

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 22, 2013

Homily Next Week:
Father John D. Whitney, S.J.

Readings for December 29, 2013

FIRST READING: SIRACH 3:2-6, 12-14

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-15, 19-23

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5 pm

Sunday - 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday, 7 am, Parish Center

Reconciliation

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

Parish Center Hours

Monday-Thursday - 8 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday - 9 am - 1 pm

www.stjosephparish.org

Parish Receptionist (206) 324-2522

Pastor

Rev. John D. Whitney, S.J. x107
jwhitney@stjosephparish.org

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Glen Butterworth, S. J. x103
gbutterworth@stjosephparish.org

Deacon/Pastoral Associate

Steve Wodzanowski x106
stevew@stjosephparish.org

Pastoral Staff:

Dottie Farewell, Dir. Religious Ed. x112
dfarewell@stjosephparish.org

Rebecca Frisino, Business Mgr x108
rebeccaf@stjosephparish.org

Tina O'Brien, Development Mgr x114
tinao@stjosephparish.org

Renée Leet, Admin Assistant x100
rleet@stjosephparish.org

Bob McCaffery-Lent, Liturgy & Music x109
rmclent@stjosephparish.org

Caprice Sauter, Administration x102
caprices@stjosephparish.org

John Stuntebeck, Organist/Pianist x105
jstuntebeck@stjosephparish.org

Yuri Kondratyuk, Facilities x110

St. Joseph School

Main Office x210
 Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218
 Rick Boyle, Academic VP x215
 Kris Brown, Vice Principal x216

St. Joseph Holiday Schedule



**Christmas Eve &
 Christmas Day**

Tuesday, 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

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 am, Mass in the Morning

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31

7:00 pm, Benediction & Exposition of the
 Blessed Sacrament, ending at Midnight

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1

10:00 am, Mass, Solemnity of Mary,
 The Holy Mother Of God



**2014 Stewardship
 Fund**

As of December 18, 2013

Amount Pledged: \$1,070,823.00

Goal: \$1,500,000.00

Mary's Christmas

We know the look: eyes slightly downcast, a look of resignation and peace upon her face, the hands folded or reaching out in maternal blessing, and the blue mantle draping her alabaster face. Sometimes, of course, there are variations: her eyes gaze up at the descending Spirit, or her hand holds a book--as in many paintings of the Annunciation--or, in a few cases, she wears something other than the blue mantle (though, thanks to the Renaissance, that color remains signatory of her); yet, almost always, there is the alabaster skin and the look of otherworldly calm. Even today, though we have all seen images of the Virgin of Guadalupe or the African Madonna, we likely imagine these to be culturally sensitive interpretations; yet, when we think of Mary, how often, it seems, we go back to the barefoot European maiden, either standing in the clouds upon the half-moon (i.e., the symbol of Islam) or with her foot upon the neck of the serpent. Though, intellectually, we may know better, these images are deep in our cultural history and collective psyche--symbols to us of purity and of the gentle (if, perhaps, a bit distant) love of our heavenly mother.

These were certainly the images of Mary that shaped me throughout my childhood, and left me with a sense of love for her that was dutiful, but not particularly warm. It was only in my 20's, during my long retreat as a novice, that all of this changed for me, as God opened my heart to a new vision of Mary--one freed from the plaster and paint of popular sanctity and filled, instead, with the courage and joy of a living woman.

Imagine the scene: not the wood-paneled Renaissance study, but a stone and clay house, the kind seen in those news reports of the Middle East. The roof is thatched, over rough wooden beams, and a small fire burns in the corner. At the rough-hewn table stands a young woman--perhaps 15 years old--dressed in dark colors, her hair bound under a black cloth and her sleeves rolled up as she kneads the dough for the day's bread. She is not tall, and her skin is olive, her hair black where it pokes out from beneath her kerchief. The kitchen, its dirt floor swept clean, smells of smoke from the fire, and from the few animals housed nearby. The girl, perspiration glistening on her forehead, is humming when the tall foreigner comes to her door and, looking in, greets her: *"Hail, Mary! Most highly favored one!"* To have a foreigner, and a man, speak to her with none of her relatives around, and to speak so strangely (she hardly looks worthy of the greeting) must have embarrassed and perhaps frightened her. This is, after all, an occupied land--she had seen the soldiers who march through on their way to Jerusalem--and she had learned to divert her eyes when watched by strangers and merchants. But now, at her own door, comes this odd stranger. How does she respond? What is in her heart that gives her the courage?

