

FROM THE RECTOR...

LIFTING THE BURDEN OF GUILT...



Ash Wednesday commences the long period of Lent. The word "lent" actually comes from the Old English word "lencten"... "springtime" or "lengthening of days". We have all heard the expression, "Spring is in the air!" Lent always occurs during the springtime.

The long dark burdensome days of winter are replaced with sunny uplifting days of spring. Flowers and trees bloom...it is a time of refreshment and renewal.

Lent this year will be different just as Advent was different as we continue to navigate through the "dark" days of the global pandemic. Many parish churches will not be able to begin Lent with in-person church services. We originally thought this would be the case with Saint Joseph Parish. However, we expect to resume indoor Masses on Sunday, February 14, in response to the State's revised guidelines of February 6 regarding indoor worship services.

Ash Wednesday reminds us we are made from dust and we will return to dust. The ashes are in the shape of a cross...a vivid reminder where our Lenten journey will ultimately take us...to Good Friday and the foot of The Cross. On Good Friday...Jesus took the real burden of our sins on his shoulders. What is without a doubt the darkest day in the history of humanity, leads us to the Light of Christ of Easter Day.

Lent gives us the opportunity to confront our sinfulness...but not let the feeling of guilt that comes along with the realization we have "left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done"...become such a burden we lose sight of the real purpose of Lent...repentance followed by restoration and renewal!

It's important we take on some sort of spiritual discipline during Lent. Whatever discipline we choose...let's make certain it's something we can do. We often spend Lent in prayer and fasting and introspection. Let's consider reaching out to others through a simple act of kindness. Greet someone on the street with "hello" and "stay well". Our actions can go a long way toward lifting their burdens...and ours...especially in these trying times.

Father Craig Looney+

Notice: Indoor Masses Resume

On Saturday, February 6, Governor Newsom revised the State of California ruling banning indoor worship services, in response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the matter.

For now...Saint Joseph Parish will be able to hold indoor services. Effective, Sunday, February 14, we will resume the 9:00 AM Parish Mass inside the building, with attendance limited to 25% seating capacity.

We have safety protocols already in place. Masks must be worn at all times. There are several hand sanitizer stations. Please practice physical distancing of 6 feet. Windows and doors will be open to facilitate flow of fresh air. Coffee Hour and Discussion Group remain suspended until further notice.

There are several parishioners at a distance who are unable to attend Mass in person. We will be recording the Sunday Mass and other service for posting on our Facebook Page.

SHROVE TUESDAY...



FEBRUARY 16, 2021

5:00 PM EVENING PRAYER

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent). The word *shrove* comes from the English verb *to shrive*...meaning to make a Confession (to a priest), receive Absolution, and then do Penance.

In New Orleans and elsewhere, Shrove Tuesday is called *Mardi Gras*...*Fat Tuesday*. It's a day of celebratory feasting and using up all of the butter, bacon drippings, lard and other forms of fat not consumed during Lent.

We will not be able to hold our traditional Pancake Supper this year...but we can enjoy pancakes, sausages and scrambled eggs in our own homes. And don't forget the applesauce!

ASH WEDNESDAY...



Ash Wednesday
Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.
-Ecclesiastes 3:20

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

12:15 PM MASS, HOMILY, IMPOSITION OF ASHES
5:00 PM PENITENTIAL OFFICE WITH IMPOSITION
OF ASHES, HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE
RESERVED SACRAMENT

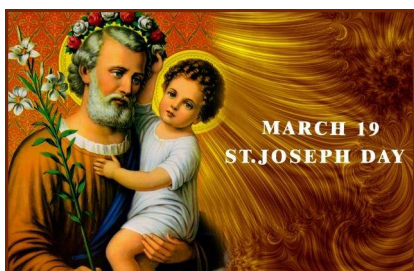
Imposition of Ashes will be "Contactless"

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET ...

