

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9, 2012

Reflection Next Week:

George Hofbauer

Readings for December 16, 2012

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18A

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:10-18

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

www.stjosephparish.org

732 18th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112

Fax: (206) 329-5698

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, Dir. Religious Ed. x112

Dennis Gentele, Facilities x110

Renée Leet, Admin Assistant x100

Bob McCaffery-Lent, Liturgy & Music x109

Caprice Sauter, Administration x102

Randy Novak, Communications x114

John Stuntebeck, Organist/Pianist x105

St. Joseph School

700 18th Avenue East • (206) 329-3260

Main Office x210

Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218

Rick Boyle, Academic VP x215

Kris Brown, Vice Principal x216

St. Joseph Holiday Schedule



Saturday, December 15

10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Parish Prayers &
Reconciliation Service

Sunday, December 23

No 5:30 pm Mass for Church decorating

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Monday, December 24

7:00 am, Daily Mass

4:00 pm, Children's Mass (Doors open at 3:00 pm)

6:00 pm, Mass in the Evening

10:00 pm, Lessons & Carols

10:30 pm, Mass in the Night

Tuesday, December 25

10:00 am, Mass in the Morning

New Year's Eve

Monday, December 31

6:00 pm, Benediction and Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament, ending at Midnight



Week Eight Stewardship Update

490 Pledges

\$1,048,347.00

Parish Goal: \$1,500,000.00

The Church of the New Chalcedon (Part II)

The Church as the Sacrament of Christ

John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever. Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice with the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

-St. Augustine, Sermon 293-

When the Council of Chalcedon declares that Jesus is the unity of a divine and a human nature, it elevates our humanity in a manner not always appreciated in the current world. So often, I think, we believe only in the divine Jesus—Son of God from age to age, omniscient and omnipotent—who is so far above our humble state as to make his salvation of us equivalent to a firefighter rescuing a cat from a tree. But such a view denies the depth of love that God has shown to us. For in the Incarnation, we see two natures present: the divine second Person of the Trinity—who exists from the beginning of time—and the human nature—which must be born in time and within a culture, with a particular gender and a specific place of birth. Because these two dimensions are part of the same Jesus, he is, simultaneously, one in being (or, *consubstantial*, if you prefer) with the Father and one in being with us. It is not another who saves, but Jesus the Lord; it is not another who dies, but the same Jesus. Thus, salvation comes not through the divine nature alone nor through the human nature alone, but through the **person** of Jesus—and that salvation consists in us, through our blood-brother, Jesus, now also being part of the family of God.

It is my belief that if we take this insight seriously, if we don't just glide over it (or glaze over when we read about it) it will change everything, especially that community in which we live known as the Church. For if Jesus is *fully* human and *fully* divine, together, then we cannot talk about a Church which is just one or the other; but must seek **to know and to be** a Church that manifests the same unity. Like her founder, the Church has a divine nature and mission—i.e., it is empowered to consecrate the People of God through proclamation and action, through Word and Sacrament—but it also has a human nature—i.e., it changes, develops, dies and rises in its living out of its mission. Just as Jesus is the *dialogue* of the divine and the human, so, too must the Church be a continuing dialogue between human culture and divine revelation. Otherwise, how can the Church be Christ's body in the world? How can the Church proclaim the true Christ, unless we truly manifest the words of St. Paul: "*He became like us in all things but sin*" through the recognition that all things human are now charged with divinity?

What all this means is that the Church is a *sacrament* of Christ, instituted in human ways to unify God and humanity through the proclamation in word and deed of the Gospel of Jesus. Like John the Baptist, in the quote above, the Church is the voice that is filled with the Word, and which speaks the Word in a particular language and culture—and that language and culture may only last for a time, even if the Word itself lasts forever. Without the Word, the voice is only mumbling and noise, as the Church would be without the Spirit of Christ. But without the voice, the Word would remain outside the world, waiting for a time when it could reach human beings. The Church is the visible realization of Christ, but it exists within a human shell that can change and develop over history. Just as we do not today speak Latin or Phoenician, though we express the same concepts (the same words) as those earlier cultures did; so too, the Church need not be the Church of the 1st century or the Middle Ages to express the Word that has given us life.

