



Parish Life Directory

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish
Cupertino, California

WELCOME

We welcome visitors and newcomers to St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish. We encourage all new parishioners to register and become active in our parish community.

Registration forms are available in the church vestibule. You may mail or drop it by the parish office. We look forward to meeting you! If you are just visiting, **WELCOME.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the Stewardship Committee for organizing and publishing this directory as a gift to the parish. Thanks to the leaders of our various ministries and organizations for contributing content and supporting the project.

INTRODUCTION

This directory has been developed for our parishioners as an easy resource for contacting the chairpersons of our parish ministries and organizations. Many of our parishioners offer their time and energy to the St. Joseph ministries and organizations, which serve our needs and bring us together as a community.

Our parishioners have devoted countless hours to our parish by supporting our Sunday and daily liturgies. They are Eucharistic ministers, lectors, greeters, ushers, musicians, vocalists, altar servers, and they provide a beautiful environment in which to worship with flowers and a well cared for sacristy. Volunteers support faith formation for parishioners of all ages. We offer baptism preparation, religious education for children in elementary school, junior high school and high school (with the support of an adult team), Children's Liturgy of the Word, Christian Initiation for Children, Rite of Christian Initiation, first Eucharist preparation, and Confirmation.

Our parishioners maintain a rich prayer life and offer prayers for the sick in our community. Prayers are said to increase vocations and for peace in the world. Many parishioners participate in a daily Rosary group and we also have a prayer line.

Parishioners serve the larger community by taking part in the Thanksgiving food drive, contributing to the diocesan Annual Layette; providing meals and company to clients of the Cupertino, Sunnyvale, & Saratoga Rotating Shelter; and buying gifts for needy families whose requests decorate our Christmas Giving Tree. They serve one another by bringing food for funeral receptions and supporting those who have lost a loved one.

Our sense of community and belonging grows through various social events, including the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, the Our Lady of Guadalupe fiesta, the Chinese New Year celebration, the newly revived parish Carnival, and Lenten soup suppers.

Finally, our parish functions beautifully with the help of our parish staff, our Parish Council, Finance Council, Annual Diocesan Appeal Committee, and Stewardship Committee.

We give thanks to God and to all of our dedicated parishioners and parish staff who make our parish a living example of Christ's love. We invite you to give of your time and talent to our parish community and to receive the gifts of our parish.

St. Joseph Stewardship Council

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PARISH MISSION

We, the faith community of St. Joseph's, united in God's family through our Catholic tradition, gather to bear witness to the teachings of Jesus Christ and share in his eternal mission. We come together for communal worship, education in the faith, spiritual growth and fellowship. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we reach out as Christ's hands in the world to spread God's love, healing and forgiveness. We are committed to our tradition of hospitality, diversity and tolerance. We invite all to use their time, talent and treasure to make present the kingdom of God.

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Liturgy Planning Committee

This committee is composed of representatives of the liturgical ministries of the parish as well as representatives of the community at large. Members gather monthly to plan the celebrations of the liturgical year.

Time offering: monthly meetings (90 minutes each), some additional time for implementing plans

Parish Advisory Council

This group meets approximately once a month to advise the pastor on important matters related to parish life. There is a regular roster of elected members.

Time offering: 2 or 1-year terms, monthly meetings (2 hours each)

Parish Finance Council

The parish finance council was established at St. Joseph of Cupertino in 1993 in conformity with the Code of Canon Law and the directives of the Bishop of San Jose. The council plays an integral role in the parish community and their volunteered time is valued.

Council members advise the pastor in all matters pertaining to parish finances; their authority is as a consultative body. The council is composed of the pastor and the parochial vicars, the parish business administrator/accountant, and five appointed members of the parish community.

Members are appointed by the pastor. Appointees must have knowledge of accounting, finance, and budgeting, and/or they must possess development skills. The council meets quarterly; a record of each meeting is kept on file in the rectory office.

Time offering: 3-year term, 2-hour meetings approximately 6 times per year

Stewardship Council

The Stewardship Council promotes parishioner awareness that everything we have (our time, talent, and treasure) is a gift from God. As Christian stewards, we “receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.” Responsibilities include the annual Time and Talent Fair, the recruitment and preparation of lay witness speakers, and the publication of our Parish Life Directory. Membership consists of between six and ten parishioners focused on ministry development and strengthening our parish community.

