

Baptism of the Lord
January 10, 2010

Homily Next Week:
Deacon Steve Wodzanowski

Readings for
Sunday, January 17, 2010
FIRST READING: ISAIAH 62:1-5
SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11
GOSPEL: JOHN 2:1-11

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 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

Baptism: The Sacrament of Inclusion

"One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all."

~Ephesians 4:5-6

This week the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord as the final celebration of the Christmas season; so it seems appropriate to ask what the Sacrament of Baptism means for us. What is it that leads us to pour water and oil over the head of those who enter our community? Why do we give them candles and have them—or their representatives—recite the Creed? And why do we baptize children, who cannot offer their own consent? Is it about magic (avoiding Limbo) or Original Sin? Why is baptism so central that it was both the first public act of Jesus and his final command before he ascended into heaven, when he told his disciples to baptize, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"?

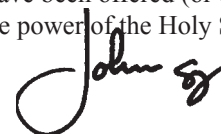
Though I can't completely explore this sacrament in one short column (or even in one long book), I would invite us to recall, first of all, what is at the heart of every sacrament: a visible expression of God's presence in the world, given to us to unite us to God and to involve us in the mission of Christ Jesus. Each sacrament, therefore, has several elements—it is physical, involving the ordinary things of human life as signs and symbols of grace; it is an transcendent, part of the mystery of God; and it is bound up in the mission of Christ for the world. If we recall these elements, all of the sacraments begin to open for us a bit more.

In baptism, we use water as the primary symbol, because it is at the heart of life and essential for human existence. As creatures, we come from the sea and have an ocean flowing in our bodies—sweat and tears, blood and spittle. Without water, we would perish. It is a sign of birth and cleansing, of our common ancestry and common nature. Yet, at the same time, water is not always life-giving. One need only consider Katrina or the tsunami that destroyed much of Indonesia to understand that this symbol (like many the Church uses) has multiple meanings. In pouring water over a person, we remember the water of the womb, but also the common journey of humanity into death, when the water is over our head. In baptism, we enter, as Jesus did, into the common human experiences of birth and death—and so hope to emerge with him in the experience of resurrection and new life. This is why baptismal fonts are often shaped as circles—like the circle of the womb—or as rectangles—like a grave through which we pass—or with eight sides—since Christ is the 8th day of creation (i.e., the day of resurrection).

The common nature of water is, itself, one of the primary symbols of baptism, for it places the person in the human family. We have all been born—have passed through the water of the womb—and we will all die. But because we share this with Jesus and one another, this journey need not be a lonely one. In these waters, we wash away the Original Sin of separation and say to the baptized: "You are one of us! You have passed through the waters!" And so, no matter what else happens; no matter how far you wander, you are always with us—and you are always welcome in this community, in this Church, at this font and altar, which are yours now and forever. So it is that the Church never re-baptizes; for the person who passes through those waters is, always and irrevocably, one with Christ who passed through the waters of life—in the womb of Mary—and the waters of death—as blood and water flowed from his side on the cross.

This is the source of our community: that we have all been born into and faced the death we share with Christ; that we have been offered (or offered ourselves) to the Father, through the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Next Week: Our Baptismal Mission)



Calendar

Sunday, January 10	CFF Classes Resume
Monday, January 11	Sacred Silence, Church, 7 PM
Tuesday, January 12	RCIA, 7 PM, Parish Center
Wednesday, January 13	Women's Spirituality Group, 9:30 AM, Parish Center Pathfinders, 6 PM, Parish Center VOICE, 7 PM, Parish Center
Sunday, January 17	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.

Welcome Newcomers!

If you are new to our parish, join us for our *Newcomers Gathering on 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.

NEW Altar Server Training

All 4th graders and older are invited to become a member of the Altar Serving team. Our next NEW server training will be Sunday, January 10th immediately following the 11am mass. Meet in the front of the church between the steps and the piano. Contact Dottie Farewell if you have questions or RSVP at 206-965-1652 or dfarewell@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

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.

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 stevew@stjosephparish.org if you or someone you know would like to receive the Eucharist.

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

For Carol in her recovery from a respiratory ailment . . .
For Catherine's well being as she heals . . .
To watch over those here and abroad who protect us . . . For those who are anxious.