There is a need for institutionalization in the Church, and the presence of an institutional Church is not contrary to the gospel, but manifests the same respect for human nature as does the gospel itself. Humans are not merely spiritual creatures, as Jesus was not merely spiritual; hence, we need culture and structure, a visible Church, as well as an invisible faith, if our faith is to be humanly real. It is why the Eucharist is so powerful, because it is both physically engaging, as well as divinely spiritual. To mitigate either is to lose both. Those who speak of being "*spiritual but not religious*" (if by that they mean that they honor God without any institutional component) speak of something that is either purely individual or contradictory, for a *community* of faith, if it does anything together, has some institutional component—though it may not have elaborate structures and hierarchies.

On the other hand, those who identify with an institutional Church (e.g., Roman Catholicism) must realize that the institutional Church itself is bound by the limitations of humanity, by its identity as an *expression* of the Spirit but not the fullness of the Spirit for all time. The Church is the divine and the human joined, without either one destroying the other. Without the physical Church, the Spirit is just an idea, and without the Spirit, the Church is just a bunch of bodies in a room. Because the risen Christ is human—not reducible to being Jewish or Palestinian or even male—then nothing human is ever alien to the Church. Hence, we should not fear prayerful reform in the Church or doubt the Church's ability (indeed, need) to grow and change; rather, we should see this growth, itself, as an affirmation of what has been since the beginning: a sign that the body of Christ is a real and living body, in which the divine and the human find voice.



Next Week - Part III: The Church In the Mirror



Prayer

Baptism for Older Children

If you have a child four years of age and older whom you would like to be baptized into the Catholic Faith, our first gathering for parents and children will be Thursday December 13th, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm in the Parish Center beginning with a potluck supper. The plan is to meet monthly (Dec-April) with family catechesis at home between sessions. In accordance with Archdiocesan policy, the norm is for children seven years of age and older to be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith by receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass. Children younger than seven receive the Sacrament of Baptism only at the Easter Vigil or a designated Sunday Mass during the Easter Season. For more information contact Deacon Steve Wodzanowski at steve@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1646.

First Reconciliation Thank You's

Thank you to the many hands that made today possible: our CFF2 Sunday school teachers: Janet Hawkins & Mark Murdoch

Our parish 2nd grade teachers: Grace McLaughlin, Mary Guerra, Kesslie Hollingshead, and Dorothy Ambuske

Reception help: Cristina Murphy and Haley Taylor-Manning

Ushering: Monica Alquist and Stacy Donohue

Childcare: Dawn, Alice, and Shannon

Music by Bob McCaffrey-Lent

And again, our Jesuit priests: **Fr. Jeff McDougall, Fr. Jack O'Leary, Fr. Ignatius "Nach" Ohno, Fr. Pat O'Leary, Fr. Paul Fitterer, Fr. David Anderson & our pastor, Fr. John Whitney**

We loved seeing all the parents, siblings and friends come and support the children this morning. We felt blessed to bear witness to the sacrament of First Reconciliation.

COLLECTION: DECEMBER 2, 2012

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

TOTAL FOR MASSES AND GIFTS MAILED IN: \$ 20,279.00



Sacred Silence

A time for silent prayer and peace

The Sacred Silence prayer group gathers on Monday nights at 7 pm in the Church for an hour of silent prayer. Newcomers always welcome. Open to all types of prayer practice. People are encouraged to use whatever silent prayer practice

works best for them whether it is centering prayer, Ignatian imagination or another prayer. Time is spent both sitting and walking in silence.