Time offering: 3-year term, 1-1/2 hours per month

PARISH MINISTRIES

Our parish is richly blessed with those that carry out the work of the Lord through their individual ministries. There are seven areas of parish ministry within Saint Joseph's:

- Adult Faith Formation Ministries
- Catechetical Ministry
- Community Services
- Infant Baptism Preparation
- Liturgical Ministries
- Marriage Preparation
- Pastoral Care Ministries
- Youth Ministry

What is a minister?

According to the dictionary, a minister is a person officially charged to perform spiritual functions in the Church. Ministers go beyond volunteering. First of all, they are called in some way to the service they perform.

Second, they are confirmed in their ministry by the Church community. The Church determines if what a potential minister wishes to do, meets a need of the community and enhances its well being. The Church also decides whether that person is qualified for the role to be undertaken.

Qualifications include not only ability, but also experience, the willingness to learn and grow a talent for working with others, and the capacity for being to strangers what one is to close friends. Ultimately, a minister represents God's care and compassion to the members of the community. A minister needs to care about people and to be able to express this through the actions specific to his or her ministry.

The third and final step is commitment, the response to the original call. It means service, being available when needed, and surrendering personal convenience to the needs of the larger community. In return, the community provides the support, education, training, and encouragement to assist the minister to do the best in what he or she has been called to do.

Ministers are “amateurs.” The root of this word is “amat,” which means “to love.” This means that ministers do what they do out of love. Love for God and for God’s people energizes them to serve. It provides the reason and the means.

Are you called to be a minister?

Adult Faith Formation Ministry

Adult faith formation is aimed at creating a community of faith that is a witness to the Gospel and an active agent in bringing to life the reign of God. Adult faith formation is an ongoing, life-long process by which people consciously grow in the life of Christ through experience, reflection, prayer, and study.

For generations the Church has insisted repeatedly that adult faith formation is the chief form of catechesis, situated not at the periphery of the Church’s educational mission, but at its heart. In keeping with that belief, St. Joseph’s offers a vibrant adult education program.

The adult faith formation ministry consists of five areas, each designed to address the special needs of our community:

1. Adult Confirmation
2. Adult Education
3. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
4. Small Faith Sharing Communities
5. Take Another Look

Adult Confirmation

For adults preparing for confirmation, the process consists of a series of six sessions that review the meaning of the sacraments and the Church. These sessions are usually held in the spring. Please note that the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist are required for those wishing to begin the process.

Adult Education

The task of adult religious education is to create settings and processes that invite people to journey together - exploring, reflecting, experiencing, and making connections. It is about promise, obedience, pathos, and mystery, about sharing hope for the future and seeking peace. Adult religious education invites teachers and learners to journey together towards knowing, loving, and serving the living God. It is a journey towards wholeness.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a process that dates back to the early beginnings of the Church's foundation. After Vatican II, this process was renewed and restored in our church. This was a tremendous gift to a parish community.

In this process, persons who are not baptized, who were baptized in another Christian faiths, or who were baptized Catholic, but never received any instruction in our faith, come to a fuller understanding of God, the Church, and his or her own spiritual life. Catechists, sponsors, and team members, as well as the Church community, journey with adults who are preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

In RCIA, those exploring our faith come together on a weekly basis to pray, share scripture, and learn more about the beliefs, practices and traditions of the Catholic Church. Periodically during the process there are ceremonies in which the persons involved come before the parish community at a weekend liturgy to be presented to and to ask for the prayers and support of the community on their faith journey.

Every year at our Easter Vigil, those who are called to Baptism are baptized into the Roman Catholic Church. The persons of other faiths make a profession of faith in our Church at this time. Finally, all involved in the process celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Small Faith Sharing Communities

A Small Faith Sharing Community is a face-to-face gathering of six to twelve people who invest time with one another for the common purpose of applying gospel values to every aspect of their lives. Members are able to relate to one another at a personal level, sharing in their common journeys of faith.

We subscribe to the vision that, “Prompted by the Spirit, we commit ourselves to work together for a more vibrant Catholic Church. We hunger for a Church in which community life is fundamental to people’s experience and leads to a fuller participation in the mission of Jesus. We envision a transformation of parish life so that people help one another connect life and faith on a regular basis.”¹

Time offering: Depends on group – weekly or monthly for series of weeks, depending on group

Take Another Look

This program is for those who for one reason or another are no longer in full communion with the Church, but wish to become aware of the changes that have occurred in the Church and rejoin the Catholic community. The program consists of a series of weekly meetings. Our parish extends a warm welcome for you to “Take Another Look” at the church through a process of hearing your stories, answering your questions, and providing information on current Catholic beliefs and practices.

