

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 17, 2014

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

Readings for August 24, 2014

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 22:19-23

SECOND READING: ROMANS 11:33-36

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:13-20

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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In the Anguished Mystery

*Are you holding / the universe? You hold /
onto my smallness. How do you grasp it, / how does it not /
slip away?*

-Denise Levertov-

I was sitting in a coffee shop when the report flashed as an update on my phone, a status forwarded from someone's Facebook page: Robin Williams had died in an apparent suicide at his home in Marin County. I took a breath, unable to be completely shocked, when death seems so much present in this world. Yet, gradually, the sorrow grew in me, like rising twilight, shading every corner, softening with darkness every rough patch of anxiety and rush. In a way that the grim statistics of Gaza and Iraq could never touch me, I realized this death held both a personal and particular power.

I leaned back and thought of Williams choosing to stop it all in that single moment—thought of the sorrow and the longing that must have filled his heart, of the sense of anguish in the hearts of those who loved him but could not save him. I thought of the suicides I have known, and those to whom I have spoken when they were considering this great sad step—how many had stepped back; how many had managed, somehow, to find their way to the next day; how many still had the thought tapping on their shoulder. And I thought of the few to whom I never got to speak, but who left me with a smile and a kind word, the last time I ever saw them. Leaning back in my chair, I prayed to God for Robin and the others—prayed that mercy and light might be theirs, and that all those reaching for another day through pain and heartache would find that next handhold, that next moment, that place out of the darkness where they might yet see the sun.

Since his death, the media have been filled with tributes and eulogies, with judgments and theories of what could lead a person as famous and beloved as Robin Williams to kill himself. It was his disease, some say, or drugs, or the pressure of fame. Some see it prefigured in the manic humor of the man, or claim that it was an act of selfishness by one unwilling to confront his struggle and pain. How often, it seems, we surround ourselves with words and conclusion to mollify our lack of understanding. Looking from a distance, we cannot fathom this decision, and so we talk and theorize, we classify and conclude. Yet, the mystery remains mystery—calling us, amid the noise, to prayer and silence, to humility and wonder at the frailty of the human heart.

No one can ever really know what moved in Robin Williams on that Monday afternoon—what led him to decide to take his life. We cannot find causes or reasons that make this act a necessary outcome, nor that, explaining it, would ease in any way the loss his family feels or the emptiness that surrounds so many who knew and loved his work. Suicide is like that. There is no why that explains it sufficiently, no cause that allows us to comprehend it, or relieves us of the grief we feel. What we know of his death—what we now of the death of so many who die at their own hand every year—is that it was a tragic mistake. In that moment, for some reason, he could not truly see the importance of his life to the many who loved him, could not feel the embrace of others longing to hold him in being. Like a climber, missing a single foothold in a long series of steps, he fell. And so we are left to weep for his loss, and to move—as our Lord has already moved—to compassion and hope, even in the midst of our mourning.

Many of us recall that, at one time, the Church refused to bury in consecrated ground those who had committed suicide, believing them to have sinned by their final action. In this view, those who took their own lives were understood to have acted freely, out of a sense of despair or in rejection of God's mercy and love. Today, however, we understand that suicide is rarely, if ever, an act of freedom; rather, it is the opposite of freedom. Misled by emotional or physical pain, the person who commits suicide is often trying to do the most loving thing he can see to do: relieving himself of pain, and relieving others of the burden he perceives himself to be. Perceiving that she cannot live this way forever, the suicidal individual feels death is the only way out. She often cannot imagine the anguish her death will cause, or the way in which her life is woven into the lives of others. She sees no future, but finds hope only in ending what is now. This profound confusion is a great sadness, but it is not sinful; rather, it is a tragic misperception that draws the person deeper and deeper into the wilderness, and, too often, into the abyss.

Yet, it is a precept of our faith that such a moment of confusion does not define a person; for the God of love embraces even the wounded and mistaken soul, healing the vision and spirit with a gentleness that overcomes all misconception. God's mercy—greater than our greatest confusion and deepest deception—does not abandon us, even in death. So it is that we believe Jesus holds, fully and gently this day, the heart of the one who, with a mistaken desire, chooses suicide—opening his eyes and consoling his heart.

And just as Jesus does for that mistaken soul, so must we seek to do for those who are left behind—and for every sister or brother who faces the anguish of suicide. Our mission, as the living body of Christ, is not to judge nor to speculate about the death of Robin Williams; rather, our call is to embrace and support, to proclaim in our actions and our words that we are all broken, and yet all beloved. We must affirm each person's life and surround each other with the light of Christ. And at the same time, we must commit to one another that we will call out when the darkness comes to us, that we will tell at least one person if the attraction of suicide grows strong in us.

