

# St. Joseph of Cupertino Catechetical Ministry

## Family Letter—November 2009

Dear Families,

Classes are now in full swing and we enjoy the life and love your families bring to the program.

Our second graders have begun preparing for the first of three sacraments they will celebrate for the first time this school year— the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Their First Reconciliation will be in the Church, Tuesday, December 15th at 7 p.m. Please join us and their families in praying for their continued blessing and faith!

The Alviso fliers went home on October 25th. Please bring your donations in by Sunday, November 15! We will be delivering the donations on Thursday, November 19th in the morning. Please let the office know if you wish to come help and meet the families we've adopted.

Yours in Christ,  
Tam Tran  
Director of Catechetical Ministry

Rosie Carmona  
Administrative Assistant



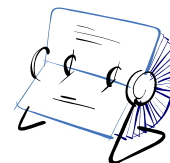
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### All Saints' Day

On November 1, we celebrate the feast of All Saints. Catholic saints are holy people and human people who lived extraordinary lives. Each saint the Church honors responded to God's invitation to use his or her unique gifts. God calls each one of us to be a saint. To learn more about these honored saints, visit <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/SaintofDay/> to see the featured saint of the day. For your children, they can visit <http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/kids/saints/>.

### Season of Advent

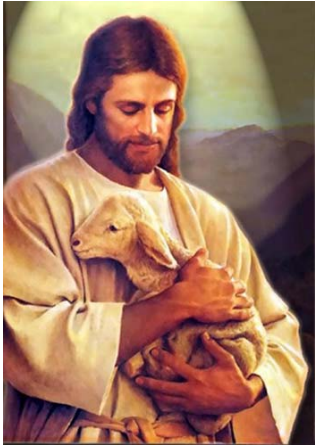


On Sunday, November 29, we begin a new liturgical year and the season of Advent. The First Sunday of Advent is not the beginning of the Christmas Season. Rather, it's the beginning of a time when we focus on faithful anticipation. We anticipate and long for the coming of Jesus as our loving Lord at the end of time. We anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, when he came into the world as our Lord and Savior. And we anticipate the coming of Jesus in our walk of faith every day, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist and in our acts of love, charity, and justice toward others.

Throughout Advent you can gather as a family for prayer around an Advent wreath. You can create a Jesse Tree and decorate it with symbols that represent the roots of our faith. You can focus your efforts as a family on ways to offer your resources to others.

If you need other 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.

## Sacrament Preparation



Family interviews for children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Full Initiation will take place between November 30 –December 9. Families can schedule a time with either Tam Tran or with Shirlene Do (School Religion Coordinator). Please schedule a time if you have not done so.

Children who have been preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will celebrate their First Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. The Celebration will be a communal celebration, followed by individual confessions. Parents are invited to celebrate the sacrament, as well once all the children have celebrated their First Reconciliation. If you have any questions about what will be expected, please call Tam at 252-7653 ext. 60.

## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner—SJC Volunteers Highlight Our Parish

Every year, St. Joseph of Cupertino invites all volunteers of the parish to an appreciation dinner. This year, the dinner will be held in the Parish Hall on Friday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m. As parents who volunteer your time in the Catechetical Ministry, you are invited to attend the dinner. Please RSVP to the office at 252-7653 (this dinner is for adults only). Please give me the honor of serving and thanking you for all you do for St. Joseph of Cupertino.



## Early Childhood Education News

Our Three-year-olds are exploring the gifts of movement and speech this month. Our Four-year-olds are exploring the gifts of their family and friends. The Kindergartners learn about saints, prayer and going to church. First grade is exploring their second unit on the first person of the Trinity, *Our Loving God*. All levels will be celebrating the holiday of Thanksgiving and the children will be putting on a special **Thanksgiving Prayer Service** on November 22, just for all of you parents! An invitation will be sent home on November 15!

Parents are asked to aide in their child's classroom twice in the school year (unless you're already a catechist). If you haven't signed up to aide, please do so. Catechists will call parents and ask for help if no one is signed up for a particular Sunday.

## Parish Thanksgiving Food Collection



During the month of November, our parish will be collecting food for Thanksgiving food baskets. The need grows each year and we need to offer help again this year. The sixth grade will help with filling the food baskets at 11:00 a.m. on November 22. If you would like to help out also, please come and join us. There are lots of things to do and many hands do make light work. If you can participate, please call 252-7653 and let us know so the coordinators of the project will know who is going to be helping on that Sunday.

## This Month's Dates to Remember



Sunday, November 1	Sunday Catechetical Classes in session <b>All Saints Day</b> <i>9:30 a.m. liturgy with emphasis on children</i> <b>Daylight Saving Time ends</b> —Set clock one hour back
Monday, November 2	<b>All Souls Day</b> <i>11 a.m. Mass at Gate of Heaven and Calvary Cemetery</i>
Sunday, November 8	Sunday Catechetical Classes in session
Friday, November 13	<b>Volunteer Appreciation Dinner</b> —Parish Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 15	Sunday Catechetical Classes in session <b>Alviso Thanksgiving Outreach</b> —donations due
Thursday, November 19	<b>Alviso Thanksgiving Outreach</b> —delivery, 10 a.m.
Sunday, November 22	Sunday Catechetical Classes in session Early Childhood Thanksgiving Prayer Service, 10 a.m. AV room <b>Begin Alviso Christmas Outreach</b>
Wednesday, November 25	<b>No Junior High meeting</b>
Thursday, November 26	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> <i>9 a.m. Mass</i>
Sunday, November 29	<b>No Catechetical Classes</b> —Thanksgiving break <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>

**\*\*Junior High meets every Wednesday night from 7:30 p.m.—8:45 p.m., except on Nov. 25.**

## Alviso Thanksgiving Outreach

Sunday, November 15 will be the deadline for bringing in the food and money contributions to the Alviso Outreach Project. Each child has received a flier about the food item their class is asked to contribute to the family's meal. We are asking each child to bring in a **\$3 monetary donation** in addition to the food contribution, in order to be able to provide the 30 families with grocery store SCRIP to purchase a fresh turkey. Please join us in our efforts to communicate the Gospel value that true gratitude leads to charity and generosity of spirit. If you are interested in helping with the delivery on Nov. 19 please let us know.



Below lists the food item each class is asked to contribute.

<b>4-yr-olds &amp; 3A—</b>	5lb bag of flour	<b>3-yr-olds &amp; KA—</b>	3 12 oz. cans of tuna
<b>2B &amp; 3B—</b>	5lb bag of sugar	<b>1A &amp; 1B—</b>	3 large boxes of Jell-O
<b>4B &amp; 5A—</b>	5lb bag of rice	<b>JH &amp; KB—</b>	3 15 oz. cans of vegetables
<b>2A &amp; 5B—</b>	5lb bag of pinto beans	<b>4A &amp; 6A—</b>	3 15 oz. cans of fruit

**Alviso Christmas Outreach:** On Wednesday, November 18 and Sunday, November 22, fliers for the Christmas outreach will be sent home before Thanksgiving break. Each student will be assigned a child in Alviso to buy a gift for. Your child will know the recipient's name, gender, age, and clothing size. If your family is unable to participate in the Christmas outreach for any reason, please let the office know by Monday, November 16.