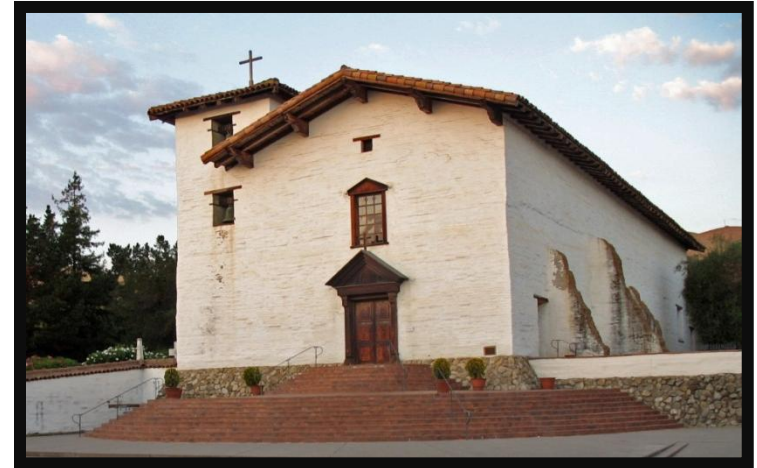


Ministry in Action Guide

St. Joseph Parish Old Mission San Jose



**43148 Mission Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94539**

Phone: 510-656-2364

Fax: 510-656-2438

E-mail: stjomissj@aol.com

www.sainttjosephmsj.org

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday:	5:30 pm Vigil Mass
Sunday:	7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 am 12:30 & 6:30 pm 4:00 pm Mandarin
Weekdays, Old Mission:	8:00 am
With Anointing of Sick:	Quarterly

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday:	3:30 - 4:30 pm
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Saint Joseph Catholic Community

WELCOMES YOU

to join us in our Mission:

Through prayer and service, the Saint Joseph family strives
to bring the community together
to love, heal, and support one another
as the People we are called to be in Christ.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Parishioners:

It is a great joy to provide you with this Ministry in Action Guide.

As can be seen from the listings in this booklet, St. Joseph Parish/Old Mission San Jose is a very active parish. There are so many people, of every age, joyfully sharing their God-given gifts with one another. This is what it is to be CHURCH. This is what makes us a viable parish.

There are times when each of us turns to our parish for assistance and/or direction from various ministries. It is my hope that this Guide will enable you to see the many opportunities that exist for you to join and where you can turn for help if and when it is needed.

We know that there are many more gifted people here at St. Joseph Parish/Old Mission San Jose who want to be involved. Some may wonder, "Where do I fit in?" or "What do I do to become involved?" This Guide is meant to help you discern how you might best serve the parish community through the sharing of your gifts.

Please know that you are welcomed and encouraged to step forward and participate. When we are involved, we then experience more fully what it means to be "CHURCH."

After prayerfully reflecting upon this Guide, please take the next step. Discern how you are being called to serve our parish community and sign up today. God is never outdone in generosity.

Let us keep one another in prayer.

Peace and love,

Rev. Msgr. Manuel C. Simas
Pastor

Pastoral Staff

Msgr. Manuel C. Simas	Pastor
Fr. Anthony Huong Le	Parochial Vicar
Fr. Carl Seewald, SVD	Pastoral Team
Deacon Lance Vivet	Deacon
Deacon Dick Bayless	Deacon
Mrs. Kelly Mendoza	School Principal
Helen Campbell	Pastoral Care
Ronald McKean	Music Director
Jon Manongdo	Youth Director
Sr. Cecilia Phan, LHC	Pastoral Associate
Sr. Marcia Krause, OP	Adult Spirituality Coordinator
Gina Mehta	Business Manager

Parish Office

(510) 656-2364	
Matthew Remlinger	Parish Secretary
Sandra Hernandez	Office Assistant

Faith Formation Office

(510) 657-0905	
Grace Lichauco	Administrative Assistant

Old Mission San Jose

(510) 657-1797	
Dolores Ferenz	Administrator

Parish Outreach

Sr. John Marie's Pantry	(510) 490-4171
St. Vincent de Paul	(510) 661-9572

Ministry in Action Guide

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Stewardship – A Way of Life

Our Ministries are all about Stewardship. Every ministry is composed of people giving their Time, Talent and Treasure. Stewardship takes time to develop within a parish, but it can gradually become a way of life beneficial for all.