It is, I believe, a woman like this--common, poor, joyful in her daily life, and with a courage both unimaginable and ordinary to so many in our world--who says "yes" to that visitor. "Yes," she will accept what God brings to her (though it makes little sense, as she hears it); "yes," she will become a mother; "yes," she will surrender to whatever comes her way--surrender not from weakness, but from love. Yes. Yes. Yes. Such is the person she is, and such is the way she lives and will live, even when the troubles come; even in the frigid shelter of that stable, where blood and hay, pain and joy mix in the miraculous moment of her son's birth; even in the sweltering horror of that afternoon, when blood and tears mark the ending of her son's life. By then, of course, her olive skin was already carved by wrinkles and the hair, once raven black, was streaked with the coming gray. Yet, still, she lived her "yes" with the fidelity of her people--not as one supernaturally detached, but as one who had chosen, each day, to be the person she was called to be.

This is the Mary I have come to know, the Mary I have come to love. And while I still appreciate the many images that bear her name, it is this Mary--the small Jewish girl with the fearless heart--that draws me closer to her Son, in whose humanity my humanity is redeemed.

In this holy season, perhaps we would all do well to realize that what we celebrate is not a lovely myth, painted in the colors of our own imaginings, but something far more wondrous: a revelation written in the flesh and blood of real people--women and men moved by the same passions and fears that our own hearts know so well. It was not in plaster perfection that God came among us, but in the warm flesh of our own humanity. When you hold your child's hand or embrace your aging mother, when you see the eyes of the stranger on the street or comb the graying hair from your own forehead, when you hear the choir's voices raised in exultation or the giggle of the children two rows up, when you taste



the salt of tears or the kiss of your beloved, may you know the grace of this great Incarnation, and say a prayer of thanks to Mary, our sister and our guide, who bore a son like any other, but who was also God.

May you have a blessed and joyous Christmas! And may our whole world come to live in the humanity of Christ, our Lord!

John



Stewardship

We Care for St. Joseph Stewardship Update

Many, many thanks to all who have made gifts and pledges thus far. To date, we have received **564 pledges totaling \$1,070,823.00**. We are endlessly grateful for your care of and commitment to St. Joseph Parish!

This week, we are especially thankful for our many parishioners who support St. Joseph Parish through electronic fund transfers (EFT). Your consistent support throughout the year is a great blessing to our community.

Peter Alspach, Steve & LeAna Alvarado-Smith, Peggy Aman, Jon Ellis & Vicki Anderson, Sandy & Joel Aslanian, Remigijus Audejaitis & Jurate Audejaitiene • Teresa Balkenende & Traci Adair, Timothy & Allison Barnes, Paul & Colleen Battaglia, Richard & Madeline Bersamina, EJ & Jeremy Blanchfield, Scott & Juliane Blankenship, Kirk & Kim Boys, Ben Brawner, Sean & Gretchen Brennan, Jeff & Winnie Brinker, Marshall Bugge, Michael & Joanne Burgess • Caitlin Cable, Bridget Carr, Bob & Maureen Cartano, Ken Chapman & Denyse McFadden, David Christensen & Glen Felias-Christensen, Philip Chen & Grace Cinciripini, Elizabeth Cline, Morgan & Elizabeth Cole, Dolores Colobong, Christa Colouzis, Ryan Connolly & Sarah Volpone, Maureen Coulton, Terrence Cronin • Marilyn Dennehy, Steve Donaldson & Carol Donahue Donaldson, Richard & Martha Draves, James & Janet Dwyer, Curt & Olga Dyckman • Christian & Amy Eberhardt, David & Diana Einmo, Jason & Carly Elrod, Ricky & Maria Eng, Siobain & Jim Eschweiler, Robert & Nancy Evanson, Aaron & Kymberly Evanson • Tom & Kathy Fawthrop, Vince & Amber Ferrese, David & Gabrielle Fitzgerald, Mike & Renee Fitzgerald, Sean & Jamie Flynn, Keith Forslund & Laurie Breidenbach-Forslund, John & Michele Frech, Paul & Mary Freiburger, Rebecca Frisino, Kathryn Fritsch • Michelle Garrison, Dawn & Domingo Gomez, Gary Graf, Matthew & Carrie Graham, Joanne Greeley, Michelle Grevson, Kristine Griffin, Lori Lopez Guzzo • George & Mary Ellen Haddad, Connor Haffey, Edgar Haimerl & Annette Rembold, Adam Hall & Ellen Austin Hall, Mark & Lynn Harmann, Russ & Katherine Hatfield, Catherine Hawes, Michael Heavey, Frank & Diana Hefernan, David & Yolanda Hein, Matthew & Sarah Hipps,