For information on Sacred Silence and silent prayer contact Jim Hoover at jhoover3law@qwestoffice.net or 206-286-0313.

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

For Tom to know he is appreciated and valued for his work capabilities . . . For Gene's health assessment to go well . . . For Chris's recovery and well being and for his family . . . In thanksgiving that a fair settlement has been reached . . .

For the Lord's direction in guiding those regarding job and relationships . . . For the house sale to go smoothly . . . For Irene who is in hospice care . . . For 5 year old Lily who has a serious health problem and for her doctors who are trying to make a diagnosis.

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment: love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you for my disciples: your love for one another."

~ John 13: 34-35

Rest in Peace

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers, Sharon Horton and Carrold Burns. Both passed away recently. Mrs. Horton's funeral will be this Tuesday at noon. Mr. Burns memorial will be in the new year.

Prayer Tree





Liturgy & Music

"THE SINGING THING"
WEEKLY REFLECTIONS ON THE MUSIC WE
USE AT ST JOSEPH'S
~ROBERT McCaffery-Lent

Filled with laughter and music!

What characterizes a good day for you? A good day for me is one where, in addition to chocolate at SOME point, there's been a healthy portion of laughter. To come upstairs in the parish center and to hear laughter permeating the halls, or attend a staff meeting where light-hearted moments are sandwiched around the serious stuff helps put a spring in my step and keeps me energized for evening meetings and rehearsals. A favorite Jesuit from my college days in Detroit, Fr. Art McGovern SJ, stated as his motto in our college yearbook: "Take life seriously...just don't take yourself too seriously." I try to practice this and when I do it helps to keep life in balance. I once participated in a retreat where the leader led us in a Buddhist "Laughing Prayer" first thing in the morning where we went outside and tried to throw our heads back in laughter. It didn't work too well for me as, well, it wasn't all that funny to be standing outside in the early morning, cold and shivering. And you can never really plan this but, in my experience, spontaneous laughter in the liturgy is one of the things that really helps to bring our prayer to life in ways that naturally connect us with God and with the spiritual life.

In any case, the psalm for this weekend is psalm 126, and it is the only psalm among the 150 psalms in the bible where I can recall the word "laughter" being used in the refrain. I think Marty Haugen's setting of this psalm does a good job of capturing the spirit of the psalmist. "God has done great things for us; filled us with laughter and music." Psalm 126 prays for the restoration of the Jewish homeland in the first century. The psalmist's song is a joyful plea that God lead the people out of captivity. There is a sense of urgency here: God is to restore the people's fortunes "like the watercourses in the Negeb," namely, suddenly, since during summer the riverbeds are dry until a rain turns them into a sudden torrent of water. This psalm magnificently complements today's first reading from the prophet Baruch who prophesies that the captivity of the Jewish people in Babylon will soon end. The works of the Lord are truly a reason for rejoicing; they are the reason we are *filled with joy*."

As Advent people who approach Christmas we recall God's restorative acts in the past. We recall the testimony of others to God's deliverance in their lives. We recall our own joy. And we know that until the Son of God comes again, we will be in constant and everlasting need of God's continued restoring work in our lives.

Patrick D. Miller, Jr., of the Princeton Theological School says this about psalm 126: *"In a world that assumes the status quo, that things have to be the way they are and that we must not assume too much about improving them, the doxologies of God's people are fundamental indicators that wonders have not ceased, that possibilities not yet dreamt of will happen, and that hope is an authentic stance."*

Hope and laughter...two sides of the same coin. May we have ample helpings of both this Advent season.

Music Ministry: Robert McCaffery-Lent: Rmclent@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1649.

