

St. Joseph of Cupertino Catechetical Ministry Family Letter—January 2010

Dear Families,

Our Outreach families in Alviso extend to you a warm wave of gratitude for your generosity during this Christmas season. None of us know when we will need others to reach out to us, so it is a privilege to be in a position to be able to help families in need. If you or a parish family you know could use some help in the future, please do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of our Catechetical Staff. We will see what we can do.

The Catechetical Ministry family here at St. Joseph of Cupertino has lost a beloved catechist/friend/mentor in Donna Brock. She was very involved in all catechetical aspects and that was very evident by the number of people who came to her funeral service. She will be missed dearly. I have included in this newsletter a short biography of her.

We hope you all had a peaceful and prayerful Christmas and we look forward to the year ahead!

We would like to remind you that this FAMILYLETTER is the primary method of communication between the Catechetical Office and your family. Please expect it monthly. If you don't receive it by the first Sunday of the month (either email or in paper via your child's class), please call the Office so we can remedy the situation.

There are many important notices in this newsletter, so please take a couple minutes to read it thoroughly.

Yours in Christ,

Tam Tran
Director of Catechetical Ministry

Rosie Carmona
Administrative Assistant



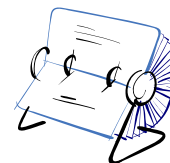
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VIRTUS, “Protecting God’s Children” Safe Environment Program

The diocese has implemented the “Protecting God’s Children” Safe Environment Program two years ago throughout all the parishes. This is a 3-year cyclical program. St. Joseph of Cupertino’s Catechetical Ministry will be rolling out the third year for students from K-8th grade in their Sunday/Wednesday classes this month. The Touching Safety Program gives children the tools they need to protect themselves from those who might harm them. **Children (along with their parents) in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade will participate in the program on Sunday, January 31, in the Parish Hall. This will replace their class for that Sunday. Students in grades 7 and 8 will participate in this program on Wednesday, January 27 in the Youth Ministry room. Specific times will be sent out and posted on the website.** If you opt-out your child last year from the program and wish to do so again, you will need to fill out a new opt-out form for your child. Feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns you have about the program.

Sacrament Preparation

Tuesday, January 19, 7:30 pm, in the Community Center

Parents of children who have already celebrated the Sacrament of Eucharist, but are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, are expected to attend this Orientation/Catechetical Parent Meeting. We will also be distributing the children's material for home preparation, as well as scheduling family interviews for those families who have not done so already. Please bring along a copy of your child's Baptism and First Eucharist certificates, sacramental preparation application and \$35 fee if you have not already done so. If your child was baptized or received their First Eucharist at St. Joseph of Cupertino, then there is no need to turn in a copy of the certificates.

Tuesday, January 26, 7:30 pm, in the Community Center

Parents of children who have not yet celebrated the Sacrament of Eucharist, so are preparing for both the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, are expected to attend this Informational/Catechetical Parent Meeting. We will also be distributing the children's material for home preparation.

Family Retreat

All families of children celebrating the sacraments of Confirmation and/or First Eucharist are expected to participate in the family retreat, ***Saturday, March 20***. At least one parent/guardian should be in attendance with all the children preparing for the sacraments this year—sponsors and siblings are welcome to attend! **The retreat will be in the morning, from 9:30am—12pm in the Parish Hall.** Further details about the retreat will be sent home in March.



Children's Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and Eucharist

In their catechetical sessions, the second graders are beginning to look at the meaning of our Eucharist Celebration and how we come together to celebrate the Mass as a community each Sunday. They will learn about the parts of the Mass, in order to help them participate more fully and meaningfully each week when you go to Mass as a family.

One of the most important gifts you can give your child is your family's attendance at Mass together on a regular basis. During this time of preparation, take the time during the Mass to answer any of your child's questions. Help them follow along in Breaking Bread so that they may participate in the responses. Help them turn to the songs when appropriate. The focus during the Catechetical sessions is the liturgy and what we do as members of the celebrating community when we gather each week. If the children do not experience this celebration, it is almost impossible for them to follow along. Mass times at St. Joseph are Saturday evening at 5 p.m., Sunday at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m., and 5 p.m. Of course, families will have to celebrate any of the mass time except for 11 a.m. because the children are in their class.

Early Childhood Education News



Happy New Year! Three year olds, four year olds and kindergarteners are exploring their senses this month. Because of the limited number of sessions we have in a catechetical year, the children's lessons will be combined so that they will have the opportunity to explore each sense, albeit in condensed lessons. The First graders are finishing their unit on Jesus. The children will also prepare at the end of the month for their prayer service that will take place on February 7. The prayer service will focus on love and friendship.

