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# St. Joseph of Cupertino

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish,  
Cupertino, California

## Flyer

September 2007



### A Note from Fr. Greg

While many of us may have hoped that mid-summer would be a relatively quiet, peaceful time, Church leaders in Rome had no qualms about stirring up a hornet's nest—or two—

with the publication of a couple of very controversial documents about which you may have heard. The first of these documents was Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pontificum*, which allows any priest anywhere and on almost any day of the year to celebrate mass according to the ritual in use in 1962. Until the publication of this letter on July 7, priests could celebrate this mass only with the permission of the diocesan bishop, who usually placed other restrictions on the time and place of the celebration.

The mass to which the Holy Father is referring is not just a mass in the Latin language. Already a priest can celebrate mass in any language, including Latin, with no restrictions. The mass in question is a very different mass from the one to which we are now accustomed. Many of you will remember this older form of mass. It was a dialogue between the priest and the altar servers and did not include verbal responses from the people or the use of lay ministers. The altar was against the wall (just as our old altar is situated below the crucifix) and the priest prayed with his back to the people most of the time.

It is important to remember two points about this new letter. First, it makes clear that the present liturgy, the liturgy approved by Pope Paul VI in 1970, remains the ordinary form of the mass, while the mass of 1962 is an extraordinary form. Second, it seems that the main purpose of granting this wider permission is to bring back a number of

groups that have left the Church because of their attachment to the old mass. Pope Benedict has made the unity of the Church a priority of his pontificate.

The other document that received a great deal of publicity—mostly negative—this summer was a rather brief document from the Vatican office known as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith that seemed to label other Christian churches as false while asserting the truth of the Catholic Church. It is called *Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine of the Church*.

Actually, there is nothing new in this document. It simply restates points made in previous documents, particularly the point that as the Church Christ himself founded, the Catholic Church contains the fullness of truth. But this doesn't mean that the teachings of other Christians are completely false. The longstanding Catholic belief—repeated in this document—is that other Christian churches, also under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, possess many elements of truth.

One problem is that this little document was not written with much sensitivity to others and tends to use words and phrases that can be easily misunderstood by those unfamiliar with Catholic theology. Another problem is that journalists like to sensationalize documents like this one, taking portions out of context and using only the most inflammatory headlines.

All we're really saying is that just as some people know us better than others, no church knows Christ better than the Catholic Church. Our relationship with other Christians remains the same: sharing with them a common faith and baptism, we must love and respect them as our sisters and brothers.

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## CREST Awards

Each year, the city of Cupertino presents awards to citizens in recognition of their volunteer activities in the community. This year, three of the four recipients are our parishioners. The award, entitled Cupertino Recognizes Extra Steps Taken (CREST), was given to Mary Lou Caldwell, Mary Ellen Hennig and Shawn Poirier in May during a City Hall ceremony.

Mary Lou Caldwell has volunteered at St. Joseph of Cupertino for 47 years. She worked side by side with her husband Dick at many church activities until he died in 2005. She has served in the altar care ministry for over two decades. She has visited sick and older people for many years, and has been a leader in the Young Ladies Institute, a philanthropic organization.

For the past 15 years, Mary Ellen Hennig has volunteered for the Faith in Action Rotating Shelter for Homeless Men sponsored by Cupertino Community Services. She coordinates the rotating shelter with Dick Schumacher when it comes to our parish every July, including providing daily meals for 15 men. Additionally, Mary Ellen sings and plays the piano and organ during Mass, coordinates the volunteers who organize the song books in the pews and serves on the Liturgy Committee.

"I feel like I am serving God when I serve other people."  
*Mary Ellen Hennig*



Mary Ellen Hennig Mary Lou Caldwell Shawn Poirier

Shawn Poirier helped lead a team that was instrumental in reviving the school's annual Family Fun Festival in 2004. For a fourth year, he will again serve a key leadership role helping plan the event, and

then he'll work almost non-stop during the three-day event as the operations manager. Shawn's 'can-do' attitude and leading by example have contributed to the festival's success.

The award ceremony video can be seen on the city's web site, [http://cupertino.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=5](http://cupertino.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=5)

The CREST award has been given to other parish members in the past, including Msgr. Joe Milani, Jack Birkholz, Donna Austin, Barbara Hill, Carol Rakich, Trish and Virgil Klein, Joe Tembrock, Diane Benedetti and Agnes Locher.

## All Saints and Feast of All Souls

In November, we celebrate two important feasts that are rich in history and tradition: the Feast of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls.

