

## February 2022 Saint Joseph Parish Update

### **We Are An Amazing Parish on Mission:**

- ❖ Providing amazing worship experiences
- ❖ Forming missionary disciples
- ❖ Promoting works of charity, mercy, and justice



[Presentation by the parish pastoral leadership team:]

Last July we reported on the state of the parish.

Today we are sharing an update on our progress as a parish.

Our update is organized around Bishop Barber's three goals for the Diocese:

- Providing amazing worship experiences
- Forming missionary disciples
- Promoting works of charity, mercy, and justice

## Amazing Worship Experiences

### What we've accomplished:

- ❖ New devotions
- ❖ Beautifying our worship spaces
- ❖ Eucharistic Adoration Chapel
- ❖ Saturday morning and Weekend Masses in the Mission church
- ❖ Confession before every Mass



First, we are striving to provide beautiful worship experiences for our diverse faith community.

We've added new worship opportunities including:

- Vespers (evening prayers) on Thursday evenings,
- First Wednesday Devotions to Saint Joseph,
- First Friday Devotions to The Sacred Heart of Jesus, and
- First Saturday Devotions to The Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We have opened a new adoration chapel which is open every day.

Confession is now available thirty minutes before every Mass in both the church and the Mission.

#### EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION



We will be having a Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, Nov 21 after the 12 noon Mass on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. You are all invited to attend.

This is a wonderful opportunity to show our faith in the Real Presence of Jesus.



Lenten Stations of the Cross



Parish dedication to St Joseph



We have a new liturgical celebration and public procession for Corpus Christi in addition to our Lenten outdoor Stations of the Cross.

We've renewed our parish shrine rededicated our parish to St. Joseph in a ceremony with Bishop Barber.

We also have an annual 33-day devotion to St Joseph which began on February 15 and concludes on the Feast Day of St Joseph on March 19.

All these join other devotions and traditions we've already been celebrating.



Beauty and sacred art echo heavenly beauty and are meant to inspire us.

We have moved some weekend Masses to the Mission church to allow more parishioners to experience the beauty of the Mission.

We have new stations of the cross and other artwork, new candles and candle holders, and votive candle stands in the main church.

We planted roses and made other landscaping improvements around our church.

We've also replaced the old carpet, installed wood flooring in the sanctuary, and brightened our worship space with new lighting.

We repaired the kneelers in the church and added kneelers in the Mission.

The cost of all these projects was \$63,000 and were fully funded outside of the parish's operating budget by generous donations.

## Amazing Worship Experiences

### What's next this year:

- ❖ 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- ❖ Mission San Jose is a Diocesan pilgrimage destination
- ❖ Our Lady of Fatima devotion
- ❖ St. Joseph Dream Garden



This year there will be more spiritual opportunities during the 225th anniversary of the founding of Mission San Jose, and Bishop Barber has designated the Mission church as a Diocesan pilgrimage destination.

Mark your calendar for our Founder's Day Weekend Festival June 10, 11 and 12! We encourage everyone to visit our parish website for more information.

This year we will begin a new devotion and procession for Our Lady of Fatima and build the St. Joseph Dream Garden.



## St Joseph Dream Garden



We will re-landscape the area between the church and the Mission Blvd to create a large gathering area for parishioners to enjoy before and after Mass.

We are calling it the St. Joseph Dream Garden because it will feature a large statue of a sleeping St. Joseph.

In the Gospel of Matthew, God speaks to St. Joseph in four dreams.

- In the first dream, St. Joseph is told to continue with his plan to marry Mary.
- After the birth of Jesus, in a second dream St. Joseph is warned to flee with his family to Egypt.
- In a third dream, St. Joseph is told to return to Israel, and then in another dream he is told to go to Galilee instead of Judea.

