

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 13, 2014

Homily Next Week:
Father Glen Butterworth, S.J.

Readings for July 20, 2014
FIRST READING: ISAIAH 55:10-11
SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:18-23
GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:1-23

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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Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218

God of Peace and Hospitality

Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by birth, and she begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first. For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She replied and said to him, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps." Then he said to her, "For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter." When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

-Mark 7: 25-30-

When I was studying theology, one of my professors used to assert that—for all our talk about the importance of the "Incarnation" and our many doctrines regarding the saving grace of God becoming human—most Christians have a hard time fully embracing this teaching. We say we believe, say we understand, but somewhere in our hearts, we still find it difficult to think of Jesus as really and truly like us. We remain caught up in the divinity of Christ, of his perfection as God, to accept that he went through the process of growth and development we all experience. To illustrate his point, he would say, "Just imagine Mary changing Jesus' diapers," an image shocking enough to make many of us see that perhaps we have not yet fully received and accepted the grace of the Incarnation.

Aware of our own mortality, as we are whenever our hearts ache or we feel the weakness creeping over our bodies, we tend to define God as the one who is powerful and unchanging, not like us. God is the One who **has** and doesn't **seek**, who **knows** and doesn't need to **learn**. In this, we imagine the divine as the *Unmoved Mover* of Aristotle, sitting in a kind of perfect, unchanging omnipotence and omniscience that has become the philosophical definitional of God. God is the one who decides and it is done—who wills the universe into being in an instant, without hesitation or second-guessing. For such a God, justice and wisdom are attributes—like the color of your eyes or size of your foot—they are not accomplishments, earned by labor or understood by discernment.

In the same way, we can portray the God-man, Jesus, as the calm and almost philosophical character often found in the gospel of John; the one who always has the right answer and patiently instructs the rather dim-witted disciples who follow him around a bit like that old dog in the Bugs Bunny cartoons, who keeps saying to his companion: "*Which way did he go, George? Which way did he go?*" This Jesus doesn't make mistakes from which he has to learn, doesn't engage the world with uncertainty and a ready heart; rather, he knows the truth and never needs to change with circumstances.

But if God is so removed from us, and from our experience; if the Son of God possesses none of our uncertainty and our need to

learn, then how can we find ourselves in that God, or be known by that Son? God—even in Jesus—is a stranger to us, and we cannot hope to become one with such a God, but must remain alien and apart.

The truth, however, is stranger and more wonderful than our rationalistic theories of God's perfection might, at first let us know. For Scripture teaches us that God grows in awareness with us, and that Jesus learns and develops through his encounters with others. In the story of the Syrophoenician woman, in Mark's gospel, Jesus—so often seen as the answer-man, as the one who teaches with *"power and authority"*—is himself taught a lesson in the strength of desire and in the love that overcomes all difference. The one who teaches this lesson is herself an outsider—one easily avoided or overlooked. First, she is a woman, a voiceless person to the customs of Israel; but more than that, she is a foreigner, an *"enemy alien"* to the people whom Jesus comes to save. In our era, as young boys and girls, captured on the border of Mexico, sit in warehouses in Arizona and Texas, we can understand the suspicion in Jesus as he dismisses the woman as having no rights, no claim on him and on the graces he has been sent to pour out.

But the woman responds, not from her rights but from an unconquerable love for her child; responds not from a desire for justice but from a deep need for mercy and compassion. And Jesus—the teacher, the answer-giver, the Son of God—changes his mind, and opens his heart, realizing that grace must respond when something deeper than reason or even justice calls it to action. In this moment, Jesus shows us that his glory is not in his power or in his unchangeable will, but in his humility; in his willingness to hear the cry of the poor and change his position. He will not remain a prisoner of a false sense of perfection, but opens himself to the encroachment of the other—even when the other is alien and, in the eyes of the world, unworthy.

In this moment, Jesus reveals a God who labors in the world, as we labor, to find not the easy answer but the deep, unfolding truth.

Today, we stand challenged by many things: by war abroad, by divisions at home, by the crisis of these young people on the border—young people who seek to flee the violence of their own land to seek a better life among us. But it is not our power, not our clarity or even our certainty which can bring the peace we so desire. We must become what God truly is, what Christ has revealed our shared nature to be. We must allow ourselves to be changed, and to recognize the gifts we have are not for us alone.

We must ask ourselves and our nation: are we acting with the humility of Jesus? Are we seeing the image of God in our each of these children, or only obscuring that image so as to make them objects to be easily dismissed? Are we listening, as Jesus did, to the cry of those mothers who fear for their children's lives, or are we closing ourselves in a womb of our own self-righteousness and false sense of justice? Are we willing to rethink our own conclusions and listen to the call of the Church, even as Jesus rethought his conclusions and listened to the Spirit speaking in the woman?

Let us give up the false perfection that creates borders, and instead become the followers of the living Jesus, the Incarnate God—humble and discerning, willing to change and able to listen. Let us take up the work of peace and reconciliation, knowing that our God labors unceasingly by our side.



