

Epiphany of the Lord
January 3, 2010

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

**Readings for
Sunday, January 10, 2010**
FIRST READING: ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7
SECOND READING: ACT 10:34-38
GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

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 D. 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

An Epiphany Prayer

"The world is charged with the grandeur of God."

~Gerard Manley Hopkins~

This week we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, when the divinity of Jesus was recognized for the first time, by those who followed the Christmas star. Yet, epiphany, the experience of God shining forth in our world, is not a matter of one day or one celebration, but a way of being that should effect us as Christians every day. St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, believed that this call to a constant epiphany was the heart of the Christian experience; and for his followers, busy with various apostolic activities, he offers a prayer to train them to become people of the epiphany. This prayer, which Ignatius calls the *Examen*, is a simple one—meant to be done once or twice a day for 10 or 15 minutes each time, and as we begin this new year, it is one that might well help all of us to change ourselves by changing our vision (at least a little).

The Examen begins with **thanksgiving**, with an awareness that we have—by God's grace—made it here today. We give thanks for making it through the Christmas holiday, for surviving 2009, for living our lives to this point and still being able to breathe and hope and, at least to some extent, open ourselves to whatever it is that God is doing. We give thanks, simply because, after all that has gone on, we are still here.

And in giving thanks, we naturally move to the second step—**recollection**. We ask God to help us see our day (or week or month, or whatever period we want to consider), and to see it with eyes open. We ask to be conscious of the hours and the events, of the people who have passed through our lives, and the world that has unfolded around us.

And as we move through this remembrance, we come to the heart of the Examen, the third step. For in asking to see—to really see—the movements of our day, we are asking for **epiphany**: *When did I see Christ today? When did I recognize a blessing that had been given, and see, for even an instant, the giver behind that gift? Was it this morning, talking with my spouse or children, as we got ready for the day to begin? Did I see God in the sun coming over the mountains, or feel the touch of God's love in the courage of my aunt in her hospital bed?* Moments of epiphany surround us, calling us to follow the light and see, in every stable, the Son of God made flesh.

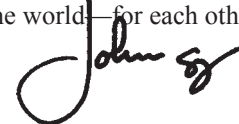
And if I cannot think of such a moment, then can I imagine the epiphanies I have missed? Can I think of the distractions that kept me from seeing God in my world, when God was waiting to be found?

And so the fourth step of Ignatius' Examen: **commitment** to look, to seek, to find in this day the grace of God around us. And when we look, what do we see? We see God with us, in sorrow and in joy, in this parish and in that mall down the hill, in children and in the aged, in my next door neighbor and in the man who cleans the park. We see epiphany all around.

And so we come back again to thanksgiving: thanks for revelation and desire, for grace given and grace waiting to be received, for a God who shines like a star in our sky and burns like a fire in the center of our waiting heart.

Thanksgiving, recollection, epiphany, commitment, and thanksgiving again: this is our Examen. May we have a year of epiphanies, and become epiphanies—moments of God shining out in the world—for each other.

Blessings to all in this New Year,
John D. Whitney, SJ



Calendar

Monday, January 4	Sacred Silence, Church, 7 PM Blood Drive, 1-7 PM, Parish Center
Tuesday, January 5	RCIA, 7 PM, Parish Center
Wednesday, January 6	Pathfinders, 6 PM, Parish Center VOICE, 7 PM, Parish Center
Friday, January 8	Healing Mass and Luncheon, 11:30 AM First Friday Service, 6:30 PM, Parish Center
Sunday, January 10	Newcomers Gathering, 11 AM, Church and Parish Center 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.

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For Michelle, Jeff, Erin, David, Jennifer, Lisa, Creg and Maureen who have health challenges, we pray for their well being in mind, body and soul as they travel on their various journeys.

Prayer Tree



“The Lord is my strength and my shield. In him my heart trusts, and I find help; then my heart exults, and with my voice I give him thanks.” Psalm 28:7

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

Welcome Newcomers!

If you are new to our parish, mark your calendars for our next **Newcomers Gathering -- Sunday, January 10th in the Parish Center following the 11 am Mass.** Come meet some of the parish staff and other parishioners over a light brunch and see what St. Joseph has to offer you. For more information, contact Anne Moran at 329-5981, ext.116 or amoran@stjosephparish.org

St. Joseph's 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


St. Joseph Adult Dance Evening

Come... roll up the rug with us! Friday, January 15th, 7-10 pm in the parish Social Hall. Adults, 18 and older, are invited to enjoy this fun-filled event with music, dancing and socializing. No partner required! Cost is \$10 (7-10 pm) including a 1 hour swing dancing lesson, or \$7 (8-10 pm). Water and a light snack will be provided. This is a non-alcoholic, non-smoking event. We welcome non-parish family and friends too! For additional information, contact Sheila Sifferman Marie at 206-251-7035 or SheMar49@comcast.net

Immigration: Creating Caring Communities

Examine the complex issue of immigration including economic and legislative issues, faithful citizenship, and the call to act with justice. Tuesday, January 5th, 7-9 pm at St. James Cathedral (RSVP to Christopher Koehler at 206-382-4511) or Wednesday, January 5th, 6:30-8 pm at St. Madeline Sophie Parish in Bellevue (RSVP to Ann LaBeck at 425-747-6770). Presented by the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center www.ipjc.org and sponsored by St. James Cathedral's Social Justice & Outreach, & ESL Program.

 **Blood Drive, January 4th** is scheduled from 1-7 pm in the Arrupe Room of the Parish Center. Your help is needed for a successful drive! All blood types needed! Sign up or walk in. See you there!

 **Holy Names Academy Winter Open House** is scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 5th from 6:30-8:30 pm. Meet teachers, students and parents and register for the Scholarship/Placement Make-up Exam.

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.

January Family Mass, Dinner and Talent Show, Saturday, January 23rd! Please contact Dottie Farewell & Liz McCarthy French at 965-1652 or dfarewell@stjosephparish.org for additional information.