Prayer Tree



*"Call to me, and I will answer you;
I will tell you things great
beyond reach of your knowledge."*

Jeremiah 33:3

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

Please remember in your prayers the family of Victor O'Brien, father of parishioner Tina O'Brien, who passed away this past week. May he rest in peace.

We also remember Fr. Thomas Zeyen, SJ who passed away on December 29th and his brother Fr. Charles Zeyen, MSF who passed away January 6th, both of whom had long-standing ties to our parish community. May the perpetual light shine upon them.

Sustaining Grace

Thank you for sending your pledge in! As of January 6th, 575 parish families have pledged over \$990,800. Thank you for your commitment to the mission of our parish. If you are interested in pledging to the appeal and have not done so, please visit the parish website at www.stjosephparish.org

Help Wanted at St. Joseph

St. Joseph Parish is looking for a full time janitor to work late afternoons and evenings Thursday through Monday. If you are interested, please stop by the office to pick up an application.

January Family Mass, Dinner & Talent Show, Saturday, January 23rd! If you have a talent you'd like to share—joke telling, magic, pet tricks, singing or something else—at our next Family Mass & Dinner on January 23rd, please contact Dottie Farewell & Liz McCarthy French at 206-965-1652 or dfarewell@st-josephparish.org to audition. **Auditions are scheduled in the Parish Center for Friday, January 15th at 3:05 pm and Sunday, January 17th following the 11 am Mass.** ALL ages and talents are welcome. Don't miss out on the fun!

Liturgical Minister Day of Retreat

Attention all Eucharistic ministers, ushers and lectors... Please set aside Saturday, February 27th, 9 am-12:30 pm for a morning of reflection with our pastor Fr. John D. Whitney, SJ. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Bob McCaffery-Lent at rmclent@stjosephparish.org or 965-1649.

Also, this is a reminder for lectors to stop by the Parish Center to pick up your copy of the 2010 Lector Workbook if you have not done so already. Thanks!

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

CYO 5th-8th Grade Girls Volleyball

Registration for girls in the 5th-8th grades has begun. Consent forms have been distributed to the students through their home-room teachers. The consent form can also be downloaded off the St. Joseph School-CYO website. Please complete the form and return it to the main office. The fee is \$50. The deadline to register is January 19, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Meg Wolfe at mtwolfe@stjosephsea.org

Blood Drive Thank You

Thirty-seven donors were registered at the blood drive on Monday. About 110 people will benefit or have already benefited from the blood donated! So, donors - parishioners, school parents, neighbors and folks driving home from work, bakers, PSBC staff and volunteers take a bow for a job well done! It was good to have school children visiting while their parents were donating blood! Next drive will be March 15th. See you there!

Family Meals Ministry

What is The Meals Ministry?

Through a team of wonderful volunteers, we provide meals to church members in times of need. The meals ministry is an excellent way to meet other people from church and make a difference in someone's life, with a minimal time commitment, about once per year.

How Does It Work?

The meals ministry coordinator is made aware of a need, either through a direct request for help, or through referral by someone within the church. Volunteers are then contacted and asked to provide a meal (home cooked or purchased) and deliver it to the recipient's home.

Who Do We Serve?

Saint Joe's families and individuals in times of need.

- ... after the birth of a baby.
- ... after surgery or hospitalization.
- ... during times of crisis.

How Can I Help?

The meals ministry is an excellent way to meet other people from church and make a difference in someone's life, with a minimal time commitment. Meals DO NOT have to be homemade. In situations such as these, it is definitely "the thought that counts." The purpose is to help someone in need by providing a helping hand in meal preparation, not to dazzle anyone with your culinary skills. In times of need, a friendly face and a meal is a true gift.

Meal Guidelines:

- We provide a complete meal and deliver it to the recipient's home.
- It can be store bought, homemade, frozen or just about anything!
- Meal does not have to be fancy or gourmet.
- We attempt to accommodate allergies and food preferences.

We strive to work out a schedule that benefits the recipient the most while working with the schedule of the volunteer. Please contact Cara Kroenke at 206-283-2500 ckroenke@swyfs.org to help get this wonderful ministry started.

Creative Art Group... Bring your pencils, brushes, paints and a spirit of creativity and join the creative art group at St. Joseph. Join us Tuesday, January 12th, 1:30-3:30 pm in the Mother Theresa Room of the Parish Center. For more information, contact Joanna Campbell at 206-328-6991.