Time offering: usually 1 ½-hours for 5 weeks

¹ Quote from a brochure of the Buena Vista/National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities

Catechetical Ministry

The catechetical ministry at Saint Joseph of Cupertino parish is actively engaged in sharing Jesus' own mission of proclaiming the reign of God. This ministry seeks to enable children and youth to discover the goodness and beauty of God as reflected in their world, which is part of the Catholic Christian community.

Catechesis is that activity that enables faith to become living, conscious and active through the light of instruction - especially proclaiming God's word in scripture, sharing the tradition of the Catholic Church, participating in the prayer life of the community, and engaging in the service activities of the community. Catechesis is a life-long process for each individual as well as the work of the entire Catholic Christian community.

Our programs are based on the Church's teaching that the primary responsibility for the spiritual growth and development of children rests first and foremost with the parents. Our programs assist parents in passing on their faith in a way that those being catechized can understand. We help children and youth build and strengthen their relationship with Jesus and the Church by proclaiming the Word and creating a sense of community. We lead them in prayer and worship and encourage them to provide loving service to others.

Classes for children and youth are available from October to May.

Ages 3 – Grade 1:	Sunday during the 9:30 am Mass
Grade 2:	Sunday 9:30 am or 10:50 am - 12:00 Noon
Grades 3 – 6:	Sunday 10:50 am - 12:00 Noon
Grades 7 – 8:	Wednesday 7:30 PM - 8:45 PM

Catechesis for children/youth with special needs is provided after a case-by-case evaluation.

Volunteers will serve as catechists, aides, material preparation assistants, office assistants, Children's Liturgy of the Word catechists, sacrament preparation catechists, and parking lot volunteers.

Community Service

Christmas Giving Tree

At Christmas time, there is a tree in the chapel decorated with ornaments. These ornaments hold “wish lists” for the underprivileged. The parish community is invited to purchase these gifts, wrap them, and place them under the tree.

Outreach

Outreach includes a variety of people-oriented services for those that cannot help themselves. These include the collection, sorting, storing, and distribution of food. This team stocks and maintains our parish food pantry. The Outreach team and the Holy Name Society, assisted by members of the parish, are instrumental in organizing the annual Thanksgiving food baskets St. Joseph’s prepares and distributes in cooperation with Cupertino Community Services.

Rotating Shelter

“Faith in Action” Rotating Shelter Program for homeless men is a program that was started over twelve years ago. It is a collaborative effort between Cupertino Community Services and more than twenty churches, religious congregations, and local community groups, who offers a new beginning for the homeless. The Rotating Shelter Program provides food, shelter, support, referral services and more recently, transitional housing for homeless men who are willing and able to find gainful employment and a place to live. Its goal is to provide an opportunity for members of the homeless community to reestablish a stable, self-sufficient lifestyle in a warm and supportive environment.

The Rotating Shelter moves from one host church to another each month. Supplies and the guest’s personal belongings are moved by a team of volunteer movers. Each host church provides adequate space for the guests to sleep, a secure area for them to store their belongings during the day, and an area where they can have their meals. The shelter opens at 7:30 pm and closes at 7:00 am on weekdays. On weekends, the shelter is open all day for the men. Our facility at St. Joseph’s is located in the AV room.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Outreach team, the Holy Name Society, and Cupertino Community Services co-sponsor this annual event. Volunteers working with students from Saint Joseph of Cupertino Parish School collect donations and assemble them into boxes for families and individuals. The food boxes - each with a frozen turkey - are distributed from the Parish Hall on the Monday before Thanksgiving Day to recipients pre-qualified by CCS.

Infant Baptism Preparation

Baptism is the sacrament of faith, the sacrament from which we receive a new life in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes us new in and through the community. Through this sacrament we are initiated into God's Church.

Parents are requested to contact the parish six weeks before they are planning to baptize their child.

The parents must have a private interview with a priest. In addition, parents and godparents must attend a baptismal preparation class, which is held in the evening in the rectory on the fourth Tuesday of the month. A lay catechist teaches these classes. After all have attended the preparation session, the baptism may be scheduled.

Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth weekend of each month.