In this booklet we hope you will find a ministry that appeals to you, a ministry in which you will share your gifts and become a steward of St. Joseph Parish Community.

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VII. OTHER MINISTRIES

Catholic Daughters of America (CDA)

Catholic Daughters of America have been active at St. Joseph Parish since 1949. Through the years, we have served our community and Parish when asked to do so. We hold a salad lunch in August, which benefits Sr. John Marie's Pantry, Sunrise Village, Rubicon and other local needs. In the past we have helped with the St. Joseph Fiesta, White Elephant booth and raffle booth. Prayers are an important part of our ministry. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)

CYO is a program that seeks to provide our local youth with the opportunity to develop their bodies, minds and spirits through the participation in sports. We teach our youth to learn and practice Christian attitudes, to respect the game, themselves, their opponents, their coaches, and the officials. Through sports competition, we seek to teach them to be responsible, and offer them the chance to meet and become friends with other participants throughout the Diocese. The program is open to boys and girls in grades 2-8. For more information, please contact the St Joseph School Office at 510-656-6525.

Vocation Committee

The goal of this committee is to affirm and foster vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, sisterhood and brotherhood. This is a prayer-based program in which members petition God to provide more vocations and pray for candidates currently enrolled in consecrated life. All are welcome. Please contact the Parish Office for more information at 510-656-2364.

OUR MINISTRIES

DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTACTS

I. PASTORAL MINISTRIES

Welcoming Committee

Vital to our vision of Church, this group welcomes our newest parishioners to our community. Because our Parish is large and diverse, it can be difficult for newcomers to be welcomed properly and guided to meet other parishioners with common interests. This group informs new parishioners of the many ministries available to them to become engaged in Church. This committee needs people who want to meet new parishioners. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

To Build Church – Physical and Spiritual

Our Parish needs to expand and renovate our facilities to more adequately meet the needs of our growing Parish family. To this end we have developed a Parish Master Plan that is our community's "road map" for our building needs over the coming years. Please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364 for more information.

Parish Finance Committee

This Committee provides oversight on matters of financial accountability of Parish funds. They advise the Pastor on the allocation of financial resources to achieve the Parish mission and report income sources and use of funds to the Pastoral Council and to the Parish community. Please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364 for more information.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council is an advisory body to the Pastor comprised of members of the parish community. They review and update the Parish Operational Plan and are ambassadors of its objectives and strategies. They support the Parish Staff and promote stewardship, the sharing of time, talent, and treasure, as a way of life. They utilize a consensus decision-making process to attain agreement. Membership is by selection. For further information contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

VI. SCHOOL MINISTRIES

St. Joseph School (Grades TK-8)

St Joseph School, an integral part of St. Joseph Parish/Old Mission San Jose, is dedicated to providing a strong Catholic religious formation and a quality academic education for elementary school students. Partners in this endeavor---students, parents, educators, and parish community---strive to live Christ's message, empowering service-minded future leaders for Church and community.

St. Joseph School's overarching goal is to provide a quality educational environment wherein students become successful lifelong learners. The educational program is directed toward the growth of the whole person – the spiritual, intellectual, social, psychological, and physical being. The school believes that parents are the primary educators and should be extensively involved in the school program. For more information, please contact 510-656-6525.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY knits and crochets shawls and blankets made of prayer and yarn and gives them to honor, remember, or support people. A supply of prayer shawls and blankets are available to use in a special way to show we care. This group welcomes anyone who can knit or crochet.

Please join us in our quest for fellowship, spirituality and service. Sign up today! For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Community Building

If you would like to meet and work with people on the many church events throughout the year, this is the ministry for you. You will have the opportunity to help plan, mail, decorate, sell tickets, and be part of our growing community of Stewardship. For more information contact Don Kaefer at 510-656-2364.

II. LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Server Ministry

The altar server assists the priest in service of the congregation at the celebration of Mass, always maintaining an attitude of honor and respect to God, participating fully in the liturgy. This ministry includes any child nine years or older who would like to fulfill this ministry. Adults help with scheduling and training. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Eucharistic Ministry

Eucharistic ministers (EM) typically serve twice per month at a Mass they select, assisting in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ. Serving as an EM requires having received the Sacrament of Confirmation. EMs are trained on the procedures lay ministers follow during the Celebration of the Eucharist. For more information, contact billramos@ymail.com or 510-289-1300. Participating in this ministry is a very rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Fellowship / Hospitality Committee

Reach out and meet your church family. This is an opportunity for you not only to meet your church family but also to offer a short amount of time for hospitality activities. Hospitality hosts fellowship after Mass one Sunday of the month. It assists or hosts many other functions in the parish as needed. Please consider joining the ministry. Contact the Parish Office for more information at 510-656-2364.

Lector Ministry

The Lector Ministry faithfully and reverently proclaims the 1st and 2nd Readings of the Word of God, through preparation, practice, articulation, and presentation. Lector training includes feedback, liturgical instruction, self-evaluation and prayer. Lectors generally serve once or twice a month. Commitment is 2-6 hours each month. If you are interested in being a lector, please contact the Parish Office for more information at 510-656-2364.

Liturgy Committee

The Liturgy Committee consists of the clergy representatives and leaders of each liturgical ministry. The Liturgy Committee makes sure all ministries are coordinated with the clergy in planning meaningful and reverent ceremonies appropriate for the liturgical calendar.

Commitment: 8 hours per quarter. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Environment Ministry

This committee prepares and enhances the environment for liturgical celebrations. The altar and altar area are decorated thematically through the efforts of talented and creative volunteers. The goal of this ministry is to transform the worship space into a place of inspiration. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Music / Choir Ministry

The ADULT CHOIR leads and supports the community in song at one Sunday liturgy. Rehearsal is one evening per week. For major feasts and holy days (Easter Triduum and Christmas midnight Mass), the Mandarin Choir and Filipino Choir join the Adult Choir to form a “Multi-Cultural Choir.” In addition, all Parish choirs come together to offer a Christmas concert. We welcome the diversity of God’s people and sing the music of all cultures and styles.

The PARISH CHILDREN’S CHOIR welcomes children from kindergarten to 5th grade. Rehearsals are once per week, and they sing at various Masses and special liturgies during the school year.

The PARISH MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR welcomes pre-teens from 6th – 8th grade. Rehearsals are once per week, and they sing at various Masses and special liturgies during the school year.

Pax Christi

Pax Christi – St Joseph Parish, is a member of the Bay Area Pax Christi and Pax Christi USA, the Catholic peace movement. Its members strive to create a world that reflects the peace of Christ, by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian non-violence. Recognizing that this work begins with the personal life of each one of us, we at St. Joseph meet to study and reflect on the teachings of Jesus and to act on them when we are called to do so. We welcome new members! For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Respect Life Ministry

Human life “is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of God’s presence, a trace of God’s Glory” (The Gospel of Life, n. 34, Pope John Paul II). The Respect Life Ministry office of the Oakland Diocese seeks to help East Bay Catholics understand, value, and live out the Catholic vision of respect for life “through education, spiritual formation, pastoral care and legislative advocacy” (see Oakland Diocese website). Respect Life Ministry is a part of the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis and also supports other diocesan departments in addressing broader social issues. Our Parish Respect Life group works to promote respect life activities within the Parish and Diocese. They communicate via email, the Parish bulletin, the Parish bulletin board and personal outreach. They welcome new members. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Women of St. Joseph

This group of friendly women is centered on charitable and religious activities that allow the ladies to get together socially and at the same time promote Catholic life and teachings. They serve our parish in many ways: visiting homebound members, assisting with Parish fund raising, attending Membership Masses, providing baby items for St. Rose Hospital and Pregnancy Choices, enjoying a Christmas Tea, Wine Tasting and tours, and serving summer ice cream socials. These women become acquainted with their community, form enduring friendships, learn about local businesses, promote charitable outreach, and sponsor humanitarian projects with the community.

We support the celebration of the Rite of Initiation into the Catholic Church by co-hosting an Easter Vigil reception for our newly baptized. We celebrate religious education with an end-of-the-school-year Faith Formation reception. Service projects are performed for the Parish, the Fremont community, Dominican Sisters and individual parishioners in need. We provide youth scholarships as well as help fund and assist in Eagle Scout projects. For more information, visit: <http://www/saintjosephmsj.org/index.html>

Mission Restoration

This committee is a non-profit group of local individuals interested in preserving and restoring the Old Mission. They work closely with the Pastor and Diocese of Oakland to assist in meeting the needs of the Old Mission. They hold public meetings throughout the year with interesting speakers on Mission-related history. Membership dues are used to offset printing and postage expense for the newsletters. Please contact the Restoration Office (510) 657-1797, extension 103, for more information or write to: Mission Restoration, P. O. Box 3314, Fremont, CA 94539.