Kris & Kesslie Hollingshead, Jim & Kathryn Hood, Jim & Rosalie Hopper, Steve Dietz & Mary Beth Hribar, Douglas & Merilee Hudson, Thomas & Charlene Hutchinson • Steven Jager, Nabil & Layla Jammal, Peter & Adrianna Johnson, Peter & Carol Johnson, Vickie Johnson • Isaac Wallick & Julia Keller, Patrick & Melissa Kennedy, Chris & Dana Kenny, Kurt & Kelly Keydel, Walter & Hilda Kicinski, Dr Henriette Anne & Katherine Klauser, Kenneth Klein, Angela Kleinsasser, Kelan & Elizabeth Koenig, Mimi Krsak, William & Katherine Kuder, Tom & Cyn-di Kuder • Peter Lam & Ann Wright, Kathleen Larsen, Christopher & Donna Larsen, Tricia Lawrence, Renee Leet, Greg Lindhorst & Zoe Barsness, Suzanne Long • Brett & Meghan MacIntyre, Dan & Jolynn Maddela, Michael & Barbara Maher, John & Deborah Marchione, Darcy Marlow, Mathew & Kelly Martineau, Renato & Ana Martins, Robert & Eileen McCaffery-Lent, Brooks & Kelly McMahon, Paul & Darlene McTaggart, Terrence Menage, Richard & Lisa Menti, Bill & Barbara Miner, Bradley Miner & Sharon Evans, Tyler & Maureen Mintkeski, Marc & Julia Mirucki, April Moody, George Moore, Thomas & Janet Morton, Paul & Bente Mullally, Matthew & Cristina Murphy, Sean & Francine Murray, • James & Patricia Navone, Dan & Kathy Neuzil, Barbara Nordin, Angela Nucci, Michele Nucci • Steve & Michelle Oaksmith, Blaine O'Kelley, Eric & Megan Olendorf, Julie Olsen • Ronald & Elizabeth Pauldine, Frederick & Michele Paulsell, Douglas & Carla Peterson, John & Jeanna Peterson, Tom & Beth Peterson, Cole & Maia Peterson, John Phillips & Anne O'Donnell, Nathan Pollock, Joy Portella & Mark Firmani, Anka Pritchard • Shane Rai, Rasa Raisys & Steve Liffick, Janet Rasey-Jackson, Tim & Kathy Reilly, Glen & Elizabeth Rogers, Michael & Jennifer Rothmeyer, David Rothrock & Kirsten Johnson, Caitlin Roulston, Conchita Ruess • Wolf & Leilani Saar, Peter & Amy Sajer, Lester & Mary Ann Sauvage, William Sauvage, Blair & Janice Savidge, Beth Sayers, Mark & Amy Scheer, Bruce & Lisa Schoolfield, Thad & Tricia Scott, Michael & Debora Scott, John & Jacqueline Scumniotales, Todd & Marni Seneker, Henry Seurer & Anne Kelly, Leonida Shaginaw, David & Molly Shearer, Gerard Sidorowkz & Nancy Dombrowski, John & Frances Smersh, Glen & Margaret Snyder, Sandip & Carrie Soli, Earl & Alice Spangler, Stuart & Patty Spencer, Jerrod & Erika Stafford, Robert & Bernadette Starin, Steve Doub & Ranleigh Starling, Bob & Peggy Stevens, Colleen Stevens, Brion & Kristin Stone, Helen Sullivan & Tim Brown, John & Jean Sullivan, Earl & Nancy Sutherland, Carl Swanson • Brian Tesson, Patricia Thomas, Robert & Laura Thompson, Angela Thompson,



Stewardship

Sean Walsh & Julie Tilghman, Matthew & Jennifer Tilghman-Havens • Jane Urner, Darryn & Camille Urueta • Keri Vander Heyden & Kerry Hegedus, Steve & Lisa Visintainer, Leslie Vogl • Arthur Wahl, Scott & Mimi Warner, Robert & Joan Weis, Edward Welch, Richard & Susan Wells, Torsten & Samantha Welte, Jeff & Jodie Wise, Chuck & Jean Woletz, Nicholas & Ellen Woodbridge, Peter & Melinda Wooding, Frank Woodruff & Jan Agosti • Troy & Moya Zaboukos, Joe & Marianne Zech

Haven't Made Your 2014 Pledge Yet?