This Month's Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 3	Catechetical Classes in Session
Sunday, January 10	Catechetical Classes in Session
Sunday, January 17	Catechetical Classes in Session
Tuesday, January 19	Sacramental Preparation Parent Meeting 7:30 p.m., Parish Community Center (For parents of children who have already celebrated First Eucharist and are preparing for Confirmation ONLY)
Sunday, January 24	Catechetical Classes in Session
Tuesday, January 26	Sacramental Preparation Parent Meeting 7:30 p.m., Parish Community Center (For parents of children celebrating both Confirmation and First Eucharist)
Wednesday, January 27	Protecting God's Children Program—Junior High session
Sunday, January 31	Catechetical Classes in Session Protecting God's Children—Kindergarten through 6th grade

***Junior High will meet every Wednesday night from 7:30pm-8:45pm.**

Family Prayer Time



An important way to connect the Eucharist to children's lives is to emphasize the family meal. We all know how difficult it seems to be in this day and age to all sit down together at one time for a meal. However, it is precisely this experience of eating communally and sharing one's day with each other that leads to a deeper understanding of the Eucharist. Some families choose to make the family meal breakfast. Another thought would be to have an evening snack or dessert together at the family table. The important thing is to help the children connect with the ancient concept that eating with other people binds you together with them in an intimate way.

Upcoming Events at St. Joseph of Cupertino

January 3—3 p.m. in the Community Center, *The Fourth Wiseman* movie in celebration of Epiphany

January 4—7 p.m. in the school's Art Room, Bible Study with Deacon Ron Hansen on Paul's Life and Thessalonians.

January 9—10 a.m. in the Community Center, Consolation After the Holidays with Fr. Chris Bennet

January 9—7 p.m. in the church, the Choirs of St Joseph of Cupertino, lead by Dan Morris, will present a musical concert for the Christmas Season.

January 21—7:30 p.m. at Queen of Apostles church, Mass for Peace



Feast of the Epiphany—January 6 (observed on Sunday, January 3)

Epiphany is a traditional day for blessing of the home by chalking the lintel with the date and traditional initials of the Magi—Caspar, Balthazar, and Melchior. The letters C, M, B also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates to “may Christ bless (the) mansion/house.” Below is a blessing you can use in your own home. All you need is chalk and this paper.



Leader: Peace be to this house and all who live here. During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this feast of Epiphany. Through the guidance of a star, the coming of Jesus was made known to the Gentiles. We celebrate Christ made known to the Magi, to John in the River Jordan, and to the disciples at the wedding at Cana. Today Christ is made known to us! Today this home is a holy place! The Magi came from the east to Bethlehem to adore the Lord. We bow our heads and pray for God’s blessing... Lord our God, bless our home and all who live here. May we be filled with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, obedience to Your law, and thanksgiving to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Help us to love and respect one another and make your presence known by the way we care for others. May this blessing remain upon this house and upon all who live here. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Chalking the Door

Leader: As the words of the Gospel of John are proclaimed, let us consecrate this door and the home it protects to Christ who is the sheep gate. Let this door be the threshold that leads both ways to the blessings and goodness of God.

[As the Scripture below is proclaimed, the oldest and the youngest persons of the household may take turns inscribing “20 + C + M + B + 10” on the outside lintel of the front door.]

Reading of the Word of God

[A reader may slowly read the following text of sacred Scripture from the family Bible as the inscription is written over the door—John 1:13-14.]

In the beginning was the Word, (*inscribe 2*) and the Word was with God, (*inscribe 0*) and the Word was God. (*inscribe +*) He was in the beginning with God. (*inscribe C*) All things came to be through him, (*inscribe +*) and without him nothing came to be. (*inscribe M*) And the Word became flesh (*inscribe +*) and made his dwelling among us, (*inscribe B*) and we saw his glory, (*inscribe +*) the glory as of the Father’s only Son, (*inscribe 1*) full of grace and truth. (*inscribe 0*). The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Donna Marie Lecrivain Brock (1940-2009)

We mourn the loss of Donna Marie Lecrivain Brock. She died suddenly on the 24th of December 2009 at the age of 69. Born in the city of Orange, California on April 4th, 1940, she was the first daughter of Julian and Donna Lecrivain.

Donna made her life in the Bay Area after attending Stanford University. She started her teaching career at Strawberry Park Elementary School in San Jose. Her involvement in church ministry began at Sacred Heart Church in Saratoga as a catechist and later as an early childhood coordinator. Her dedication to the church and children continued as a Director of Religious Education at St. Nicholas Church in Los Altos and then at St. Joseph of Cupertino Church. She was a Master Catechist of the Diocese of San Jose and was actively involved in a variety of diocesan committees. During her years of ministry, she formed many catechists and mentored many catechetical leaders.

She received her Master’s Degree in Catechetical Ministry from Santa Clara University and was an active member of the alumni association of the Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries. She dedicated the later part of her life to the students of St. Joseph Church as an advanced math teacher. Always an educator, Donna will leave a large part of herself with many in the community.

She will be deeply missed by her sons Kevin Brock of Fort Collins, Colorado and Steven Brock of Lancaster, California. She will also be missed by her daughter-in-law Rhonda Edington and loving granddaughter Stephanie.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents, Julian and Donna, and brother Julian. She is survived by two sisters, Mary Langston of Huntington Beach, California and Roseanne LaBrie of Seattle, Washington and several nieces and nephews.

Her funeral service took place on Thursday, December 31st at 11am in St. Joseph of Cupertino Church. She will be laid to rest next to her parents at Good Shepherd Cemetery in Huntington Beach, California.