Time offering: 2-hours per month for those teaching the classes

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Care

These are truly the servants and handmaids of the Lord. The altar care group performs the behind-the scene jobs that make our place of worship both pleasant and beautiful. They maintain the interior of the church by general cleaning and polishing. Their work enables our parish to pray with reverence and without distraction.

Altar Servers

Altar servers are the attendants at the table of God. They assist the priests and other ministers in the sanctuary. Because they help to keep things running smoothly during the Mass, they also assist the community proper. Training sessions for children (5th grade and older) and young adults who wish to serve God and his people are conducted annually.

Time offering: 1 or 2-masses every month plus training

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Children's Liturgy of the Word provides children in first through fourth grades with an opportunity to hear and reflect on the Sunday scripture readings at their level of understanding. After the Opening Prayer at the 9:30 am Mass, children process to another room in the Church. Training is provided for adults who lead this portion of the liturgy by proclaiming the Gospel and facilitating the children's response. Older children and teens participate by proclaiming the first two readings.

Church Environmental Group

The environmental group plans the seasonal décor of the church, undertakes the major seasonal changes, makes the banners, arranges the primary displays, and makes sure all is ready for each upcoming season's celebrations.

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers serve at the Lord's table. As members of the Body of Christ, they give the Body of Christ to other members by distributing Holy Communion during Mass. They share in a special loving service in which they communicate both the Body and Blood of the Lord and his care for each member on a personal, one-to-one basis. Prospective ministers attend two or three nights of training, after which they are scheduled at our regular liturgies. Attendance at in-service meetings, usually once a year, is also important.

Hospitality Ministers: Greeters

Greeters share the good news of Jesus and salvation with everyone entering and leaving our church, by word, by gesture, and by a friendly smile. They are the first ones to extend a cordial welcome and the last ones to wish us a good day. They also continue this sharing by distributing our parish bulletin as our community departs after Mass.

Hospitality Ministers: Ushers

Ushers are the doorkeepers of the house of God. They provide for the comfort and safety of the community when we come together to worship. They oversee the movement of the parishioners within the church, assist anyone who needs help during church services, and handle emergency situations. They extend the welcome of our community to the newcomers and visitors before Sunday Masses. In addition, they collect the donations of money and food and insure that all gifts are properly stored for use by the parish.

Lectors

Lectors share their faith by telling the story of God's action in human history. They proclaim God's word to God's community. They witness to God's work in the world. They tell the stories that are our family stories, the stories we have in common, the stories we share as members of God's family. New lectors participate in a short training session and may receive some coaching on speaking skills to prepare them to carry God's word to the parish. In order to share their faith this way, lectors are expected to spend time preparing each reading by praying over, then practicing the reading.

Music Ministers

St. Joseph of Cupertino has a variety of opportunities within the music ministry. The primary job of the music ministers is to lead the assembly in their sung prayer. Music ministers serve the Church in the following ways:

- Singing with the choir at the 11:00 am Sunday Mass
- Playing guitar and other instruments or singing with the groups at the 9:30 am and 5:00 pm Sunday masses.
- Playing the organ or serving as cantors at the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday and at the 7:00, 8:00 and 11:00 am Masses and the 12:30 pm Mass on Sunday.

Marriage Preparation

Matrimony is the sign of Christ's presence when a man and a woman pledge their fidelity. The sacrament, which binds them together more strongly than they are bound to any other family member, is an expression of their love one for the other. It also sanctifies the state of the couple for the continuation of human life. The importance of marriage is seen in the wedding feast at Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle.

In the Diocese of San Jose all couples preparing for marriage are required to contact a priest of their parish six months in advance of the date of their wedding. At the time of this meeting with the priest, he explains to them the process of marriage preparation. A part of this preparation is to attend either four weekly sessions through the parish or an Engaged Encounter weekend at a nearby retreat center.

The parish sessions at St. Joseph of Cupertino are facilitated by trained couples who are members of our parish. The sessions take place in the homes of these couples. At both the Engaged Encounter and the Marriage Preparation Sessions, the topics deal with subjects that help couples share and explain their individual opinions and feelings on important parts of married life and commitment.

Pastoral Care Ministries

The pastoral care ministries are based on the words of Jesus to the Pharisees (*“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and First Commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*), to Peter (*“Feed my Lambs...Feed My sheep.”*), and on the very earliest traditions of the early Christian Church, which expected its members to care for one another.

Pastoral care ministries support parishioners in times of stress and offer God’s consolation.

