

Feast of Christ the King
November 22, 2009

Homily Next Week:
Fr. John Whitney, S.J.

Readings for
Sunday, November 29, 2009

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 33:14-16
SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-4:2
GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday - 5 p.m.

Sunday - 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule
Monday - Friday - 7:00 a.m.

Reconciliation
Saturday - 3:30-4:15 p.m. in the Church
or by appointment

Parish Center Hours
Monday-Thursday - 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

www.stjosephparish.org

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Parish Receptionist (206) 324-2522

Parish Staff
(206) 329-5981

Pastor

Rev. John Whitney, S.J. x107

Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. Jack O'Leary, S.J. x101

Deacon/Pastoral Associate

Steve Wodzanowski x106

Pastoral Staff:

Dottie Farewell, Pre-K to 8th Faith Form. x112
Dennis Gentele, Facilities x110
Renée Leet, Administrative Assistant x100
Bob McCaffery-Lent, Music & Liturgy x109
Marti McGaughey, Bookkeeper x102
Greg McNabb, Administration x108
Anne Moran, Administrative Assistant x116
Randy Novak, High School Youth x114

St. Joseph School

700 18th Avenue East • (206) 329-3260

Main Office x210
George Hofbauer, Principal x213
Rick Boyle, Academic Vice Principal x215
Sheryl Sperry, Student Vice Principal x218

On Heaven

I have begun to believe that the kindergartners at St. Joseph School are better theologians than most of the teachers with whom I studied at the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley. During this last week, I went to visit the students of K-C, whose classmate, Nainoa Nall, lost his mother in a tragic death. My goal was to bring these youngsters consolation and healing, but what I discovered was a consolation to me—a reminder of how close to grace are the most innocent, and how often their hearts are far more in tuned to the transcendent than are our sometimes cloudy minds. One of the students asked me, “Father John, what is heaven like?” My reply, which I (of course) thought was a brilliant distillation of the teachings of the Church, consisted simply of this: “Heaven is being with Jesus and his Father, and being surrounded by everyone who you ever loved and everyone who has loved you, even if you never knew them.”

Actually, that isn't too bad an answer, since our theology assures us that heaven is the fullness of union with God and with all those who have loved God. But, to me, as to many of us, the answer is mostly just a wonderful idea; a desire and hope that burns in us, but which we believe for the future more than experience today. Yet, as I came to learn, to those in K-C, what I was describing was no more remote than if I said heaven was just next door. For them, the description I offered was no mere metaphor, but made perfect sense; and because it did, it called them to act in a particular way when their classmate returned. Since Nainoa's mother was now in heaven, what should they do? “Well,” said a little towheaded boy, “if that is what heaven is, then we'll have to make a little heaven for Nainoa when he comes back.”

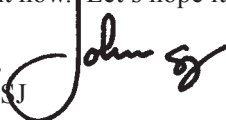
“Make a little heaven,” in other words, make a place that would surround their classmate with love. And even if his mother couldn't be there, reasoned the kindergartners, they could at least give Nainoa a little heaven to give him strength. No muss, no fuss, no big metaphysical deal; let's just make a little outpost of heaven here and that will be good.

As I said, I wish my theology were as deep and complete as that found in K-C.

For what else is our mission on earth than this: to make a little heaven for every broken heart and wounded soul? What else is the call of the gospel and the promise of the Church? What else is meant by “*the communion of saints and the forgiveness of sins*”? For what other purpose did Christ come into this world, live among us, and offer himself in death, than that each of us might, at last, believe that we are surrounded by those who love us, and that we should love them in return?

Every time we say the Lord's Prayer, we pray that God's will might be done, “on earth as it is in heaven.” Looking at our earth with adult eyes—with its wars and hatreds, its violence and shame, its selfishness and cruelty—it can be hard to believe this prayer is anything but a good idea that can't come true. But don't tell that to the kids in K-C at St. Joseph School. In that room, I understand, a little bit of heaven is being lived on earth right now. Let's hope it catches on.

Yours in the Lord,
John D. Whitney, SJ



Calendar

Monday, November 23	Sacred Silence, Church, 7 PM
Tuesday, November 24	RCIA, 7 PM, Parish Center
Wednesday, November 25	No Pathfinders or VOICE
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving Day Mass, 10 AM (No 7 AM Mass)
Friday, November 27	Parish Office Closed Eucharistic Adoration, 7:30-11 AM Loyola Chapel, Parish Center
Sunday, November 29	Come to the Quiet ... 5 PM (before Mass)

Note: Daily masses (Monday-Friday) are celebrated in the Arrupe Room at 7 AM and the Blessed Sacrament will be reserved in the Loyola Room (the old rectory chapel) both located in the Parish Center.

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Please join us for Mass of Thanksgiving on Thursday at 10 am. There will be a *Blessing of Food* and you are invited to bring items your family will be preparing for your Thanksgiving meal to be blessed during the Mass. We hope you and your family will join us. *(There will be no 7 am Mass on Thanksgiving morning.)*

St. Francis House

As the weather turns colder, St. Francis House is in desperate need of sleeping bags and blankets. Please leave your donation in the vestibule or bring by the Parish Center. Also, please continue your gracious donations of food each Sunday. During these extremely difficult times, and especially during the holidays, St. Francis House is seeing a greater need for food.

