

---

---

# St. Joseph of Cupertino

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish  
Cupertino, California  
~~ Founded 1913 ~~

## Flyer

February 2016



---

---

### Junipero Serra, Apostle of California

“I want to be a missionary.”

*By Brother John Samaha, S.M.*

Saint Junipero Serra (1713-1784), the first apostle and colonizer of Alta California, was a model evangelizer and is a benchmark for the missionary spirit for spreading and renewing the faith. The church celebrates his feast on July 1. When Pope Francis visited the United States in September 2015 he canonized him at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

A native of Petra on the Spanish island of Majorca and baptized Miguel Jose, he followed in the footsteps of his early educators, the Franciscans, and took the name of Junipero, who was a disciple of St. Francis himself. After a decade of service as a noted preacher and professor of philosophy, he rekindled his early desire to be a missionary and requested to be sent to Mexico in the new World. In 1749, at the age of 36, he wrote a formal petition to his provincial superior: “All my life I have wanted to be a missionary. I have wanted to carry the Gospel teachings to those who have never heard of God and the kingdom he has prepared for them.”

Fr. Junipero was missioned to the New World in Mexico, where he served the native populations for twenty years. When Spain decided to complete the occupation of California, he and other specially trained Franciscan missionaries accompanied the military and the colonists. During the ensuing fifteen years in Alta California, he founded the first nine of the twenty-one missions. In this period Serra was compelled to confront the military and civil authorities concerning the mistreatment of the Native Americans. He drafted a statement of thirty-two grievances which he personally presented to the Viceroy in Mexico. Some of his recommended improvements were implemented and some were overlooked.

Though afflicted with an ulcerated leg wound, Padre Serra frequently visited his missions, often walking rather than riding horseback because St. Francis al Assisi had always walked. Records show that he baptized and confirmed thousands of natives without neglecting the colonists and the soldiers. He was beloved by all. While concentrating on the spiritual needs of the neophytes and catechumens, he and his collaborators did not forget their material welfare. The natives were taught methods of farming, cattle raising, along with arts and crafts. The native peoples were educated to shift from an unsettled lifestyle to a stable domestic way of life. Serra’s extensive written reports filed with government and religious authorities reveal a saintly man who loved and served his people as an adept teacher, organizer and manager.

Although some Spaniards were guilty of abusive treatment, Padre Serra had never been guilty of mistreatment. On the contrary, he defended them from harm. In 1784 Father Serra died at Mission San Carlos Borromeo, and later he was buried in the sanctuary of its church. When St. John Paul II beatified Junipero Serra on September 25, 1988, he praised the Apostle of California as “an exemplary model of the selfless evangelizer, a shining example of Christian virtue and the missionary spirit.” These are the traits we are challenged to exhibit.

A statue of Junipero Serra represents California in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Imposing statues of the colonizer of California also grace Golden Gate Park in San Francisco and are also prominently placed in many other cities throughout the state. His name has been adopted by the international lay organization of men and women known as the Serra Club, which is dedicated to fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Saint Junipero Serra witnessed to the holiness of the Church and its concern for all people. As an extraordinary missionary and an exceptional example of the Church’s apostolic calling to preach and exemplify the Gospel to everyone, he personifies the spirit of the new evangelization that characterizes our times.

#### *A Junipero Serra Vignette*

July 1 is the feast day of Saint Junipero Serra, Apostle of California. The son of Antonio and Margarita Ferrer, he was baptized Miguel Jose and took the name Junipero as a Franciscan.

Pope Saint John Paul II beatified him in 1988. Pope Francis canonized him in 2015.

This is part of the documented legacy of Blessed Junipero Serra to the Church in California.

- He walked an estimated 4,000 miles in California on his missionary journeys with an injured leg.
  - He baptized 98% of the adult converts at Mission San Carlos Borromeo in Carmel.
  - He confirmed 4,076.
  - The records of The Early California Population Project indicate that his efforts supporting the 21 missions, the Los Angeles Plaza Church, and the Santa Barbara Presidio resulted in 101,000 baptisms, 28,000 marriages, and 71,000 burials.
- 
-

## Population of the U.S. Catholic Church is growing in some areas and declining in others

By Steve Hill

Roughly 81.6 million Americans—or about 25% of the overall population—identify as Roman Catholic. Catholics comprise the largest religious group in 35 states. Catholicism is the most popular religion in the West, Midwest and Northeast. Yet the church is changing thanks to demographic trends and shifting attitudes toward religion.

