
St. Joseph of Cupertino

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish
Cupertino, California

March 2009

Flyer



Bereavement Ministry Marks 10 Years of Service

By Steve Hill



Mary Ann Herlihy

For over ten years, a dedicated crew of volunteers has been providing compassionate help to grieving parishioners through the Bereavement Ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to furnish salads and desserts for receptions following a funeral or memorial Mass. This frees a family from having to arrange for reception food amid making funeral arrangements

and dealing with grief.

A family who experiences a loss can engage the Bereavement Ministry by contacting Mary Ann Herlihy at 221-7255. Her contact information appears in the Sunday bulletin. Give Mary Ann the estimated headcount and the type of food desired (salads, desserts or both). She will assign a subset of the 60 ministry volunteers to prepare the food and deliver it to the rectory for staging. The family picks up the food prior to the reception. This service may be used for receptions hosted in the Community Center or at an offsite location.

Mary Ann started the Bereavement Ministry after experiencing this service at two other parishes in conjunction with funerals. She learned firsthand how this generosity is so supportive to grieving families. She became motivated to start a similar ministry at St. Joseph of Cupertino.

The Bereavement Ministry is an example of a long list of volunteerism and service at St. Joseph of Cupertino parish by Mary Ann. She was raised in Santa Clara County and joined our parish as a youngster. She attended the parish school as part of the Pioneer Class – the first class to go through first to eighth grades.

Mary Ann attended Mother Butler High School, where the nuns (Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary) instilled a sense of duty and volunteerism. She also had the example of her father, Vince LaPorta, who has been a parish usher for 52 years. In 1979, Mary Ann and her husband John settled in Cupertino and became members of our parish. When their children, Shannon and Jennifer, each reached school age, she enrolled them in the parish school, starting the cycle over.

Once her children were enrolled in the school, Mary Ann dove into the parish life. She taught kindergarten at the school as a substitute for a teacher on maternity leave. Later, she was the school art teacher for five years. Mary Ann directed the Early

Childhood Education (ECE) Catechetical Ministry program from 1986 – 1991.

When St. Joseph of Cupertino School decided to start an annual fundraising auction in 1986, Mary Ann volunteered to lead it. She had to create the auction playbook from scratch, and her basic model has been used at the annual auctions ever since. The successful event raised \$13,000 that first year.

When Msgr. Milani started a parish Finance Council in the early 1990s, Mary Ann became a charter member and served for six years. She has been a lector and a Communion Minister for over 20 years. Mary Ann is noted for her excellent organization and management skills. When it came time to install the meditation garden, Fr. Greg tapped her to manage the effort. She coordinated with the landscape architect and contractor to achieve a successful project.

Mary Ann is an attorney, holding a law degree from Santa Clara University. She and her husband, the Honorable John Herlihy, were recently recognized for their volunteer work for the St. Thomas More Society of Santa Clara County. The St. Thomas More Society is a Catholic society for judges and attorneys dedicated to enhancing the spiritual lives of its members. Each year they hold a Red Mass and recognize a member for noteworthy volunteer work. In November, the award was shared by Mary Ann and John at the Red Mass held at the Stanford Memorial Church and presided over by Bishop McGrath.

Supporting St. Joseph's – automated giving

By Mike Hoffman

What does the Church mean to you – Masses, social events, religious education for your children, the bereavement ministry? All of these require money: money for salary and benefits for priests and lay staff, money for heat, water, electricity and repair for church buildings; money to make the required payments to the Diocese every month.

There are a number of ways you can help. Consider your current level of giving. Think about what the Church means to you and consider giving a minimum of 1% of your gross income. Secondly, help smooth out the Church's income stream. There are 3 ways you can do this:

- 1) Sign up for Parish Pay. Using Parish Pay, you can pay a set amount each month for first and second collections. No more checks to write during Mass! (<https://www.parishpay.com/homepage.asp>)
- 2) Sign up for an automatic deduction from your bank account. Most banks offer online bill paying services that allow you to set up an automatic monthly payment.
- 3) Write just one check per month and drop it into the collection basket or mail it to the Church office.

If you have any questions concerning your giving, you may consult our Pastor Father Greg, or the parish Business Manager, Monica Viruegas-Ferrante, or contact the Parish Pay team (via email at: ppcteam@stjoscup.org, or call Mike Hoffman at 408-255-4767).

Sanctus

By Pat Schaaf

Where can you find the word “Sanctus” in our church? Hint: Have you sat in the chapel (Mary’s chapel) adjoining the main part of our church? Do you know why it is the



most special place in the church? The answer is: because it is where the tabernacle resides, the physical dwelling of Jesus Christ among us. Above the tabernacle door is the word SANCTUS, which means Holy (see picture). It is holy because it contains the *real presence* of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

The Catholic Church has always offered the sacrament of the Eucharist as a way of worship and adoration, *not only during the*

Liturgy of the Eucharist, but also outside of Mass

where the consecrated hosts are reserved in the tabernacle with utmost care and reverence for distribution to the sick, and for solemn veneration by the faithful.

