
St. Joseph of Cupertino

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish,
Cupertino, California

Flyer

December 2007



A Note from Fr. Greg



Muslims go through an impressive prayer ritual five times a day. They begin in a standing position, with the hands behind the ears, and move through a number of other simple postures and gestures until they are sitting on the floor with their feet under them and their hands resting on their thighs. They recite certain prayers at each stage of the ritual. When Muslims pray in a group, they arrange themselves in parallel rows behind a leader and perform the ritual in unison.

Postures and gestures are an important part of our Catholic worship, too. When we pray, we should pray with our whole selves: spirit, mind, and body. But for many reasons, there is no uniformity today in the postures and gestures Catholics use at mass. While Church authorities in Rome have officially sanctioned some postures and gestures for use by Catholics throughout the world, bishops in various regions have also exercised their right to change some of these instructions. The practice of kneeling throughout the eucharistic prayer, for example, is an American adaptation not found in many other parts of the world, where Catholics stand for most of the prayer and kneel only during the consecratory words over the bread and cup. In addition, individual bishops have legitimately established liturgical norms for their own dioceses. Our own Bishop McGrath, for example, has asked all Catholics in the Diocese of San Jose to stand during communion until the last person has received. Then there are various customs that have become popular over time, such as holding hands during the Lord's Prayer. And some Catholics have their own customs, including genuflections and signs of the cross, rooted in some personal belief. No wonder Catholics are confused about this subject!

Here are some of the postures and gestures we are supposed to use in our parish, that is, ones that have been authorized by Rome, by the bishops of the United States, and/or by our bishop:

- We make three small crosses at the reading of the gospel
- We bow at the words "By the power of the Holy Spirit" during the Creed.
- We kneel from the beginning of the eucharistic prayer to the end of the Great Amen
- We remain standing after the "Lamb of God"
- We stand during communion until the last person has received
- We bow our heads in reverence just before receiving communion

Whatever the posture or gesture, it is important that we all try to do the same thing. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*,

the book of laws for the celebration of mass, reminds us that in regard to postures and gestures, "Attention should be paid. . . to what serves the common spiritual good of the People of God, rather than private inclination or arbitrary choice." (#42) Our postures and gestures can be signs of unity or disunity.

Advent

As we approach December, we become very aware of the fact that Christmas is coming, in the decorations we see in the retail stores, in commercials, and so on. All this unfortunately detracts from the season that the Catholic Church calls Advent. But there are ways that we can use the season of Advent to experience a threefold meaning of Advent.

"Advent" means coming. The Latin term "Adventus Redemptoris" refers to the coming of the Savior. The Greek word "parousia" is commonly used to describe the Second Coming that all Christians anticipate. So we first look toward the commemoration of the Nativity, or birth of Christ. Second, we call to mind our belief that Christ will return. The third aspect of Advent we can contemplate, especially when deluged with commercialism, is the coming of Christ into our own lives and hearts. Advent offers us the opportunity to examine how prepared we are to have Christ in our own lives. In short, unlike the season of Lent, Advent is not about penitence, but rather anticipation.

There are some tools we can use to explore the meaning of Advent. For example, the Advent wreath has four candles which mark each Sunday of Advent. Three of the candles are purple and one, marking the third Sunday, is rose colored for Gaudete Sunday, which is a less somber celebration. The candles also signify the four themes of hope, peace, love and joy.

Another way of observing the season of Advent that is often used by children is the Advent calendar. An Advent calendar usually marks the 24 days before Christmas and so does not exactly coincide with the four Sundays. Therefore, you should look for one with a traditional religious theme. An example of one can be found on-line for the computer desktop at the web site of the Nativity Story movie (<http://www.thenativitystory.com/advent-calendar.html>).

