

## From the Rector's Desk...

### **Rector's Annual Pastoral Report...**



Just before a man is ordained a priest, the Bishop reads the Exhortation. It is directed at the Ordinand, but it is read out loud so all present can clearly hear and understand what is about to take place:

*"Have always therefore printed in your remembrance, how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ, which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The Church and Congregation whom you must serve, is his Spouse, and his Body."*

Our historic 1870 Carpenter Gothic building is indeed a treasure. It stands as an iconic beacon along the same El Camino Real that Father Junipero Serra and his successors travelled more than 200 years ago, spreading the Good News about Jesus Christ. But the real treasure that makes up Saint Joseph Parish is not the building. The real treasure is the parishioners...gathering together each Sunday and Holy Day to hear God's Word and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar.

The word parish is derived from the Ancient Greek...*paroikia*..."wandering in a foreign land". It reminds us of what Saint Paul writes in his Letter to the Philippians that our true citizenship is in heaven. God has given us Planet Earth as our temporary home. *Paroikia* also refers to the people who make up Saint Joseph Parish, gathering together with common purpose, in love and fellowship with each other, and with the desire to share our love and fellowship with others, in an environment distinctly free of partisan politics...whether church or secular.

While we remain small in numbers and we want to grow, we have seen new faces and have welcomed several people into the parish. Attendance at Sunday Mass is consistent. We experienced better than average attendance during the summer months even though several parishioners were away on vacation. Christmas attendance was 25% higher than the previous year.

We did have two funerals last year for long-time parishioners. Cora Jean Kleppe died in March on her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I can't think of a better present than to be welcomed home by God on one's birthday. Her sister,

Sally Bernstein, died in September at age 90. She will always be remembered for her positive outlook, her determination to get to Mass in spite of her physical challenges, and for always saying she was "fabulous and fantastic".

Our Sunday Discussion Group reinforces the Liturgical Life of the Parish. In Advent we read the Book of Malachi. Response to the class was positive and we will do more Bible Study in the future. The Discussion Group has been a hallmark of the Parish since its founding in 1978.

A parish cannot exist without people. I want to thank all who volunteer to bring tasty treats for Sunday Coffee Hour. We all owe a special thanks to Ginger for publishing the quarterly Volunteer List and keeping things running smoothly and for letting us know when supplies need to be replenished. Our Coffee Hour is an extension of our love and fellowship.

I want to thank our dedicated Altar Guild Members, Marcia and Nan who set up the Altar and Credence Table for Mass, wash and iron the linens, and make certain we don't run short on wine, hosts or candles. I also want to thank Jack for helping at the Altar. I know when I arrive to celebrate Mass things will be in order. I also want to thank those who helped decorate the Church for Easter and Christmas and assist the Altar Guild when additional help is needed.

We have a faithful and committed Vestry. I want to thank Lindsay, Dawn, Candyce, Lawrence and Phil for their dedication to this service. Their individual and collective experiences help solve building-related and other issues that might occur during the year get solved as quickly as possible. They simply make my work as Rector so much easier.

What can I say about Father Herb? It seems as though you have always been present, and on the days you are away, you are sorely missed. Your graciousness and smile brighten make Sunday complete and I know everyone else feels the same. Your contributions to the Sunday Discussion Group are greatly appreciated. Thank you again for being part of the Saint Joseph Parish family.

Our Parish Library is a wonderful and inviting place to hold Vestry meetings and the Sunday Discussion Group. It has also become something of an art gallery. Parish Librarian, Rebekah, has neatly organized the books. We look forward to her column in *The Parish Times*.

Parishioners are regularly checking out books to read. In response to requests from several parishioners, the Parish Library is now the repository for my sermons from 2007 to date.

Our newsletter, *The Parish Times*, is sent to 60 households several times during the year. The newsletter is our primary method of communicating what's happening in the Parish to our parishioners and friends of the Parish. Our mission to spread the Good news about Jesus Christ extends beyond the four walls of this building and our local community.

I'm pleased to report our historic building, is once again being used by two voice teachers and several small choral groups for rehearsals. Our building has excellent acoustics for organ, piano and music recitals. One group has offered to provide a quartet to sing at a Sunday Mass later this year, perhaps during Eastertide or later in the Trinity Season. Dr. Angela Kraft-Cross recorded several Easter and Christmas hymns last year. We are blessed by her friendship with the Parish.

I want to thank everyone who helped make my trip to England last July possible. It was my first trip to England in 42 years. The highlight of the trip was the Consecration Service and the Sundays I attended Mass at the Cathedral Church of Saint Augustine of Canterbury in Painters Forstal, Kent. The welcome I received from Bishop Damien Mead and Father Raymond Thompson and the warmth of the parishioners made me feel right at home. I keep in touch with Bishop Mead and Father Ray and we will continue to pray for their work in the UK.

I also keep in touch with Father Brian and Miems Tee in Perth, Australia. We continue to pray for their work at Saint Peter's Parish and Saint Andrew's Parish, and especially for Father Brian, as he has been nominated to be Diocesan Ordinary.

A visiting priest once asked me if I knew what a treasure we have here at Saint Joseph Parish. Yes, I do! It is my privilege to continue to serve as your Rector.

*Yours in Christ,  
Father Craig Looney +*

### ***Senior Warden's Report...***

Good morning to everyone and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season and we are now ready for the New Year ahead.

First of all I would like to say a special thank to Father Craig and Father Herb who devote themselves to us both individually and collectively 24/7 and are always there to offer guidance, counsel and support throughout the

year. We are blessed to have both of you. Our beautiful Mass always gives me strength for the week ahead and the class after coffee hour reminds and guides us in our journey to bettering ourselves each and everyday, so thank you Father Craig and Father Herb for all the knowledge you both impart during the class.

