

# *St. Joseph Parish*

*Mailing Address: 2100 Pear Street*

*Pinole, CA 94564*

*Ph 510-741-4900*

*Ministries,  
Prayer Groups  
And  
Organizations*

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## **Liturgical Ministries**

### **Altar Servers**

Altar Servers assist the celebrants and community in the celebration of the liturgy of the Mass. By serving, our youth can grow in their faith and relationship with God.

### **Altar Society**

Our Altar Society members are volunteers with many talents. They give these talents because of their love of God and their desire to make sure that God's house and its possessions are in good order.

### **The Children's Liturgy of the Word**

The Children's Liturgy of the Word provides a wonderful and fun way for our little ones to learn about the Word of God. The Word is brought to them in a way they can understand. It keeps their interest and helps them come to Mass with a better understanding of His love and His message for them.

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

The nearly 180 Ministers of the Eucharist help our priests distribute the Precious Blood and Body of Christ to the parish community during Mass. This ministry blesses all who serve in a very special way.

### **Eucharist To The Homebound**

This ministry provides each local retirement community in our area a Communion service weekly. The leader of this ministry also makes sure that those who are unable to attend these Communion Services are provided with individual visits when needed.

## Environment

The Environment Committee is in charge of decorating the church. Every Saturday morning between 9-11 A.M. this group of volunteers decorates the church according to the needs of the weekend liturgy. They are a creative group of people who work closely with one another to place the beautiful flowers, banners, and seasonal decorations needed to follow the Church's Liturgical Calendar.

## Greeters

Greeters welcome parishioners as they arrive at Mass each Sunday.

## Hospitality Coordinator

Schedules ministries to host Sunday hospitality.

## Lectors

Lectors proclaim God's Word to our community. Those reading each Sunday meet to pray, sing, and then proclaim the first and second readings to one another in order to have a clearer understanding of them before Sunday. They then return home to practice, pray and reflect in preparation for their scheduled Mass.

## Media Ministry

Our Media Ministry is made up of a group of parishioners who share their time and talent in digital arts to create and present meditation videos. It is their mission to help make Christ better known in the liturgy. They work closely with our Pastor, Liturgy Committee and Adult Faith Formation Leaders to provide videos that will enrich the faith of those watching.

## Music Ministry

Comprised of many gifted vocalists and musicians, this ministry shares their God-given talents by serving to inspire and lead the church and community to glorify God.

## Sacristans

Sacristans serve our parish by preparing our sanctuary for Mass. They are unseen but so necessary. While making sure all other liturgical ministries have their needs met, they are also responsible for placing the linens, priest's chalice, ciborium, cups, and hosts on the altar for the Mass. They also ensure that the readings, announcements, and prayers of the faithful are also available. The sacristan cleans and replaces the cups, ciborium and priest's chalice for the next Mass and, at the end of the day, puts all items back in their proper place.

## Ushers

Our ushers goal is to greet and help seat our parishioners before Mass. The ushers assist in finding a family to bring up the gifts as well as providing people to help with the parish collection. They always pay special attention to those who are in need of assistance being seated, receiving the Eucharist, and returning to their cars after Mass. They distribute, bulletins, occasional flyers or booklets after the Mass, and say a pleasant good-bye as people leave.

## **Education Ministries**

### Adult Faith Formation

This ministry involves investigating, providing, and facilitating various programs that enable parishioners to learn, appreciate, live, and share the Catholic Faith. Parish Missions, DVD Programs, and Bible Studies are used to accomplish these goals. These gatherings also provide an opportunity for friendships to develop and, in addition, they contribute to the promotion of Christian Community.

## Baptism Preparation

Baptism Preparation assists parents and godparents with preparation for the baptism of both infants and young children. The leaders share with them the importance of continuing their child's faith journey beyond baptism by giving them an overview of all of the seven sacraments of our Church.

## Confirmation

Our Youth Ministry Director provides confirmation preparation. The second of the three Sacraments of Initiation, it is regarded as the perfection of Baptism. As the introduction of the Rite of Confirmation states: by the sacrament of Confirmation the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with the special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed. Although this sacrament usually takes place during the teenage years, it is always available for adults of any age. If you are interested please call the parish office.

## Faith Formation

Our Director of Religious Education leads our Faith Formation Program. It is also known as CCD (or Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) and is available for elementary aged children (grades 1-6). This program is not just meant for Holy Communion preparation; it provides an ongoing education opportunity that follows students all the way through grade school. (For grades 7-12 their formation continues in the capable hands of our Youth Ministry Director.)

## Parish Library

Our library is located on the lower floor of the parish center and is open during their regular business hours. It contains hundreds of books, VHS's, CD's, and DVD's that are available for all parish members. Library information and inventory are also available via the parish website at [www.sjcpinole.org](http://www.sjcpinole.org). Our inventory scans all areas of our faith and contains classic and recent teachings. Our library is also available as a meeting room for some parish ministries, a vibrant and busy place so be sure you come by for a visit.

