

St. Joseph of Cupertino Catechetical Ministry

Family Letter—September 2011

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. Classes begin on **Wednesday, October 5** for grades 7 and 8 and **Sunday, October 9** for ages 3 through grade 6.

This mailing that you received should contain the following:

For returning families:

- Emergency Form for each child. Use the blank form on the back side to make any changes. Please sign and return with payment..
- Volunteer form

For all families:

- Calendar of Sunday and Wednesday classes
- Faith Connection
- Invoice of tuition or statement verifying payment as appropriate. We appreciate your payment as soon as possible, as we need to pay the textbook bill this month.

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

Huong Tran
Administrative Assistant



CONTACT US

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Website:

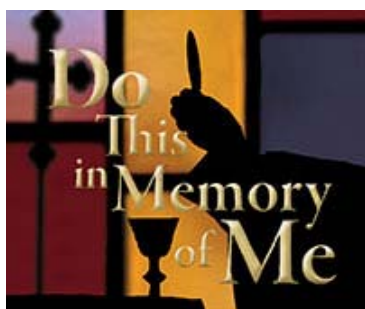
stjoscup.org/releduc.php

HOURS:

Monday-Thursday
9 AM—5 PM

Sunday
8 AM—1 PM

*Also by appointment



St. Joseph of Cupertino will observe Catechetical Sunday on September 18, 2011. The theme for this year is *Do This in Memory of Me*. At the 11:00 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 the reception after mass in the parish hall to celebrate our Parish Feast Day. If you can bring an ethnic dish to share, that would be great!

Teaching the Faith Together

I know how busy you are; there are just so many hours and so much to do. Catechetical classes can seem like “just one more thing” on your schedule. But I hope you’ll come to see it as much more than that. It’s the one hour (and 10 minutes) in your child’s week when she/he can gather with other children to concentrate on what it means to be a Catholic, a follower of Christ, and to learn what the church and gospels teach. The catechists will do their best to make this hour as interesting and inspiring as they can. They will do their best to teach the lessons in their textbooks, to pray with them, and to involve them in faith-building activities. But then it comes down to you!



What you do and say as Catholic parents will teach your child far more than I or the catechists ever could. Your example at home speaks volumes. And so I ask you to review your child’s lessons each week and share the activities they bring home. Attend Mass regularly so your child experiences being part of a worshipping parish community. Remember to pray at home, especially in the morning, before meals, and at bedtime. The catechists and I are here to support you in sharing the love of God with your child. Remember, as the bishops of the United States say, you are your child’s primary educators in the faith. What is shared in the classroom on Sundays and Wednesdays will not stay with your child if it is not shared in the home. We can all say that we don’t know enough to teach our children, but this is your chance to grow in your faith with your family. My office is always open to your questions and concerns. Let’s support each other in our prayers and actions.

Sacrament Preparation Parent Meeting



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25 at 7:30 P.M., PARISH COMMUNITY CENTER

There is a Parent Orientation meeting for parents of children who are preparing for their sacraments (children enrolled in 2A or 2B). 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. *Children celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation only will prepare in late January.*

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!*

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New Family Orientation Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 7 P.M.—9 P.M., COMMUNITY CENTER

There will be a meeting for all families who are new to St. Joseph of Cupertino Catechetical Ministry (or returning from a leave of absence). The parish community center is adjacent to the Church. The purpose of this meeting will be to acquaint you with our family handbook and our programs and class materials. We look forward to meeting you in person! Please RSVP to 252-7653 Ext. 60.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 18	The Feast of St. Joseph of Cupertino, 11 a.m. Mass Catechetical Sunday – Blessing of Catechists , 11 a.m. Mass
September 30 - October 2	St. Joseph of Cupertino School Family Fun Festival
Tuesday, October 4	New Family Orientation Meeting, 7 p.m.– 9 p.m. in Community Center
Wednesday, October 5	Junior High First Meeting 7:30 p.m.—8:45 p.m., Youth Ministry Room
Sunday, October 9	<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
Tuesday, October 25	Sacramental Preparation Parent Meeting—Reconciliation 7:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Parish Community Center

Early Childhood Education News

Welcome to the 2011-2012 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 November.) 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!

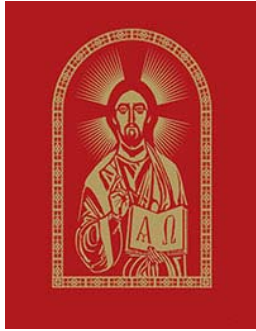
Volunteers Needed

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 4 and 5 during the 11am mass. If you can consider this ministry, please call Tam at 252-7653 Ext. 60. Hope to hear from you soon!

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.

Revised Roman Missal

Not many of you may be aware, but this Advent, a big change is coming that will affect us all in the church. A new translation of the Roman Missal will be introduced, changing the words we pray and the words we hear. Each child grades 2 and up will spend a portion of their time every Sunday/Wednesday in November to look at the changes and become familiar with the new mass responses. A booklet will be given to each child to help them follow along at mass. Visit http://stjoscup.org/roman_missal.php to learn more about the different changes to the mass.



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 18-19 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://faithformationconference.com/> 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? We encourage you to bring him/her or to come yourself to our first session, Wednesday, September 14, 2011, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Community Center. 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.

Meant4More Youth Ministry is open to all students in high school. We meet every Sunday from 6-8pm. Come join us and make new friends, learn your faith, play games, sing, go on trips and watch movies. For more information, email primomartinez@yahoo.com.



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.