

*THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. PETER
AND ST. PAUL, APOSTLES
June 29, 2014*

Homily Next Week:
Deacon Steve Wodzanowski

Readings for July 6, 2014

FIRST READING: ZECHARIAH 9:9-10
SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:9, 11-13
GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:25-30

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5 pm
Sunday - 9:30 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
Friday - 8 am - 3 pm

Saturday - 9 am - 1 pm

www.stjosephparish.org

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Main Office x210
Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218



Fighting Fires

*"A gay person who is seeking God, who is of good will—
well, who am I to judge him?"*

-Pope Francis-

It was late Tuesday morning that I heard the first sirens, rushing past 18th and Aloha, as they so often do. At the time, I thought nothing of it, and continued my work: staring into space trying to imagine what to say in this week's column. I knew I wanted, again, to speak of going to the Pride Parade, and why I thought it so important for St. Joseph to be there—especially on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, which we celebrate this weekend. I knew I wanted to say something about witness and discipleship; about our Jesuit mission to build bridges from the heart of the Church to its frontiers, as Peter and Paul did; about the call we have from Pope Francis to become a missionary people, inviting the world into the Church and the Church into the world. I knew I wanted to talk about the implicit message given by the Pope's first-ever use the phrase *"gay person,"* and how, though he did not change the official teaching of the Church, he did, in that single moment, change the atmosphere of the Church so as to spark hope in the hearts of many LGBTQ women and men—those who knew themselves as Catholic, even while feeling that their Church refused to know them at all.

But for all the good intentions, as the sirens continued, my attention wandered. Then came the helicopter, with its blades and their quick-march, *thwack, thwack, thwack* shaking the Parish Center. Suddenly, it was clear that I was not going to be writing much that morning, and so—like all Jesuits—I turned on my Twitter account to find out what was going on and where things were happening. Only then did I discover that there was a fire, two blocks away on 16th and Aloha, in the big house, which I passed almost every day. I grabbed my Oil of the Sick (just in case) and my camera, and, with Dottie Farewell beside me, headed up the street into the growing crowd of on-lookers and firefighters.

It was an amazing scene: the old building—once the home of the Holy Names Sisters who taught at St. Joseph—pouring forth smoke as an occasional lick of orange flame shot from its roof or gables; people, neighbors, crowding the sidewalk telling stories and watching as the crowds of firefighters went, seriously but unhurriedly, their business. At one point, the fire leapt into a cedar in the front yard, and blazed up until doused from below by one of the teams of firefighters circling the building with axes and hoses, with chain-saws and large iron poles, used for tearing off roofing. To look up and see four or five officers, standing atop a roof that, beneath them, was clearly ablaze, was stunning to me, and made me proud to be in a community that produced such people. And though this was not a huge fire—no explosions or flames shooting high into the sky, no collapsing roofs or massive casualties—I could not help but think that these firefighters and aid car workers, like those at the World Trade Center, had the character to run into a building that everyone else was running away from, because they had pledged their lives to one another and to all of us.

Later, going through the pictures I had taken of the fire, I began to look more closely at the faces of these firefighters, and to think about their deeds. Gentle and strong, persevering and professional, hopeful and determined: they stood their ground and went about doing what they were formed to do. They clearly cared for each other, loved each other, relied on each other in the way each of us is called to care, love, and rely on one another. There was laughter and hard work, with an obvious awareness that what mattered was not their personal security, but securing the safety of the community, without destroying too much of the burning structure. As I had thought about it, I began to realize that there was a heroism that marked these women and men, which had little to do with this or that heroic act, and everything to do with the way they were willing to lay down their lives for their friends—friends who included even those they did not know.

Filled with these thoughts and images, I returned to my writing, still considering what I might say to the St. Joseph community about the Pride Parade and about our mission as a missionary Church to welcome all women and men to our table. It was then that it struck me: *I wonder if any of those, standing on that roof, were gay? I wonder if those hosing the soot and smoke off of their comrades were? Or those waiting to climb the ladder with extra oxygen and a chainsaw? I wonder if any of those medics, giving oxygen to the firefighter taken from the scene, might have been in love with a person of the same gender, or might be in such a relationship? And, I wondered, did any of that matter in the saving of that*

building or for those who relied so entirely on one another?

