

St. Joseph of Cupertino Catechetical Ministry

Family Letter—September 2009

Welcome Back!

Dear Families,

We welcome you to another year of Catechetical Ministry at St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish. The staff and catechists are looking forward to seeing you and your children again, as we all grow together in the faith and love of Christ. The theme for this year's Catechetical Sunday is **Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word**. Classes begin on **Sunday, October 11th**.

Since last year's process worked quite well, we continue to presume your continued registration each year. However, enclosed find an emergency form which we are required to have updated every year. We have populated emergency information that was given last year. If all information remains the same, just sign the form and return with the tuition and volunteer form. Any changes should be made on the back side, signed and return to the office. Also, you will find an invoice for this coming year's tuition or a statement verifying payment, as appropriate. We appreciate your payments as soon as possible, as we need to pay the textbook bill this month. A volunteer form is included this year to remind you of the ways Catechetical Ministry needs your help. Please prayerfully consider and return the form as soon as possible. Provided we have your current email address, you will receive this FAMILY LETTER electronically from now on. If your email has changed over the summer, just give us a quick call and we'll update our records.

Yours in Christ,

Tam Tran
Director of Catechetical Ministry

Rosie Carmona
Administrative Assistant



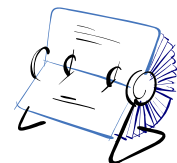
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A banner for Catechetical Sunday 2009. On the left, there is a graphic of an open book with the text "Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word" and "WORD" in large letters. On the right, the text reads "Catechetical Sunday 2009". The background is yellow with small red crosses.

St. Joseph of Cupertino will observe Catechetical Sunday on September 20, 2009. The theme for this year is **Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word**. At the 9:30 a.m. Mass, those who catechize the children and adults of our parish through the Parish School, Catechetical Ministry Program, RCIA, Marriage Preparation, Baptismal preparation and Youth Ministry will be commissioned for their ministry this year. Please consider celebrating at this Mass to show your support for these generous people, and to pray for and with them. All are welcome to refreshments and sweets in the Community Center after mass.

Sacrament Preparation Parent Meeting

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



If you have a child (2nd grade and older) 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. *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 Education Program! We are always happy to see our students return after a summer of fun and growth! We also 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 call the office to add your 3 year old to your family record!

We are fortunate to have an energized and loving group of experienced catechists who love to share their faith with the children. Our hope is for the children to grow to know and feel God's love in their lives every day. You should know that our Early Childhood Education catechists truly enjoy parent involvement. If your child will feel more comfortable with you staying in the room for a few weeks— or even the entire year, you are more than welcome to assist the catechists. More than a few catechists have begun their own ministries in just this way!



Open House & New Family Orientation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AT 12 P.M.-2P.M., PARISH HALL

There will be an open house for all (new and continuing) families with children enrolled in St. Joseph of Cupertino Catechetical Ministry program ages 3 through 6th grade. There are several important topics that will be discussed at the open house so please have at least one parent attend the meeting. There will be opportunities to visit the classrooms and also meet your child's catechists. The parish hall is located between

Sunday Evening Bible Study—The Gospel According to Mark

All parishioners are invited to take part in a six-week program involving the five senses in an imaginative encounter with Jesus, the Messiah. No homework is required other than meditating on the evangelist's stirring gospel account. Classes will be September 12 and 27, October 11 and 25, and November 8 and 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the community center. The facilitator will be our parish deacon, Ron Hansen, who is also a professor at Santa Clara University and a noted author. A biography of Deacon Ron Hansen was published in the parish bulletin in the summer. For those who didn't catch that bulletin, the biography is

Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 13	The Feast of St. Joseph of Cupertino, 11 a.m. Mass	
Sunday, September 20	Catechetical Sunday – Blessing of Catechists , 9:30 a.m. Mass	
Sunday, September 27	Open House, 12 p.m.– 2:00 p.m. in Parish Hall	
October 2-4	St. Joseph of Cupertino School Family Fun Festival	
Sunday, October 4	9:30 a.m. Liturgy with special emphasis on children	
Wednesday, October 7	Junior High Meeting—Open House 7:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m., AV Room	
Sunday, October 11	<u>Classes Begin</u>	
	Early Childhood-Grade 1	9:20 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
	Grades 2 - 6	10:50 a.m.— 12:00 noon
Wednesday, October 14	The Edge—1st meeting, Youth Ministry Room	
Tuesday, October 20	Sacramental Preparation Parent Meeting—Reconciliation 7:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Parish Community Center	