December is full of things to do: shopping, parties, and preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Advent gives us the chance to slow down, and take time to remember why there is a Christmas, and to share Christ's message of hope, peace, love and joy.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 7 marks the 20th year that our parish will celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas. It is an event to cherish. After the rosary is recited in several languages, the Mass begins at 7:00pm. A mariachi band leads a procession of children, adults and clergy into the church with Las Mañanitas. People of all nationalities dress in native costumes for the event. The re-enactment of the drama of Guadalupe is done by St. Joseph of Cupertino School students. Following the Mass is a fun-filled fiesta in the parish hall, featuring more mariachi music, Mexican folk dancing, refreshments and piñatas.



What is the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe? In December 1531, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian, and commissioned him to ask Bishop Zumárraga to build a church in her honor on the hill of Tepeyac, on the outskirts of Mexico City. To no avail, Juan tried to convince the Lady to choose someone else worthier than he. She remained unmoved

in her choice of Juan and Bishop Zumárraga to build the church and assist her in the building of a completely new nation out of a pagan people. She would lead the way by a series of signs and wonders.

The first miracle was the imprinting of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Juan Diego's tilma (cloak). The image survives until today (refer to figure) and is preserved in a new Basílica of Guadalupe, built on the hill of Tepeyac adjacent to the old Basílica.

Three subsequent miracles attributed to Our Lady persuaded the bishop to build the church, motivated eight million natives to convert to Christianity and ended the sacrificing of thousands demanded by Montezuma each year.

The Friends of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a group devoted to Our Lady, is responsible for organizing the feast day celebration. The goals of the group are to honor Mary and her missions, and to bring the St. Joseph of Cupertino community together.

Parishioners interested in becoming involved with this devotion should contact Mariqueta Churchill, 408-245-3504, dmecent@aol.com.

Liturgy Planning Committee

The Liturgy Planning Committee has the important job of planning the details of the annual parish liturgical calendar. Elements of their plans include the church environment (altar and church decorations), prayers and music. Their plans encompass both regular Masses and special days such as holy days and Thanksgiving.

The planning centers around the major seasons of the Church calendar: Advent, Christmas Season, Lent, the Easter Triduum, Easter and Ordinary Time. Plans are made three to four months in advance of each season. For example, the Christmas season plans were completed in early fall.

Plans for Holy Week are especially detailed. Not only do we need liturgical plans for Palm Sunday and Easter Masses, but also for the "Easter Triduum" of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil (after sunset on Holy Saturday). This month, the committee is detailing the plans for Easter week.

There are Church guidebooks that provide rules and guidelines for seasonal Masses. The committee discusses the various options and then makes detailed selections for the prayers, songs and environment for each Mass and special liturgical event. Totsie Taylor, head of the environment ministry, documents the environment in a book that is referenced when planning future environments.

Membership in the Liturgy Committee includes:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
Pastor	Fr. Greg Kimm
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Chady Segovia
Liturgy and Music Director	Dan Morris
Pastoral Associate	Janice LaMotte
Member, Environment	Totsie Taylor
Member, Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Lou Caldwell
Member, Lector	Barbara Edmundson
Member, Music	Mary Ellen Hennig
Member, Usher	Ed Johnson
Member, Liturgy	Dolores Kloss
Member, Liturgy	Cynthia Rohrs-Carter
Member, Outreach	Dick Schumacher
Member, Lectors	Dick Sherman

Another function of the committee is to review the outcome of special Masses and special events, such as Holy Week and Christmas. Lessons learned (what went right and what needs fine tuning) are documented for next year's planning session.

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, except in July and August. Information about the committee and meeting minutes can be found on the parish website, at <http://www.stjoscup.org/liturgycmt/liturgycmt.html>.

Contact Dan Morris at 252-7653 x32 if you are interested in serving on the Liturgy Committee. Members serve at the pleasure of the pastor.



St. Joseph of Cupertino

A Legacy of Community, Service and Growth

Part 2

St. Joseph of Cupertino

1907 - 1953

1953 - present



The history of St. Joseph of Cupertino Church from the 1950s to today is a reflection of the economic and demographic changes throughout these decades in Silicon Valley. The booms and busts of the local economy, and the changing face of the Valley, have made for a parish which also has changed, but still strives to serve its community.