In our hierarchy of beliefs, it can be easy to give undo weight to things that matter very little in the Kingdom of God. This, I think, was the point of Francis' comment. For too long we have looked for ways to close the doors of our churches to any but those who think as we do. But, in the tradition of Christ, we should instead approach the world with humility, noticing that, while we quibble, the homes in our neighborhood are on fire: that refugee children are warehoused along our southern border; that the displaced of Africa are drowning in the waters off of Sicily, trying to find a path to life; that the innocent are being slaughtered in the cities and villages of Syria and in the mountains of Afghanistan; that the poor in our own country are growing poorer, as more and more wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few; that we incarcerate more people than almost any country in the world, and execute children and the mentally disabled; that some in the leadership of our Church continue to cover-up the shameful sins of child sexual abuse, even years after the revelations of Boston. With our homes so dangerously ablaze, we do not have time to waste, excluding from our company our LGBTQ sisters and brother. Rather, we should celebrate all those who share our mission, who stand with us in the fire and deserve a place with us at the table.

And though we, who follow Christ, need to have conversations about sexuality and human identity; need to reflect on the values of chastity and constancy in human relations; need to deepen our understanding of the mysteries of love and commitment, we must recall that such conversations are secondary to the primary mission we have received. Whether gay or straight, rich or poor, native born or immigrant, what unites us always is the unwavering call of Jesus Christ, given to Peter, to make strong his Church as a home for all humanity.

John

Summer Mass Time Change

Please note that we will change to one Mass on Sunday mornings for the summer. Mass will be held at 9:30 am from June 22 to August 31.



Prayer

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For the men who have prostate cancer, may they have the support and caring of family and friends . . . Thanksgiving for the blessings and opportunities we have as we celebrate the 4th of July.



***"We hold these truths to be self-evident,
that all men are created equal,
that they are endowed by their Creator
with certain unalienable Rights
that among these are
Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."
~Declaration of Independence***

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.***

For the family of Mildred "Millie" Nisco.
For Joyce Portella, mother of Joy Portella.
For Jo Smith, whose funeral Mass will be

July 2nd at noon

For Winn Brindle, whose funeral Mass will be
July 3rd at 11:30 am

If you have petitions you would like included in the prayer tree, including birth announcements, illnesses and deaths, please call the parish office at 206-324-2522 ext 100 or email rleet@stjosephparish.org

Welcome The Newly Baptized

Harrison Brinker
Matisse Bryant
Gabriel Dupuis-Perez
Benjamin Fernandez
Theodore Fiori
Nora Gilmartin
William Gregory
Eva Leber



Parish Holy Hour

Thursday, July 3rd, 7- 8 pm, join the Choose Life Ministry for a Rosary with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, in the Loyola Chapel of the Parish Center. All are welcome!

***"What will save the world? My answer is prayer.
What we need is for every Parish to come before
Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in Holy Hours of
prayer."***

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament...will help bring about an everlasting peace on earth."

-Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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@questoffice.net or 206-286-0313.



Summer Ignatian Retreat: "A Pilgrimage of the Heart"

2:00 pm Friday, July 25 – 2:00 pm Sunday, July 27
Palisades Retreat Center, Federal Way

Retreat Presenters: Fr. Jerry Cobb, S.J. and Jennifer Kelly (with Fr. Jack O'Leary, S.J. supporting)

Take the time this summer to rest, renew your soul, and soak in silence on the shores of Puget Sound with this rich and meaningful 3-day Summer Silent Ignatian Retreat at the beautiful Palisades Retreat Center in Federal Way. Register online by Monday, July 7, 2014.

Questions? Contact Andrea Fontana (andrea@ignatian-center.org, 206.329.4824). Sponsored by the Ignatian Spirituality Center.



Community



Volunteer Opportunity: Prison Ministry at Monroe

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For ... I was in prison and you came to me.'

– Matthew 25: 43

Can't remember the last time you visited someone in jail? You have (at least) two options:

1. Are you willing to jump through some minor bureaucratic hoops for Jesus? Are you willing to follow this up by semi-regularly enduring atrocious evening Seattle traffic to Monroe Prison with other St Joseph parishioners? If so you are a candidate for Prison Ministry.

2. Are you a chess nerd? Have you been wondering how to use your domination of the 64 squares for the glory of God? Are you willing to engage in the near-eternal torture of correspondence chess with prisoners of the state? If so you are a candidate for a potential Chess Prison Ministry.