Catholics coming from other parts of the world have kept the church on stable footing. In 1975, the first year the data were recorded, foreign-born members, predominantly from Mexico and other Latin American countries, made up about 8% of the church. Today that number is almost 28%.

The U.S. Catholic Church is expanding quickly in the South and West, largely driven by immigrants from Latin America. Meanwhile, the church is contracting in the East and upper Midwest, where historic Catholic strongholds like Boston, Detroit and New York City are closing parishes as population or attendance declines.

The result: Old-line dioceses are battling to keep their doors open, even as fast-growing ones are scrambling to meet the needs of the growing faithful.

An example is the Diocese of San Bernardino which has grown by 400,000 in eight years to 1.6 million Catholics. The once-sleepy rural diocese of San Bernardino is now the country's 6<sup>th</sup> largest. Meanwhile, the Archdiocese of Detroit, which includes six counties in southeastern Michigan, slipped from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> largest, with 1.3 million Catholics—down nearly 15% since 2000. In more recent years, some Detroit-area Catholics headed south and west for jobs, adding to the burgeoning Catholic populations there.

In 2007, just over half of American Catholics lived in the Northeast and Midwest. By 2014, just over half of American Catholics were living in the South and West.

The demographic shift is transforming the U.S. Catholic Church from one that is largely European, white and middle class, to one that is Hispanic and Asian, younger and poorer. The result is a shift in emphasis by the church, with immigration, for instance, assuming greater importance. Experts say it might not be long before the Catholic Church in the United States is a majority-Latino institution.

“The center of gravity and influence in the church is shifting from the East to the West, and from the North to the South,” said Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez, who heads the largest dioceses in the U.S., with around 4.5 million Catholics. Last year, the archdiocese baptized almost 70,000 babies, Archbishop Gomez said, more infant baptisms than New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., combined.

The population tilt is straining resources on both sides: Dioceses with fast-growing populations struggle with a

shortage of priests and cash to build churches and provide services. Meanwhile, shrinking dioceses are fighting to keep churches running, pay off debt and replace aging priests.

Changes in the country's demographics – and changes in the U.S. Catholic Church – are bringing people from different cultural backgrounds under the same roof to worship more than ever before. More than 30% of U.S. parishes are shared between at least two ethnic or racial groups, with English and Spanish as the two most common languages.

At 49%, Hispanics are a majority of all young American Catholics (ages 18–29), more than triple the percentage of Catholic seniors.

Some 25 million adults, or a third of all active members, no longer identify with the Catholic Church. Most of those who leave abandon affiliated religion altogether. However, the Catholic Church does have a higher retention rate than almost every other religion, including all Protestant denominations.

There are a third fewer priests than there were in 1965 despite a 68% increase in Catholic membership. The median age of priests in the U.S. is 59 and around 40% are over the age of 65, making retirement and death the top reasons for the decline.

More than one in five of the 17,337 churches in America do not have a resident priest. In 1965 that number was one in 33. Even though more than 500 priests were ordained this year, the number is still too low to provide new leaders to churches without priests.

Like mainline Protestants, Catholics appear to be declining both as a percentage of the population and in absolute numbers. The new survey indicates there are about 51 million Catholic adults in the U.S. today, roughly 3 million fewer than in 2007. But taking margins of error into account, the decline in the number of Catholic adults could be as modest as 1 million. And, unlike Protestants, who have been decreasing as a share of the U.S. public for several decades, the Catholic share of the population has been relatively stable over the long term, according to a variety of other surveys.

Looking at the whole of all U.S. religious affiliations, the Christian share of the U.S. population is declining, while the number of U.S. adults who do not identify with any organized religion is growing, according to an extensive new survey by the Pew Research Center. Moreover, these changes are taking place across the religious landscape, affecting all regions of the country and many demographic groups. While the drop in Christian affiliation is particularly pronounced among young adults, it is occurring among Americans of all ages.

