

*First Sunday of Advent*  
**November 29, 2009**

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

**Readings for**  
**Sunday, December 6, 2009**  
FIRST READING: BARUCH 5:1-9  
SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:4-6, 8-11  
GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

**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 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

## Advent Already (“Yea!” or “Yipes!”)

*“The Advent mystery is the beginning of the end of all in us that is not yet Christ.” -Thomas Merton-*

It is Advent again—a new beginning, a new liturgical year. The first candle is lit, a small fire against the dark and cold of this time of year—though it seems a bit pitiful in the near winter gloom. And, to tell you the truth, I am not sure I am ready for Advent, yet.

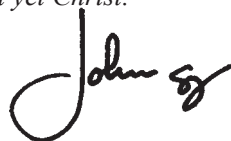
The great call of Advent is “Awake!” and the invitation is to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. As Thomas Merton notes in the quote above, Advent is a time of transition and transformation—when our waiting is not just passive but active (not like waiting for a bus but more like a pregnant woman waiting for a birth). And that means that Advent is a time to prepare for change: a time to give up the patterns of patch and paste by which we get by each day, and imagine a real renovation—a real awakening.

But the truth is, I am not sure I am ready—and I wonder who is? We may be asleep, but it’s warm in our beds and cold outside. At such a moment, it’s awfully tempting to hit the snooze bar a few more times. Here at St. Joseph, where people are nice and we can avoid the intrusions of much that others suffer, we can be tempted by our illusions to avoid Advent and move right on to Christmas—with all its distractions. Even when the clamor of loss and pain comes through our window, how hard it can be to awaken and admit that this coma of comfort and consumption, of busy-ness and stress brings us no real joy? Sure, we may be in the grip of the devil, but it is a devil we know—and to confront it seems to require more energy, more courage, and more grace than we can muster on the edge of winter.

But this, I think, is the genius of Advent. For we are called today not to renovate our whole lives, but simply to open them a little bit—a crack—so that the light of Christ might penetrate the darkness and transform us. That is all Advent asks of us—to wake up, one light at a time. If you are married, perhaps this means renewing your commitment to your spouse—choosing him or her again in grace. Maybe come home a half-hour early during Advent, so that you can spend that time with the person to whom you have pledged your whole life. Or, if you are a young person, ask for one less present at Christmas, and give one instead to someone who has nothing. If you are a single adult, join with some friends to prepare a meal for Martin de Porres, or visit a nursing home with a small tree and a big smile. If you are older—retired or even house-bound, give up 30 minutes this week from the numbing drone of the television and just pray—for the Church, for the world, for all those who suffer and fear, who are in darkness and despair. Pray for the good of those you know and those you don’t.

All these are small lights, small steps into dangerous territory—a minefield of hope and transformation—by which, if we become alert, we may find “God with us”, *Emmanuel*, and suddenly discover that it is “*the end of all in us that is not yet Christ.*”

Yours in the Lord,  
John D. Whitney, SJ



## Calendar

Monday, November 30	Sacred Silence, Church, 7 PM
Tuesday, December 1	RCIA, 7 PM, Parish Center
Wednesday, December 2	Pathfinders, 6 PM, Parish Center VOICE, 7 PM, Parish Center
Friday, December 4	Healing Mass and Luncheon, 11:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration, 7:30-11 AM Loyola Chapel, Parish Center First Friday Worship Service, 6:30 PM, Arrupe Room, Parish Center
Sunday, December 6	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.

### 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.

### A Festival of Christmas Concert

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

### Advent Lessons & Carols

The Seattle Girls Choir will perform a free benefit performance to support St. Joseph's Baby Corner on Friday, December 11th, at 7:30 pm at St. Joseph's Church. Donations accepted on behalf of Baby Corner in lieu of tickets.

### Almost Boomers Christmas Party,

O come ye *Almost Boomers* on December 6th at 5:30 pm to the home of Mary Beth and Dick Gempeler, 1116 15th E. Bring a beverage, salad or easy entrée, hors d'oeuvres or a dessert to share. Call Mary Beth @ 325-0784 or Carolyn Baker @324-3695.

### 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](http://www.ipjc.org)

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

For social service agencies and providers, we pray that the spirit of generosity may touch their mission in helping others . . . For those who are feeling overwhelmed by the circumstances of today, we pray that they be still and know that He is God who loves them and watches over them . . . For families who have a loved one in prison, may they find peace and hope in this challenging time. . . For Lisa's complete healing and recovery. "Yahweh . . . has sent me . . . to soothe the broken-hearted . . . to comfort all who mourn." ~Is 61:1-8

## Prayer Tree



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

### 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.

### 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. Sign up at the parish office or by calling Renee at 324-2522.

### Thank You From Recovery Café

On behalf of the women and men who have been traumatized by homelessness, addiction and mental health challenges that Recovery Café serves, we would like to thank the volunteers from St. Joseph for providing the *amazing* meal, service, take-away gifts and expressions of love that you showed at our Open Mic night on Saturday, November 21st. Your generosity has helped put a face on Christ's love for us all.