

St. Joseph of Cupertino Catechetical Ministry

Family Letter—October 2009

Welcome Back!

Dear Families,

When you received your September FAMILY LETTER, you were also sent an emergency form, a parent volunteer form, and your invoice. It is diocesan policy that the emergency forms must be up to date in order for us to allow your children into the classroom. If you have not done so already, please turn in one emergency form per family by next Sunday. You may also turn in your volunteer form this week. We will be calling all families to ensure that our Sunday morning material preparation timeslots are filled. Finally, if you haven't yet submitted your payment, we will gratefully accept that in the office on Sundays or any other day!

If you are receiving this FAMILY LETTER hard copy, that means we do not have your email address. Please call or stop by the office in order to update us. We promise not to deluge your mailbox with trivial items!

New families to the program who didn't make it to the open house on September 27 should attend the make-up meeting that will take place on Sunday, October 11 from 9:30am-10:30am in the AV room.

Yours in Christ,

Tam Tran
Director of Catechetical Ministry

Rosie Carmona
Administrative Assistant



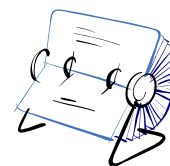
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Flu Prevention

The Diocese of San Jose is in contact with the Santa Clara County Public health Department to address the H1N1 (swine) flu situation. Temporary adaptations to the liturgy have been implemented until further notice. For more details on these adaptations, please visit <http://dsj.org/news-events/h1n1-flu-updates/adaptations-to-liturgy-h1n1-flu>. The Catechetical Ministry office will also be implementing procedures to lessen the spread of germs and we ask for each families' cooperation. Below are some ways we can help prevent getting or spreading the flu.

Good Health Habits to Prevent the Flu for children and adults!

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
2. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
4. Wash your hands often.
5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
6. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

Sacrament Preparation Parent Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 at 7:30 P.M., PARISH COMMUNITY CENTER

If you have a child who has not yet celebrated the sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Eucharist, please attend this Parent Orientation meeting. St. Joseph of Cupertino parish is a Restored Order parish, which means your child will celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the Fall and the sacraments of Confirmation along with First Eucharist this Spring. The purpose of this meeting is to give you an overview of the sacramental preparation process and schedule for the year, as well as to prepare you to take an active role in preparing your child for First Reconciliation. Fr. Greg will be presenting the topic of Reconciliation.



If you have not done so already, please bring to the meeting:

- A completed sacramental registration form (sent home with your child on Sunday, October 11)
- A copy of your child's baptismal certificate (*If child baptized here, simply provide us with baptismal date*)
- A check for the \$35 process fee
- Your calendar so you may schedule a family interview

If you wish your child to celebrate these sacraments this year, one parent needs to be in attendance at this meeting. In cases of difficulty, please call Tam at 252-7653 ext. 60 prior to this meeting to make other arrangements. Thank you and may God bless you and your child as you embark on this journey together!

Early Childhood Education News

Welcome to the 2009 – 2010 Early Childhood Program! We want to extend a very special welcome to our new students! Please remember it is not too late to enroll your preschoolers (turning 3 years old by end of December.) Just stop by the office to add your 3 year old to your family record!



Please take a look at what your children will be learning about this month:

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|------------------|------------------------|
| Three-year-olds: | “Look At Me” |
| Four-year-olds: | “God Made Me” |
| Kindergartners: | “God Made Me Special” |
| First Graders: | “Our Church Community” |

Remember that the catechists have a sign up sheet for parent volunteers in the classroom. This is a good way for you to get to know the teachers and be a part of you child's catechetical experience.

Family Prayer Time

Remembering that the responsibility for the spiritual growth and development of children rests first and foremost with parents, St. Joseph of Cupertino Catechetical Ministry seeks ways to help you in your sacred endeavor. Children learn to pray best and most easily when they pray as a family with their parents at home, as well as at church and Sunday classes. In addition to spontaneous prayer, the following prayers are age appropriate for your child to begin to learn by heart. In this instance, rote memory simply makes the child feel more at home in prayer. 3 year olds are capable of learning the Sign of the Cross. Kindergartners can learn the “Our Father” or Lord’s Prayer. Most children are ready to learn the Hail Mary by First Grade, thus allowing them to learn the Rosary. Children grades 2 and up should know all of the above mentioned prayers. Should you like copies of the prayers, please let the office know.