## Marriage Preparation

This Program is one of the required options offered to engaged couples that intend to be married in the Diocese of Oakland. One to four couples meet one night each week, for six consecutive weeks, in the home of a lead couple. It presents the beauty and dignity of the Sacrament of Matrimony as a sign of Christ's love for the Church.

The content addresses vital areas, which the couples will experience throughout their married lives. The program is not designed to be a psychology class and the lead couples are not trained as counselors; rather they share personal examples of how they live out these important areas of marriage.

## Middle School Ministry

This Faith Formation Program is offered to our students in grades 7 and 8 in a unique fashion. Though the Youth Ministry Director designs the structure and content of the program, our high school volunteers conduct discussions of the weekly Gospel and our faith. This provides an optimum experience for the students to feel open and to share and participate with their peers.

## Quinceañera

The parish offers a two-hour talk with a question and answer period with the parents and Godparents explaining their roles and obligations at the Mass of their daughter's Quinceañera. Our pastor works closely with the program leaders to ensure that there is an opportunity for growth and understanding for the family and the young woman resulting from her Quinceañera, especially an opportunity for her to grow in her faith.

## Rite Of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is for adults who want to become Catholics or adults who want to complete their sacraments. It provides an opportunity for them to learn more about their faith, and to come into the community through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and (or) first communion.

## St. Joseph School

Our school opened its doors in 1963 and while the facilities have changed over the years, the commitment to provided a faith-filled education to the children of our parish and the surrounding area has never wavered. With Christ as our teacher and leader, we have continued to practice and teach our Catholic history and traditions through our foundation in religion, while addressing the general curriculum necessary to produce students who are prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Western Educational Association accredit St. Joseph School.

We are proud to say that our parish school is highly regarded in the Diocese of Oakland. We strive to keep our level of dedication to a faith-filled education high, helping to make our students lifelong learners and God filled citizens.

## Website and Technology Support Ministry

This ministry designs, develops, publishes and maintains the St. Joseph parish website, sjcpinole.org, and installs and maintains computers and related technologies in parish facilities. Stewardship of this behind the scenes ministry reaches far beyond parish boundaries, effectively communicating with individuals worldwide and of every faith. Current pastor letters, events, schedules, invitations to fellowship, photos, and more, show how we love and care for one another while evangelizing to the potential newcomer or returning Catholic. The computers, printers, and software at the parish facilities support the management and communications of the parish, including design, layout and publishing of the bulletin as well as parish seasonal and outreach mailings.

## Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry is made up of high school students. They focus on building community, prayer, faith sharing, having fun together, and strengthening friendships. Their faith formation experience helps students make connections between their belief in God and their everyday lives; we strive to help them become aware of their Catholic Faith and of God's love existing around them. They learn to love God, each other and that their faith journey is ongoing.

## Social Justice & Outreach Ministries

### Bereavement & Caring Ministry

A Catholic faith based ministry to lend helping hands and listening ears to those who grieve in various ways and in an extremely confidential atmosphere. We reach out to people who grieve and need emotional support or direction and connection for more serious needs.<sup>3</sup>

## Family To Family

Family To Family was pioneered by Catholic Charities and St. Vincent De Paul. The program was founded in the Gospel call to serve the poor and empower them in faith to become contributing members of society. The team members have the opportunity to bring people closer together by witnessing Christ's love through service. They help families transition from poverty to sustainability.

## Juvenile Hall Ministry

Christ stated, "When I was imprisoned you visited me. Amen, I say to you, whenever you do this, to the least of my brethren, you do it for me." It is Christ who has sent us forth to the Juvenile hall to visit the youth, who are imprisoned there, to listen, pray and help them understand that He loves them and wants them to come to him. Those who serve in this ministry say that God blesses them many times over for answering this call of the Gospel.

## Respect Life

This ministry is dedicated to preserving human life. Life is such a basic issue, the root of our existence on earth. Through education and exposure to the Truth taught by Christ, it is our hope that people will eventually understand and strive to live God's plan for them regarding love, marriage and respect for one another at all stages of life. Projects under the umbrella of this ministry include: The Annual Walk for Life, The Gabriel Project, an annual Garage Sale, a Novena for Life to Our Lady of Guadalupe, as well as our annual Natural Family Planning Week. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas please give us a call.

## St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry provides help and comfort to the needy. The help can be in the form of food vouchers to our local stores, clothing, furniture from the St. Vincent de Paul stores, PG&E bill's partial payment once a year, referral to emergency shelter or just a sympathetic ear and a prayer or two with our clients. We help those living within our parish boundary.