Mission San Jose Docent / Volunteers

Old Mission San Jose, as our Parish was once known, was founded June 11, 1797, by the Franciscan Padre Fermin Francisco de Lasuen. It is the 14th of the 21 Alta California Missions. Thus the Spanish padres and soldiers brought Christianity to these western shores.

The Mission Church and museum building, the only remaining original adobe structure from the Mission period in Alameda County, serves as an educational institution. Over 50,000 visitors come annually to the Mission to learn of its history and over 10,000 fourth grade students studying California history tour the facility guided by a tour guide (docent). Volunteers assist the Mission in a number of ways: docents, gardening, office work, and small repair projects. To find out more about our Mission and possibly become a docent or volunteer, please contact the Old Mission Office at 510-657-1797, extension 106.

The YOUTH CHOIR and BAND serves at the weekly Youth Liturgy on Sunday nights at 6:30 pm Mass. This music ministry, consisting of high school-aged youth, fosters a greater sense of faith through music, community, service, musicianship and worship.

All are welcome to join our music ministries! For more information, call the Music Ministry Office at 510-656-1055.

Sanctuary and Sacristy Team

This team maintains communion vessels, candles, linens, etc., in readiness for Sunday liturgies. It is generally a two-hour-a-month commitment. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Usher Ministry

Ushers are our “Ministers of Hospitality.” They cordially welcome people to events and services, answer questions, and assist the elderly and the physically challenged. They maintain seating and direction before and during Masses, take up the collection at the Preparation of the Gifts, select the people who present the gifts, and distribute bulletins and other information after Mass at each of the exits. New Ushers are always welcome. Please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

III. FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

Adaptive Faith Formation for Children with Special Needs

All children are unique and special, and everyone is important to God because God created each one in His own image and likeness (*Genesis 1:27*). Recognizing this beauty and presence of God in each person, especially in ALL children, we extend our ministry to children who are faced with challenges or special needs. The goal of this program is to help form them in faith and in their relationship with their BEST FRIEND, JESUS CHRIST. We endeavor to create a classroom environment where children can experience a sense of belonging, warmth and a loving community. We prepare them for the reception of the sacraments according to their readiness. Our class is held at St. Joseph School every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:30 am, September through May. For more information, contact Sr. Cecilia at ceciliastjoseph@gmail.com, or at 510-675-0905.

Bible Study / Scripture Classes

Scripture study occurs on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 8:30 pm year round except the last two weeks of December and during Holy Week. The class decides what they will study. The format is lecture with interjection of questions and discussion. Classes are held in Ministry House 2, 43200 St. Joseph Terrace. Participants are invited to give a free will offering.

On Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11 am participants read/study the upcoming Sunday readings. Classes are held in Ministry House 2, 43200 St. Joseph Terrace. There is no charge for the class nor is there homework.

Lectio Divina or prayer with the upcoming Sunday Scriptures is held on Tuesday evening at the Dominican Sisters Convent from 7:00-8:15 pm and on Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:15 AM in Ministry House 2.

There are generally four lecture series annually on current Vatican documents or other current issues. See our parish website for details. The series is held at St. Joseph Church from 7:30-9:00 pm. For more information, contact JoAnn Miller at 510-656-2331.

V. SOCIAL AND SERVICE MINISTRIES

Chinese Catholic Group of St. Joseph

This Mandarin speaking group mainly serves the people who speak Mandarin. There are five Bible study groups and LEGION OF MARY teams that go out to visit new members, the sick and the spiritually needy, as well as a charismatic prayer group that meets every Saturday. In addition, the group helps at funeral services. For more information contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Filipino Community of St. Joseph

This community enriches the Parish through liturgical and social activities that celebrate the Filipino culture. They annually celebrate *Santo Nino, Flores de Mayo / Santacruzán, San Lorenzo Ruiz and Simbang Gabi*. They have an outreach program to support the needs of our Parish and residents in the Philippines. Visit them at the St. Joseph website under "Diversity Groups" for more detail. Welcome to the Filipino Community of St. Joseph / Old Mission San Jose.