Affirm your active membership in St. Joseph Parish! Submit a pledge envelope, call, email, fax, or pledge online. Your pledge of prayer is enough for us; just let us know you're still with us! Many thanks...

We ask each and every Parish family to complete a pledge envelope, whether or not you are able to make a financial gift. Your affirmation of membership and pledge of prayers is enough for us but we want to know that you join us in this gracious and holy work.

Please, if you haven't done so already, take a close look at our annual report, ask any questions you may have about our strategic plan or finances, and prayerfully consider what gift-- if any-- you may be able to pledge to our parish in the coming year. Together, we stand united, Ignited by the Eucharist to love and serve. And in doing so become what Pope Francis calls the Church to be: a home for all people, not a chapel for a selected few.

Reduce Your 2013 Taxes: Did you know that you can reduce your taxes for 2013 by making a gift to St. Joseph Parish?

Extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover

The fiscal cliff act passed on January 1, 2013, includes several important provisions that allow you to support the causes you believe in using your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 to St. Joseph Parish from your IRA. The amount you give can meet your annual distribution requirement. By making an IRA charitable rollover gift, you are able to lower your income and taxes for this year while supporting the mission of our Parish.

How to Make an IRA Rollover Gift in 2013

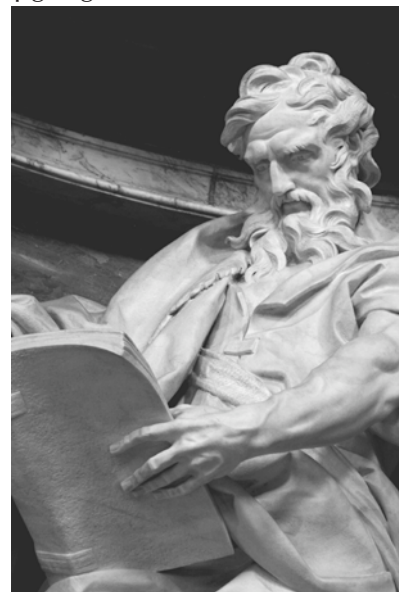
Contact your IRA custodian to make a gift from your IRA for 2013. The IRS will treat the amount of the cash gift as if you had made a direct rollover to charity and you can then avoid federal tax on the amount of the gift.

For more information

To learn more about how you can redirect excess IRA income to support St. Joseph Parish, please contact Tina O'Brien, Pastoral Assistant for Stewardship and Development at (206) 965-1654 or tinao@stjosephparish.org or visit the Seattle Archdiocese planned giving website at <http://www.seattlearchpg.org>

Thank you for all you do to support the work of St. Joseph Parish!

***St. Matthew,
Patron Saint
of Tax Collectors***





Community

St. Joseph's Epiphany Dinner

Sunday, January 5th

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 are 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 Renee Leet at rleet@stjosephparish.org

Updated: We especially need table hosts to sit with our guests and make them feel welcome at our dinner, this is an incredibly important part of our Epiphany dinner! We also need at least 6 women to volunteer to transport food and eat with residents of Jubilee Women's Center. Food needed hams, turkeys, rolls & veggies!

Please consider helping with this amazing event!



Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center Young Adult Interfaith Conference

January 12th, 2014 1:30-6pm

St. Marks Cathedral, Seattle

If you're in your 20s/30s and have a dream for our world, you do not want to miss this conference! Come together with people of diverse faiths to build an interfaith community; experience and share faiths and traditions; network for the common good; and create interfaith action for a better world.

Cost \$12, scholarships available. More information at www.ipjc.org

Get ready for: Bishop Blanchet High School's "Big Band Bash"

It's a blast and supports the jazz programs!

Saturday January 25, 2014

Live Music and Dancing, Jazz Band & Choir Performances, Buffet Dinner

\$25 Adults

\$5 Students

Reserve your seats or table soon so you don't miss out.

Order online <http://www.bishopblanchet.org/bigband-bash.php> or call Elaine at 206-932-5213 for info.