Everyone in the Parish will be receiving a copy of *Steadfast Love*, a booklet of Lent Devotions inspired by the writings of Dutch priest, Father Henri J.M. Nouwen (1932-1996). Each daily devotion includes a short passage from the Bible, a meditation, and a brief closing prayer. Please use this booklet as the basis for your Lenten discipline.



During Wednesdays in Lent this year...beginning on Wednesday February 24 and continuing every Wednesday through March 31, Morning Prayer and Meditation will be held at 9:00 AM in the Church. This Service will also be recorded and posted on Facebook. This will give our Parish Family additional opportunities to stay connected through fasting and prayer.



The Month of March is often associated with Saint Patrick, Missionary Bishop and Patron Saint of Ireland. We will commemorate his feast day at 9:00 AM Morning Prayer on Wednesday, March 17. The Service will also be recorded and posted on Facebook later that morning.

Friday, March 19, is the Feast of Saint Joseph and our Patronal Festival. There has been much devotion over the centuries to Saint Joseph. Since the late 19th Century...the entire Month of March has been dedicated to him.

Holy Scripture doesn't record a single word he said. He is shown to be a man of action...a "just man"...husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus. He loved and provided for his family. He is the model for fathers.

Joseph was a carpenter by trade. The Greek word *tekton* used in the New Testament and translated *carpenter*, also refers to someone skilled in metalwork and stonework.

We will celebrate our Patronal Festival on Friday, March 19, with the Litany of Saint Joseph and Mass celebrated at 12:15 PM in the Church. The Mass will also be recorded and posted on Facebook later in the day.

THE ANNUNCIATION ...



The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 235-236*) occurs on March 25 each year, always during Lent. We will observe The Annunciation on Wednesday, March 24, in conjunction with the Feast of Saint Gabriel the Archangel, with Morning Prayer and Homily at 9:00 AM in the Church. The Service will also be recorded and posted on Facebook later.

In the Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary, Father Massey Shepherd notes the Collect for The Annunciation dates from the 10th Century Gregorian Sacramentary, the book containing only the parts of the Mass said or sung by the Priest. The Collect passed into the 11th Century Sarum Missal, which became the standard Liturgy used throughout England. Archbishop Thomas Cranmer incorporated the Collect in the First English *Book of Common Prayer* (1549).

Father Massey writes about the Collect, "It is admirably chosen because it links the themes of the Christmas cycle of feasts, to which the Annunciation belongs, to the themes of Passiontide and Easter, the seasons when the Annunciation so commonly occurs."

The Collect for the Annunciation

WE beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that, as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

APCM HIGHLIGHTS...



Our first-ever Zoom Annual Parish Corporation Meeting (APCM) was held on Sunday, January 31, 2021. On-line participants included 12 voting members and 1 observer. Three voting members submitted Proxy Voting Forms. There was an upbeat and positive spirit during the meeting and on-line participants were happy to see each other albeit virtually. Our thanks to Rebekah Shapiro for facilitating the meeting.

Old Business:

Clerk of the Vestry, Marcia Rayher, reported a quorum of voting members was present. Minutes of the January 26, 2020 APCM were e-mailed to the entire Parish for review prior to the meeting. The Minutes were approved as amended with the notation the Rector's and Warden's reports from the 2020 APCM were not "attached" as stated in the Minutes since they were not e-mailed to the Parish prior to the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Parish Treasurer, Candyce Francis, presented the 2020 Financial Report. Pledge Income was quite a bit higher than Budgeted amount. Plate Income was approximately three times Budgeted amount. We received an additional bequest from the Marie Adams Estate and several other Gifts and Memorial contributions during the year. Total Expenses were down slightly as a result of cancellation of in-person Masses throughout most of the Year due to State and County Covid-19 ordinances. Candyce noted the Net Income for 2020 reflects a small negative balance. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Rector's Pastoral Report:

Last year's Annual Parish Corporation Meeting was by all accounts...routine. It was...business as usual. I closed my Pastoral Report by asking the same question I asked the previous year..."Where do we go from here?" None of us

could have imagined what lay ahead. We might want to forget 2020 altogether. We should remember 2020 as the year we survived...by God's Grace we are still here...doing exactly what we were commissioned to do when the Parish was founded in 1977...showing Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament...as Anglican Catholic Christians.