We are not capable of saving everyone—indeed, only Christ will save any one of us. But as the body of Christ, given to one another, we are called to light our lantern, and seek those who are lost, inviting them to our door. This is our mission and our blessing, something we want to do and can do—through prayer and acknowledgment of our own brokenness, through hospitality and patience, through ears willing to listen and arms ready to embrace. We must, in this, put aside our desire to understand everything about life and death, and become, instead, ministers of hope and resurrection for each other and for all who face the mysteries of mortality and suffering. This is what Christ—crucified and raised—asks of us; this is what our communion in love demands.



Crisis Clinic Hotlines

Crisis Clinic offers telephone-based crisis intervention and information and referrals to community services for youth and adults in Seattle-King County, WA. We offer emotional support to those in crisis or considering suicide through our 24-Hour Crisis Line. For youth we offer Teen Link, a teen answered help line

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: 866-4-CRISIS (866-427-4747)

TEEN LINK: 866-833-6546 (EVENINGS 6-10pm)



Prayer

THEOLOGY ON TAP!

Join young adults (21-39) from across the Archdiocese of Seattle every Wednesday this August from 7:00-9:00 PM for Theology on Tap! Archbishop Sartain, Fr. Glen Butterworth, SJ from St. Joseph Parish, Maria Ochoa from MAGIS at Seattle University, and Deacon Dennis Kelly from Archbishop Murphy High School will each lead us in discussions inspired by the messages and lived examples of Pope Francis. This is a series you do not want to miss!

Join us for Mass at 5:30PM at Blessed Sacrament Church (5050 8th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105) before the evening gets started at Finn MacCool's (4217 University Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105) at 7:00PM. If you are interested in serving as a liturgical minister at Mass or helping volunteer the day of the event, please contact Caitlin Lanigan at caitlin.lanigan@seattlearch.org or 206-382-2010.

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.



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!

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For the health and intentions of Rebecca, Scott, Helen. Jon and Michael . . . For wisdom in making a job change . . . For Sable who is recovering from surgery . . . For Joseph Carver, S.J. as he begins a new position in Montana . . . For family and friends as they return from vacations . . . For those who have been diagnosed with a serious illness.



*"I cried out, 'Help me, dear God;
I'm frightened and have lost my way.'
You came to me in the darkness;
You breathed life into my bones.
You plucked me from the abyss . . .
You rescued me from despair . . .
You lifted me up . . ."*

Psalm 30

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon them.
For Michael Joseph McGrail, brother of Rosaleen
Sweeney.
For Ruth Andrews, mother of Scott Andrews.
For Jean Turk, mother of Catherine Holliday.*

Centering Prayer Retreat

Saturday August 30th, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
St. Joseph Parish Center

Come, relax, and deepen your faith at this Centering Prayer Retreat. Orientation will be given for people new to Centering Prayer, a simple form of silent contemplative prayer for laity and religious alike. The retreat will be led by Paul Peterhans, who has 30 years experience in guiding people in prayer. There will be time for prayer, walking meditation, individual guidance, personal sharing, and learning of upcoming events. Morning snacks and refreshments will be provided, but participants should bring a brown-bag lunch. The retreat is free (a free will offering can be made).

Please RSVP or seek more information from John Eisen at Johnne98166@yahoo.com or Sr. Joyce Cox (206) 382-4832.



Social Ministry

We Need You!

**2ND SATURDAY VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
NEEDED FOR ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SATURDAY
DINNER**

**PLUS FOOD & SERVERS ON
1ST & 3RD SATURDAYS**

For over 20 years, St. Joseph's Parish has provided a meal for the 212 men over 55 who call St. Martin de Porres Shelter their home every Saturday night. We have a separate team of volunteers for each Saturday consisting on average of 25 households. Once a month each team is contacted by the coordinator and collectively we provide sandwiches, hot dogs, milk, hard-boiled-eggs, bananas, salad and occasionally ice cream! Usually five to eleven volunteers go down to serve from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. The Shelter is located in a warehouse close to Safeco Field on the waterfront owned by United States Coast Guard.

From this relationship, our Winter Shelter began and now we provide a safe place to sleep and food for 14 men from St. Martin de Porres as an overflow shelter during the months of October thru April five nights a week Tuesday thru Saturday. Over 35 people serve as overnight hosts and another 25 provide sack lunches.

The good part about both these ministries is they run so smoothly you hardly know they exist but the flip side is many new parishioners don't know about this incredible volunteer opportunity.

Right now we have two critical needs!

1) We need someone to coordinate the 2nd Saturday Volunteer Team. The coordinator emails volunteers to remind them to bring food, finding servers for our Saturdays, bringing the food from the Church to the shelter on our Saturday, and adjusting and updating the volunteer list to ensure adequate food for the men. Martha Read has served in this role for many years and needs to step down. In order to continue we need someone in place by September 1st.

2) We need folks to provide food items and go down to serve on both the 1st and 3rd Saturday teams.

