

Christmas
December 25, 2009
The Feast of the Holy Family
December 27, 2009

Homily Next Week:
Deacon Steve Wodzanowski

Readings for
Sunday, January 3, 2010
FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6
SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:2-3A,5-6
GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

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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Fax: (206) 329-5698
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

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

"The Word of God was made human in order that we might be made divine."
-St. Athanasius, 4th Century-

Amid the carols and the cards, the candy and the children with ears cocked for the sound of reindeer on the roof; after the shopping (and before the returns); slightly past exhaustion and in the first glow of overwhelming joy, let us take a moment to consider the wonder of this day and the unimaginable grace that is imparted to us through God's unreasonable love. What we celebrate today is that God has become everything that we are—all our weakness and our frailty, all our tears and our hopes, all our temptations (yes, even those) and all our joys—every bit of our humanity, except for our failure to receive God's love (i.e., our sin), is now a part of God. It can be hard to believe that sometimes, and what it means, well, that can take a lifetime to figure out.

And yet, it is true: the creator of the universe becomes a creature, and because of that, everything we do or feel, think or hope, strive to attain or mourn the loss of, God understands—not theoretically, but in one of those "Hey, been there, man," moments.

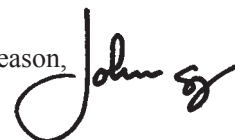
We can, I think, take comfort in that—realizing as we sit by the bed of a sick friend or wonder about what God is calling us to do, that Jesus went through the same feelings and the same wonder (after all, the first one who had to believe that Jesus was the Son of God was Jesus). And when we look at a small child, held by her mother and wholly dependent on others for life and sustenance, we can reflect that God has been there, too; and that it was only through the love of his parents and others that he ever made it to adulthood, let alone the cross and resurrection. How is that for a God who seeks to put it all into our hands?

In the last few months, since coming to St. Joseph Parish, I have been keenly aware of my own dependency and frailty. And yet, the parish itself, in all its parts, has held me and nurtured me and helped me to become pastor. In the friendship and guidance of the staff, in the immense kindness of many parishioners, even in the raucous encouragement of the school children, I have discovered my ministry at St. Joseph not by my own power but through all of you. And coming to realize that has made this Christmas all the richer, for I can now see that what I experienced by my own weakness, God chose to experience through the weakness of the child Jesus. Jesus has entered my fragile life and shown me the depths of its holiness.

All of us, I think, could say the same. For the coming of Jesus—this frail child, born in poverty and darkness—promises us that all our fragility and poverty is now redeemed, and united to God in Christ. May we grow more and more conscious of that redemption, and the love behind it, and so let go of our fears and hesitations. God so loves the people of St. Joe's that Jesus comes to share what we are, that we might never again be ashamed or afraid in our humanity. My prayer for you, and for all of us, is that we might receive this Christmas grace fully, and so live fearless and loving lives!

Merry Christmas and Blessings in this Holy Season,

John D. Whitney, SJ



Calendar

Monday, December 28	Sacred Silence, Church, 7 PM
Wednesday, December 30	No Pathfinders No VOICE
Thursday, December 31	Parish Center Closes at 12 Noon Solemn Benediction, 7 PM
Friday, January 1, 2010	Parish Center Closed Mass, 10 AM
Saturday, January 2	Parish Center Closed
Sunday, January 3	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.

Solemn Benediction December 31st

On New Year's Eve, at 7:00 pm, we will celebrate Solemn Benediction and prayer for the world; followed by an evening of prayer for peace before the Blessed Sacrament. This devotion will go on until midnight, when there will be a simple social and ringing of the bells. If you can, please stop by to or from your New Year's Eve Party, or come and stay for awhile. The church will be open all night, with a short prayer every hour on the hour until midnight.

New Year's Day Mass

Feast of the Mother of God, Day of Prayer for Peace, 10 am ~ Mass

Epiphany of Christ to the Nations

~ January 2nd & 3rd ~

5 pm, Saturday ~ Mass

9 am, 11 am & 5:30 pm, Sunday ~ Mass

{The CFF 3,4, & 5 Classes will be participating in the 9 am Mass}



Sunday, January 3 Traditional Epiphany Dinner 2 pm - Social Hall

Sign ups for volunteers, set-up, food, and other needs are in the vestibule. Please contact Steve Wodzanowski at 965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org to help with this annual event.

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For Judy's recovery from surgery . . . Gratitude for all the people at the school and church community who have made a difference in helping others by their caring support.

Prayer Tree



Emmanuel means "God with us."

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

For Those Who Cannot Eat Gluten An Invitation to Eucharist

If you have celiac disease or a severe gluten allergy, you may receive the Eucharist in a gluten-free form from the Presider, who will have the consecrated host in a pyx. Please tell him that you need a gluten-free host, and he will allow you to remove it from the pyx in a safe manner. Remember: this pyx will only be with the Presider, so go to him.

Annual Couples Weekend

The Annual St. Joseph's Couples Weekend at the LaConner Country Inn, LaConner, WA, February 5-7th. The cost is \$300 for the weekend. To secure a spot, please contact Deacon Steve Wodzanowski at 965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org by December 30th.

Blood Drive, January 4 Please put this on your calendar and sign up this weekend or next. Bring a friend; encourage a new donor; be there yourself to make a life sustaining gift!

First Friday Services

Seniors First Friday Healing Mass and Luncheon is **Friday, January 8th with Mass at 11:30.** January's parishioner led **First Friday Service is being held on January 8th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center Arrupe Room.**

New Altar Server Training is scheduled for Sunday, January 10th following the 11 am Mass in the Church.