The Saint Joseph Parish Family has adapted its spiritual life to meet the many challenges Covid-19 has sent our way. For most of 2020 we were unable to meet in person for Mass in our historic church building. The positive response to the Sunday Facebook Mass has been personally gratifying...reaching out far beyond the Parish. Sunday morning "Parking Lot Communion" has proved to be popular. The Parish website is updated weekly...*The Parish Times* is distributed to over 80 households.

Gazelle Creative Learning School continues its tenancy...now 22 years strong. We enjoy an excellent working relationship with the school. Classes are held in person and remotely. Like Saint Joseph Parish...the school has had to adapt to the challenges of operating under a global pandemic.

We were saddened by the death of long-time parishioner, Kathie Dietz. I'm pleased to report Peter Dietz is doing well at his new home in Rohnert Park. We were also saddened by the sudden death of Susanna Schick shortly after her move to Barcelona, Spain. May Kathie and Susanna rest in peace and rise in glory.

We said good-bye to Robin Hansen, a good friend of the Parish, who for many years taught voice and singing lessons in our historic church building. She and her husband, Rolf, the retired Pastor of the Congregational Church of San Carlos, have moved to Seattle, Washington. We wish them all of God's blessings.

Long time parishioner, Richard Roach, whom some of you remember, relocated from San Francisco to an assisted living home in Burlingame. He is doing well. Carol Schick lives in another assisted living facility in Burlingame. She is also doing well. Stephanie/Dianne Graton is recovering from a fall and currently in a skilled nursing facility in Visalia. She hopes to return to assisted living in Tulare where she relocated several years ago.

On a personal note...it is a pleasure to serve as your Rector. Just before I was ordained a priest in 2004, the Bishop read the Exhortation from the Ordinal in the *Book of Common Prayer*. The Exhortation instructs me to always remember the great treasure committed to my charge. You...the parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish...are that great treasure. I could not do this work without your love and support.

Meeting the challenges of this past year would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our Vestry.

My deepest gratitude to Senior Warden, Jerry Mc Donnell, whose experience with building-related matters has been invaluable.

My thanks to Junior Warden and Parish Counsel, Rebekah Shapiro, who has guided me through the complexities of State and County Covid-19 rules and regulations.

My thanks to Parish Treasurer, Candyce Francis, who has streamlined our Accounting and turned it into an efficient operation.

My thanks to Clerk-of-the-Vestry, Marcia Rayher, for keeping Vestry Meeting Minutes in order, and for her Altar Guild work. With no Altar Guild present at Sunday Facebook Mass, I had to rediscover the fine art of ironing fair linen. What's an iron?

My thanks to Vestry-Member-at-Large, Lindsay Pettit, and to Phil Mancini, who both work quietly in the background, and serve as the "technical team" for Sunday Facebook Mass.

Looking ahead...there is still much uncertainty about Covid-19 and when things will start to open up again. We should not get discouraged if we must continue with Sunday Facebook Mass for a while longer. There will be additional Liturgies during Lent, Holy Week and other times. The best we can do is to keep in touch with each other by e-mail or phone.

God wants us to continue to be the Faith Community called Saint Joseph Parish. As Anglican Catholic Christians...we seek to know Jesus Christ and make him known through Word and Sacrament...in a loving environment free of partisan politics...Church or secular.

Let's see where 2021 will take us!