Indian Community of St. Joseph

This group of the parish initiates and participates in a variety of outreach and community-building opportunities. It provides an excellent means of connecting and working together. For more information, please contact the Parish office at 510-656-2364.

Men's Club of St. Joseph

The Men's Club of St. Joseph was founded in 1991 for parish men to share fellowship, to engage in spiritual activities, and to provide service for both the parish and our community. Fellowship activities include an annual Parish Dinner fundraiser, pancake breakfasts for the Church community, ski trips, ball games, camping trips, and an annual Christmas party. In the area of spirituality, we host an annual Men's Retreat and organize an annual member Mass and breakfast.

Career Action Network Ministry

Saint Joseph Career Action Network Ministry is a place for all job seekers, parishioners and non-parishioners alike, to come for hope, encouragement, support and practical tips and tools needed in a job search. We accomplish this by providing:

- A supportive and nurturing environment for those who are seeking gainful employment. Our ministry is for the unemployed, the underemployed and for those seeking a new or better job/career opportunity.
- Job skills training and workshops through Career Action Network: www.saintjosephmsj/wiki/tikiindex.php?page=Employment+Assistance+Ministry
- Connections to job opportunities.
- A place for job seekers to network with one another and make connections with both job contacts and job leads.

For more information, contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Within the Parish as the basic and essential group, the primary objective of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference is to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship to its members and to serve people in need, adhering to the Rule of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which in part states: "No work of charity is foreign to the Society." Conferences are organized primarily to perform person-to-person service to those in need, but also may be organized for the performance of a specific special work. For more information, please contact the St. Vincent de Paul of St. Joseph at 510-661-9572 or the Parish office at 510-656-2364.

Refugee Family Outreach

In collaboration with East Bay Catholic Charities, Refugee Family Outreach includes members of St. Joseph Parish, Holy Family Sisters and the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. This Resettlement Program offers an array of services to help refugees become self-sufficient: English classes, navigation of the school system and other public institutions, finding housing and employment, accessing health care, and generally assisting them to integrate into American society. Contact Kay Tierney at (510) 683-3899 or wordsbykay@comcast.net.

Infant Baptism Ministry

The communal rite of infant Baptism is celebrated one Sunday per month (excluding Lent) in the Mission. Contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364 for an appointment with the presiding clergy to schedule your celebration. Attendance at two parent gatherings led by our Baptism Team is required during the month of the baptism.

Sunday Preschool

The Sunday Preschool Program provides a religious and spiritual environment that nurtures the children 3 to 5 years old in their Catholic faith and friendship with Jesus Christ. The program introduces different aspects of faith through prayers, Bible stories, games, crafts and other activities, all of which support and reinforce their awareness of God's love for them. It aims to help the children build a good faith foundation at a very young age. Classes are held in St. Joseph School every Sunday from 9:00-10:00 am from September through May. For more information, please contact the Faith Formation office at 510-657-0905.

Faith Formation (Kindergarten – Grade 6)

The Faith Formation program provides religious education for all children in our parish who attend public schools. The text series *Faith First*, published by RCL Benziger, provides age-appropriate lessons using a general theme for each grade level. These lessons are drawn from the truths of our faith found in the Bible, the sacraments, prayers, liturgical seasons, and other Church teachings. Students learn each of these lessons through prayers, stories, crafts, games and other activities helping them come to know Jesus Christ and the Church community.

Faith Formation classes for Grades K-6 are held on Saturday mornings from 9:00-10:15 am. Classes are also offered on Wednesday afternoons, 4:00-5:15 pm, for Grades 1-6, for the added convenience of parents and children. Classes run September through May. Please contact the Faith Formation Office for more information call 510-657-0905.

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist

The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist Program prepares all children who are members of St. Joseph/Old Mission San Jose Parish, including those who attend either public schools or St. Joseph School. Sacramental Preparation is a 2-year program, and children attending must have been enrolled in a faith formation program for at least one year before the preparation process. During the first year, through basic catechesis the children learn about Christian life. During the second year, children deepen their understanding of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist their love of Jesus Christ and the Church community. They receive First Reconciliation in February and First Eucharist in May. For more information contact the Faith Formation Office at 510-657-0905.