The United States remains home to more Christians than any other country in the world, and a large majority of Americans – roughly 70% – continue to identify with some branch of the

Christian faith. The percentage of adults (ages 18 and older) who describe themselves as Christians has dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years, from 78.4% in 2007 to 70.6% in 2014. Over the same period, the percentage of Americans who are religiously unaffiliated – describing themselves as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular” – has jumped more than six points, from 16.1% to 22.8%. And the share of Americans who identify with non-Christian faiths also has inched up, rising 1.2 percentage points, from 4.7% in 2007 to 5.9% in 2014. Growth has been especially great among Muslims and Hindus, albeit from a very low base.

### The Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis declared the Universal Catholic Church will observe a Jubilee Year of Mercy from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016. A Jubilee year is filled with special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversation and repentance, and the opportunity to experience God's grace through sacraments.

From school principal, Mary Lyons: The students and staff of our parish school have dedicated themselves to learning about and living out the Year of Mercy. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students recently wrote essays about Pope Francis' challenge to live lives of mercy. We will have several essay excerpts to share with you during this coming year. Here is the first, which we are publishing in its entirety because of its inspirational message, not just for the youth of our community but also for every single adult.

### My Mission of Mercy

*By Chloe Boyd, Grade 8*

When I think about the meaning of mercy, I think about truly doing kind acts. Even the smallest acts of kindness can have an impact on the world. The smallest acts of kindness might not be seen by everyone, but ALL are seen by God. People think about mercy in so many different ways-- forgiveness, giving money, spreading the word of God, and so much more. Doing one, small, kind act can change a person's day into something special. Something that takes one, small second of your time can be the one thing that turns a person's life around. If you make it a goal every day when you wake up to do at least one kind act, whether it's helping somebody out, making someone feel included, or making one person who's not necessarily your favorite person feel special, you are showing love and kindness towards others. With your actions, people will see you living out the message of God -- your single actions will inspire others to do the same and that cycle and power of mercy will continue to grow.

I have a story about mercy that inspired me, opened my eyes and allowed me to be a part of a message from God. A few days before last Christmas my family and I were in San Francisco shopping. Christmas is a time of joy, the birth of Jesus, and the celebration of giving. While we were walking

on the streets in San Francisco, I noticed so many homeless people begging for money: cold, depressed, hungry and, definitely not feeling joy in their lives. I also saw so many people who just walked by them, as if they were invisible, non-existent to them. I understand that people might not want to give money, or aren't able to give to every homeless person. There is one thing I know that everyone can do, and that is to say a prayer for them. We can pray that they feel joy, happiness, and find the strength to make positive changes in their lives. We can pray that they become something, pray they have the courage to try their hardest, and to never giving up on what they want their lives to be.

There was one homeless person who especially stood out to me. He was a younger guy, not very clean; in his eyes I saw no expression. His face looked hopeless and lost. It seemed like he hadn't felt joy in his life in a very long time. I didn't want to just walk by him like the others around me. Instead, I asked my mom if we could help him. Help him in a way that might be better and bigger than handing him money or food. Something like buying him a Christmas present, possibly the only Christmas present he might receive that Christmas. We went to the Macy's nearby, and we bought him a nice, heavy, warm, winter coat, new jeans, a new shirt, and new socks. I helped my mom pay for his clothes with my own money. We put all the new clothes in a bright red bag and gave it to him. We asked if he would like to open his gift with us. His face got the biggest smile on it, and he said "Yes!" As he was opening his gift with us, those people who thought he was invisible a few minutes ago, were now stopped and watching. Some even had their phones out and were videotaping him. When he was done opening his gift he was crying and asked each of us if he could give us a hug, we said "Yes!" As I hugged him I wondered if the present was as important to him as the hug, and when was the last time he had been hugged.

