



Church ^{of the} Redeemer

PARISH DAY SCHOOL

Joy to the World!

Dear Redeemer Community,

After Thanksgiving we created a bulletin board titled, "What Brings YOU joy?" The Lunch Bunch crew has had fun polling students and teachers throughout the building. When they entered my office, they were full of energy, grinning from ear to ear, and all shouting at the same time. My immediate response was, of course, "PDS students!"

That night while driving home I decided that instead of thinking about all the things I had to do, I would reflect on all the things that bring me joy. My head was swimming. There is just so much, and the Christmas season with its many traditions, is one of them.

At the top of that list is decorating the Christmas tree. I love pulling out the ornaments and reminiscing about the meaning and memories they have to my life - the golden angel from 1969 that my grandmother made for me when I was born - the plastic Christmas bells, my first memory of shopping, that I picked out in 1974 - the San Francisco cable car from my high school exchange experience in 1987 - the "Knott's First Christmas" ornament that I had made for my husband in 1995 - needlepoint treasures handmade by mother-in-law - Star Wars, Ravens and O's that my boys picked out when they were little - the list goes on and on! Best of all, though, are the ornaments my children made so lovingly with their teachers when they were PDS students.

While I wish my boys still wanted to decorate the tree, at 15, 18 and 20, they would rather be sleeping or having lunch with friends. I have learned not to fight battles I can't win so this year my husband Stuart and I decorated the tree alone. We smiled a lot, tried to discern which ornaments would make it on the tree this year and before we knew it, the limbs were drooping from the countless times we said, "Just one more". As you can imagine, the PDS ornaments are front and center. As I was hanging the final ornament, my youngest son as an angel, I turned to Stuart and said, "You know they still make this one at Redeemer." To which he replied, "Why would they ever change it?"

Some things are best left unchanged. Especially those that bring great joy!

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

Best,
Mary