Annual Catholic Appeal

If you haven't done so already, please prayerfully consider a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

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. And we need the 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.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2014- RESULTS THROUGH JULY 10

Archdiocesan Goal \$153,391

Total raised so far \$122,892

Percent of goal reached 80%

Thank you to all who have made a pledge. As you can see, we have a long way to go! If you didn't bring your envelope from home, envelopes are available in the pews in front of you. Please fill one out and drop it in the offering basket TODAY. Or visit www.stjosephparish.org for online giving options. .

Thank you again for your support of many crucial ministries within the Archdiocese! Your gift will make a real difference in a lot of lives.





Prayer

Pope-pourri

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For an end to violence locally, nationally and internationally, as we pray for peace and the beginning of healing and reconciliation.



***“Bring to an end the violence of the wicked
And make the righteous secure . . .”***

~ Psalm 7:9

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
For Mary Carbray, aunt of MHB Conant.
For Olite Solon, a long-time parishioner
of St. Joseph.***

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

The news arriving from Iraq is unfortunately very distressing. I join with the Bishops of the Country in appealing to the leaders that, through dialogue, it may be possible to preserve national unity and avoid war. I am close to the thousands of families, especially Christian, who have had to flee their homes and who are in grave danger. Violence begets more violence; dialogue is the only way to peace. Let us pray to Our Lady, that she watch over the people of Iraq.



~Pope Francis

Prayer Opportunity

From now through the summer, the south doors of the church will remain open until 7:30 pm each day for personal prayer. Come in and sit and pray for a while!

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.



Liturgy of the Hours Retreat

September 12-14, 2014

Led by: Br. Aelred Woodard, O.S.B. and Andrew Casad

Location: The Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades (4700 SW Dash Point Road, Federal Way, WA 98023)

Register: (206) 748-7991, palisades@seattlearch.org, www.seattlearchdiocese.org/palisades

The Liturgy of the Hours has remained a mystery for many faithful Catholics, yet it is a powerful tool to grow in communion with God through the Scriptures. Curious to know how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours? Interested in learning its history? Learn about theology of the Liturgy of the Hours, music and the Liturgy of the Hours, the spirituality of the Psalms, and how this regular prayer of the Church leads us to Christ in his mysteries.



Community

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

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



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-11 am at Starbucks on 4000 E Madison. Contact Sheila Sifferman Marie 206.251.7035 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Summer Mass Times

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.

Lost & Found

A woman's watch was found in the Parish Center. Please call Renee at 324-2522 ext. 100.

Piano Recital

Please join us here at St. Joe's on Sunday, July 20, Noon to 1 pm for William Gerhardt's Senior Recital, Version 2 – Seattle! You may recall that William was the 9 am keyboardist here at St. Joe's 9 am Mass throughout his high school years, and went on to major in music at Boston College. He's back and will be sharing his latest work with you:

Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor. Op. 13 "Pathetique"
(Beethoven)

Piano Sonata no. 1 in Bb major (Gerhardt)
Ballade no. 1 in G minor, Op. 23 (Chopin)

All are welcome.

(Free will offering benefitting St. Joseph's Church)

Volunteer Opportunity

Seafair has two large events this summer that they need volunteers for.

- Seafair Triathlon – July 19th & 20th at Seward Park
- Michelob ULTRA Seafair Torchlight Run – 26th at the Seattle Center

Volunteering is a fun and exciting way to build camaraderie and give back to the community. Multiple shifts are available and all volunteers get community service hours and a Seafair Volunteer T-Shirt. To view volunteer opportunities and to sign up as an individual, visit www.seafair.com/volunteer.





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.

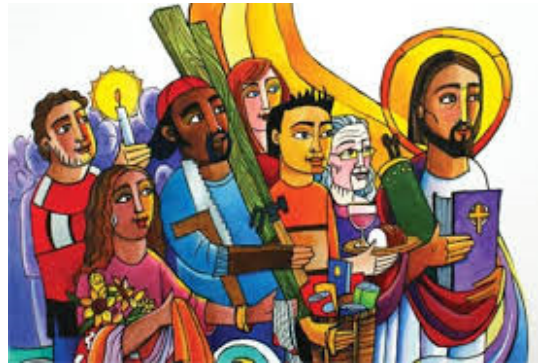
The Good News People Program includes:

- 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



Volunteer Opportunity: Prison Ministry at Monroe

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's Young Adult Hike

INCLUDING MASS WITH FR. GLEN!

SUNDAY JULY 27th

2:00pm - 8:00pm

(Ages 21-35)

The Hike: Coal Creek Trail Located at Coal Creek (#COUGAR-N1) in our own Issaquah Alps. Round-trip the hike is 6.0 miles with an elevation gain of 550 ft and the highest point at 600 ft. This is a low impact, fun, dirt/gravel trail. Carpool from St. Joseph's Parking lot. The hike will include Sunday mass lead by Father Glen! It is about a thirty minute drive and the trail is a mile off I-405. The Coal Creek Trail has a pull-in gravel parking lot. There is no fee or cost to hike, a recommended donation of \$5 per car. Please bring a water bottle. Depending on the weather bring sunscreen or rain gear, we will do the hike rain or shine. After finishing the hike and returning to the city, anyone in the mood can gather for dinner at Olympia Pizza. For details or to sign-up email youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org For more information about Coal Creek Trail visit: <http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/coal-creek>