Come Help Us Get St. Joseph Ready for Christmas

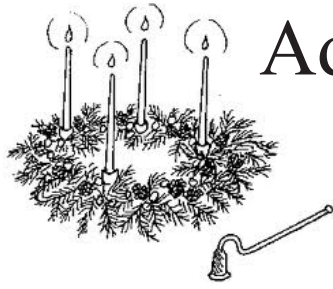
Please join us after the 11:00 am mass on Sunday, December 23rd for cleaning and decorating of the church to prepare for the Christmas liturgies. We will have pizza for lunch and begin with cleaning and set up right after mass and end at about 4:00 pm. Please consider coming for an hour or the entire afternoon. We really need and appreciate our volunteers!

Many hands make light work.

Catholic Singles

Interested in joining an excellent Catholic singles organization? The Catholic Alumni Club International is looking to expand into the Seattle area. We provide a group dedicated to social, cultural, civic and spiritual relationships in a Catholic setting. The Catholic Alumni Club is non-profit, and is volunteer led. For more information, visit meetup.com, <http://www.meetup.com/Catholic-Alumni-Club/> or contact Allen at allenengel@yahoo.com.

Catholic Singles Advent dinner and concert, sponsored by Pacific Northwest Catholic Singles. Dinner Saturday December 15th, 5:00 p.m. on Capital Hill, followed with an Advent concert at St. Joe's. Concert costs \$24.80 at brownpapertickets.com. More on Facebook, Pacific Northwest Catholic Singles.



Advent at St. Joseph

"On the Road to Bethlehem" Saturday, December 15th, 10 am A TIME OF RECONCILIATION & RENEWAL IN ADVENT

This year, in a move to offer the sacrament of Reconciliation within a larger context of prayer, Fr. John will be offering a morning of reflection and renewal--a miniature retreat in the midst of Advent. On Saturday, 15 December 2012, from 10 am until 1:00 pm, members of the Parish are invited to come and pray in the church around the theme of journeying to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph. During this time, confessors will be available and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered continually. Each hour, a brief prayer and scriptural reflection will be presented, with points for prayer. Come for 15 minutes, for an hour, or for the whole morning!

Women's Advent Bible Study

The St. Joseph's Women's Ministry invites you to join in our Advent Bible Study. As the Church prepares to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we will take a closer look at the role Mary, his mother, plays in our salvation history. Bring your bible and learn more about our beloved Mother, the Queen of Heaven, and why Catholics venerate her.

Wednesday at 7 pm in the Parish Center,
December 5th - 19th.

To sign up, or for more information, please contact Kaz Maras at kjmaras@gmail.com or 206.228.2674.

Newcomers still welcome!

ISC Advent Prayer

We are delighted that so many members of St. Joseph's joined us for Tuesday evening's Advent Evening of Prayer with Pat Twohy, SJ and Carla Orlando. In continuing the on-going spirit of graced partnership between the Ignatian Spirituality Center and St. Joseph Parish, we will be offering regular brief reflections and prayers in the Ignatian tradition and vision in the parish bulletin. As just a beginning, we offer:

Standing at the threshold of another Advent
we begin our season of growth and expectation
a time to secret ourselves with Mary, to join our hearts with hers,
and to grow pregnant with God together.
God invites us to a quiet place of reflection and bounty.
This Advent, choose some time for silence.
Make space within yourself to grow large
with the abundance of God's favor.
Make this a time to fill your lungs deeply with God
so that you can breathe Christ into the world.

Thomas Hoffman



Community

Seniors On the Go

- **Tuesday, December 11th** - Afternoon At The Movies: Home Alone, 1 pm in the Parish Center.
- **Thursday, December 13th** - Seniors Monthly Potluck, 6 pm in the Social Hall. Call Mary Ott 206-324-7459 or Dolores Dorn 206-322-2259 for details.