Yours in Christ,
Father Craig Looney+

Senior Warden's Report:

While our Rector, Fr. Looney, has covered much of the important items and Junior Warden Shapiro will soon cover some others, I wish to personally add the following;

A very special and heartfelt thanks to Fr. Looney for his continued dedication, availability, guidance and spiritual leadership to all of us. His steaming Facebook masses, giving communion, sending sermons each week, publishing *The Parish Times* and weekly updates has not wavered during the pandemic. Thanks to the Altar Guild

for their tireless devotion to duties and time they donate to perform such a sacred duty even through these trying times; to Rebekah Shapiro as our General Counsel for legal matters, her knowledge and guidance in assisting both the Rector and the Vestry is appreciated and extremely helpful; to Candyce Emory and Fr. Looney for keeping our finances in order; to Marsha Rayer for her excellent handling of the secretary matters; to Lindsay Pettit for her contributions and input to Vestry matters; to Phil Mancini for his inspiration and guidance from "behind the scenes" to both Fr. Looney and myself; to my loving wife Dawn for her understanding, patience and wisdom when I am away from home on church business and repairs. Most importantly thanks to all of you who support Saint Joseph Parish. Your love, unwavering devotion and support is what moves us forward during these challenging times

We continue to deal with ongoing issues with an aging building and equipment. After deferring many repairs due to budget constraints, time has come to face these realities head on. The elevator continues to be a must-repair item and we are currently involved with a fifth company that is accessing our needs. Heating problems continue to be an issue. Although difficult, we have been able to find local companies that are in the process of getting bids to us for upgrades. Interior painting is needed especially in the areas utilized by the school as well as exterior issues. Termites and dry rot have reached a point where we can no longer ignore them.

Well, we are here for another year. Did you think we would be here today? I believe we will be back next year and for years to come after that. As Fr. Looney stated earlier, "We are in God's hands and he wants us here".

Jerry Mc Donnell
February 1, 2021

Junior Warden's Report:

The first thing I want to say to the Parish today is Congratulations! In this past year we have survived, together as a community, what one retired historian termed the greatest event of his lifetime. That makes this pandemic:

- bigger than the 2008 recession when I graduated from law school
- bigger than 9/11 and the following War on Terrorism
- bigger than the dot-com bust
- bigger than the birth of the Internet and modern telecommunications
- bigger than the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War.

I wasn't with the Parish through all of these crises and transformations, but I know they each touched the Parish in different ways, just as the pandemic has. And yet, here we are, still practicing prayer, fasting and relational mission together, by the Providence of God. So again I say, Congratulations.

The second thing I want to say is that, though I have asked that my term on the Vestry not be extended, I am not resigning as librarian or Parish General Counsel. I will remain in this position as long as my firm and the Parish will have me, and I have already started on filling a gap in the book reviews in the *Parish Times*.

The library is one of the tangible resources that makes this Parish unique. I am determined that none of our problems persist because of a lack of ideas. So a lot of work has been done to make the library responsive to the needs of the Parish. This includes books written specifically for churches about social media and social justice, as well as magazines on topics of perpetual interest for the Parish, particularly food (because potlucks will come back) and the repair of old buildings. My next project for the library is a "Start Here" shelf for visitors. The shelf will feature basic texts on our faith and practice at St. Joseph Parish.

I said a moment ago that the repair of our building is of perpetual concern, and it is the item of most concern to the Vestry. In a little while, Candyce will present a deficit budget. That deficit does not even reflect repairs we know are needed, but for which we have not yet engaged repairmen. These include \$75,000 to eliminate termites, and \$18,000 to replace the sewage pumps. That's about \$100,000, and that figure does not include issues for which we don't even have estimates, including painting in several places (inside and out) and the completion of the elevator. The preschool is insisting on these repairs before they will pay an increase in rent, and I can't really blame them. And termites, pumps, the elevator and painting do not include an additional 11 pages of repairs the preschool identified with Father Craig on a walk-through over the summer. Some of those repairs relate to water seeping in where it shouldn't. All these are more than our Vestry can handle, so Bishop Scarlett has agreed to send a deacon-engineer to help us retain repair contractors.