Catholic Advocacy Day – February 9th

All parish members are invited to participate in Catholic Advocacy Day on February 9th, 9 am - 3 pm. Catholic Advocacy Day is an annual event to ensure that the Gospel message to care for our brothers and sisters is carried to our legislators. Come to the State Capitol for a program and a legislative briefing before scheduled appointments with your state legislators. There is free chartered bus transportation for registered participants (departing from Seattle and Tacoma).

To register contact Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center at ipjc@ipjc.org or 206-223-1138 by Tuesday, January 12th. Sponsored by Washington State Catholic Conference, Archdiocese of Seattle, Catholic Community Services, Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center, and Pierce County Deanery.

Pro-Life Event On January 19th

On Tuesday, January 19th there will be a Pro-Life Mass celebrated at St. Michael Church, 1055 Boundary St. SE, in Olympia at 10 am followed by a procession from the Church to the State Capitol to participate in the Washington State March for Life, which begins at noon. All are invited back to the Church for a complimentary lunch served by the Knights of Columbus. For more information call St. Michael Church at 360-480-9329 or www.SaintMichaelParish.org

👏 Legatus

Legatus is an international organization of Catholic business leaders and their spouses. The Seattle Chapter, under the chaplaincy of Archbishop Brunett, meets each month for mass, dinner and an excellent speaker in a program designed to assist members in bringing their faith to the marketplace. (No fundraising or projects are pursued!)

If you are the CEO, president, managing partner or owner of a business or other organization, and would like to meet with other Catholic business leaders in this setting, visit our website at www.legatus.org, or contact Ann Kelly at 206-782-0930 or bakelly@msn.com

👏 Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Married couples... Looking for a special Valentine Day gift? Give a gift that will last a lifetime! A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is for husbands and wives who want to strengthen and enrich their marriage. The rewards continue to grow through the years! Register today for the upcoming February 12-14 Weekend in Centralia or Feb. 26-28 in Seattle. For more information contact Rory and Dawn Myers, 206-772-2344, seattlewwme@yahoo.com or John and Martha Ryland at 253-859-9174, jmryland@comcast.net

Women's Spirituality Group

The Women's Spirituality Group will begin their winter session this Wednesday, January 13th at 9:30 am in the Parish Center. The St. Joseph's Women's Spirituality Group (WSG) was created to bring together women looking to connect in a spiritual way. We meet weekly throughout the school year and have a variety of speakers and topics. WSG creates the opportunity for women to explore values, new ways of looking at spirituality and ways to bring their gifts to various relationships and the Christian community.

The cost is \$40 for those with no childcare and \$50 for those who require childcare. Scholarships are available. Please feel free to join our group at anytime during the session. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Giselle Pavlovec at 206-329-7122 or gisellepavlovec@msn.com or Tracy Janney at janney@mac.com

👏 Peace Days for Women,

"Prayer in Everyday Life" led by Mary Thorne, CSJP. Wednesday, January 20th, 9:30 am - 2 pm at St. Mary-on-the-Lake Peace and Spirituality Center, 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue. Free-will offering. Bring a sack lunch, coffee and tea provided. To register or for more information contact Carmel Little, CSJP at 425-454-7909 or e-mail peace@csjp-olp.org

👏 Day of Contemplative Prayer -

A day of Contemplative Prayer for women and men will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon at St. Mary-on-the-Lake Chapel, 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue. The day will be led by Kathleen Pruitt, CSJP. If you are coming for the first time to Contemplative Prayer, please arrive at 8:30 am for an introduction. Free-will offering. To register or for more information contact Carmel Little, CSJP at 425-454-7909 or e-mail peace@csjp-olp.org

👏 Card Crafting Party

Catholic Women are invited to a Card Crafting Party sponsored by Central Deanery ACCW (Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women). Come make four cards~Valentine & Birthday cards~ two for you and two for our adopted Seminarians on Thursday, January 28th at President's Home, 20825 142nd Ave. SE in Kent. Come from 1:00 to 3:00 pm or 6:00 to 8:00 pm. You must RSVP to guarantee supplies. The cost is \$6. Open Business meeting from 3:30 to 5 pm. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Lori Margetan at 253-833-3380 or lorimar1915@hotmail.com