If you ask me, "What was my greatest Christmas memory last year?" I wouldn't say the presents I got or the trips my family and I went on but, seeing that my family's kind act filled that homeless man's life with hope and happiness. The feeling you earn when you change someone's day or give someone a bit of hope in their lives is unforgettable and powerful. My best Christmas memory was that very moment when I truly made that man happy, made him feel important, loved and feel blessed. The best part of this story was the moment when he was opening up the bag of brand new clothes, so many people stopped to watch. People even started videotaping it! Imagine this – there were at least ten people who walked by, and I hope that my mom and I inspired at least one of them to carry forth my meaning of mercy and to give. If just one of them was inspired to do the same thing we did, it will spread and pretty soon everyone will be spreading the word of God through doing kind acts. I know my family and I will always try to make someone experience a little bit of Christmas joy. As its says in the Bible "Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. " Matthew 25:35-45

## Solve the Parchment Sudoku

By Lorinda Rodrigues

The word-based Sudoku puzzle uses the exact the same logic as the number Sudoku. For a number Sudoku you fill in the puzzle so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains the numbers 1 to 9 once. In this word Sudoku puzzle, it solves like a number Sudoku puzzle but uses letters. Fill in the puzzle so each of the 9 unique letters in the word 'PARCHMENT' appears exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 block. For the solution, see our Parish website: <http://www.stjoscup.org/newsletter.php>

	P		R				N	
E		T	P			A		
	M				A	R	T	
		P		A		C		R
A		R			E		P	
	C			R				
	A				N	P		
P		H		M			R	
	E		A	P				H

### St. Joseph of Cupertino Flyer

Published Quarterly by  
St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish,  
Communications Ministry

[communications@stjoscup.org](mailto:communications@stjoscup.org)

Pastor: Rev. Gregory Kimm

#### Contributors:

Steve Hill

Chloe Boyd

Lorinda Rodrigues

Brother John Samaha, S.M.

Articles for the Flyer are welcomed from parishioners.  
Contact the Communications Ministry with a topic before  
writing it, [communications@stjoscup.org](mailto:communications@stjoscup.org)

The Flyer is posted on the parish web site.

### Parish Calendar

Feb. 18	10:00 am – noon	Church	“Dying Well – What Does It Mean?” Fr. Gerald Coleman
Feb 12, 19, 26 Mar. 4, 11, 20	6:30 pm 6:00 pm on 11 <sup>th</sup>	Church	Stations of the Cross, followed by soup supper. (Fridays)
Feb. 21	11:00 mass	Church & Hall	Chinese New Year mass and reception
Feb. 23	7:00 pm	Comm. Center	“What is the Year of Mercy?” Diana Macalintal, Diocese Director of Liturgy
Feb. 24	7:00 pm – 8:00pm	Church	Prayer of Peace and benediction
Feb. 28		Hall or CC	Make sandwiches for less fortunate, after masses
Feb. 28	2:00 pm	Comm. Center	Movie “Little Boy” with Deacon Ron
March 11	6:30 pm	Hall	Saint Patrick’s Day dinner and dance
March 18	7:00 pm	Church	Parish reconciliation service
March 20	After AM masses	Comm. Center	Celebration of St. Joseph, hospitality
April 10	11:00 am	Church & CC	Welcome of newcomers and reception
April 17	11:00 am	Hall	“How to Raise Faith – Filled Children & Deepen Adult Faith” Dr. Susan Mahan
May 1	11:00 am mass	Church & CC	May Crowning followed by reception
Mon. & Sat.	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
Tuesdays	3:30pm & 7:00pm	Comm. Center	“Doors of Mercy”, 10-part video series exploring God’s Covenant; starts March 1
Tuesdays	2:00 – 3:00 pm	Comm. Center	Meditation with Sr. Dorothy
Wednesdays	7:15 – 8:45 pm	Rectory	RCIA
Wednesdays	9:00 am – 12:15 pm		Eucharistic adoration
Thursdays	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Comm. Center	Creed
4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Comm. Center	Prayer Group
1st Saturday	9:00 am	Comm. Center	Talk by Fr. Athanasius on Mary
Sundays	10:30 – 11:00 am	Front of church	Video Lending Library
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Morning masses	Comm. Center	Hospitality after mass – coffee and donuts
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	12:30 pm	Rectory	Grief Support