As mentioned in the previous article, the early 1950s to 60s saw huge growth and change in the parish due to the exploding high-tech economy and local real estate boom. The parish congregation grew from 400 to 2,200 families in the 1950s, creating the need for a new church and increased capacity to serve families. Under pastor Msgr. Ryan, a major building and growth campaign resulted in construction of a school in 1956 (completed in 1966). Additionally, the parish hall was added, a new rectory was built in 1961, and a convent was built in 1966. In 1966, it was written that the physical growth of St. Joseph of Cupertino was unquestionably one of the most rapid in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

St. Joseph also continued its role as "Mother Church," giving birth to 5 new parishes: St. Simon, 1955; St. Lawrence the Martyr, 1959; Queen of Apostles, 1960; Church of the Resurrection, 1963; and in 1964, Church of the Ascension.

Examples of accounts from the 50s to 60s show a parish that hummed with activity. In 1953, over 1,000 people attended the 5th annual parish BBQ picnic at a local fairground! The Maureen Institute of the YLI, a fixture since 1929, was joined by the Ladies Guild in 1951, which grew to 425 members by 1961. The Knights of Columbus were formed in 1952. The Holy Name Society (1951) organized many activities, including BBQs, Saturday night "Playtime," an annual Indian Summer Festival, New Year's Eve and St. Patrick's Dinner Dances, a Mother's Day Champagne Breakfast, summer golf tournaments, religious instruction for adults, and weekly bingo games. The St. Vincent DePaul Society was formed in 1950 to support the poor and sick of the parish.

In the early 1960s, Vatican II brought changes to the liturgy, physical church areas, and laity involvement. Adapting to these changes became the task of Msgr. Ryan and his successors, Rev. Chester Thompson (1967-72), and Rev. John Tierney (1972-1985).

During Fr. Tierney's time as pastor, the church interior was painted and re-carpeted, and the altar was reconfigured. The Women's Guild organized bake sale fundraisers, fashion shows, luncheons, and classes in needle crafts, painting and gourmet cooking. A large Altar Care Society met Friday nights to prepare the church for the weekend's Masses.

Outreach efforts have been a constant in the parish since its beginnings. In addition to distributing Thanksgiving baskets and organizing clothing drives and various food drives, the parish in

this era raised funds to support the start of St. Julie's Church. In the 1970s, St. Joseph of Cupertino Outreach for the disadvantaged was begun, incorporating the St. Vincent DePaul Society. The goal of this effort is to work behind the scenes to aid those in need and contribute to the efforts of Cupertino Community Services

From the late 1960s through the 1970s, it was normal to see a multitude of cars in the parking lot for Sunday Mass. As the 1980s progressed, changes in the local economy saw more women of the parish join the labor force, resulting in a decline of volunteerism and overall activity.

Rev. (now Msgr.) Joseph Milani became the pastor in 1985 and served until 1995. During his tenure, the laity became highly involved in liturgical ministries, adult education and faith formation-- another directive of Vatican II. The parish school took on a new look when nuns were replaced by lay teachers, leading to the conversion of the convent into a priests' retirement residence. The school became a major hub of activity. Msgr. Milani was (and is) a frequent, well-loved visitor to the school, and dreamed of providing a playing field for the children. Thanks to volunteer efforts, his dream became a reality when the Milani Field was dedicated in 1992.

Msgr. Milani was succeeded by Rev. Leo Rooney, and then by Rev. Bob Hayes, who was pastor from 1997 to 2005. Father Hayes oversaw needed facilities updates and the construction of the Community Center building, which opened in January 2005. Among the updates were paint, improved lighting, new restrooms, refinished pews and kneelers, new flooring, a permanent stained-glass window for the front of the church, and a new organ, donated by the Cali family in 1999.

Today, the face of the parish is more global due to the arrival families representing many nationalities that have come to Cupertino seeking good jobs and excellent schools. Rev. Greg Kimm, our pastor since 2005, is a welcome asset, serving as a bridge to these new members of the congregation.

