

*THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*  
**September 23, 2012**

**Homily Next Week:**  
**Father Jack O'Leary, S.J.**

**Readings for September 30, 2012**

FIRST READING: NUMBERS 11:25-29

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:1-6

GOSPEL: MARK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

**Saturday** - 5 pm

**Sunday** - 9 am, 11 am, 5:30 pm

**Weekday Mass Schedule**

**Monday - Friday** - 7 am

Arrupe Room, Parish Center

**Reconciliation**

**Saturday** - 3:30-4:15 pm in the Church  
 or by appointment

**Parish Center Hours**

**Monday-Friday** - 8 am - 4:30 pm

**Saturday** - 9 am - 1 pm

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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, Dir. Religious Ed. x112

Dennis Gentele, Facilities x110

Renée Leet, Admin Assistant x100

Bob McCaffery-Lent, Liturgy & Music x109

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**St. Joseph School**

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Main Office x210

Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218

Rick Boyle, Academic VP x215

Kris Brown, Vice Principal x216

Bulletin Cover: Window in St. Joseph,  
 San Diego. Photo by John D. Whitney, S.J.

## A Covenant of Community Event



As a covenant parish community, each year, we gather to discuss our relationship with one another as we look forward to the year. We ask you to join us and attend our Covenant gathering meeting, **Wednesday, September 26th, 6:00-8:00 pm, in the St. Joseph Social Hall.**

A light supper will be included at this gathering.

This meeting will introduce some specific time lines and gauge people's interests and desires, i.e., what part of the Covenant attracts you, whether you are involved now or would like to be in the future. We are hoping to have a large group introduction followed by two sessions, inviting each person to visit different groups:

**Liturgy & Prayer:** pursuing God in worship and in various forms of prayer

**Community Building:** building our strength and mutual support as a Body of Christ

**Expanding the Circle of Grace:** outreach, advocacy, and commitment to those outside St. Joe's

**Deepening Our Understanding:** "faith seeking understanding"

**Providing for the Good of All:** developing resources for the mission of St. Joseph

Please plan on being at this gathering, and if you know anyone who has not yet signed the Covenant, but would like to, send them to the vestibule to sign the Covenant and bring them on Wednesday, September 26th at 6 pm.

**Calendar**

**Monday, Sept 24** Sacred Silence, Church, 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, Sept 25** RCIA, Arrupe Room, 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, Sept 26** Choir Practice, Church, 6:30 PM  
 The VOICE, Arrupe Room, 7:00 PM

**Friday, Sept 28** Eucharist Adoration, Loyola Chapel  
 Parish Center, 7:30 AM

# Into the Darkness

*It is not so much suffering that draws us close to Christ, as Christ our Lord who in His suffering and scandalous death on the cross draws near to our sufferings and afflictions as human beings.*

—Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.—

Recently, sitting with a friend over coffee, I fell into one of those conversations that does not really end when you move off to the next appointment but keeps cycling and deepening throughout the day. We were talking about death, and what the Church teaches, and what it all really means, and what we really believe. It was one of those conversations that we so often avoid because of our fear: fear of death itself; but also fear that, if we think about death, we shall discover how thin is the ice of our faith, and shall fall, irredeemably, into the bone-chilling waters of despair. Better to whistle through the graveyard, or watch another episode of the Kardashians—such is the way we hide from our fears and from the fathomless mystery of eternity.

Yet, I think, for many of us, the fear and the dread may be masked, but are never effectively escaped. Rather, fear and dread float constantly in the background of our thoughts and in the recesses of our hearts—like Muzak of the soul—and though it may seem sometimes louder and sometimes softer, depending on the other noises which distract us, such fear and dread are always there, waiting for an occasion to swell and consume our attention again—as when someone we love dies, or when we see a death that seems sudden and incomprehensible: the death of a child, the death of a young father, the random death of a friend through senseless violence or freak accident.

