

*FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY AND JOSEPH
December 29, 2013*

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

Readings for January 5, 2014

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:2-3A, 5-6

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

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

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St. Joseph School

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

St. Joseph Holiday Schedule



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 23, 2013

Amount Pledged: \$1,087,793.00
Goal: \$1,500,000.00

At the Service of Love

Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others. Under no circumstance can this invitation be obscured! All of the virtues are at the service of this response of love. If this invitation does not radiate forcefully and attractively, the edifice of the Church's moral teaching risks becoming a house of cards, and this is our greatest risk. It would mean that it is not the Gospel which is being preached, but certain doctrinal or moral points based on specific ideological options. The message will run the risk of losing its freshness and will cease to have "the fragrance of the Gospel"

-Pope Francis-

*Standing among the ruins, the horror-struck conqueror exclaimed:
"Why do they have to attempt to refuse me my destiny? Why?"*

-W.H. Auden-

Fr. Gary Smith, S.J.—known to many in St. Joseph for his books, *Radical Compassion* and *They Come Back Singing*—returned this last year to Africa and to the work of Jesuit Refugee Services, where he had been for several years. He had originally joined JRS in his mid-60's, after years of working with men and women on the streets of Tacoma and Portland. He wanted, he said, to be with people even more on the edge, and so answered a call to serve with the refugees of Sudan, first in Rhino Camp and later in northern Uganda, along the Nile. After returning from another tour with JRS—this time in South Africa among those fleeing the persecutions of Zimbabwe—Gary had anticipated remaining in the United States, since he had struggled with health concerns and was now nearing 75. But, soon, the desire to serve led him back to Africa, and last year he was sent, with JRS, to the newly formed (and deeply challenged) nation of South Sudan. Loving the people, which has always been the center of his ministry, Gary soon immersed himself in the life of Juba (the city where he was living), having occasional contact with another Northwest Jesuit, Fr. Mike Schultheis, who was working in the same city helping the local Church to establish a university.

This week, however, Gary sent this message to his Jesuit brothers in the United States: *As you know the mess in South Sudan continues. There were nights of shooting and killing. I did not sleep much. I was going to stay but, on Friday, the chancellor of the University, Mathew Taban, a South Sudanese priest, good man, thought it would be best if I left on the final evacuation plane provided by the American Embassy. He thought things would get worse and the airport might be closed indefinitely. And where I lived would be vulnerable. He would worry. So I write this from Nairobi, with the Jesuit community, somewhat beaten up but okay. The trip out of the Juba airport would*

be worth another book. I will wait it out during the holidays and see what happens.

As we move towards the end of this year, well into the third millennium of the Christian era, we might do well to pause for a moment and see the world. But, for a change, not through the eyes of great leaders or great villains, not through the lens of Presidents or Bishops, of terrorists or political operatives, not through the interpretations of Fox News or MSNBC. See it through the eyes and heart of one disciple, driven into exile by yet another civil war, hoping only to return to the people who have his heart and to the mission of Christ that draws him to love them and to bring them the love that is their birthright. For this is the, indeed, the call of the Church today—our call, given us in the words and actions of Pope Francis and in the grace of the Spirit that rises up from the places of oppression and war, violence and anguish, alienation and anxiety. It is a call that rejects the old dichotomies and the egoistic divisions, that rejects the ideological hatred fueled by deformed religiosity and unreflective legalism. The call of the Church today stands opposed to the crushing injustice and violence built on the lies of national security and economic inevitability. It is a call, empowered by the Holy Spirit, which proclaims that tomorrow need not be what yesterday has been, but can be something new, *if we choose to make it so.*

It is easy to believe that change is impossible: that we are doomed to live in a world marked by loneliness and war, by hatred and empty-hearted moralizing, by a God who is distant and slow in coming. Yet, in the teaching of Pope Francis (whose election, itself, seems an intrusion of the Holy Spirit into our year), we are reminded again of the foundational message of Christ. A message of love unfolding in new ways and of God's absolute and irrevocable choice to love us. This is a message that overwhelms the clericalism and legalism of Church bureaucrats, the message that undoes the plundering greed of those who trade in human misery. This is the message that opens the gates for those to whom fear has become a prison and a political posture; that nurtures the heart with hope, and strengthens the back for service.

Let us, therefore, close 2013 aware that our world is broken in many ways, but convinced that it is redeemed in even more. Today we may sit with Gary Smith, as exiles for the sake of the kingdom, but let us *"wait it out during the holidays and see what happens."* With God's grace, with our courage, with the example of the old and the energy of the young, with the fullness of love as our inheritance, let us be confident and filled with hope. **God is making all things new!** In 2014, may God, through us, change the world.





Stewardship

We Care for St. Joseph Stewardship Update

We once again express our unending gratitude to parishioners and friends who have pledged financial gifts and/or prayers for our community in the coming year. We are St. Joseph!

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Community

Seniors On the Go

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

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.

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!

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: Grateful for Sharon's progress after her stroke and her husband's faith filled and loving support . . . For Michael in his recovery from shoulder surgery . . . For Scott as he continues on his journey to better health . . . For Mary's upcoming surgery . . . For Rebecca and the intentions she holds close to her heart . . . For Danny's well being . . . For those who have an addiction to heroin, we pray for them and their families.

Prayer Tree



*"... in honor of that sacred space where
we've gathered daily to pray,
give thanks, grieve, help, hope and practice
that beautiful gift that is our Faith."*

~ Lisa & Keith Blume

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

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 stevew@stjosephparish.org



Mary, Mother of God

1 January 2014

How can the infinite come to birth in finite?

How can eternal God be born into time?

How can the Creator be the child of the creature?

Blessed Mary, Mother of God,
in your womb the divine was nurtured,
the timeless suckled at your breast,
and all that was and is and ever shall be
became your child.

Hear us, Mother of the Eternal God,
sister of our bone and of our flesh,
and bring to us the mercy of Christ your Son,
that we, too, might bear him to the world
through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.