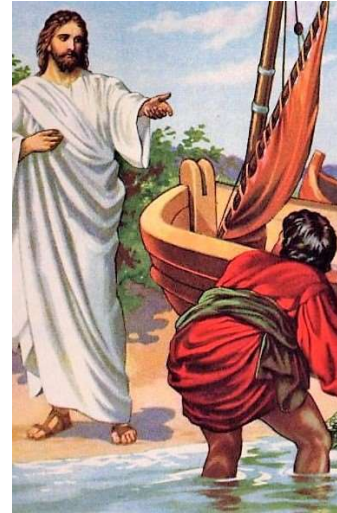
Pope Francis has said, “resting with the Lord in prayer are moments we might wish to prolong. But like St. Joseph, once we have heard God’s voice, we must rise and act.”

The Dream Garden is being planned and funded by generous members of the parish.

## Missionary Disciples

### What we've accomplished:

- ❖ *Neighborhood Outreach Ministry*
- ❖ Welcoming the Chinese and Vietnamese communities
- ❖ *New Family of Faith* ministry
- ❖ Revitalizing our Young Adult ministry



Our second goal is forming missionary disciples.

As disciples, we are to go out and introduce Jesus to those who do not know Him or have drifted away.

Sixty members of our neighborhood outreach ministry are working to contact every registered parishioner to let them know we care about them and to invite them back to celebrate Mass with us.

We were blessed by the addition of the Chinese and Vietnamese communities to our parish.

We are taking new approaches to faith formation and working to increase support for our parish school.



First Communion 2021



"I love to sign up our children in different roles at the Family of Faith Mass. They were not engaged in Mass before. But since I signed them up as ushers and lectors, they understand better how to serve God and brother and sister in the church community. This is a great way for children to be closer to God."

- Comment from a Family of Faith Parent

We celebrated 40 First Communions, 48 Baptisms and 31 Confirmations last year!

We believe that faith begins in the home and that parents should be the primary source of faith education for their children.

Our new Family of Faith program is taught by parents to their children at home.

The parish provides resources and guidance, and parents dedicate time to teach their children and prepare them to receive the Sacraments.

Family of Faith brings the entire family together to worship Sundays at the noon Mass.

Currently, 62 families and 88 children are participating. The energy at this Mass every week is amazing!





**Chinese and Vietnamese Communities  
become part of St Joseph Parish**



In 2021 we welcomed the Chinese and Vietnamese communities as official members of St Joseph parish.

They enrich us with their presence and participation and join the Filipino, Indian, and other communities who were already part of our parish.

Our adult faith formation program continues to bring new members to the faith and our parish.



St Joseph school is about more than just great academics. Our parish school plays a part in forming missionary disciples.

Our Catholic school students learn that God is present and active in their lives and in the world.

They learn to recognize the "footprints of God" in their daily experiences and how to become instruments of God's grace in their own neighborhoods, communities and the world.

We have 210 students this year, an increase of 22 students over last year.



Catholic Youth Organization sports inspires young people to know God, love God, and serve God through athletics.

All children of parishioners can participate in CYO.

After an absence of one and a half years because of the pandemic, we were able to resume all CYO sports last fall.

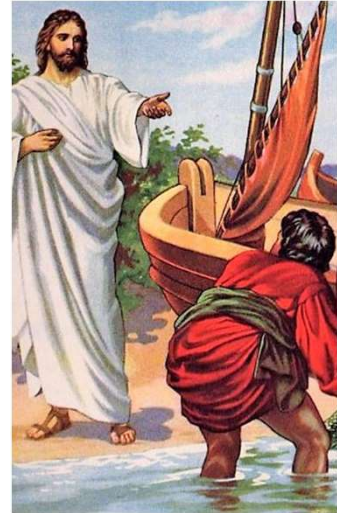
We are proud of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' volleyball team which went 11-1 in league play and won the league championship!

Congratulations to coach Ron Viado and our 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' volleyball team.

## Missionary Disciples

### What's next this year:

- ❖ Parish stewardship team
- ❖ Parish and school collaboration
- ❖ New marriage and family ministry
- ❖ Holistic Pastoral Care
- ❖ 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events



This year we are forming a parish stewardship team.