Prayer

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

For the health of Danny's Uncle Charlie . . . For Elizabeth, a young mother, who is in critical care, we pray for her healing and recovery . . . For the intentions we hold close in our thoughts and hearts . . .

For the police, firemen and social service workers as they help others . . . For those who are feeling lonely may they find comfort now and beyond this season of good will and peace . . . Happy 92nd birthday to Lee Kapfer, S.J. – his presence at St. Joseph Parish was a gift to all of us.

Prayer Tree



*"I love you, Yahweh, my strength . . .
You, yourself, are my lamp.
My God lights up my darkness."*

~ Psalm 18: 1, 28

Day of Contemplative Prayer

Saturday, January 18, 2014 from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
at St. Mary-on-the-Lake Chapel, 1663 Killarney Way,
Bellevue, WA 98004

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 Diane Figaro at 425-635-3603 or e-mail peace@csjp-olp.org

Peace Days for Women

Wednesday, January 15, 2014
from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

St. Mary-on-the-Lake Peace and Spirituality Center,
1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue, WA 98004

Free-will offering. Bring a sack lunch, coffee and tea provided. We encourage you to carpool. To register or for more information contact Diane Figaro at 425-635-3603 or e-mail peace@csjp-olp.org



Prayer Shawl Ministry

*Shawls ... made for centuries
universal and embracing,
symbolic of an inclusive,
unconditionally loving, God.
They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover,
give solace, mother, hug, shelter and
beautify.*

*Those who have received these shawls
have been uplifted and affirmed,
as if given wings to fly above their troubles*

Prayer Shawl Ministry up and running

On November 7th and December 5th we gathered in the Arupe room for our first two prayer shawl meetings. Father John prayed with us about the importance of our work in making prayer shawls for those in need of healing. After prayer, refreshments and conversation, we set about knitting our shawls and enjoying getting to know one another better. Our next gathering will be Thursday, January 9th in the parish center. The plan is to meet the first Thursday of each month unless holidays/vacation times conflict. Please consider joining at any time if you are interested. As a few are doing, if you cannot attend the gatherings, you are more than welcome to work on a shawl at home. When the shawls are finished, they will be blessed by Father John and given to someone in need. If you have any questions and or need help getting started on a shawl, please contact Jennifer Rothmeyer at jenniferrothmeyer@hotmail.com

Yarn donations needed- If you would like to donate yarn towards this effort it would be greatly appreciated. Worsted and bulky yarns are best and yarn that can be washed. Please drop donations at the parish center. Thank you.

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 in **January**. Please email Deacon Steve if you would like more information stevev@stjosephparish.org



Social Ministry



Puget Sound Blood Center

blood services | medicine | research

Dear St Joseph's blood donors,

Thank you to those of you who took time out of your busy December schedules to donate blood last week. We registered a total of 29 donors, and we were able to collect 24 units of blood, which means that up to 73 local patients will benefit from your collective generosity! Just this morning, we received an 'above average usage report' about a 45 year-old man who underwent Open Heart Surgery last night. In the last 12 hours or so, he's received 35 units of red blood cells, 38 units of plasma and 14 units of platelets. Given such a large order, it's very likely he received AB Positive Blood from those AB donors who gave last week. That's definitely something to feel great about going into the holidays!

I also want to thank everyone who has donated blood at St Joseph's in the past year- especially those of you who joined the community as a first time donor. In 2013, we registered a total of 199 donors with 157 units of blood collected; this means... the lives of almost 500 patients in Western Washington have been positively impacted through the compassion and generosity of St Joseph's donors in the past year!

What a gift you have given- you gave complete strangers the ability to move forward and experience all the new year has to offer, and the opportunity to be alive with family, friends and loved ones this holiday season. That is truly special.

I just can't thank you all enough- we really cannot accomplish our mission of saving lives without you. Special thanks to Beth & Tommy Newman, Dan Tobin, Renee Leet, Caprice Sauter, Joan McNabb, Dottie Farewell and the Pathfinders Youth group for the continued support. And to the amazing talent behind the lemon bars that seem to show up every blood drive- I don't know who you are, but I appreciate your contribution! Our next blood drive, to kick off 2014, will be on Monday, February 17th! A full list of the 2014 dates is below. Mark your calendars! See you next year!

