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# St. Joseph of Cupertino

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish  
Cupertino, California

## Flyer

November 2009



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### Aline and Tony Pelosi: Pioneer Parishioners

By Mike Hoffman



Aline and Tony Pelosi have been members of St. Joseph of Cupertino parish as a married couple since 1955. Aline Pelosi (nee Ravizza) has lived in Cupertino and attended Mass at St. Joseph of Cupertino all her 85-year life, except for ten years when she lived in Los Angeles.

At the time she was born, virtually all of what is now Cupertino was orchards. Ranchers, including her father and

grandfather, tended orchards of cherry, apricot and prune trees. She remembers picking prunes and cutting apricots. It was real work that had to be done. According to Aline: "If you wanted a new dress for school, you had to work."

Aline's grandfather emigrated from Italy and settled in the Cupertino area as an orchardist. Her father also became a rancher. The family did its shopping at the Cupertino Store at Stevens Creek and DeAnza that was a combination butcher shop, grocery and post office. There was sawdust on the floor. They went for ice cream at a store nearby. Aline grew up in a home on Wolfe Road when there was nothing else on Wolfe Road besides orchards. One of her sons owns the house and is renovating it.

Aline attended Cupertino Union Grammar School, located close to where our parish is. At that time, St. Joseph of Cupertino did not have a parochial school. Aline attended catechism classes taught by nuns from San Jose. For a year, the classes took place in the drying shed on her grandfather's orchard. After that, they were moved to the church. Children from all over attended the classes.

Times were tough for the ranchers, especially during the Great Depression. The ranchers had to wait a year before collecting any money from their crops. One rancher with 10 acres made \$250 for the whole year. In order to make ends meet, her mother worked for Cali Brothers for many years. Aline worked for Ames and Libby's Cannery. She and her girlfriends rode bikes to work. There was very little traffic on the roads.

Tony grew up in San Francisco and attended St. James Catholic School where he had "many rulers broken over his knuckles." He got a business degree from Santa Clara University in 1943 and joined the Army. Aline and Tony were married in St. Joseph of Cupertino church on August 5, 1945.

Tony's parents were Italian immigrants. His mother never went to school and could neither read nor write, but she knew many prayers by heart. His mother and father ran a very successful restaurant in Los Angeles and his mother cooked. The waiters would shout out all the orders and his mother had to keep everything straight in her head. Tony believes that this skill enabled her to memorize many prayers.

Tony's mother was always extremely devout, but his father was not religious at all. Tony never gave up and his father converted and began attending Mass and receiving communion shortly before his death.

Tony and Aline lived in Los Angeles for the first ten years of marriage, helping his parents with their restaurant. They returned to Cupertino in 1955 and bought the house they now live in. At that time, the houses on Rodrigues, Sunrise and Scofield comprised the only subdivision in Cupertino. Tony taught math and coached basketball at Bellarmine for 40 years before retiring. Tony was on the Cupertino City Council for three years and was Mayor in 1961. As Mayor, he set boundaries for Cupertino to keep San Jose from annexing all of the land.

Tony and Aline have three sons and three daughters. They have 16 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and another great-grandchild due in December. All of them live nearby.

Aline has two brothers. Eugene owns Cupertino Electric. Armand, a retired airline pilot, lives in Chicago. He's a bachelor and a very conservative Catholic. Tony's only sibling, a brother (Vincent), died at 43. He contracted an illness while serving with the military in the Philippines.

Earlier in their retirement, Tony and Aline traveled quite a bit. They took trips to Italy, Germany and France. They took a one-month Mediterranean cruise with another couple Aline knew from school. Lately, they have been spending time at home, talking and doing things around the house. Tony has not been able to attend daily Mass for a while and looks forward to going again on a regular basis.

Tony's birthday is December 10<sup>th</sup>. Let's all wish him a very happy birthday and many more.