If either of the above describes you please contact Stuart Rowe: stu.c.rowe@gmail.com; 206-321-0286.

Very important to pursue prior to ~July 15th due to the prison training schedule.



St. Joseph Women's Ministry

St. Joseph's Women's Ministry Group invites you to join us for "Coffee Connect" Saturday, July 19th from 10 am-11am at Starbucks on 4000 E Madison.

Contact Sheila Sifferman Marie 206.251.7035 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Seniors On The Go

• **Friday, July 4th** - Healing Mass at 11:30 am. (Please note there will NOT be a luncheon following Mass)

Annual Catholic Appeal

If you've already made a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal—either directly to the Archdiocese, or to the Parish in lieu of a gift of the Archdiocese, **THANK YOU!**

If you haven't done so already, please prayerfully consider a gift to the ACA. Perhaps you have hesitated this year because you have been too busy; perhaps because you are unsure if you support all the expenditures of the ACA; or perhaps because of some of the things that have happened in the regional Church during the past year. If any of these are the reasons you have not given, we hope you will give now. If we are to have voice in this Church, if we are to make it the kind of Church Francis calls us to create with him, if we are to be the missionaries of Christ that the gospel seeks, we must take responsibility for the works of the Church in our region.

Every dollar that comes in over and above the \$153,391 goal set for us by the Archbishop will come back to the parish in the form of a rebate. This year, the rebate will help support the purchase of emergency kits for the church, and prepare us to be a resource and shelter in case of any regional disaster.

Archdiocesan Goal \$153,391

Total raised so far\$105,067

Percent of goal reached68%

As always, please don't hesitate to contact Tina O'Brien, our Pastoral Assistant for Stewardship & Development if you have any question whatsoever. She can be reached at stewardship@stjosephparish.org or 206.965.2522.

Gay and Catholic?

The St. Joseph LGBT Ministry is seeking nominees to serve on its steering committee to help discern direction, set goals, and plan social and spiritual events. Through this ministry LGBT Catholics work together to build community among gay Catholics within the parish and beyond, to ensure all people find St. Joe's a welcoming place to nourish their souls. If you are interested in serving, or want to nominate someone, please contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org



Social Ministry

GOOD NEWS PEOPLE

Faith, Hope, and Love in Action

The Good News People program is an engaging parish-wide, small group, community-building process. On this journey you are invited to pray, reflect, learn, discuss and grow into a deeper understanding of what it means to live as a disciple in today's world.

Each session includes prayer, reflection on sacred scripture, inspiring stories of "Good News" people, focus on a virtue of the week and woven through it all, opportunities for sharing in dialogue.

Goals of the Program:

1. To engage participants in their Catholic FAITH as they share in prayer, reading of Sacred Scripture, spiritual practices and dialogue;
2. To communicate HOPE as participants explore the possibilities that a faithful commitment to the gospel call to be "good news to the poor" can bring;
3. To open hearts to a greater LOVE by encountering the biblical witness of Jesus in the Gospels and that of everyday people who have chosen the path of love as they respond to Luke 4:18-19.

Meet other parishioners and experience a greater sense of purpose and belonging. Groups can be formed in a variety of ways. Gather your friends, form a group and sign up today!

Become a Good News Parish!

- Explore and present the heart of the Catholic Church's teaching, experience and witness in response to the gospel call to love God and love our neighbor.
- Tap into and unleash the hope, power and possibilities found in a faithful commitment to be "good news to the poor" (Luke 4:18).
- Empower the parish to be a sign of God's hope-filled presence and activity in the world.