Family Mass & Breakfast Sunday, December 9th



Sunday, December 9th, after the 9:00 am Mass

Parish Pancake Breakfast

Crafts for the Kids

Breakfast will include pancakes, eggs, sausage and fruit; \$15 per family or \$4 per person

There will be no CFF K through Junior High classes that day; this is a CFF1 & 2 Event

Save The Date:

St. Joseph's Marriage Enrichment Weekend
February 1-3, 2013 La Conner Country Inn

Cost \$300 per couple, Partial Scholarships available, register by December 30th with Deacon Steve 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

2013 Planning team: Ginger and Warren Pollock, Sam and Julie Smith, Deborah Justice and Joe Fina, Kathleen Sullivan and Leo Lyons.

Calendar

Mon, Dec 10 Sacred Silence, Church, 7:00 PM

Tue, Dec 11 RCIA, Arrupe Room, 7:00 PM

Wed, Dec 12 Pathfinders, Social Hall, 6:00 PM
Choir Practice, Church, 6:30 PM
The VOICE, Arrupe Room, 7:00 PM

Fri, Dec 14 Eucharist Adoration, Loyola Chapel
Parish Center, 7:30 AM

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Choral Arts, Saturday December 15, 7:30 pm
Christmas with Choral Arts

Join Choral Arts for its signature program for the season. This unique collage concert includes chant, traditional carol settings, unaccompanied choral favorites and new works to create a reflective and uplifting hour of music. This program is an oasis of calm beauty in the midst of a hectic holiday season. Choral Arts will be accompanied by our very own Robert McCaffery Lent on classical guitar.

Come and enjoy an evening of beautiful music!



Community

Alumni Mexico Mission Trek

Magis at Seattle University is excited to announce their newest global immersion program Mexico Mission Trek! A community of sixteen Jesuit-educated alumni will serve side-by-side in a week-long service immersion with a community in Tijuana, Mexico via Esperanza International, a non-profit agency which "cultivates global citizenship through international service experiences in working toward a better world." Alumni of the Mexico Mission Trek will:

- Explore what a faith that does justice means to them, along with social analysis on some of the issues impacting the local community pre-Trek.
- Work together for one week alongside the community in Tijuana in order to bring about a sense of being men and women for and with others.
- Reflect on the experience of service with each other via a post-Trek gathering and retreat.

Application deadline is Thursday, December 20, 2012. Cost for the immersion program is \$525 (includes lodging, transportation, site visits, and meals) plus cost of airfare to/from San Diego. Consider applying with a spouse/partner/immediate family member. For an application, or more information, visit www.seattleu.edu/magis/programs/justice.

2012 St. Joseph's Giving Tree



Thank you for supporting one of our Outreach Partners!

Instructions: GIFTS MUST BE BACK TO THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 16th

1. Please choose an ornament and purchase the requested item.
2. If your item does not indicate whether to wrap the gift or to leave it unwrapped, please leave the gift UNWRAPPED.
3. Please attach the ornament/tag you received to the wrapped/unwrapped gift.
4. Bring your giving tree donations back to the St. Joseph's Giving Tree or the Parish Center. The last day of our collection is Sunday, December 16th.
5. If you have any questions regarding the Giving Tree, please contact Deacon Steve at 965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

Job Opportunity

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace are in need of a part-time administrative assistant at the Peace and Spirituality Center. Responsibilities cover a range of administrative and office support activities including receptionist, general clerical and hospitality. The job is approximately 20 hours per week. For further information or to apply, please contact Sister Carmel Little, Director Peace and Spirituality Center clittle@csjp-olp.org

Stewardship 2013 Pledges Continued

A special thanks to each of you for your charism of our community!

• Thomas & Jill Boehmer • Michael & Mary Dawson • Raymond & Natalie Dearie • Tee Earls & Troy Kaser • Patrick Fennessy & Ann Alokolaro • Ben Gaffney & Stacey Fitzpatrick • Suzanne Grady • Joanne Greeley • Mary Hartrich • Jeannine Jacobson • John & Sheelagh King • Robert & Laura Matthew • Kathleen O'Sullivan & Baird Johnson • John Paul • Elizabeth & Steve Silverberg • Brian Tesson • Marguerite Weibel • Dolores Wright • Jerome Zech

If you haven't already pledged, please do so. You can pledge online at our website www.stjosephparish.org or send in a pledge form to the parish center.