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## New Parishioners Enrich SJC's Community

*By Ed Johnson, parishioner since 1973*

Every one of us was new to our parish once. Some of us started as children of parish families. Some of us joined as adults, perhaps as part of relocating to the area. Some of us started as part of the process of becoming Catholic later in life. We all have our own reasons and stories to tell.



Anne and Bill Coffin joined St. Joseph of Cupertino in the summer of 2009. Here is their story: Anne and Bill moved to Sunnyvale from Menlo Park where they attended St. Denis church and were active and connected to the community. They were looking for a parish that had priests who delivered thoughtful and coherent homilies, an active community, a school and a Mass schedule that fit their needs and their two young children's schedules.

Our Welcoming Committee was started by Pat Schaaf in 2007 to provide an inviting and informative process to embrace and welcome our newest members. Special Masses to welcome newcomers are held quarterly. New members are recognized, given a special blessing during Mass and then have an opportunity to meet more of the parishioners at the reception that follows. Our parish has welcomed eighty to one hundred families per year to our community in recent times. Names of our new members are published in the weekly bulletin.

Anne and Bill attended Mass at several Catholic churches in the area before finding St. Joseph of Cupertino in late spring. At SJC they found a very involved community, parishioners who smiled and welcomed them and especially good homilies. The church was even built in the style they were familiar with

and desired. "We were looking for parishes with schools. Schools just make the community more robust," said Anne. After deciding to join our parish and then registering, Anne was impressed with the welcoming process and packet of information developed by the Welcoming Committee. It reinforced her decision about joining our parish. "Typically you get (donation) envelopes and little else," Anne said.

Anne has been a communion minister and was active in liturgies at previous parishes. She expects to participate in parish activities and organizations as her full-time schedule permits. As a new mom, Anne looks forward to joining the parish Mom's Group to provide activities for her children – Sean and Ryan – and the whole family.

We are pleased to welcome the Coffins and all the new parishioners with their families to our parish community. As our parish family grows and new join with old, traditions continue and then get richer with the involvement of all.

## 12 Days of Christmas: Symbols are Code

*By Mabel Hoffman*

Below is an interesting, legendary tale explaining the religious nature of one of the most popular secular Christmas songs. "What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge that won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?"

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics.

It has two levels of meaning, the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a double meaning for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings.

- **Two turtledoves** were the Old and New Testaments.
- **Three French hens** stood for faith, hope and love.
- The **four calling birds** were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The **five golden rings** recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The **six geese a-laying** stood for the six days of creation.
- **Seven swans a-swimming** represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit – Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.
- The **eight maids a-milking** were the eight beatitudes.
- **Nine ladies dancing** were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.
- The **ten lords a-leaping** were the Ten Commandments.
- The **eleven pipers piping** stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The **twelve drummers drumming** symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history lesson for today. Now you know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol. Merry CHRISTmas."

## Lectoring Is a Fulfilling Ministry

By Mike Hoffman

Three lectors were interviewed for this article and they relate in their own words what it's like to be a lector, what lectors would like from their audience, and things to think about if you're considering becoming a lector. The lectors interviewed for this article were: Karen Tjhan, Lynda Marcum and Dick Sherman.

### Reasons for being a lector

After a few years of being an Altar Server, I felt like I could serve the Parish better by being a lector and help spread the word of God out during Mass. (Karen)

Being a lector is "my way of giving back to the church." (Lynda)

In the old days, the presider picked out the lector just before Mass. Being a lector made me feel like I was participating more fully in the Mass and adding something to it. (Dick)

### Things lectors would like parishioners to know

If I see people looking down, my feeling is they're not listening to me. Reading dilutes it a little because I'm supposing to be proclaiming it (the word). (Dick)

I rarely get any feedback on my readings, but I would love to know how I did, if they heard me all the way in the back of the church. (Karen)

If you like my reading, speak up. Feedback is really important. (Lynda)

### Rewards of being a lector

I read a passage from Paul and a lady came up to me afterwards and said: I've been reading that passage from Paul for years and now I think I understand it. (Dick)