Bereavement Ministry

Our parish provides a bereavement ministry for grieving families. Teams from the parish supply food for a small group of people in the family’s home after a funeral or memorial service. The food items generally include salads (green, jello, pasta, etc.) and desserts (brownies, cakes, cookies, or pies)

Grief Support

Grief Support is for those who have experienced a loss of any kind. The group meets the 1st Sunday of the month from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm. This is facilitated by a trained counselor.

Ministry to the Sick

The pastoral care of the sick ministry is closest to the pure ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, who throughout his life cared for the sickest and neediest among the people of his time.

This ministry reaches out to the sick at private homes, convalescent centers, and local area hospitals. Ministers spend time visiting and/or bringing communion to those parishioners who cannot attend Mass. They also conduct Communion services and lead the rosary at convalescent homes. The time requirements are flexible and fit into anyone’s busy schedule.

In addition, this ministry visits the Menlo Park Veterans Administration Hospital and Pleasant View Convalescent Home on a monthly basis, providing food and

entertainment. They also act to provide emergency transportation in coordination with Cupertino Community Services.

Youth Ministry

St. Joseph of Cupertino has a long and rich history of ministering to our high school-aged parishioners. Our youth ministry is based on the themes and components outlined in the U.S. Bishops' 1997 document, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. We have adopted the following three goals of *Renewing the Vision* as our own:

1. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
2. To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.
3. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person. (*Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, pp. 9–15)

Students from 13 public, private, and Catholic high schools in our area are actively involved in youth ministry and in our parish. All high school-aged parishioners are invited to partake in a variety of activities.

Adults 18 and over are invited to be part of our parish's ministry to, with, by, and for our young people. Currently, volunteers serve as prayer meeting facilitators, Confirmation catechists, music leaders, retreat leaders, and activity chaperones. Opportunities for direct and indirect ministry to our young people are available. Our office is located on the parish school grounds.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society is a fraternal and social organization of men of the parish dedicated to support of the school and the church. Members support a wide variety of parish functions. The society had its origin in the Council of Lyons in 1274. Members attend Mass and receive Holy Communion in a body so that the true faith and vitality of the Catholic Church will enable them to set an example for all men to live a moral Christian life. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Holy Name Room.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus are Catholic gentlemen committed to exemplifying charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, and to defending the priesthood. The Order, which was founded in 1882, is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The St. Francis of Assisi Council, # 4981, encompasses three parishes, including Saint Joseph of Cupertino. Business meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the K of C Council Hall.

The Friends of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Friends of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a group of parishioners who help promote the devotion to our Blessed Mother as she appeared on this continent to lead the people to her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. By celebrating her feast with a colorful and lively concelebrated Mass sung by Mariachis, with the children of St. Joseph of Cupertino reenacting the apparition in 1531 and dancing an Aztec offering and prayer, we enable her mission to continue. At the same time, it brings the community closer together to begin the holiday season with a fiesta after the Mass.

The Friends of Our Lady of Guadalupe meets once a month from September to June to pray together and study the mysteries of Guadalupe. All are invited to join and help plan the festivities.

Young Ladies Institute

The YLI is an organization for Catholic women dedicated to the Christian principles of charity and love. Membership is open to all women from age 16 upward. The main goals are cultural as well as educational, emphasizing spirituality and community. The active chapter at Saint Joseph of Cupertino is Maureen, #136.

Some of the YLI activities include:

- Day of Recollection
- Masses for members and families
- Perpetual Novenas
- Quarterly and annual group communions
- Rosary before each meeting

YLI members make layettes for needy mothers and support handicapables, the men's rotating shelter, the education of seminarians (golden jubilee burse), and other charities.

YLI holds fundraisers such as the annual salad/bingo luncheon. Much of this fun is shared with their families at a variety of annual events: St. Joseph's Table, Men's Night, Barbeque Night, and the Christmas dinner and party.

YLI meets in the St. Joseph of Cupertino parish hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

PARISH SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Annual Thank You Party for Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to the workings of the parish. Every year, usually in May, the parish staff puts on a party to honor those who donate their time and energy for the good of the parish. All volunteers are welcome.

Bingo

Saint Joseph of Cupertino School is supported in part by bingo played in the school auditorium. This is a wonderful gathering where players meet new friends and old. Bingo is organized by the Holy Name Society and the Knights of Columbus. The games are held Mondays and Saturdays from 6 to 10 p.m., with an early bird seating from 6 to 6:30. See you at the games!!!