Volunteers Needed

Catechists: Would you please consider volunteering as a catechist (teacher) for this year? We are looking for people who are willing to share their faith experience with the young people of our church community. Each class is set up with two catechists, so each one only teaches every other week. (That's only 12 times each year!) All materials necessary for each week's lesson plan are provided and prepared by staff and volunteers, leaving you free to concentrate on personal prayer and lesson preparation. The more catechists for each grade, the smaller number of students per class. We are short catechists for grades 1, 3, 4 and 6. If they are not enough catechists, the classes will be combined into one. If you can consider this ministry, please call Tam at 252-7653 Ext. 60. Hope to hear from you soon!

Children's Liturgy of the Word: This ministry has been cherished at this parish. However, to keep it alive, we need volunteers willing to take on a monthly commitment to break open the Word of God with the children in attendance at 9:30 a.m. Mass. Training and materials will be provided. Again, please call Tam at 252-7653 Ext. 60.

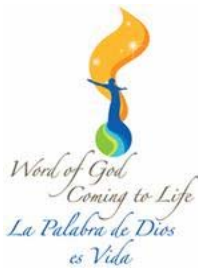
Office Volunteers: All families enrolled in Catechetical Ministry are asked to volunteer a minimum of 2 hours of service each year. One of the easiest ways to fulfill this commitment is to come into the office during your child's normal class time and assist in preparing the catechetical materials for 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.

God and angels don't get paid even though theirs is some of the most important work around. Ditto for volunteers.
~Cherishe Archer

St. Joseph of Cupertino Feast Day, Sunday September 13 at 11AM mass

Celebrate the Feast Day of St Joseph of Cupertino with us. Following mass, there will be a multi-cultural potluck with entertainment in the parish hall. If you can volunteer to setup, cleanup or even bring an ethnic dish to share with others, please let Janice LaMotte know at 408-252-7653 ext30.

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://sitecreator.com/faithformation/main_page.html and find out what workshops are being offered.

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.

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 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.



Mark your calendar! On Wednesday, October 7, 7:30-9 p.m., our Junior High Youth Group will hold

an Open House in the AV Room for those with questions or who need to register or who simply want to meet the team. The first session will take place on October 14, 7:30-8:45 p.m. in the Youth Ministry room. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Tam at 252-7653 Ext. 60.

Biography of Ron Hansen

Deacon Ron Hansen was ordained by Bishop McGrath on January 13, 2007 and comes to Saint Joseph of Cupertino following his original assignment to Mission Santa Clara. He also serves as co-chair of the Committee for Continuing Education of Clergy. Deacon Hansen grew up in Omaha, Nebraska where he received his B. A. in English literature at Creighton University. Following military service as a Lieutenant in the Army, he earned a Master of Fine Arts in fiction writing at the famous Iowa Writers Workshop.

He held a Wallace Stegner creative writing fellowship at Stanford University and taught there for three years before taking positions at the universities of Michigan, Cornell, Arizona, UC-Santa Cruz, and elsewhere. Since 1996 he has been the Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J. Professor in the Arts and Humanities at Santa Clara University, where he earned an M. A. from the Graduate Pastoral Ministries Program in 1995. Deacon Hansen is the author of twelve books, including *Mariette in Ecstasy*, *Atticus*, and *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, which was made into a movie starring Brad Pitt and Casey Affleck. His wife, Bo Caldwell, is also a fiction writer. Some parishioners may know her novel *The Distant Land of My Father*. Their daughter is attending medical school and their son is earning a graduate degree in musical theater at New York University. In addition to his other duties, Deacon Hansen will be leading a Bible study group on the Gospel of Mark this fall.