Pope John Paul II declared Oct. 2004 to Oct. 2005 the “Year of the Eucharist.” During that year, Eucharistic adoration outside Mass was encouraged to become a particular commitment for individual parish and religious communities. As a regular practice, the Code of Canon Law urges the “faithful to visit the Most Blessed Sacrament as often as possible” (Canon 1273).

Adoration is to acknowledge, in love and absolute submission, our existence, first and foremost, for God. It is to praise and exalt Him and to humble oneself, as Mary did in the Magnificat, confessing with gratitude (Greek “eukaristos”) that He has done great things and holy is His name. (Lk 1:46-49). For a Catholic, this is as essential as breathing.

Benediction dates back as early as the thirteenth century. This devotion in the Roman Rite consists of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance or a pyx (words for research), adoration of the faithful, hymns, and the blessing during which the priest makes the sign of the cross with the Blessed Sacrament over the people.

You are always invited to stop by our chapel (usually between 8am-5pm) to visit the real presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle, or to stop by a local parish that may be open at a more convenient time. Our church exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is every Wednesday morning from 9:00am until 12:15pm, followed by benediction.

The Meaning of Lent

By Mike Maloney

For most Christians, Lent is a period synonymous with diets. For Catholics, it also means ashes on your forehead on Ash Wednesday and no meat on Fridays. It’s understandable that people would characterize Lent by the outward signs of our observances, but it means a lot more than that.

The primary purposes of Lent include fasting, penitence, and conversion, with the objective being internal renewal. The word itself has Germanic roots and literally means springtime, so we consider the period as a time for spiritual spring cleaning. Our objectives need to include the taking of a spiritual inventory and a cleansing of anything that gets in the way of a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, lasts for 40 days, Sundays excepted, and ends on Easter Sunday. The ashes we wear on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday are a mark of repentance and a reminder we are dust and will return to dust. The Church understands that if we weren’t regularly reminded of the gravity of Jesus’ and St. John’s warnings to repent, we would do nothing. We’re reminded on the first day of Lent there is an end to our earthly lives and only so much time to take advantage of the grace of conversion.



The primary tasks the Church proposes for the entire Lenten season include fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Fasting requirements for Lent include abstinence from meat on Fridays and fasting (meaning only one full meal) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. “Giving something up” for Lent is a form of fasting and develops a greater self-discipline when the season is over. Some people give up sins, like excessive drinking or gossip, so Lent becomes a spiritual boot camp for overcoming evil. Whatever we set as our goals, we need to remember Lent’s true purpose is spiritual growth, not the shrinkage of our waistlines.

The Church secondly encourages us to improve our prayer life during Lent. Some Catholics use the season to increase the frequency of their scripture reading or to read prayers from the Liturgy of the Hours. Going to daily Mass, praying the rosary, or reading a good book about our Catholic faith is infinitely better for the health of our souls than temporary abstinence from some luxury or bad habit.

Lastly, the Church encourages almsgiving during Lent. While we are encouraged to fast during this season, it is even more important to put something positive in its place. And the best way to control a vice is to cultivate a virtue. The act of giving for all Christians is a year-round calling, but Lent is a time when we should be more generous or get ourselves more actively involved in charity. Maybe someone we know has been hard-hit by a job loss or a death in the family, and we should step out of our comfort zones to help him or her. The point is almsgiving during Lent deepens our Christian commitment. By graciously offering ourselves, we give witness that it is love and not material possessions that endures and defines our Christian existence.

Signs and Symbols of St. Joseph of Cupertino Church

By Jim Schaaf

This is the first in a series of articles describing the architectural and religious aspects of the St. Joseph of Cupertino Church. This article begins a description of the church building along with descriptions of some of the signs and symbols present in the church.

OUTSIDE

The church, when viewed from DeAnza Boulevard, reminds one of a California Mission with adobe-colored walls, a red tile roof and a bell tower on the right, topped by an aluminum cross.

Window

A massive stained-glass window, installed in the early 2000s, is the center piece of the front facade. The stained-glass design has a main Greek cross (looks like a plus sign) with a circle imposed. The circle symbolizes the perfection of God because both have no beginning and no end. The extension of the main Greek cross inside the circle has the two horizontal limbs that are narrower than the outside limbs, presenting us with an abstract image of Christ on the cross. In the center of the Greek cross along the vertical member is a motif used repeatedly inside the church. It shows a cross and two lilies coming from the same base. This symbol reminds us: “By Your Cross and Resurrection, You have set us free; You are the Savior of the world.”

Cornerstone



On the bell tower near ground level is the building’s cornerstone. The original church on this property was built “Nov. 10, A.D. 1907.” A note above this date indicates that this church was “Rebuilt in 1952.” Records,

however, indicate fundraising took place in 1952 and the new church was completed in 1953 and formally dedicated by Archbishop Mitty of San Francisco, on August 31, 1953.