On the Feast of All Saints, we remember the saints of the Church and how we are called to follow their example. The establishment of this feast reflects the many Christians who sacrificed their lives in faith.

The early Church recognized many different feast days honoring the martyrs of the Church. However, the constant increase in the number of martyrs soon outstripped the number of days on the calendar. The result was a common desire to have one feast day to honor all martyrs. At first, each region held their annual feast at different times. Some held their feast on May 13<sup>th</sup>, others on the Friday after Easter, and still others held their feast on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Some historians believe that it was in the 800's that the official date was changed to November 1<sup>st</sup>, and the name "Feast of All Saints" was assigned. One theory suggests that November 1<sup>st</sup> was chosen to take advantage of the food provided by the fall harvest, given the number of people who would participate in such a popular feast.

The Feast of All Souls is a celebration to recognize the departed from our community. It is a time to offer prayers and Masses for the souls of those who have passed on. Early traditions included the sixth century Benedictine monks, who decided to offer the Mass on the day after Pentecost in honor of their deceased community members. In the late tenth century, the Benedictine monastery in Cluny moved their Mass for the dead to November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the day after the Feast of All Saints. The custom spread and in the thirteenth century, Rome put the feast on the official Church calendar.

Some interesting Feast of All Souls traditions include cleaning and whitewashing tombstones and decorating them with flower wreaths and crosses; blessing the graves; and reciting the Rosary at the graves, and then holding the All Souls Day Mass in the cemetery. In other traditions, family members will spend the entire day at the cemetery, offering prayers and leaving food for the dead. Traditions for All Souls Day practices vary by culture, but in general revolve around care, attention and respect to those who have passed before us.

### Sources:

[www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0199.html](http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0199.html)  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All\\_Saints'\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints'_Day)  
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Villa Maria Chapel,  
1871-1907

## St. Joseph of Cupertino

### A Legacy of Community, Service and Growth

St. Joseph of Cupertino,  
1907-1953



**St. Joseph of Cupertino Church** can trace its name to the first Mass said on the banks of Stevens Creek on St. Joseph of Cupertino's feast day in 1776. On that day, Father Petrus Font named what we now call Stevens Creek the "Arroyo de San Jose de Cupertino" after his patron saint. Though this title faded briefly in local history, it resurfaced in the early 1900's to christen a Church that thrived and gave birth to 7 other parishes.

Parish history begins in 1871, when the Jesuits from Santa Clara University bought 320 acres of land in Stevens Creek Canyon and built Villa Maria, a retreat for priests and students. Among the many buildings at the Villa was an 18' x 25' redwood chapel (top left). Though first used mainly by the priests and Villa workmen, the small chapel began to attract worshippers from the nearby Montebello area. This mission Church was the first house of organized Christian worship in Cupertino, and served local Catholics from 1873 to 1907. The congregation was made up of the founders of Cupertino — immigrant settlers from Italy, Croatia and Ireland — who established local farms, orchards and vineyards. The first pastors were Rev. Anthony Cichi, SJ (1873-1894), Rev. Jerome Sextus Ricard, SJ (1894-1902), and Rev. Henry Gabriel, SJ (1902-1908).

By 1907, the mission chapel's growing congregation needed a new home. Also, many worshippers were coming from the "Crossroads" area, what we now call the intersection of Stevens Creek and DeAnza Blvds. It was therefore decided to try to build a new larger church closer to town. In 1907, a prominent Cupertinoian, Mr. Alexander Montgomery, donated an acre of land at the Crossroads for a new church. Ground was broken October 11, and a 180-seat church was built for \$9,000. At the time, it was a Jesuit mission called the Mission of St. Joseph, Mountain View. Rev. W. McMillan, SJ served as pastor from 1908-1911, followed by Rev. Henry Gabriel, SJ from 1911-1913. In 1913, Archbishop Patrick Riordan transferred control of the mission to the Archdiocese of San Francisco, and the parish of St. Joseph of Cupertino was formed. Rev. Thomas O'Connell was the first pastor and served from 1913-1915.

From early accounts, we learn that this first St. Joseph of Cupertino Church (top right) sat close to the road

(DeAnza Blvd. now), and was surrounded by prune and apricot orchards. The priests lived in a nearby rented house until a rectory was built in 1921. The congregation, still mainly Italians and Eastern Europeans, was *very* social. Families would arrive on foot or by horse and buggy early before the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass and would often stay an hour afterwards to socialize. Families had designated pews for which they paid rent, and there were no padded kneelers. The inside of the church was simple, but included paintings on each side of the altar and a dome behind the altar that was adorned with paintings of St. Joseph of Cupertino and angels. Parish activities included catechism classes, a youth choir, regular card games, and the assembly of food baskets for the hungry.