In these moments, the depth of Catholic theology resonates with a power and a beauty that is often forgotten in dealing with lesser things. Unlike many traditions, Catholicism refuses the facile answer that death and suffering are simply a part of God's hidden plan, and that if we knew more or were more faithful, we would all be happy in the midst of what *seems* like great loss. Though God's goodness does transcend and redeem human suffering, that redemption is not a denial of such suffering, nor is that transcendence an excuse for avoidance. Indeed, the healing message of Christ's cross is linked to the reality of the suffering he accepts out of love for us. Thus, while we may console each other with an acknowledgement of God's ultimate triumph, we must reject a theology that seeks to explain away the greatest of human sorrows in tragically simplistic terms. Such theology is just another way of avoiding the depth of the mystery we face, and the breadth of the love that is offered us in God's response.

In the Catholic tradition, immersed as it is in the notion of Incarnation and Sacrament (i.e., in the belief that God has

become flesh and that ordinary things radiate with sacred meaning), human suffering and loss are not covered-over by Divine Providence, not explained away by some unknown but reasonable Divine Plan. Instead, in our tradition, the gap is real and the wound is true. There is no simple explanation that can wipe away human suffering, no Divine Plan that relieves us (or should relieve us) of our sense of loss, or even our sense of dread. Indeed, nothing in God closes the abyss to let the faithful walk over. On the contrary, our tradition holds that God enters the world to share with us the whole of the human experience—even suffering, even loss, even dread; thus, when Jesus weeps at the tomb of Lazarus, or cries out in anguish on the cross, he is not play-acting, but living fully the pain and loss we all know too well. His suffering, his anguish of heart and body, make Jesus our brother and consoles us in ways no teaching ever could.

So often, in moments of greatest need, the theology of the Church can seem too distant, too mechanical to penetrate the darkness we may feel. Notions of God's Providence or the trials of the faithful or even the promise of Eternal Life—where suffering is no more and the virtuous find peace and consolation—all fall like ashes on the tongue. That is not to deny the truth of these teachings, but only to acknowledge that such concepts, as *concepts*, are often insufficient consolation when moments of dread descend upon us. To one who mourns or to those filled with the fear of death, theology is like a perfect mathematical truth: elegant and even graceful, but unable to touch fully the mystery of the human heart or comfort us in the midst of incalculable loss and anguish. We all stumble in these moments, looking for words or ideas, when words and ideas are impossibly limited.

In these moments, there is only one answer to the mystery of the abyss, only one response that is both honest and faithful to the reality we stand before—and this is the answer God gives. Not words, but presence. Not thoughts, but embrace. Not answers, but a hand held out, arms opened wide. It is not an *explanation* of suffering that we receive in Christ Jesus, but the love of One who knows what we have been through, and who has shared it fully. Because of the cross of Jesus, God, knows what it is to lose a Son, and knows the dread of entering death with only faith that death will not triumph. Because of the cross, God offers comfort, not as an outsider, but as one of us. In Christ Jesus, the wisdom of God abandons trying to explain the abyss, and instead takes our hand and jumps in at our side. Such love is the only answer we get, the only answer that can bring us back to life, and the only answer that we can share with those who may need such life from us.





# Social Ministry

## My Experience With Cabrini Ministry Training

by Parishioner Arlene Warnke

*"The Cabrini Ministry class spans 5 months and the time is dedicated to sharing and discovering one's faith with others. Months after the class ended, I still utilize the lessons and skills I learned.*

*The participants in the Cabrini Ministry class came from all walks of life. Personally, I was dealing with some life changing events when I began the class. I expected to gain insight into my religious beliefs but I did not realize how powerful and healing the messages would be. Aside from the spirituality aspects, I also learned a lot about myself.*

*Ultimately, the Cabrini Ministry class was a calling from God, the classes taught me the gift of listening. Not in the way we all think we listen, but in the way in which you truly hear someone. It saved me from the pains of my personal life, and it brought me closer to God. Every class allowed me to walk deeper into my faith and gain more insight into how I can love and be more compassionate - with myself and with others."*

**Arlene serves as a Eucharistic Minister at Virginia Mason Hospital. If you would like to see if Cabrini Ministry Training is right for you, contact Deacon Steve at 296-965-1646 or [stevew@stjosephparish](mailto:stevew@stjosephparish) or visit their website at <http://www.cabriniministry.org> Partial Scholarships are available.**

## Baby Corner

Baby Corner urgently needs some items to assist families this fall. Our inventory of the following items remains low: Onesie-type infant undershirts (0-3m, 3-6m), one-piece infant pajamas (0-3m, 3-6m), infant outfits (0-3m, 3-6m), toddler pants (2T-5T), for both boys and girls, hygiene items (baby wash, soap, lotion, diaper-rash ointment), teethingers & rattles.