## **Cultural and Prayer Groups**

### Asociación Guadalupana

The Association of our Lady of Guadalupe of Pinole is part of the Catholic Federation of Guadalupana Associations in the Oakland Diocese. The main purpose of the Association is to promote devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe. She was officially declared Patroness of the Americas by his Holiness Pope St. Pius X. Guadalupana offers, spiritual and social welfare to Spanish speaking people by helping them integrate into parish and community life through the celebration of: Señor de Esquipulas-Guatemala; San Juan Bautista-Puerto Rico; Salvador del Mundo-El Salvador; Señor de los Milagros and San Martin de Porres-Perú; Virgen Inmaculada-Nicaragua; Virgen de Guadalupe, and Posada for children the Saturday before Christmas. We also offer weekly rosary and prayer groups in Spanish, participate in the "Feeding the Homeless Program" of the Brookside Shelter; Thanksgiving food baskets to families, scholarships to Spanish speaking students at St. Joseph School, as well as hospitality after the Spanish Mass.

### Brothers in Christ

This weekly meeting of men watches videos that adhere to Catholic Church teachings and discusses them.

## Cursillo

A method to find, form, sustain, and link lay leadership to Christ and His Church. Cursillo is a means of supporting Christian Community. Living the Cursillo method begins on a weekend that is truly a life changing personal encounter with Jesus, which provides a method of living a Christ filled life forever.

## San Lorenzo Ruiz Society

Named after the first Filipino saint, we are comprised of eight devotional groups with individual leaders all under the umbrella of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Society.

1. The Santo Nino Group: They encourage families to pray together and their annual feast is the second Saturday of January.
2. The Divine Mercy Group: They encourage devotion to the Divine Mercy and support the parish novena each month on the Thursday prior to 1st Friday. The feast day is on Divine Mercy Sunday.
3. Fatima: (First Saturday) Every first Saturday of the month following 8:00 A.M. Mass, the devotion is prayed in the church.
4. Fatima-The statue of Our Lady is brought to every home to foster family prayer. The annual feast of Our Lady of Fatima is celebrated on the second Saturday of October.
5. Flores De Mayo: The Our Lady of Grace statue is brought to every home to encourage family devotion. The group sponsors hospitality every second Sunday of the month and also coordinates the “Salubong” during Easter. The Feast is celebrated on the first Sunday of May.
6. Alliance of the Two Hearts: Facilitates the monthly first Friday 7:30 PM Mass and keeps vigil over the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

7. Mother of Perpetual Help: Every Wednesday after 9:00 A.M. Mass the group prays this popular novena for the intercession of Our Mother. The feast is celebrated close to the Feast Day on June 27.

8. Simbang Gabi: Facilitates the early morning novena of Advent Masses from December 16 through December 24 in preparation for Christmas.

## **Other Ministries and Organizations**

### **Boy Scouts**

Scouting is a youth ministry with the mission to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime. It is our goal to instill in them the values found in the Boy Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan, and also through mental and physical fitness.

### **Catholic Youth Organization**

The organization's main purposes are guiding young Catholics to live a Christian life from a young age, developing trust between peers, and living a happy life in a positive manner. This is done through varied activities such as sports, charity, prayer, singing, and visiting the sick.

### **Girl Scouts**

The Girl Scouts at St. Joseph Parish combine their love of God with the charitable, community and parish events in which they are involved, such as Oktoberfest, helping the poor, and visiting the elderly.

## Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization and is made up of extraordinary Catholic men. Through fearless service, heartfelt perseverance and unfaltering loyalty to God and one another, they strive to make a difference in our faith communities, families and our youth through "Service To One And Service To All".

## Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest is a fun filled community event that brings together our parish, school and surrounding communities. A two day event that has exceptional food booths, exhilarating games, varied live performances, delicious pasta dinner and pancake breakfast, raffle, t-shirt sales, bingo, and much more. The proceeds from the event provide special funding that benefit our parish and school.

## Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is an advisory committee to our Pastor; it makes known the needs of the parish in the areas of holiness, and faith formation. It also promotes opportunities for evangelization and Christian action.

## St. Joseph Seniors

This is a faith-based community that strives for the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical well being of its participants. We strive for these ends by being together at Mass, on outings, and through entertainment and discussions that foster and encourage these qualities. Our activities also include day trips, potlucks, lunches out, picnics, and talks by invited guests on a variety of subjects. Please look for our notices in the parish bulletin. We meet on the first Thursday of the month.

No dues, no mandatory meetings, no age limits. All are welcome.

### Young Ladies Institute: St. Anne #78 (YLI)

YLI is a Catholic women's service organization. Through many fund raisers during the year the organization is able to provide two \$1,000 scholarships to a boy and a girl attending Catholic school. We adopt a family at both Thanksgiving and Christmas, participate in our parish Oktoberfest through our Cake Booth, and make baked goods for various parish occasions.

### Stewardship Committee

Established at St. Joseph Parish in 2011, it is an exciting ministry devoted to spreading the teaching of Jesus' two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27). The four core values of Stewardship are Identity, Trust, Gratitude and Love. We help the parish community find ways to share their God-given gifts.

Thank you to all who share  
their abundant talents!