So there is a skeleton of a plan to keep the building from falling down. In the meantime, as I leave the Vestry, I ask that you each continue what I have asked each year: pray for the Vestry, fast and pray for the growth of the Parish, and continue in relational mission with each other and the surrounding community. Alex, who does most of our cooking, is rather tired of my mammal-free Wednesdays and Fridays, which I started at the Annual Meeting last year, but they are a tangible way I serve God in the Parish. I have another suggestion to begin as soon as we're meeting together again, which is: Keep a Sunday order of service handy. I try to always have one on hand in my car and my briefcase. That way, should someone ask about the

Parish, you have the contact information, as well as a little bit about what we do – all handy.

It has been a great honor to serve as your Junior Warden. Thank you.

Rebekah Shapiro

New Business:

Parish Treasurer, Candyce Francis, presented the 2021 Proposed Budget. She noted 2021 Pledges are much higher than 2020 Pledges. She said Total Expenses for 2021 are expected to be higher than 2020 Expenses in spite of the suspension of in-person Masses and limited use of the building. Payroll Taxes will increase slightly. She noted Account 550 Repairs is higher and reflects boiler and heating system repairs. After some discussion, the Proposed Budget was approved by voting members of the Parish and adopted.

The Nominations Committee recommended Dawn Cutler and Phil Mancini to membership on the Vestry. There were no nominations from the floor. Dawn and Phil were unanimously elected to serve on the Vestry.

Candyce Francis and Rebekah Shapiro "volunteered" to serve as lay delegates to the Diocesan Synod to be held in Newport Beach CA this summer. They were unanimously elected as lay delegates. The Saint Joseph Parish Delegation will likely take part in the Synod on-line.

Vestry Officers Elections:

Immediately following the APCM there was a short Vestry Meeting to elect Officers of the Corporation. The Rector again thanked retiring Senior Warden Jerry Mc Donnell and Junior Warden Rebekah Shapiro for their service on the Vestry and to the Parish.

The Rector asked Candyce Francis and Marcia Rayher to continue to serve as Treasurer and Clerk-of-the-Vestry respectively; they agreed.

The Vestry nominated Dawn Cutler to serve as Junior Warden. Candyce, Marcia and Dawn were elected by unanimous vote of the Vestry. Father Looney appointed Lindsay Pettit to serve as Senior Warden.



The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 7. As of now, the Meeting will follow the 9:00 AM Parish Mass and will be held in the Church.

Prayer and Intercessions

We continue to pray for our men and women serving in the Armed Forces, that they may be brought home safely to their families and loved ones; for police departments throughout the country; for First Responders; in thanksgiving for the vaccines for COVID-19; and for peace in the World, our Country, our State, our City and our hearts. If you have someone you would like prayed for during the Intercessions at Sunday Mass...please e-mail the name(s) to the Rector.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



- Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday...9:00 AM Palm Sunday Liturgy, Passion According to Matthew (Blessed Palms will be mailed to Parishioners unable to attend Mass in person)
- Wednesday, March 31, Wednesday before Easter...9:00 AM Morning Prayer & Meditation
- Thursday, April 1, Maundy Thursday...6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Liturgy, Stripping of the Altar
- Friday, April 2, Good Friday...12:00 PM Liturgy for Good Friday

Note: The Holy Week Schedule presumes we will be meeting in the Church. This could change. Please check your e-mail regularly. We plan on recording all of the Holy Week services and posting them on Facebook in a timely manner.



Parish Directory

We're delaying the publication of the 2021 Parish Directory until after Easter or possibly late Summer. Your patience is appreciated.

Please e-mail any changes to your contact information shown in the 2020 Parish Directory. It's important we have accurate information.

THE NEXT ISSUE...

The next edition of *The Parish Times* will be the Easter-Trinity Sunday edition. The target date for publication and distribution is the week of March 28. If you have an article or announcement you wish published, please submit it via e-mail by March 14. All submissions are subject to space limitations and editing by the Rector. All submissions must be free of partisan politics...whether Church or secular.



Find us on Facebook at: **Saint Joseph Parish – San Mateo CA**

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM PARISH MASS & SERMON
(POSTED ON FACEBOOK ABOUT 11:00 AM)

WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.

www.saintjosephparish.net

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