Share your vitamin C. 85. Give a blanket to a homeless person. 86. Mail someone a poem. 87. Leave your letter-carrier a little gift. 88. Point out the beauty and wonder of nature to those you love. 89. Allow someone a mistake. 90. Allow yourself several mistakes. 91. Take someone to the circus. 92. Use just one parking space. 93. Consider a different point of view. 94. Let your partner win at golf. 95. Forgive an old grudge. 96. Talk with a lonely child. 97. Laugh at an old joke. 98. Take the kids to the park. 99. Be the "eyes and ears" for your friends. 100. Buy the wine your partner likes. 101. Let go of the urge to be critical of someone.

Author: Hanoeh and Meladee