Chinese New Year

All parishioners are invited to celebrate the Lunar New Year with the Chinese community. A special Sunday mass includes a ceremony to honor all our ancestors. Food and entertainment follow in the parish hall. A committee of volunteers helps to plan this annual celebration.

Hospitality - Coffee & Donuts

The purpose of this committee is greeting people and serving coffee and donuts to parishioners following mass on the first Sunday of the month.

Time offering: 2 4-hours once a month

Our Lady of Guadalupe

A special celebration is held each December on or near the 12th, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A special bilingual mass is celebrated with traditional Mexican music. Mass is followed by a Mexican style dinner. These festivities are open to all.

Parish Golf Tournament

This is an annual summer event.

Saint Patrick's Day Dinner Dance

This is an annual event held in the parish hall on the Friday closest to Saint Patrick's Feast Day (March 17th), and is sponsored by the Holy Name Society. A traditional dinner of corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes is served, and dancing follows the dinner. The date for the event and information regarding the sale of tickets is published in the weekly parish bulletin in advance of the event.

Other parish events change from year to year. A host of activities are sponsored by other parish communities and by the Diocese of San Jose and are announced in the diocese's newspaper, *The Valley Catholic*, and in our weekly bulletin.

PARISH SCHOOL

Mission Statement

St. Joseph of Cupertino School is committed to educating the whole child. We place equal importance on the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of each unique child.

We believe in forging a strong relationship with the family because we understand that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. Children benefit when they know that all the adults in their lives are working together and supporting each other.

Our program is very comprehensive. We provide a challenging academic curriculum while addressing the special needs of individual students. We acknowledge our responsibility to prepare our students for the world in which they will live. We are dedicated to instilling a sense of social responsibility. We expect them to believe that they can make the world a better place.

We are committed to nurturing the values of the Gospel message in our daily contact with each other, with the students, with the families, and with the larger community.

Youth: Tomorrow's future...
Tomorrow's Church... Tomorrow's leaders

Philosophy

St. Joseph of Cupertino School's philosophy: Our students learning expectations:

SPARCCLS

St. Joseph of Cupertino students are:

- *Spiritual*
- *Peaceful*
- *Academically prepared*
- *Respectful*
- *Confident*
- *Community oriented*
- *Life-long learners*
- *Strong communicators*

A St. Joseph of Cupertino student SPARCCLS!!

Staff

All of our classroom teachers are credentialed, and several have Masters Degrees. Each class has one teacher and one aide. In addition, we have specialized instructors in Science, Art, Music, Physical Education, Spanish, Technology, and Library. We also have the services of a credentialed Special Education teacher and the counseling services of a licensed Marriage, Family, and Child Counselor.

Accreditation

St. Joseph of Cupertino is evaluated, certified, and accredited on a regular cycle. We have received full certification and accreditation from both the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA).

Curriculum

Our school is a part of the Diocese of San Jose and is overseen by the Diocesan Department of Education. They study all publishers' curriculum series and determine which ones are comprehensive and challenging enough for Diocesan schools. We then choose from their list the curriculum series that best meets our needs. The Diocese generally follows the California State Frameworks for curriculum and chooses textbook series from the California State Adoption List (as long as the curricula meet our high quality standards). We have the freedom to analyze the Framework and determine if there are significant gaps (for instance, we have always retained phonics in our Language Arts program).

School Board

The School Board is an advisory body guiding the educational policies of St. Joseph of Cupertino School, subject to such rules and regulations that proceed from the Bishop through the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools.

The following are some of the duties and functions of the School Advisory Board:

- *to cooperate with and support the pastor, and principal in his/her role as defined by Diocesan guidelines;*
- *to recommend policies that relate to the overall operation of the school to ensure quality Catholic education;*
- *to develop and review the school's long range (5 year) plan;*
- *to create better understanding and support of Catholic Education and to act as a public relations group in making the work and achievements of the school better known to the entire parish and civic communities;*

- *to analyze the school budget to determine if it realistically reflects the general financial and physical needs of the school;*
- *to assist in an annual maintenance review of school buildings and grounds;*
- *to recommend resources needed for development of educational programs;*
- *to evaluate its own effectiveness on an annual basis as well as the working relationship between the school principal and the School Advisory Board.*

Technology Program

We have an extensive technology program led by two credentialed teachers who instruct all grade levels in the use of technology. We have a fully equipped computer lab, a computerized reference section in our library, and computers in all classrooms. We are networked and connected to the Internet, and technology is fully integrated into our regular curriculum.