From 1915 to 1951, a number of pastors headed the parish, including Revs. William Lande, Michael Crotty, Patrick Bresnan, James Doyle, and Patrick Galvan. During this time, the parish grew to encompass parts of San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, and Saratoga. In 1951, the parish boasted 400 families who attended four Sunday Masses. Rev. Philip Ryan became pastor, a role he served until 1967.

Also in 1951, St. Joseph of Cupertino began to earn its title as "Mother Church" in the Diocese by giving birth to the first of seven parishes—Sacred Heart in Saratoga and St. Justin's of Santa Clara.

Despite the loss of families to other parishes, St. Joseph's was bursting at the seams thanks in part to the post-war real estate boom. Therefore, 4 acres of land adjoining the church were purchased in 1951 to build a new church and a parish hall. On July 27, 1952, 200 men in 32 teams conducted a one-day fundraising drive. The Holy Name Society, the Men's Committee, and the Ladies' Guild were credited with the success of the drive, raising \$160,000 for a new church. The Cali Brothers donated the Moller organ. The new church's cornerstone was laid April 12, 1953, and a time capsule was placed behind it. The first Mass was celebrated August 2, 1953, and the church was dedicated by Archbishop John J. Mitty on August 30. This new church, which seated 550, is the one we use today.

*(to be continued in the next Flyer)*

**Parishioner Profile – Lothar Bandermann**



Lothar Bandermann was born in 1936 into a miner’s family of seven children in Dortmund, Germany. Dortmund was heavily bombed during World War II. After bombing raids, the children

collected bomb fragments that were recycled for making German bombs. In summer, they swam and played in the bomb craters. Later in the war, with the raids getting too intense, all mothers and children were evacuated to eastern rural Germany (now Poland). There was little or no food and, at times, the kids occasionally ate the fodder for horses. In 1944, Lothar’s mother returned home with her younger children to deliver another baby, leaving Lothar and his older brother in the care of local families. When the war ended, his father came to take the two boys home on a bicycle, a round trip of hundreds of miles. After he crossed the border into the Russian occupational zone where his sons were living, the three had only one day to get back out. The bicycle seat broke on the way home, so one boy had to walk while the other sat on the handle bar.

Lothar went to the Gymnasium (roughly equivalent to a U.S. high school). After graduation, he studied physics for several semesters at a German university. In 1958, he immigrated to Canada. From that time on, he was totally

self-supporting. In 1960, he got the chance to immigrate to the U.S., continue his studies in physics and eventually obtain a Ph.D. in space physics. He worked for 10 years at the University of Hawaii conducting astronomy research and teaching physics. In 1978 he went to work for Lockheed in Palo Alto designing, among other things, telescopes to search for planets around other stars.

In Honolulu, Lothar met and married his wife Billie, then a music graduate student. They had two sons and a daughter, all now grown and on their own. Sharing their children’s ups and downs and helping them through hard times is both a joy and a challenge for them.

Lothar’s first love was music, and he has been playing the organ since he was 14. Before coming to St. Joseph’s in late 2000, he was an organist for five years at St. Martin’s in Sunnyvale and fifteen years at Union Church on Stevens Creek. We are most fortunate to benefit from his talents as the organist at the 11 o’clock Mass.

As a scientist Lothar claims it is inconsistent, perhaps even illogical, not to believe in a Creator, and the Catholic Church has played a central part in his life since childhood. He still has fond memories of how very special it made him feel to be an altar boy. The music ministry is his strongest connection to the Church, his special joy and passion. He has composed music — mostly for church — since childhood. The Church has been a great comfort to Lothar in difficult times, and he often wonders how people with no religious faith cope with the challenges of life.



**Don’t miss the Carnival on the last weekend of the month!!**  
**Rides, live entertainment, food, game booths and more.**  
**Tickets on sale outside of church.**

<b>Parish Calendar</b>		
Sept 9	10:30am & noon	Coffee social, Community Center
Sept 16	11:00am – 3:00pm	Feast of St. Joseph of Cupertino and Meditation Garden dedication
Sept 28 - 30		Parish Carnival
Oct 20 - 21		Ministry Faire and Coffee Social (after all Masses)

**St. Joseph of Cupertino Flyer**  
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