I think it's quite fulfilling to be a lector, because most people during Mass really only hear the word of God during that short period of time. (Karen)

### Things to think about if you're considering becoming a lector

Do not be intimidated about being in front of a large crowd; the parishioners are really understanding. Plus, if you didn't do too well, they can't make fun of you because you're still in church! (Karen)

You have to be able to communicate, not be afraid of a microphone. (Lynda)

I would ask them why they want to be a lector. If they want to participate more fully in the Mass and proclaim the word of God, then I think that's a good fit. (Dick)

When you listen to a lector and think they did a very good job or that they didn't speak loudly or clearly enough, or have any other opinions about their reading, find the lector after Mass and tell him/her what you think. Lectors want to know how their reading comes across to parishioners.

Have you thought about being a lector? Lectoring is an important and fulfilling ministry. Information about lectors and other ministries can be found on [www.stjoscup.org](http://www.stjoscup.org) or by calling the rectory (408-252-7653).

## Signs and Symbols of St. Joseph of Cupertino Church

By Jim Schaaf

This article continues a description of the church building, along with descriptions of some of the signs and symbols present in the church.

### The Chancel Area

At the eastern end of the nave there is a step and the entire area from the aisle to the back wall is raised and carpeted. This area one step up is the Chancel.



To the left of the altar space in a small nook, stands a statue of the Holy Family – St. Joseph, the Blessed Mother and the Child Jesus. This beautiful sculpture was donated to St. Joseph of Cupertino in 1990 by the Sam Nasmeh family. Prior to that time, a statue of Mary was there. During the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, a matching statue of St. Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, fell from its niche on the opposite side and was damaged beyond repair. Later, the statue of Mary was moved to the chapel and the ambry (described below) was

installed in the niche formerly occupied by St. Joseph.

In front of the statue of the Holy Family is a piano used for the music at certain liturgies. In front of the piano, down from the chancel on the floor of the nave, is an organ donated in the 1990's and installed at its present location. The organ pipes as well as the original organ are still in the choir loft but that area is currently off limits due to structural and access inadequacies.

To the right of the altar are three *prie-dieux* (kneeling bench) for the altar servers and a small table to hold the water cruet, dish and towel used during the Offertory of the Mass. A statue of our Patron, St. Joseph of Cupertino, is located on the wall to the right of the altar.

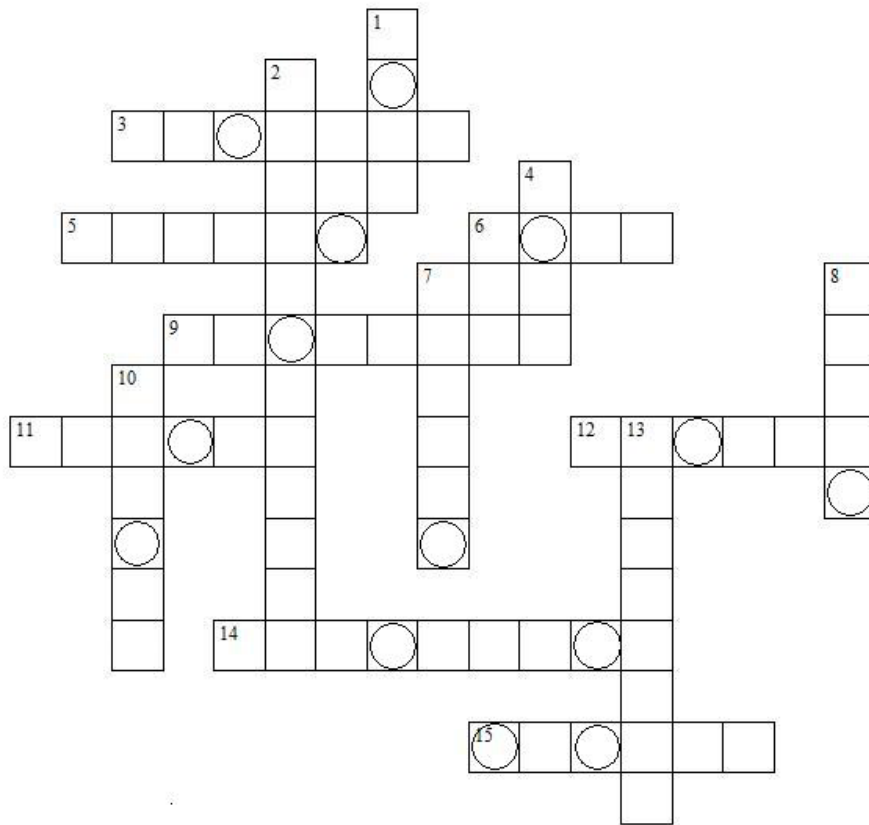
The nook to the right of that statue has a glass case built onto it. Termed an ambry, it contains three holy oils – the Oil of the Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the Holy Chrism. The Holy Chrism is consecrated annually by the Bishop. The other two oils are blessed annually by the Bishop. Each parish in the Diocese receives sufficient quantities of all three oils at the annual Chrism Mass held in the Cathedral on Holy Thursday. These oils are used during the rituals of three sacraments held in our parish – Confirmation, Baptism and Anointing of the Sick. Only three sacraments have Roman Catholic rites that do not use holy oils: Penance, Eucharist and Marriage.