Communion for the Homebound

Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Communion to the homebound. Please contact Fr. Jack O'Leary 206-329-5981, ext 101 or Deacon Steve Wodzanowski at 206-965-1646 or steve@stjosephparish.org if you or someone you know would like to receive the Eucharist.

Smile for the Camera!

Fr. John will be available to take your family's Christmas picture on Friday after Thanksgiving, November 27th. Each family will receive a disk with several photos suitable for printing and ready for use as cards or photos. Please contact Fr. John directly at jwhitney@stjosephparish.org or call 965-1647 to schedule an appointment. Suggested donation of \$100, or whatever you can afford. Funds raised are being used for restoring statues in the church.

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions:

For those who are feeling sad, we pray for Our Lord's comfort and for our friends and families support during these times . . . For those who are recovering from surgery, we pray for their return to health . . . For those who are looking for jobs, we pray for their success . . . For those who have swine flu, we pray for their well being . . . Gratitude for the loving kindness and generosity shown my son, Creg, as he is home now and the meals for him and his caretakers have been wonderful and deeply appreciated . . . In thanksgiving for all of God's blessings and gifts to each one of us.

"God is infinitely gracious. He knows all your needs. Hope in Him. Thank him for His favors. Take your comfort in Him." -- Brother Lawrence

If you are interested in having someone placed on the prayer tree, please contact Renée Leet at 324-2522 or rleet@stjosephparish.org

Prayer Tree



Please remember in your prayers the family of parishioner and school parent Jan Nall who passed away last week. Please remember her young sons Max and Nainoa, husband Mike, her parents and siblings, as well as her extended family and friends. May they find love, comfort and support during this difficult time.

FYI...

Parish Center Offices are closed Friday, November 27th following the Thanksgiving holiday.

RCIA

This Sunday we will welcome through the *RITE OF ACCEPTANCE* the following people: Barrett Eastwood, Beverly Mielke, Carla Kerner, Christopher Jones, Jackie Scumiotales, Cassie Chin, Julie Becklund, Christina Armstrong, Doug May, Kelly Denning, Stephanie Cross, Matt Holmes, Paul Nelson, Patrick Riley, Sue Georgeilas, Lianne Nelson, Mike LaRose. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin RCIA.

Seniors on the Go...

The **First Friday Healing Mass and Luncheon** is scheduled for Friday, December 4th.

The **December Seniors Outing** is scheduled for Monday, December 7th. We will be going to Molbaks Flower World in Woodinville and the Maltby Cafe for lunch. The parish bus will leave at 9:30 and return about 2:30 pm. Space is limited on the parish bus. Sign up at the parish office or by calling Renee at 324-2522. For details contact George or Eleanor McCall at 325-461

Creative Art Group... Bring your pencils, brushes, paints and a spirit of creativity and join the creative art group at St. Joseph. For more information, contact Joanna Campbell at 206-328-6991.

Almost Boomers Christmas Party,

O come ye *Almost Boomers* on December 6th. Enjoy food, festivity, and song from 5:30 pm til the last dog dies. At the home of Mary Beth and Dick Gemperle, 1116 15th E. Bring a beverage, salad or easy entrée, hors d'oeuvres or a dessert to share. Best, bring your good cheer. Sue Raney at the piano by popular demand, and Christmas carols galore. Questions? Call Mary Beth @ 325-0784 or Carolyn Baker @324-3695. See you December 6.

***Almost Boomers are single, married, single again, or married again parishioners willing to admit to a year of birth between 1938 and 1970. Ergo, almost boomers. And some of us are truly boomers. And some of us are old!*

👏 A Festival of Christmas Concert

The Seattle University Choirs present *A Festival of Christmas* directed by Dr. Joy Sherman on Friday, December 4th at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 6th at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph Church.

Song, candlelight, and spiritual reflection all combine to make this year's *Festival of Christmas* a special event that you will want to attend! Our program includes a spectrum of music from Gregorian chant to the present, accompanied by strings, harp, woodwinds, and early music instruments. Ticket prices are: Reserved Seating, \$30.00, General Admission, \$18.00 and Student, \$7.00. For more information, call the SU Choir Concert Information Line at 206-296-5372.

In Celebration of Advent

Join the First Friday gathering in our traditional Advent Service taking place on Friday December 4th, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center Arrupe Room. We will celebrate the anticipation of the season together sharing prayer, reflection and a meal. A potluck dinner will immediately follow the service, also being held in the Parish Center. We ask that you bring food or beverage to share. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Quinn-Shea at quinn-shea@msn.com or Mary Beth Hribar-Deitz at Marybeth_hribar@yahoo.com.