Christian Initiation of Children (CIC)

Christian Initiation of Children is the process through which the children, aged seven through 17, are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist if they have not been brought into the Catholic faith by Catholic Baptism as infants. Our goal is to help children understand the foundation and essential teachings of God and view the Catholic Church through the Word of God, Tradition, the Sacraments, prayers, and other Church teachings. These classes help children deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, who truly loves and cares for them. As part of this program, the children are required to attend the 9:00 am Mass each Sunday for the first part of Mass, the Liturgy of the Word. After the homily, the children are led by the catechists from the church to a room where they continue to explore and learn about the Word of God and other teachings until 10:45 am. For more information, please contact Faith Formation Office at 510-657-0905.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Adults who are interested in learning more about the faith of Catholics are invited to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Both non-baptized and baptized persons are welcome! The RCIA is a process, a journey of faith, which can lead to the completion of the

AIDS walk, answer information phones and plan Christmas gifts. We supply transportation for appointments, shopping and / or social events and generally give support year-round. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Adult Cancer Support Group

According to CDC 2014 Statistics, one out of 10 U.S. adults age 45-64 has been diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. The percentage doubles for 65-74, and triples for 75+. Cancer is common in families but its complexities demand new ways to be supportive. We provide spiritual enrichment and fun activities to adult cancer patients, survivors and caregivers, along with non-cancer volunteers, in a mutually supportive environment. We meet monthly on Sunday from 11 am to 12 noon at the new Dominican Center Art Room. In each meeting, members take turns leading activities like prayer, story-telling, and games. Occasionally, we have guest speakers. Visit www.saintjosephmsj.org/sjcancer. Join at sjcancer@outlook.com.

Congregations Organizing for Renewal (COR)

COR is a faith-based organization made up of 13 congregations representing families in Fremont, Hayward, San Lorenzo and Union City. As members of COR we are given the opportunity to join with others in organizing efforts that address quality of life issues in our community. Presently our focus is on issues relating to affordable housing and developing a teen center with a clinic in Fremont. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Sister John Marie's Pantry

To emphasize the reality of the Church as a caring and concerned family, St. Joseph Parish has made available Sister John Marie's Pantry. The pantry assists with a variety of needs of our parishioners and other persons in the Tri-City area and does everything it can to help alleviate these needs irrespective of religion. The Pantry aims to give quality presence to the people we serve as we help nourish and sustain them physically, spiritually, emotionally and materially. We try to help them help themselves. You may assist in the work of the Pantry by making regular monetary contributions yourself, getting other people interested in the work of the Pantry and encouraging them to make contributions. For more information, call 510-490-4171.

IV. OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Bereavement Team – Pastoral Care

One of the most fulfilling outreach opportunities in our parish is that of service at receptions following funerals. It is a difficult time for a family, made less stressful by the men and women who give several hours to providing refreshments and hospitality following the funeral, a tradition in our parish since the inception of Sr. John Marie's Pantry in the 1970's.

There are two main ways to become involved: providing food (salads and desserts) and serving. Sr. John Marie's Pantry provides sandwiches and drinks. The role of host/hostess and server requires a commitment of several hours, a loving heart and comfortable shoes. Together they set up, serve and clean up at the reception, truly blessed to be Christ's hands during a family's time of loss.

St. Joseph School service requirements may be partially filled by service on the Bereavement Team. Please contact Helen Campbell, 510-795-7958, to learn more or to join us in this ministry.

Ministry to the Sick and the Homebound

St. Joseph's ministers to the sick are privileged to bring Christ present in the sacrament of the Eucharist and in the person of the parish visitor to those who, by reason of age or infirmity, are unable to attend Sunday worship. Parishioners confined to their homes, assisted living facilities, senior residences and nursing homes are served. The minister and the homebound person decide the frequency of visits. In many cases, we truly become family with those we serve. St. Joseph Parish priests visit Fremont Kaiser Hospital patients on a 4-week rotational basis. Several of our ministers assist by bringing Holy Communion to Catholic patients at Kaiser during these weeks. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Helen Campbell at 510-795-7958.

HIV /AIDS Support Team

This group works to provide current information and understanding of those persons living with HIV / AIDS. We give training for emotional, physical and spiritual support, attend fundraisers and the San Francisco

sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) and commitment to Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church. For more information contact the Faith Formation Office at 510-657-0905.