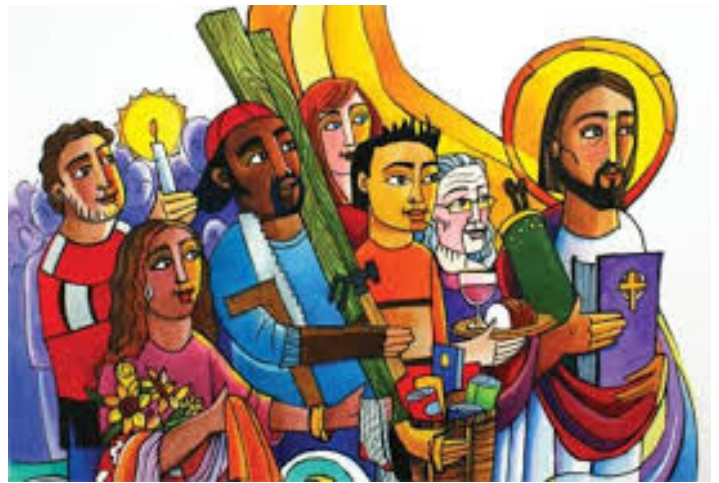
The Good News People Program includes:

- Fourteen 2-hour small group sessions (7 sessions beginning in the fall and 7 sessions continuing in the winter);

- Parish-wide program Kick-off and Closing Celebration;
- Immersion Experience and follow-up;
- A companion DVD filmed by an award-winning film maker;
- A session-by-session Reader and Journal with reading material, reflections, and space for journaling.

DEEPER FAITH + LOVE IN ACTION = GOODNEWSPEOPLE

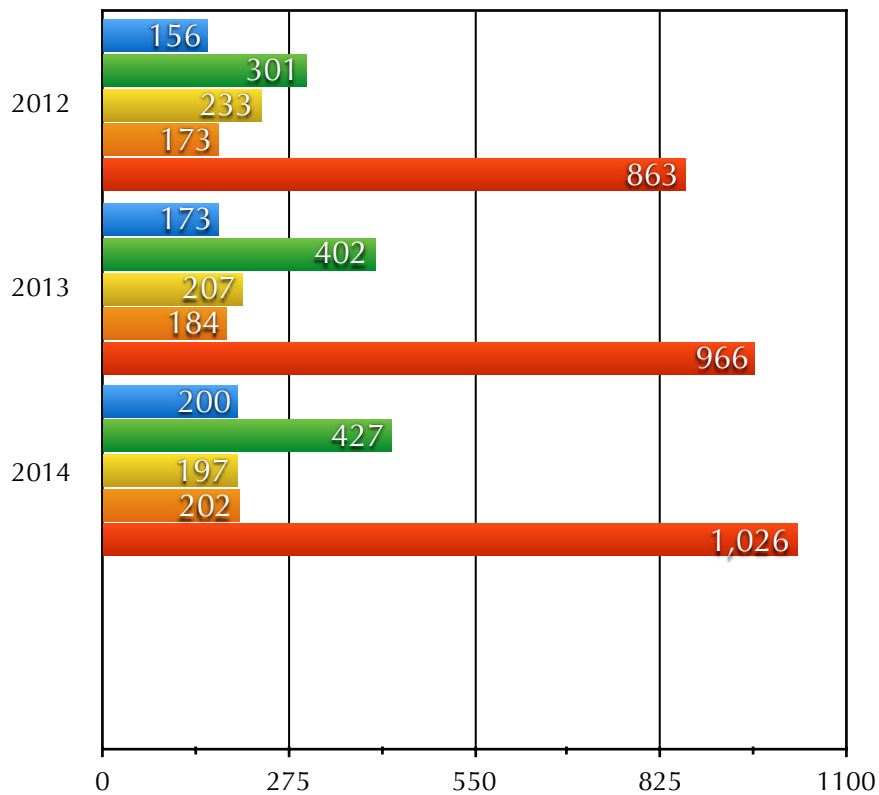
Right now we are recruiting Facilitators and Hosts. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Steve Wodzanski at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org or Vince Herberholt at vherberholt3@comcast.net



Volunteers Needed: St. Martin De Porres Shelter

Our 2nd Saturday Team needs 1-2 volunteers to make 20-25 sandwiches once a month as well as needing 2-3 people to serve the meal from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. To help please email Martha Read at martharead@aol.com or call Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646

■ 5:00 pm ■ 9:00 am ■ 11:00 am ■ 5:30 pm ■ TOTALS



Mass Attendance Numbers!

Since 2012, St. Joseph has been counting the attendance at every Sunday Mass.

Our averages offer one kind of input regarding our community life, our welcoming, and our liturgical offerings—though other inputs are also important!

As you can see from the chart, the numbers reflect a steady overall growth, though with downturn in the 11:00 am liturgy. These numbers do not reflect Easter or Christmas, but all other Sundays of the year.