With cold weather coming, we are also in great need now of warm clothing—tops, bottoms, pajamas, outfits, jackets—sizes newborn through 4T.

Just drop off items in the crib inside the church.

## Parish Blood Drive

### *Imagine Saving A Life*

Every two minutes someone in Western Washington needs a blood transfusion. Help ensure this precious resource is available for ill and injured people in our community by giving blood through the **Puget Sound Blood Center**.

**Monday, October 1st**, in the Arrupe Room, Parish Center 1:00 to 3:00 and 3:45 to 7:00 pm.

In order to have a positive, healthy blood donation experience, we suggest all volunteer donors do the following before giving blood:

- \* Bring a Picture ID. If you have a photo ID, we encourage you to show it at the registration table. It makes it easier for our volunteer registrar to find you on the donor database.
- \* Eat a balanced "hearty" meal 1-3 hours before donating.
- \* Drink plenty of fluids (juice or water).
- \* Get a good night's sleep, too!
- \* Bring a friend with you to give blood. You could save six lives together! Each unit of whole blood you donate saves 3 lives - right here in our community. Your help is crucial to that lifesaving process!

Sign up in the vestibule following mass, or with Renée at [rleet@stjosephparish.org](mailto:rleet@stjosephparish.org). Invite a friend to join you!

## Children's Faith Formation NEEDS YOU!

Our Sunday School program is thriving, but we still need teachers, especially in grades Kindergarten and CFF 5/6. If you are able to be an assistant, we would love to hear from you. If you are a parent of a student in our parish school or an 8th grader, this is a great way to earn service hours. Please contact Dottie Farewell at [dfarewell@stjosephparish.org](mailto:dfarewell@stjosephparish.org) today. Thank you!!





# Prayer

## Come and see what the Catholic Faith has to offer

Tuesday, September 25th  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
St. Joseph's Parish Center

- Are you, your spouse, a friend, or an acquaintance a member of another faith tradition but worship regularly here at St. Joseph's?
- Are you experiencing God's call in your life and seeking Baptism or full communion with the Catholic Church?
- If you are, please consider participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The RCIA is an opportunity to explore with others what the Catholic Church has to offer. It is an opportunity, through a process of discernment and gradual conversion to become a full member of the Catholic Church.

If you are interested contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or [stevew@stjosephparish.org](mailto:stevew@stjosephparish.org)

**All are welcome on this journey of faith!**

## October is Respect Life Month Please join us for a Parish Holy Hour

Thursday, October 4th, 7- 8 pm, Join Father Whitney and Deacon Steve to learn how to pray the Rosary with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the church. All are welcome! Rosaries will be provided. Questions? Please contact Deacon Steve at [stevew@stjosephparish.org](mailto:stevew@stjosephparish.org) or 206-965-1646.

## Choose Life Ministry Meeting

**Sunday, October 7th, 7 pm**, at Jackie Quinn's house.  
918 18th Ave E. All are welcome!

For information or questions on either of the above meetings, call Jackie Quinn, 206-324-1780, Tom Cannon, 206-322-4819, or Mary Ott, 206-324-7459.

*St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For Jane to continue on her road of healing . . . For Danny to grow stronger to receive a transplant in the future . . . For families who are supportive and compassionate to one another and others . . . For Maggie's well being*

## Prayer Tree



*"Be careful how you think;  
your life is shaped by your thoughts"  
~ Proverbs 4:23*

## Men's Ministry

**Friday, Oct 12th – 14th** – Fall Retreat at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island. ***Why Are We Catholic: Reconciling My Faith and My Community with the Church and the World.*** Retreat Team includes: Rob Carroll, Joe Gaffney, Vince Herberholt, Troy Kaser, Fr. Jack O'Leary, and Fr. John Whitney. Cost is \$130 per person and includes two nights lodging (double occupancy) and four meals. Partial scholarships are available. Check out the flyer in the vestibule of the church.