Doors

The entrance at the front of the church consists of four, heavy oak doors. Generally only the middle two are used. On all doors, raised wooden squares are prominent. There are three raised squares to each of the four doors, making twelve in all – reminding us of the twelve Apostles and the twelve Tribes of Israel, for as the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) proclaims, “Abraham, [is] our father in faith” and as the Vatican II document *Declaration on the Relation of the Church to non-Christian Religions* (1965) indicated in No. 4, “She [the Church of Christ] professes that all Christ’s faithful, who as men of faith are sons of Abraham (cf. Gal. 3:7) ...”

Thanksgiving Outreach Sets a Record

By Marieann Shovlin

Once again, SJC Parishioners and the SJC Parish School came through to help those in need. Responding to Jesus’ call to feed the hungry, over 100 SJC volunteers helped provide “baskets” for 204 needy families in our community. Thanks to their donations of time, talent and treasure, SJC had a tremendous success — and volunteers told us they had a great time, too!

This Outreach program was led by Sharon Niedermaier and her team, continuing over 30 years of SJC community service begun by Mike and Vivian Hurley. Basket recipients come from SJC parish, Le Beaulieu special needs families and WVCS rolls.



This year, the program will focus more on vendor food donations and boosting monetary donations from parishioners, as WVCS support will be lower due to their reduced funding.

Simbang Gabi

By Mabel Hoffman

Our parish enriched the Advent season with a well-attended, 4-day celebration of Simbang Gabi (“Night Mass”). It truly reflected the joyful, Christmas anticipation and longing for the birth of Jesus Christ. New this time: one day was added (there are traditionally 9 novena masses); priests from other diocesan parishes presided – Fr. Noel San Vicente, Fr. Jojo Page, Fr. Willie Manrique; a choir group of Filipino seminarians led the inspiring songs during one Mass and sang carols at the reception; Mariqueta Churchill and members of the Guadalupe group led the Mass attendees on the last night, in a re-enactment of Joseph and Mary seeking shelter. A special thank you goes to all who made Simbang Gabi a part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. May Simbang Gabi continue to flourish at St. Joseph of Cupertino.



Resurrection Sudoku

By Lorinda Rodrigues

A word-based Sudoku Puzzle uses the same logic as a number Sudoku. For a number Sudoku, you fill in the puzzle so each row, column and 3x3 block contains the numbers 1 to 9 once.

In this 'Word Sudoku' puzzle: fill in the puzzle so each of the 9 unique letters in the word 'RESURRECTION' appears exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 block. (CEINORSTU)

For the solution, see our Parish's website: <http://www.stjoscup.org/>

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Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

On December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Joseph of Cupertino parish hosted our annual Guadalupe Mass and Fiesta. What made it extra special this year was the presence of Bishop McGrath who presided at Mass, concelebrated with six priests, including Frs. Kimm, Segovia, Seimas, Soukup and Olivera.



The church was packed with faithful followers of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Mass included a live mariachi band, a reenactment of the story

of Juan Diego by parish school eighth graders, and Aztec dances by the younger students.

After Mass, the bishop blessed the new shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There followed a lively fiesta held in the parish hall, featuring Mexican food, piñatas for the children, and mariachi music and dance. The entire event was organized by The Friends of our Lady of Guadalupe led by Mariqueta Churchill, who received two awards, one from Cupertino and one from Sunnyvale, recognizing her volunteer efforts.

Parish Calendar

Mar. 23 – 25	7:00 pm	Church	Parish Mission
March 31	7:00 pm	Comm. Center	Christianity 101, Fr. Jose Rubio
April 3	5:30 pm & 7:00 pm	Comm. Center	Soup Supper. Parish penance service in church
May 3	11:00 am Mass	Church & C.C.	New parishioner welcome, blessing & reception
May 3	Noon	Garden	Celebration in Honor of Mary. May Crowning
May 6	7:00 pm	Comm. Center	What Happened to Heaven, Hell & Purgatory? Fr. Kevin Joyce
May 30 – 31	After all Masses	Comm. Center	Ministry Faire
Saturdays.	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
Mondays	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
Mondays	Noon	Comm. Center	Prayer Group
Sundays	10:30 – 11:00 am	Front of church	Video library
1 st Sunday	Morning Masses	Comm. Center	Hospitality after Mass – Coffee and Donuts
1 st Sunday	3:00 – 4:00 pm	Rectory	Grief Support Group
1 st Sunday	6:15 pm	Church	Evening Prayer
2 nd Sunday	12:15 pm	Rectory	Scripture Sharing Group
2 nd Friday	9:00 – 10:00 am	Local parks	Mom's Group, Call Carol Ruiz at 777-2966

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The Flyer, with color photos, is posted on the parish web site