To the right of and below the ambry is a baptismal font used during the Easter Vigil to baptize the Catechumens, both adults and children, in the ancient tradition of the church, as part of that most important sacrament of initiation. The baptism of infants also takes place at the font during the rest of the year.



### Christmas Crossword Puzzle and Letter Jumble

By Lorinda Rodrigues



**Down:**

1. The Christmas Season
2. What was one thing given to baby Jesus?
4. Who is Jesus's Mother?
7. What was Jesus's first bed?
8. What was given to Jesus?
10. Who told the shepherds to look for Jesus?
13. What modern month is Christmas in?

**Across:**

3. What did Mary and Joseph take?
5. What was in the manger?
6. Who came from the East?
9. Festival on January 6th.
11. Why did Jesus's parents travel?
12. What are the weeks before Christmas called?
14. What city did Jesus's parents travel to?
15. Who was married to Mary?

Solve the crossword puzzle and then use the circled letters to solve a solution phrase.

### Parish Calendar

Dec 1	6:00 pm	Comm. Center	Italian Club potluck dinner
Dec 2	7:30 pm	Church	History of the Mass, Msgr. Milani
Dec 4	7:00 pm	Church	Taize Prayer
Dec 5	10:00 am – noon	Comm. Center	Consolation During the Holidays, Fr. Bennett
Dec 11	7:00 pm	Church	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
Dec 16 – 19	7:00 pm	Church	Simbang Gabi – Advent Novena
Jan 9	10:00 am – noon	Comm. Center	Consolation During the Holidays, Fr. Bennett
Jan 9	7:00 pm	Church	Choral Concert
Jan 10	7:00 pm		Bible Study
Feb 28	11:00 Mass	Church	Chinese New Year
Sat. & Mon.	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
Mondays	Noon	Comm. Center	Prayer Group
Tuesdays	9:00 – 11:00 am	Various	Mommy & Me Playgroup, klhbacich@hotmail.com
Wednesdays	7:00 pm	Comm. Center	RCIA
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	9:00 – 10:00 am	Local parks	Mom's Group, Carol Ruiz, 777-2966
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Morning Masses	Comm. Center	Hospitality after Mass – Coffee and Donuts
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	3:00 – 4:00 pm	Rectory	Grief Support Group
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	12:15 pm	Rectory	Scripture Sharing Group

### What Do Catholics Believe?

Brother Bill Bolts  
Feb. 2, 9, 16 & 23, 7:00 pm  
Community Center

### Parish Pay

No more forgotten envelopes.  
No more check writing.  
Sign up for automated giving.  
[www.parihsay.com](http://www.parihsay.com)

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