The parish today still hosts many traditional activities and is creating new ones. Current activities with roots in our past include the Family Fun Festival, Thanksgiving baskets distribution, breakfasts and dinner dances put on by the Holy Name Society and Knights of Columbus, the work of the Altar Care Society, YLI and scout troops, and weekly bingo games. New parish Outreach ministries and the Christmas Giving Tree are examples of new efforts to support the community. This September, at the dedication of the statue of St. Joseph of Cupertino and the Meditation Garden, we saw a true reflection of our parish today. The multicultural flavor of the luncheon, dances, games and attendees all show how St. Joseph of Cupertino is still changing to embrace the faithful of the Valley.

Christmas Word Search

M D Z D J Z E E R I G V I H S
 J W N O O L F S D O G I S O H
 O O Y A D V P N H Y M A M L E
 H K S N T D E E Q M M S E Y P
 R E A E L I R C A T S G B J H
 R C V O P O V N S C N U Y J E
 Y Z G O D H U I E A P W S J R
 M U Y O L E R K T H G Z F E D
 T A D E L H B N V Y R O L G J
 N M D E C E S A N E M E S I W
 E A J H S A N R X X S M Q M Y
 V N A U V S J F A M I L Y E R
 D G T I N N E V A E H U C R A
 A E O B E T H L E H E M T C M
 E R B I B L E I B S T A R Y H

ADVENT
 ANGEL
 BETHLEHEM
 BIBLE
 BLESSED
 CANDLE
 CHRISTMAS
 DOVE
 FAMILY
 FRANKINCENSE
 GLORY
 GOD
 GOLD
 HEAVEN
 HEROD

HOLY
 IMMANUEL
 JESUS
 JOSEPH
 JOY
 LOVE
 MANGER
 MARY
 MERCY
 MYRRH
 NATIVITY
 SAVIOR
 SHEPHERD
 STAR
 WISEMEN

Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi is one of the most popular among the Filipino traditions. On December 16, Catholic churches across the Philippines open their doors shortly before the break of dawn to welcome the faithful to the Simbang Gabi Mass. Simbang Gabi, or Mass at Dawn, is a nine-day novena to the Blessed Mother.

The Mass begins with the celebration of the Eucharist. After Mass, the parishioners continue the communal gathering by sharing some food. It has a festive spirit of joyous anticipation.

Many parishes in the Diocese celebrate Simbang Gabi. The St. Joseph of Cupertino community will have its first Simbang Gabi for 3 days: Dec. 20, 21, and 22 at 7:00 pm. Come and prepare our hearts and lives for Christmas!

For more information, contact:

Fr. Chady, frchadsjc@yahoo.com, (408) 252-7653 x28; or
 Mabel Hoffman, mabelhoffman@yahoo.com, 408-315-1306.

Parish Calendar

Dec 1	10:00 am – noon	Prayer through grief during the holidays, Fr. Chris Bennett, Community Center
Dec 2	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Preparation for Christmas; prayer, movie, activity, refreshments; Community Center
Dec 7	6:30 pm – Rosary 7:00 pm – Mass	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, with Reception in large hall
Dec 20, 21, 22	7:00 pm	Simbang Gabi Masses and Receptions
Jan 12	10:00 am – noon	Prayer through grief after the holidays, Fr. Chris Bennett, Community Center
Jan 14, 21, 28	7:00 pm	Re-Discovering the Catholic Church, Queen of Apostles Parish, Co-sponsored by St. Joseph of Cupertino
Jan 15, 22, 29	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Parish Mission, Fr. Kevin Joyce, Church
Jan 26	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Instruction in The Jesus Prayer, Community Center
Mondays	noon	Prayer Group, Community Center
1 st Sunday of month	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Grief Support Group, Rectory
1 st Sunday of month	6:15 pm	Evening Prayer, Church
2 nd Sunday of month	12:15 pm	Scripture Sharing Group, Rectory
3 rd Tuesday of month		Mom's Group: call Carol Ruiz, 777-2966

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