2014 Boon Drive Dates

- Monday, Feb 17th
- Monday, April 14th
- Monday, June 16th
- Monday, Aug 18th
- Monday, Oct 20th
- Monday, Dec 15th

Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season,

~Krista

St. Joseph School Youth Choir

Students in grades 4 - 6 are invited to join the St. Joseph School Youth Choir. We meet on Wednesday afternoons in the primary music room. Rehearsals are from 3:15 - 4:15, with supervised snack time and "down" time from 2:45 - 3:15. We will prepare a variety of music for a concert in March, and will sing at a St. Joseph Parish Mass in February. Please contact Betsy Baeskens Giri at bbaeskens@stjosephsea.org for details.



St. Joseph Parish Couple's Retreat

January 31-February 2, 2014 at LaConner Channel Inn

"Pack Your Bag With the Essentials for Your Life Together"

Cost \$300 (plus \$70 for dinner per couple Saturday evening) Contact Deacon Steve Wodzanowski: stevew@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1646.

Seniors On the Go

- **Friday, January 10th** - Healing Mass, 11:30 am, with lunch following in the Parish Center (**Note Date Change**)



Pope - ourri

An Excerpt From The Homily of Pope Francis On A Pastoral Visit To The Roman Parish Of St. Cyril Of Alexandria

The most important thing that can happen to a person is to meet Jesus: this encounter with Jesus who loves us, who has saved us, who has given his life for us. Encounter Jesus. And we are journeying in order to meet Jesus.

We could ask ourselves this question: But when do I meet Jesus? Only at the end? No, no! We meet him every day. How? In prayer, when you pray, you meet Jesus. When you receive Communion, you meet Jesus in the Sacraments. When you bring your child to be baptized, you meet Jesus, you find Jesus. And today, you who are receiving Confirmation, you too will encounter Jesus; then you will meet him in Communion. "And then, Father, after Confirmation, goodbye?", because they say that Confirmation is called "the sacrament of goodbye". Is this true or not? After Confirmation you never go back to Church: true or false? ... so, so! However, after Confirmation even, our whole life is an encounter with Jesus: in prayer, when we go to Mass, and when we do good works, when we visit the sick, when we help the poor, when we think of others, when we are not selfish, when we are loving... in these things we always meet Jesus. And the journey of life is precisely this: journeying in order to meet Jesus.

And today, it is also a joy for me to come and visit you, because today in the Mass we shall all meet Jesus, and we will walk a portion of the journey together.

Always remember this: life is a journey. It is a path, a journey to meet Jesus. At the end, and forever. A journey in which we do not encounter Jesus is not a Christian journey. It is for the Christian to continually encounter Jesus, to watch him, to let himself be watched over by Jesus, because Jesus watches us with love; he loves us so much, he loves us so much and he is always watching over us. To encounter Jesus also means allowing oneself to be gazed upon by him. "But, Father, you know," one of you might say to me, "you know that this journey is horrible for me, I am such a sinner, I have committed many sins... how can I encounter Jesus?". And you know that the people whom Jesus most sought out were the

greatest sinners; and they reproached him for this, and the people — those who believed themselves righteous — would say: this is no true prophet, look what lovely company he keeps! He was with sinners... And he said: I came for those in need of salvation, in need of healing. Jesus heals our sins. And along the way Jesus comes and forgives us — all of us sinners, we are all sinners — even when we make a mistake, when we commit a sin, when we sin. And this forgiveness that we receive in Confession is an encounter with Jesus. We always encounter Jesus.

So let us go forward in life like this, as the Prophet says, to the mountain, until the day when we shall attain the final encounter, when we will be able to look upon the beautiful gaze of Jesus, it is so beautiful. This is the Christian life: to walk, to go forward, united as brothers and sisters, loving one another. Encounter Jesus. Do you agree, the nine of you? Do you want to meet Jesus in your lives? Yes? This is important in the Christian life. Today, with the seal of the Holy Spirit, you will have greater strength for the journey, for the encounter with Jesus. Take courage, do not be afraid! Life is this journey. And the most beautiful gift is to meet Jesus. Go forward, be brave!





Liturgy & Music



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

Christmas and Easter are the two great lynchpins of the liturgical year for Catholics. In the Roman tradition Easter is a moveable feast and is always the first Sunday following the full moon (the Paschal full moon) after the vernal equinox. Since Christmas, on the other hand, is a fixed date: (Dec. 25th) it moves around during the week. This year it is on a Wednesday, giving us ample time to decorate the church, have final rehearsals for musicians, lectors, etc.