Extracurricular Activities

- Sports Program
- Music Ministry
- Band
- Spanish
- Cartooning
- Computer Programming

Standardized Test Scores

St. Joseph's group test scores are generally in the 70th and 80th percentile ranges (in percentiles, the 10s, 20s, and 30s are low; the 40s, 50s, and 60s are average; and the 70s, 80s, and 90s are high).

Extended Day Care Services

We have an outstanding Extended Day Care program, which is open from 7 to 8:15 a.m. (school begins at 8:20 a.m.), and from after-school dismissal time to 6 p.m. on all school days.

Creating Exemplary Citizens

St. Joseph of Cupertino School is known for encouraging its students to become loving, caring people — and for giving them useful, practical outlets for their compassion.

Students participate in a variety of projects designed to help the less fortunate, including “adopting” families in need of food and clothing, and raising money for children profiled in the annual *San Jose Mercury News* Holiday Wish Book. The Wish Book project was profiled in the December 5, 2000, issue of the *San Jose Mercury News*, in an article titled “St. Joseph Students Work to Fulfill Wishes.”

Compassion is taught by other creative means as well. In an October 3, 2001, article headlined “Accused Witches Face Judgment,” *The Cupertino Courier* recounted the eighth grade’s reenactment of the Salem Witch Trials.

We at St. Joseph of Cupertino are proud of our excellent school and of the wonderful citizens it produces. For the finest in Catholic education, we urge you to consider St. Joseph of Cupertino School.

Current Tuition Range

Tuition rates are established in the following categories: in parish, out of parish, and non-catholic. Second and third students of the same family pay less. After the third child, there is a family rate. Please call the school for the current rates.

Application Information

We begin accepting applications in late January/early February for the coming school year. We test all applicants in early March. We use this testing to determine if the child can be successful in our program at the grade level for which he/she is testing. A student entering Kindergarten must be 5 years of age on or before December 1 of that year. For admission to Grades 1–8, the completed application must be accompanied by evidence of a satisfactory record in the school last attended.

Our Open House is held during Catholic Schools Week each year (late January/early February). At that time, SJC parents will be available to take you on a tour of the school, which will include visits to any grade level in which you are interested. Enrollment applications are available at the Open House.

St. Joseph of Cupertino School does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, or disability in the admission of students, the administration of educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Parish School Activities

Annual Auction for our Parish School

This event is held during the spring semester. Local merchants, parishioners, and student families donate services, new items, and high quality used items for the auction. This is one of the major fund raising events sponsored by our parish school to fund school operations and keep tuition to a minimum.

Family Fun Festival

This is an annual carnival held in the fall for everyone with activities, food, and rides.

Festival of Tables

This is an annual event in which tables are decorated with various themes. There is food, raffle, and a style show provided.

PRAYER GROUPS

Prayer line

This supports people who are in need of prayer. Please call the rectory if you or someone you know is in need of prayer.

RESOURCES

Bookrack

Educational materials are available in the **bookrack** in the rear of the church and outside chapel. Flyers and other information are available.

The Valley Catholic

The Diocese publishes a monthly newspaper titled *The Valley Catholic*. It provides a means for our bishop to address us. It also presents news and information on parishes in the diocese and Catholic events around the globe. Users of parish envelopes receive a complimentary subscription.

Video Lending Library

A new program sponsored by the Adult Educational Committee is the **Video Lending Library**, set up outside church on Sundays between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. Videos can be borrowed for one week.

A good source for religious books, videos, CDs, tapes, and other items is the **Ave Maria Community Book Center** located at 1084 South De Anza Boulevard in San Jose, just south of the Cupertino border and at the book store at the Cathedral.

Weekly Bulletin

The parish produces a **weekly bulletin** with news and events. It is available at the church after Sunday Mass.

World Wide Web

Parish information can be found at <http://www.stjoscup.org>.

The parish school web site is located at <http://www.sjcschool.org>.

The Web site for the Diocese of San José is also an excellent reference location, and can be found at <http://www.dsj.org>.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptisms

Please contact the parish rectory two months in advance of scheduling.

Marriage

Couples wishing to receive the sacrament of marriage should arrange an interview with the priest at least six months in advance of the wedding date. At least one of the persons to be married should be a member of St. Joseph Parish.