Social Ministry

St. Joseph's Epiphany Dinner

Sunday, January 6th

1 - 4 pm

Parish Social Hall

We will open our doors to anyone in the Community for a shared meal and fellowship. Similar to last year we are reaching out to our "Outreach Partners" such as Recovery Café, St. Martin de Porres Shelter, Chief Seattle Club and Jubilee Women's Center to name a few. We will be providing transportation from several locations downtown. As is our tradition, we invite members of our community to provide cooked turkeys, hams, vegetables, potatoes, beverages, desserts and appetizers. Volunteers needed to do the food prep, cooking, decorating, table hosting and clean-up. Please sign-up after Mass or by calling the parish center at 324-2522 ext 100 or by emailing Deacon Steve at stevew@stjosephparish.org

St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you, St Joseph community, for your generous support of our St. Vincent de Paul Conference! In the month of October we were able to help with \$228 in rent, \$940 in food, \$1343 in utilities, \$360 in clothing, and \$765 in furniture. We had over 50 requests for help from individuals and families in this neighborhood. Because of your donations we were able to stop evictions, keep the electricity on for the elderly and disabled, and put food in the stomachs of many hungry, young children. A special collection for St. Vincent de Paul is held on the first Sunday of every month. All of the money collected goes directly into helping our community!



3rd CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BASKETBALL CLASSIC

A MAJORITY OF PROCEEDS will support Catholic schools in w. Washington
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013, at 3:30 PM KEY ARENA, SEATTLE
SEATTLE U. REDHAWKS vs. U. OF DENVER PIONEERS

TICKETS \$12 each

SU ticket office: 206.296.2835 (mention your school)

Online: fulcrumfoundation.org/basketball

(add \$1 per ticket for online purchases)

Questions? Call
Christen Lambert at
206.219.5811.

Understanding Stewardship & Parish Finances (Part 3)

We continue this week to try to live our pledge of “glass pockets” by answering questions from our community:

What is the difference between the Centennial Fund & the Stewardship Fund? What is the current status of the Centennial Campaign & money it generated?

The first part of this question is simple: all monies given to the Stewardship Fund are for the day-to-day operations of the Parish. They are raised annually, and depend directly upon the members in the pew who pledge or fill the basket.

The Centennial Fund, as with most such capital campaigns, was established separately for specific capital improvements. Done jointly with St. Joseph School, the Centennial Campaign divided all revenue equally: for each dollar raised, half went to the St. Joseph School Endowment for financial aid, and half went to the Parish for the building project (i.e., repair of the stained-glass windows in the nave and sanctuary, renovation of the sanctuary, etc.). In arranging this disbursement, the Parish borrowed money from the School reserves, so as to begin construction immediately, counting on the returns from the campaign to pay back the debt.

Unfortunately, for the first time in the history of St. Joseph Parish, this campaign failed to meet its goal. The severe economic downturn meant that many people could not meet their pledge, and, indeed, meant that some had to move from the Parish to retain employment. What this means for the Parish, is that a significant debt, of over \$500,000.00, remains owed to the School Reserves. As we wind down the Centennial Campaign, in these out-years, it thus becomes even more important to bring in all the money possible that has been pledged, so as to pay down this debt and minimize the problems associated with such debt going forward. Currently, Fr. John is working with the Finance Councils of both the Parish and the School to determine a plan by which the balance of debt may be paid in a cost-effective and practical way—one

that will meet our responsibilities to the School without endangering the necessary ministry of the Parish. It is important, as a matter of justice, that this debt be paid and important, as a matter of our well-being, that the cost of servicing the debt not undercut the Parish. When this plan is formulated, it will be shared with the community.

How does St. Joseph Parish compare to other Parishes in terms of cost and budget?