This Month's Dates to Remember

Wednesday, October 7	Junior High Meeting—Parent/Student Meeting 7:30 p.m.—8:45 p.m., Youth Ministry & AV Room
Sunday, October 11	Classes Begin Early Childhood-Grade 1 9:20 a.m.—10:30 a.m. Grades 2 - 6 10:50 a.m.— 12:00 noon
	New Family Meeting —9:30am-10:30am in the AV Room
Sunday, October 18	Sunday Catechetical Classes in session
Tuesday, October 20	Sacramental Preparation Parent Meeting—Reconciliation 7:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Parish Community Center
Sunday, October 25	Sunday Catechetical Classes in session <i>Alviso Thanksgiving Outreach Flier Distribution</i>
Wednesday, October 28	Edge Junior High Social Night—Holy Ween
Sunday, November 1	Sunday Catechetical Classes in session <i>9:30 a.m. liturgy with emphasis on children</i> Daylight Saving Time ends — <i>Set clock one hour back</i>



****Junior High meets every Wednesday night from 7:30 p.m.—8:45 p.m.**



3 minutes a day can give you 24 hours of peace. Take a short prayer break at your computer. Through soothing music, a daily Scripture verse, and reflective thoughts and questions, you can prepare your heart and mind to be open to God. Visit www.FindingGod.org/retreat.

Volunteers Needed

Office Volunteers: All families enrolled in Catechetical Ministry are asked to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours of service each year. One of the easiest ways to fulfill this commitment is to come into the office during your child's normal class time and assist in preparing the catechetical materials for future weeks. Feel free to call us before we call you, in order to schedule your preferred weekends! The office number is 252-7653 Ext. 60.



I wish to thank all who supported the parish this past weekend at the Sunday masses by purchasing the green reusable grocery bags. The Diocese of San Jose has rolled out the **Catholic Green Initiative of Santa Clara County** which aims to encourage area Catholics to conserve water and energy, to become more educated about conservation efforts and environmentally friendly practices for the home and workplace and to collaborate on a unified green vision for the diocese. The *Green Bag Initiative* is their first step in helping Catholics throughout the Diocese be more environmentally aware and to strive for environmental justice. If you wish to grab several green bags, they are still available at the rectory. The parish asks for a donation of at least \$1 for each bag. For those who live or shop in San Jose, the city council has recently banned most paper and shopping bags, effective 2011, so get a head start by picking up these green reusable bags at the parish office.

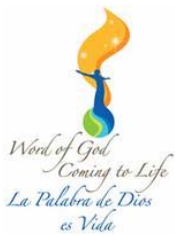
Junior High

On Wednesday, October 7, 7:30-8:45 p.m., our Junior High Youth Group will hold their first meeting to kick-off the year. Students will meet in the Youth Ministry room while parents will attend an informative meeting in the AV Room. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Tam at 252-7653 Ext. 60.

YAHOO! Groups

The Catechetical Ministry office has been using yahoogroups as a means of communication among the community at St. Joseph of Cupertino. Calendars and newsletters are posted to SJCCatMinistry yahoogroup, as well as other timely communications regarding Catechetical Ministry, Intergenerational learning, and Sacramental Preparation. To add your email address to the mailing list, simply send a blank email to SJCCatMinistry-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or call the office and request for your email to be added to the mailing list. Should you not have an email address, the office continues to send correspondence through the post.

Faith Formation Conference



This conference is sponsored by the Archdiocese of San Francisco, and the Dioceses of San Jose, Oakland, Stockton and Monterey on November 20-21 in Santa Clara. All of our catechists are urged to attend. If you as a parent would like personal enrichment or to find out more about Catechetical Ministry, you are encouraged to attend. There are brochures in the Catechetical Office. Just stop in and pick one up. Or visit http://sitekreator.com/faithformation/main_page.html and find out what workshops are being offered.

Adult Catechumenate (R.C.I.A.)

One of the greatest gifts we have been given is our gift of faith. This is a gift we are called to share. Is there someone you know who might be interested in learning more about our Catholic faith and becoming a member of our Catholic Church? Is that person a friend, relative, neighbor or yourself? Please call Janice LaMotte at 252-7653 Ext. 30 to let her know if you are coming or for further information.



Children's Catechumenate—Do you have a child age 7 or older who has not been baptized or was baptized in another Christian tradition and you would like that child to become a member of our Catholic community? Your child is a candidate for the Children's Catechumenate. Please call Janice LaMotte at 252-7653 Ext. 30 for information about the Catechumenate and your child.

Absences—If your child will be absent and you would like a message conveyed to your child's catechist, please call the office *before* class time. We have an answering machine so you may leave a message any time. If your child is in Grades 1 – 6, we suggest that you go over the lesson missed that week. The schedule is stapled inside the front of the child's book. That way she/he will be able to return to class with an understanding of what was presented the previous week.

As our children visit the pumpkin patch this month, a story that you can share with them.

A girl was asked by her friend, "What is it like to be a Christian?"
The girl replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then God cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. God removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then God carves you a new smiling face and puts God's light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