For details, contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or [stevew@stjosephparish.org](mailto:stevew@stjosephparish.org)

## Blessing of the Animals

October 4th is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis wrote *The Canticle of the Creatures*, an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures."



Blessing of the Animals will be Thursday, October 4th, at 8:30 am in the Church.

This will be with the school community. There also will be a blessing at 6:00 pm on the Front Lawn. All are welcome!



# Community

## Seniors On The Go

**Friday, October 5th** - Healing Mass, 11:30 am, with lunch following in the Parish Center

## Altar Server Training:

For those youth in grades 4th and higher who would like to serve during the Mass, our next training will be **Sunday, September 23, 2012 after the 11am Mass or 3pm Wednesday, September 26th**. Please meet at the front steps of the altar platform in the church. The training will take about an hour. New servers begin in October. This is a great way to earn service hours too! To sign up, please contact Dottie Farewell at [dfarewell@stjosephparish.org](mailto:dfarewell@stjosephparish.org) or 206.965.1652.



## This Week On the Willis...

Rhosymedre, today's prelude, is by the great English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), and is from the collection *"Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes."* Vaughan Williams was a prolific composer of symphonies, chamber music, opera, choral music and film scores. He also was a collector of folk songs, and this influenced a variety of hymn tunes and hymnals as well as his own compositions. Today's piece is based on the Welch hymn-tune *"Rhosymedre,"* written by the 19th century Anglican priest, John Edwards (1806-1885). This hymn tune has been set with several different words over the years, but here is a version that fits with our Baptism weekend, set by UCC minister James Haddix:

*In your great love, O God, full parenthood is known:  
A father mourns his child, a mother's strength is shown.  
Let parents' faithful lives unbind  
your love that through them we might find  
Christ's deeper love for all humankind.*

*May your household of faith one family become,  
That love may be increased and none may be alone;  
That mother's love and father's care and children's joy  
we all may share, and children's joy we all may share.*

John Stuntebeck, Principal Organist and Pianist

## Sisters & Brothers in Christ: Faith Journeys of LGBT Catholics

Panel presentation followed by group discussion  
Thursday, October 18, 7 - 9 PM, Arrupe Room,  
St. Joseph Parish Center.

Being Gay or Lesbian and Catholic presents a menu of challenges and LGBT people often work hard to reconcile being who they are with their Catholic faith and their love of the Church.

Please join us to hear personal stories about how some of your fellow parishioners who are gay and lesbian, as well as family members and straight supportive friends live lives of faith. The panel will be followed by an open community discussion, conversation and fabulous snacks.

For details contact: Rebecca Brown, [rebecca.brown@goddard.edu](mailto:rebecca.brown@goddard.edu) or Christa Gray, [cgray@alumni.nd.edu](mailto:cgray@alumni.nd.edu)

## PAB Needs your help!

St. Joseph School families are needed to assist with preparing and serving coffee and donuts after mass the first Sunday of the month. This is a great way to get volunteer hours. Hopefully families could commit to at least 6 - 8 Sundays out of the year.

Please contact Mary Freiburger at (206) 412-6279 or [maryfreiburger@comcast.net](mailto:maryfreiburger@comcast.net)

## Pathfinders Begins Soon!

Our PATHFINDERS youth group begins Wednesday, October 3 from 6-7:30 pm in the basement of the Parish Center (Mother Teresa Room). Open to all 6th thru 8th graders. Our motto is **"making our way through faith, friendship and service."** Registration forms may be found on our Parish website under "Children/Youth."

Come and check us out!

**COLLECTION: SEPTEMBER 16, 2012**

**TOTAL NEEDED WEEKLY TO MEET BUDGET: \$15,994.00**

**TOTAL FOR MASSES AND GIFTS MAILED IN: \$8,404.00**

# Parish & School Fall Family Mass & Dinner, September 29th

## *Bringing back our Talent Show*

We will kick off the school year with our Family Mass & Dinner on Saturday, September 29th beginning with mass at 5 pm, and continuing with dinner in the school's Wyckoff Gym immediately following.

The evening's entertainment will be a *TALENT SHOW*.

**Please RSVP for dinner, to Dottie Farewell at [dfarewell@stjosephparish.org](mailto:dfarewell@stjosephparish.org) by Tuesday September 25th!**