Mass Schedule

Saturday:	5:00 pm
Sunday:	8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am; 5:00 pm
Monday – Friday:	8:30 am
First Fridays:	9:00 am
Holy Day Vigils:	7:00 pm
Holy Days:	9:00 am; 7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Communal celebrations are scheduled during Advent and Lent. Individual celebration of Reconciliation is regularly scheduled on Saturday from 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. or by appointment.

Sacrament of the Sick

For any parishioner who is seriously ill at home or in the hospital or about to undergo surgery for a serious illness, please call the parish rectory for an appointment.

Church Etiquette

Thank you for your presence here at St. Joseph of Cupertino. In order to make our weekly celebrations more conducive to prayer, to preserve the sacredness of our liturgies and to ensure the comfort of all those who are gathered, the following are some gentle reminders of simple church etiquette:

Arriving on Time

The time to arrive at Church is *before* the Mass starts. Remember to allow yourself enough time for parking and extra time if you need to drop off your children in Sunday school.

Entering the Church

Due to circumstances out of our control, we understand that there are times tardiness cannot be avoided. If Mass has begun, please enter through the side doors of the church. Please wait for an usher to assist you since we do not seat people during particular moments of the liturgy, such as during the readings or the prayers. Remember that it is better to be present, even if late, than it is to be absent from the assembly. An alternative would be to wait until the next Mass.

Leaving Before the Final Blessing

Leaving church before the dismissal ignores another important part of the Liturgy. At the dismissal, we celebrate our commission as set forth by Jesus Christ himself. In that Jesus' last words to his disciples were "Therefore, go out and make disciples of all nations... And behold, I am with you until the end of age." *Matthew 28:19-20*. Our liturgy has a beginning ("In the name of the Father...") and an end ("Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord...").

To leave immediately after Communion is to treat church like a fast food restaurant where we come and go as we please. We live in a fast-paced world where we seem to be hurrying from place to place. But in God's presence, we need to make every attempt to fight this pressure to move on to the next thing on the day's agenda. Eat and run at McDonald's – but stay in church and thank God for his precious gifts.

Proper Attire

Remember the time when people put on their "Sunday best" to go to church? In fact, dress clothes were often referred to as Sunday clothes in some parts of the country. Too often, dress in church has become very casual. In all areas of our lives, we should offer Christ our best, and the same is true of our dress. We should offer Christ our "Sunday best". We should dress modestly, not in a flashy way that would bring attention to ourselves. Our dress should always be becoming of a Christian – especially at church.

Our Children

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." *Matthew 19:14*. If your child is attending Mass with you and begins to cry or be disruptive to those trying to pray around you, we gently ask that you take your child outside or to the crying room in the back of the church until comforted enough to rejoin our assembly prayer.

Phones and Pagers

Please remember to turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering the church.

Communion

Please do not come forward for communion chewing gum.

The appropriate response when receiving the body or blood of Christ is "Amen".

Parish Prayers

Dear God and Father,

You have given me a mission to help bring about your reign on earth as it is in Heaven through my life and the gifts You have given me. May I use the gifts of time, talent and treasure to follow Your plans and accomplish Your will. Help me go in peace to love and serve You!

Amen

Dear God and Father,

Through your Son with the light of the Holy Spirit, You have called me to live his Gospel and follow His example. You have given me a mission to help bring about your reign on earth as it is in heaven through my life and the gifts You have given me. Let me use my time as a way to track my progress in a life of Christian discipleship. Help me share my talent to accomplish Your will. Let me hear Your call to care for and share all the treasure I possess, which are gifts from God. May I use these gifts of time, talent and treasure to follow Your plans and accomplish Your will. Help me go in peace to love and serve You!

Amen

Jubilee Prayer

Loving God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
You are the Maker of all things.
You are the giver of every gift.

Rooted in faith, we call to You.
Embracing our future, we turn to You.

Lead our Diocese in the ways
of Your life and love.
Help us to be a Church of joy and hope.

In this time of Jubilee,
bind us more deeply together in Christ
so all that we do will begin and end in You.

Guide us as stewards of the resources
You have entrusted to our care.
May we serve all people as a sign of unity
and an instrument of Your peace.

With your servants, Joseph and Clare,
We pray in the name of Your Son,
who lives with You and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen

Diocese of San Jose, 1981-2006
Patrick J. McGrath, Bishop



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