Christian stewardship is recognizing that everything we have, and everything we are, are gifts from God and that we should be grateful and generous with those gifts.

As good stewards we are to make God's love visible to others by using our God-given time, talent, and treasure to "love one another as Jesus loves us." We will begin our stewardship journey together this year.

We are recruiting new school board members to work with Fr. Anthony, the school staff and the pastoral team on a shared vision for the school and parish.

Our pastoral care team is working to create a more cohesive system to support families and individuals at all stages of life.

And our Old Mission San Jose team has organized spiritual and civic activities for this year's 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



## **Works of Charity, Mercy, and Justice**

### **What we've accomplished:**

- ❖ More donations, volunteers and help to those in need
- ❖ New sister parish in Ghana
- ❖ Walk for Life as a parish



Our third parish goal is to increase our works of charity, mercy and justice.

Jesus' great commandment is to love one another. Caritas ministries are the helping hand of the Church reaching out to the poor, vulnerable and excluded.

We are blessed at St. Joseph's with many dedicated volunteers and generous donors who serve others through our:

- St Vincent de Paul
- Sister John Marie's Pantry
- Homeless Outreach
- Refugee Assistance
- and other Caritas ministries.





We have increased the amount of donations, number of volunteers, and number of families and persons receiving help. Thank you!

Our parish helped needy families with new baby supplies for St. Rose Hospital's Family Life Center collected by the Women of St. Joseph, and Christmas toys, school supplies, and food through our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Our Sister John Marie's Pantry provided \$21,000 in financial help for utility bills and temporary lodging to 47 families.

We are especially proud of our St. Joseph school students for their winter blanket collection and participating with St. Vincent De Paul' in providing 238 Thanksgiving food baskets.



**Homeless Outreach**



**2022 Walk for Life**



Our homeless outreach ministry led by Stan Peters and twenty St Vincent de Paul volunteers feed an average of 78 homeless persons in Fremont three days every week.

Last month we chartered a bus and participated as a parish in the annual Walk for Life in San Francisco. We did this to demonstrate our faith-based commitment to the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.



**Fr. George Asigre, Pastor**

**Refugee Assistance Ministry**



**Our new Sister Parish: St Francis Xavier, Wiaga, Ghana**

As Catholics, we believe in the dignity of every human being. Support for refugee families keeps families together and gives newcomers an opportunity to contribute and participate more fully in our community.

Our St. Joseph refugee assistance ministry helped six families throughout last year and welcomed two new families this year.

St Francis Xavier parish in Wiaga, Ghana is our newest sister parish. We raised \$13,000 for them after Fr. George Asigre's visit. We look forward to building our relationship with our new sister parish.

## **Works of Charity, Mercy, and Justice**

### **What's next this year:**

- ❖ New online sign-up system
- ❖ New vocations ministry



A goal for this year is to create an online tool on the parish website to make it easier sign up for volunteer and donation opportunities.

We are also forming a prayer ministry to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

## Where We Are Going:

- ❖ 3,000 active members
- ❖ Family and faith, stewardship and evangelization are part of our “DNA”
- ❖ Renovated Carriage House
- ❖ Our school is at capacity
- ❖ A sports field for parish and school
- ❖ We resume work on our new church



So where are we going?

By working together in faith to provide amazing worship experiences, form missionary disciples, and provide works of charity, mercy, and justice, we hope to achieve great things!

- We want to grow from 1,000 to 3,000 active members
- We want family and faith, stewardship and evangelization to be part of our “DNA” as a parish
- We want to have a renovated Carriage House to provide space for our ministries
- We want St. Joseph School to be the first choice of parishioner families
- We want to build a sports field for our school and parish, and
- We want to resume work on a new parish church





**How Will We  
Get There?**

**With You!**

**Join Our  
Amazing Parish  
Journey!**

How will we get there?

With your participation and the guidance of the Holy Spirit!

Thank you!