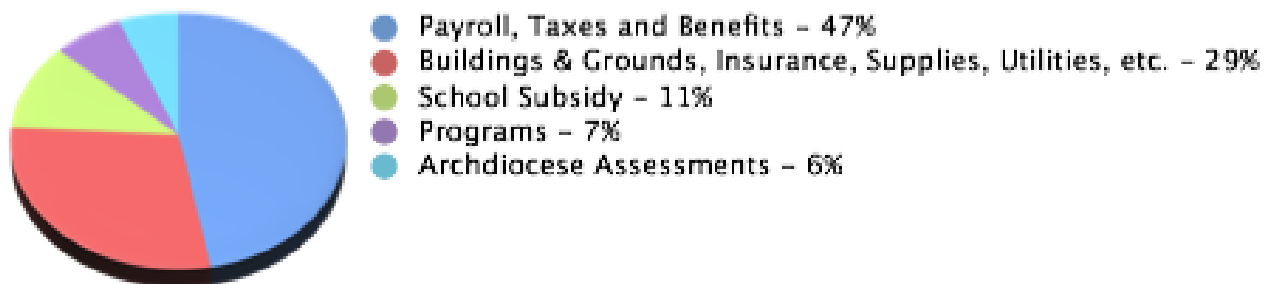
Last year, Parish expenses amounted to \$1.78 million, resulting in a \$41,000 shortfall. This may seem like a sign of the profligacy of the Parish, but our costs (*excluding the School, which has its own accounts*) break down in this way: **(see below for graph)**

Far from extravagant, St. Joseph Parish runs as close to the bone as one can for an operation of its size. While the average salary & benefits cost in the Seattle Archdiocese is 53.5% of budget, St. Joseph's is a trim 47%. Our staffing levels are lean for the ministries we offer, with only four staff members overseeing more than 60 ongoing ministries—as well as weekly and daily liturgies, funerals, weddings, spiritual direction & counseling, retreats, 15 outreach partnerships, 5 annual community events, a wonderful website, etc. (hopefully, you know at least some of the great things the staff does).

When you give to the Stewardship Fund, you support all of these programs, and events as diverse as Sacramental Preparation, Children's Faith Formation, RCIA, the Parish Picnic, Marriage Enrichment, St. Francis House, Funeral Hospitality, etc. Though Fr. John says he is “cheap in everything but those things that serve the mission,” he and all those at St. Joseph try to be the stewards you would have us be.

If you have questions about the finances of St. Joseph Parish that you would like to have answered, send them to Jennifer Olegario at jenno@stjosephparish.org

Have You Pledged Yet? Every Dollar Counts!
We especially welcome first-time donors.



The Second Week of Advent: Prepare the Way of the Lord

*It is no use saying that we are born two-thousand years too late to give room to Christ.
Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late.
Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.*

*But now it is with the voice of our contemporaries that he speaks, with the eyes of store clerks, factory workers,
& children that he gazes; with the hands of office workers, slum dwellers, & suburban housewives that he gives.
It is with the feet of soldiers & tramps that he walks, & with the heart of anyone in need
that he longs for shelter.*

-Dorothy Day, Room for Christ-

An Examination of Consciousness for the Second Week of Advent

- TAKE 5 DEEP BREATHS: INHALE SAYING, "Come." EXHALE SAYING, "Jesus."
- EXAMINE YOUR LIFE AT THIS MOMENT:

- *What have I prepared for the Lord? A stable? My own room? My heart?*
- *How may I welcome the Lord in others & in myself?*
What fears, hurts, anxieties keep me from preparing the way?

- ASK FOR YOUR DESIRE: **A SPIRIT PREPARING FOR GOD**

*Gentle God, help me to hear the voice of your herald;
that I might prepare myself & my community for the coming of Jesus.
May I see you in my neighbor & hear your footsteps in the quiet of my heart.
May I open my home, my heart, my whole being to your grace.
Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.*