I also want to thank:

Dawn, for all her help and support and for being the point person in all things security. We have had a few issues this year and we need to keep everyone safe while they are here at the church.

Marcia and Lawrence, who keep our Vestry meetings memorialized so that we have an accurate account of what was discussed. It is a big job to keep those notes concise and complete.

Candyce, for her ever-faithful financial reports, a daunting task especially since QuickBooks is less than user friendly.

Phil, who is always available for me to call when I am at work to help with things that come up that need attention.

Marcia, Nan and Jack for their devotion to our Alter Guild. While we are enjoying Coffee hour, they are doing the dishes upstairs

Rebekah, for making our library the envy of the Peninsula.

And finally, thank you to you all for your devotion to our Parish Community and to this beautiful building of ours.

This year has seen a few transitions. We lost both Cora Jean and Sally, who I know we all miss terribly, but we also added Henry's sister, Christine, who we cannot wait to meet.

As always there was work to be done on the church itself, and thankfully there were not as many big projects to be completed as in years past, but we all know that keeping this beautiful building in good shape is an ongoing process.

Since I reviewed what was done and what needed to be done in my Advent letter, I won't go over those again, but suffice it to say, it is an ongoing process.

We are also so happy for Father Craig's trip to England and the Father Herb's trips abroad. We miss you when you are gone but realize that you also need time to refresh.

*Lindsay Pettit  
Senior Warden*

## ***Annual Parish Meeting Summary...***

The Annual Parish Meeting of Saint Joseph Parish, San Mateo CA, was held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 immediately following the 9:00 AM Parish Mass.

Father Craig opened the meeting with a prayer.

Clerk-of-the-Vestry, Lawrence Ghosh, confirmed 11 voting members were present and 2 proxy votes were received, which constituted a quorum of voting members needed to conduct business.

### Old Business:

The Minutes of the January 28, 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were presented. There was no discussion or corrections to the Minutes. The Rector thanked Marcia Rayher, Clerk of the Vestry at the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting, for taking the Minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion duly carried.

Parish Treasurer, Candyce Francis, presented the 2024 Financial Report. She noted Pledge and Plate Income were up slightly over Budget. Gifts and Memorials Income was substantially higher due to the generosity of several parishioners. Total Expenses were slightly higher than budgeted amount. Net Revenue was significantly over Budget. Candyce thanked everyone for their support. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2024 Financial Report as presented. Motion duly carried.

### New Business:

Candyce presented the 2025 Proposed Budget. The projected numbers have not changed much over 2024 with the notable exception of Gifts and Memorials Income, which reflects a substantial bequest to the Parish by Sally Bernstein. When the funds are received, they will be added to our existing CD. The 2025 Proposed Budget reflects a projected Net Income.

The Rector said we should not be too quick to spend money from the Bequest and must be good stewards of God's gifts to us. He has blessed us in many more ways than we can imagine.

The Rector was asked if the Parish has negotiated a new lease with the pre-school. He noted the pre-school experienced a 50% drop in enrolment over 2023. The Vestry reduced the rent and voted not to increase it in 2025. Rent is now on a month-to-month basis.

There was no further discussion regarding the 2025 Proposed Budget. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Budget as presented. Motion duly carried.

The Rector said that at the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish voted to amend the Parish By-laws to permit extending terms of service for one year for Vestry members whose terms have expired. The terms of service are extended on an annual basis.

Four of the current Vestry members whose terms have expired agreed to continue to serve on the Vestry in their current capacities: Lindsay will continue to serve as Senior Warden; Dawn as Junior Warden; Candyce as Treasurer; and Phil as at-large member. Clerk-of-the-Vestry, Lawrence, is commencing his second year of service on the Vestry.

The Rector said a vote to extend the terms of the four Vestry members was not required, but he asked for the assent of the voting members, which was a unanimous "aye".

The Annual Synod for the Diocese of the Holy Trinity will take place at Saint Matthew's Parish in Newport Beach CA, on Friday, June 20, 2025. Father Craig and Father Herb will attend as clergy delegates and Candyce Francis will attend as lay delegate.

Father Craig plans on attending the ACC Provincial Synod scheduled to be held from October 13-17 in Charleston SC. He expects to be away from the Parish for 9 days. He hopes to reconnect with Bishop Mead from the UK, who also plans on attending the Synod.

Father Craig was asked if there is communication between the various Traditional Anglican jurisdictions. He said dialogue between the ACC, ACA and APA continue. He also stated we remain in full communion with the APCK, and that Father Andrew Harrah, an ACC priest, is Priest-in-Charge of an APCK parish in Peoria AZ. Father Craig said it is a good thing the three larger jurisdictions continue to have dialogue and work together.

With no further business to discuss, the Rector adjourned the Meeting with a Blessing. Coffee Hour followed the Meeting.

**(Note: The above Annual Parish Meeting Summary is not an official record of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting and is presented here for informational purposes only.)**



The 2025 Saint Joseph Parish Directory is now available. Please pick up your copy after Sunday Mass.

## Schedule

Sundays – 9:00 AM Parish Mass & Sermon  
Coffee Hour and Discussion Group  
Weekdays/Holy Days as announced  
Sacrament of Penance by Appointment

The Reverend Father Craig Looney, Rector  
The Reverend Father Herbert Plimpton, MD, Assisting

*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](http://www.saintjosephparish.net)

650 347 4423

## SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

770 NORTH EL CAMINO REAL

SAN MATEO CA 94401