👏 Advent Day of Reflection

You are invited to an Advent Day of Reflection for Women and Men. "*AWAKENING TO THE PROMISE*" by Sr. Sheila Lemieux, CSJP. It will be held at The Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace St. Mary-on-the-Lake Chapel, on Saturday, December 5th from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. To register or for more information, call Sister Carmel Little, CSJP, 425-454-7909 or e-mail clittle@cjsp-olp.org

👏 Advent Twilight Retreat

The Sisters of Providence invite Catholic women (18-30) to a Twilight Retreat on December 11th at 6:30 p.m. in West Seattle. The theme: Come Light of Life, is an opportunity to reflect on the season of Advent with prayer, reflections, and personal quiet time. To register, contact Sister Beatrice LaFramboise at 425-525-3999 or e-mail beatricela@comcast.net

👏 Advent Retreat: Inbreaking of the Word in Cosmic History

Michael Crosby, OFM Cap will lead a retreat Saturday, December 12th, 9 am-1 pm, St. Joseph Parish Social Hall, 732 18th Ave E, Seattle.

Join the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center to consider our call to compassion as a deeper way of connecting. Preregistration \$15 before December 7th; \$20 at the door. For more information, call 206-223-1138 or go online to register at www.ipjc.org

Liturgical Ministers

Attention Lectors! The new Lector workbooks for 2010 are available. Please stop by the parish center and pick one up from Renee.

Eco-Justice Ministry Care for Creation Update

Did you know as of March 2009, Seattle's Recycling Guidelines have changed for home and Parish?

What's different about recycling/composting at St. Joe's? When we need to use disposables, our campus-wide goal is to use only compostable products. More plastic items can be recycled.

Recycling Now Includes: Rinsed Coffee Cups, Plastic Cups, Clean and Plastic Coated Paper Plates, Plastic Bottles (all colors) and Plastic Food Containers i.e. "Clam Shells". **No Liquids!**

Compostable Items Include: Compostable Coffee Cups, Compostable Clear Cups, Chinette Paper Plates, Compostable Utensils (brown or beige), Waxed Dixie Cups, Napkins, Food-Soiled Paper and Food-soiled Cardboard. **No Liquids!**

Trash Includes: Plastic Cup Lids, Food- Soiled Aluminum Foil and Corks. **No Liquids!**

See our new photo-enhanced instructions for recycling and composting on the bins throughout the campus. Thank you for taking a moment to Care for Creation by putting your items in the correct bin.

Foundations in Faith-Morality

Using the Bible, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Church documents, this adult enrichment program will explore the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as the framework of a moral life, identifying the call to dignity for each human person and the common good as two foundations of a moral life. Please bring your Bible and copy of the Catechism to the class. Sunday, November 22nd at St. Peter's in Beacon Hill from 1:30-5:30 PM. Cost: \$5 per class. (Co-sponsored by St. James Cathedral with the South Seattle Deanery.) Information, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514.

Volunteer Handy Person Wanted

Next to St. Joseph's, Jubilee Women's Center is the oldest transitional housing program for single homeless women and provides 34% of the beds in Seattle. We are looking for someone to help maintain our renovated facility: changing light bulbs, touching-up paint, hanging pictures, unclogging drains, and other light household repair. If interested, please call 206-957-5512 or e-mail bryn@jwcenter.org

Jubilee Women's Center is a transitional house for homeless women to live and learn while becoming self-reliant in housing and employment. For more info, go to www.jwcenter.org

A Message from Susan Fox

Thank you St. Joseph Parishioners!

As many of you know by now, I am no longer the Executive Director of Jubilee Women's Center. After more than seven very successful and fulfilling years, I decided to share my donor relationship, fundraising and advocacy skills with other organizations in our community. (And perhaps find some respite from managing full time capital campaigns!)

From the beginning, Jubilee and I have felt the love and support of this parish. Through the advocacy of the parish, we were able to secure a 50 year lease with the Archdiocese! This was a critical piece of the puzzle to ensure that our capital campaign to renovate our facility was successful. In addition, St. Joe's supports Jubilee through a below market rent structure allowing us to serve more women. Various individuals, adult and youth groups have brought community meals, participated in Just Faith Circles, volunteered at the front desk or in the boutique. And who could forget our shared event: The Bingo Brunch - Bring it back!

We are blessed to have the support of the parish and school. In particular, there are several individual parish members I would like to thank for their never-ending and generous dedication to Jubilee: Kristie and Matt Sweeney, Melissa Ries and Pat Kennedy, Beth Struckhoff and Bill Parks, Carol and Steve Latimer, Deacon Steve, and last but not least my dear friends Mary Beth and Dick Gemperle. Of course, there are many, many more. I'm sorry I can't name you all.

I hope you will continue to hold these women in your prayers and continue your unique support for Jubilee women. It means the world to them to know that people next door are holding them up. I hope you will stop by and introduce yourself to Lisa Chin, Jubilee's new Executive as she brings her passion and expertise to Jubilee's mission. As I move on to my next adventure here in Seattle, I want to extend my personal thanks to all of you for your prayers and support. I can be reached at sfox4601@msn.com or 206-979-0117.

With warmest regards,
Susan Fox
Donor Development and Fund Generation.