Advent is far and away the shortest liturgical season. Given that there is so much wonderful Advent music it can be a challenge to program all of it so that it remains part of our collective memory of the season. Nothing says "Advent" more than the ancient hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Veni Emmanuel) which we sing this weekend. The text is from the 8th century and the music from a 15th century French processional. The original Latin was translated into English by John Mason Neale in the mid nineteenth century. The verses for this song are based on the "O Antiphons" a series of antiphons taken from Vespers (evening prayer) during the last days of the Advent season. Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. They are:

- December 17: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)
- December 18: O Adonai (O Lord)
- December 19: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)
- December 20: O Clavis David (O Key of David)
- December 21: O Oriens (O Dayspring)
- December 22: O Rex Gentium (O King of the nations)
- December 23: O Emmanuel (O God is with Us)

A second ancient piece of music that marks the season is "Creator of the Stars of Night" (Conditor Alme Siderum) with a text from the 8th century and music from the 9th century also translated into English by John M. Neale. In order to fit models of classical Latin poetry, Pope Urban VIII revised a number of hymns in the Roman Breviary in 1632. The hymns for Advent, in particular, were extensively revised to fit classical meters.

Last weekend we sang a rollicking Advent carol, *O Come Divine Messiah*, which may be somewhat unfamiliar to us but which has been quite popular in the Canadian church. And this weekend we close with one of the most popular Advent hymns in recent years, *People Look East*. It was written by Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) and was first published as "Carol of Advent" in Part 3 of "Modern Texts Written for or Adapted to Traditional Tunes" in *The Oxford Book of Carols*, 1928. Farjeon, a native of London, was a devout Catholic who viewed her faith as "a progression toward which her spiritual life moved rather than a conversion experience." She achieved acclaim as an author of children's nursery rhymes and singing games, and is best remembered for her poem "Morning Has Broken." The tune, BESANÇON, is an ancient carol and first appeared in *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871, as the setting for "Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep," and was titled CHANTONS, BARGIÉS, NOUÉ, NOUÉ. May all these songs inspire and help us to lift our very own beautiful voice in joyful song!

Comments? Questions? Contact me at Rmclent@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1649.

Robert McCaffery-Lent
Minister of Music




Thank you St. Joseph's Parish:
Save 15%
Platinum + Gold tickets
with coupon code "StJoseph"
cappellaromana.org



JANUARY 2014 CAPPPELLA ROMANA PRESENTS

ARCTIC LIGHT

FINNISH ORTHODOX
CHORAL WORKS

TIMO NUORANNE guest dir. (HELSINKI)

8pm, Saturday, January 18, 2014
St. Joseph's Parish 732 18th Ave E

For its début at St. Joseph's parish, Cappella Romana presents a sumptuous program, which sold out in 2008, of music from the Finnish Orthodox Church. This music marries the shining Northern clarity of sound with a sonic richness clearly linked to the traditions of Russian choral singing.

Free pre-concert talk one hour prior to the performance.

Also in Portland Jan. 17
WITH CD PRE-RELEASE!

TICKETS START AT \$25








cappellaromana.org
503-236-8202 or 800-494-8496

St. Vincent de Paul

It is in the giving that we receive and this is no more so than in the gift of the baby Jesus. The gift of life, the gift of faith that we can receive eternal life through the Son of God anchors our celebration of Christmas.

So it is at the heart of this Christmas season that giving and receiving go hand in hand and this is also the core of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's mission: to pass on your donations to those most in need. The image of Mary and Joseph in a manger, with their new baby boy, is enriched by the arrival of the magi, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The material gifts from the three kings on one level represent caring for the needy.

There is an aspect of dignity to this part of the Christmas story. The kings, or members of a governing class, traveling from afar to demonstrate their respect for a poor boy, the One who would become known as the Son of God. This is the standard of conduct expected of the volunteers of the St. Vincent de Paul Society when we visit those who ask for our help. It is a standard we do our best to emulate: respecting those who are poor, both in material goods and often in spirit, when we meet with them and listen to their stories.

We never learn how Mary and Joseph may have used the gifts of the magi. But we can report that your donations go for food, clothing, keeping the lights on, providing heat against the cold and, sometimes, getting the water turned back on.