Adult Confirmation

The Adult Confirmation formation process is an opportunity for Catholics who have received Baptism and First Eucharist to complete their Christian Initiation. This 13-week process emphasizes the basics of Catholic teaching using appropriate adult learning methodologies. Weekly sessions run from September through February on Tuesdays from 7 pm - 8:30 pm. Topics include the Trinity, Sacraments, Scripture, prayer, and morality, concluding with an evening retreat of prayer and reflection on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Rite itself takes place at Christ the Light Cathedral in Oakland. Email Bill Ramos at rciastjoseph@yahoo.com or Deacon Lance Vivet at glv44@aol.com.

Marriage Ministry

The Marriage Ministry at St. Joseph is committed to the Catholic teaching that marriage is forever; "that what God has put together, let no one put asunder" (Matthew 19:6). Various programs are available to support couples living this Sacrament for a lifetime.

PREPARATION OF MARRIAGE - to schedule a wedding, engaged couples should contact the Parish Office at least six (6) months in advance of the wedding. Participation in a marriage preparation program is required. For more information contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

WEDDING COORDINATOR / MUSIC - The chairperson of this ministry coordinates the liturgical plans of the future newlyweds and assists in the selection of appropriate music for their ceremony.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WEEKEND is designed to strengthen the engaged couple in developing a closer relationship with God and openness to God's plan for them in the Sacrament of Matrimony. It is humanly impossible to stay married for 25 or 50 years without God's grace, as only God supports us in truly living this Sacrament.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND is an enrichment program for making good marriages into GREAT marriages. This is based on God being the third person in the marriage. The couple that prays together stays together. For all marriage information contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Divorced / Separated Ministry

Divorce / Separation is a shattering experience. We are here for you. Come and join others who have lost a marriage and begin to build your life again. A support group with people who truly understand is the way forward. We invite you to attend our Divorced and Separated Group. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at 510-656-2364.

Returning Catholics

Welcome Back! You have been away from your faith for a while or have been feeling disconnected. Now as you attempt to reconnect and begin to move more deeply into your tradition, you may have questions and concerns. Join us for a process of exploration and clarification. For more information, contact the Parish Faith Formation Office at 510-657-0905

SPeial Religious EDucation (SPRED)

SPRED is a diocesan program that reaches out to parishes in the Diocese to integrate children, teens and adults with special needs into the faith of life of the Church. The goal of this ministry is to form small communities of faith in parishes to welcome and foster inclusion of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in assemblies of worship. SPRED ministry helps both catechists and special friends to experience the love and presence of God in the celebration of the Word of God and of each other. At each gathering we pray, share and give thanks in God's presence. This ministry enriches and deepens the faith of both our special friends and catechists, and it helps us bond together, strengthen our faith, and connect us with our life experiences.

Currently at St. Joseph, our SPRED group serves adults, aged 22 years and older, and we meet on Tuesday evenings in the Church. We alternate between a catechist preparation session and a total community session every other Tuesday. For more information, contact Sr. Cecilia at ceciliastjoseph@gmail.com, or at 510-675-0905.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School integrates great music, dancing, skits, short movies, healthy snacks, eco-friendly crafts, and fun games that create a bond between crew leaders and their crew that connect children to God. It's about preparing each child's heart to receive the Gospel message in an unforgettable way. It also reaches out, through service with our community, friends and family to share God's love. Contact the Parish office at 510-656-2364 for more information.

Youth Ministry and Confirmation

EDGE for Junior High, Prymer Youth Ministry, Confirmation Year 1 and Year 2 all fall under the Youth Ministry and Confirmation Umbrella.

VISION: We believe that young people are the church of now. We believe that the young people belong. We believe in giving a voice to this generation of varied cultural and economic backgrounds and experiences. We believe in empowering young people in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

MISSION: The office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry exists to:

R.E.A.C.H.

- **R**each out to young people of the greater community, churched and un-churched.
- **E**ngage young people to learn, be responsible for their faith, and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **A**ssemble young people in community with each other and the larger parish.
- **C**arry out the ministry of Jesus Christ.
- **H**onor God with our lives.

For more information contact the Faith Formation Office at 510-657-0905.