To learn more and to volunteer, please contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

Parish Blood Drive

We are in the heart of the summer and with schools out and people on vacation, the overall blood supply has plummeted by more than 25% in just two weeks.

Can you help?

Your gift helps people right here, right now. You may not ever get to meet the individual you save, but know that they are forever grateful for your generosity. Please join us at the next St Joseph's Parish Blood Drive to share your unique and special gift.

Monday, Aug 18th

1:00 pm to 7:00 pm (closed 3:00pm to 3:45pm)

St Joseph's Parish Center

To schedule a donation time please call Renee Leet 206-324-2522 or email rleet@stjosephparish.org

Bishop Eusebio Forum On Children at the Border

Thursday August 28

7-9 pm

St Mary's Church

Bishop Eusebio, chair of the Bishops conference on refugees will share his experience and perspective.

What is happening with the children in the refugee camps at the border?

What happens if they get sent back?

What is the Catholic position on this crisis?

How can we help?

"A change of attitude towards migrants and refugees is needed on the part of everyone, moving away from attitudes of defensiveness and fear, indifference and marginalization – all typical of a throw-away culture – towards attitudes based on a culture of encounter, the only culture capable of building a better, more just and fraternal world".

~Pope Francis

Parish & School Picnic



**Sunday
September 21st
1-4 pm, Parking Lot**

*We provide the following:
Hot dogs, Cotton candy & Sno-cones
Beer & Soft drinks on tap
Rides for the Kids
Live Music*

*PLEASE BRING: dessert, salad or
side dish to share*





Liturgy & Music

St Joseph Choir

New Altar Server Training

We are looking for new altar servers to serve at the **SAT 5PM, SUN 9AM & SUN 11AM Masses** starting this Fall. If you are entering the 4th grade through 8th grade, we would like you to join our team! The next training sessions for new incoming altar servers will be Wednesday, September 17, 2014 from 3:30-4:30 pm and Sunday, September 21, 2014 from 12-1 pm. Both sessions will be held in the nave of the church, and we will meet near the altar.



Please contact John Stuntebeck if you are interested in becoming an altar server and to reserve a spot in one of the next training sessions contact John Stuntebeck at 206.965.1645 or jstuntebeck@stjosephparish.org

The Saint Joseph choir resumes its ministry in September right after Labor day. If you are interested in singing with the choir for the fall session and on through Advent and Christmas, please contact Director of Music Ministries Robert McCaffery-Lent to arrange an audition. We are open to singers in all voice parts and would welcome your participation!.

Contact information: Rmclent@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1649. You can also sign up directly on the parish website: there is a registration form on the "Liturgical Music" page in the "Liturgy and Prayer" area of the website.





Community

End-of-Summer LGBTQ Barbecue

The St. Joseph LGBT Ministry will fire up the coals for an end-of-summer potluck barbecue at the home and lovely back yard of parishioner Jack Hilovsky on Sunday, August 24, at 6:30. Come on over after the 5:30 Mass! We'll have hamburgers and hot dogs to get the party started. Bring your favorite grillable, side dish, salad, dessert, or cool beverage. And bring a friend!

The barbecue will be at the Garden Court Condos, 1631 16th Avenue, No. 118 (between Olive and Pine, half a block north of the Central Coop). Ring the directory or call (206) 422-6023. Parking is tight, so carpool if you can, or ride your bike.

Questions? Contact Michael Bunney at michael.bunney@comcast.net or (206) 935-4804. R.S.V.P. is optional, but appreciated as it will help us know how many to plan for.

St. Joe's/Habitat Interfaith Build -- Save a Date or Two

St. Joseph will be participating in an Interfaith Build through Habitat for Humanity on Friday, September 5th; Saturday September 6th; Friday, September 12th; and Saturday, September 13th. Details and the opportunity to sign-up will follow. We just wanted to give you a chance to put a date on your calendar now. Questions: contact Gary Fallon at fallon_derocco@comcast.net or Shaun Corry at 333smc@gmail.com



St. Vincent de Paul

Following elbow surgery, the doctor told Mary she needed to stay off work for two to three months. She works as a waitress and without use of her arm she was not much good at carrying trays and bussing dishes. Mary's boss said she could have her job back when the doctor cleared her for work. That was the good news.

Unfortunately, Mary earns minimum wage, some money from tips but with very little savings, she soon was out of money and needed help with her rent. We covered her rent for July and also provided some food. Now, because her elbow is healing but much more slowly than expected, she may be delayed going back to work.

Mary is not alone as one with a health issue, no health insurance, and out of work with no outside means of support while on the mend. Our St. Vincent de Paul group supported by your generous donations enables us to help Mary and folks just like her.

Sunday, September 7th will be the next opportunity to help our St. Vincent de Paul conference continue their critical work. Thank you for any donation you can make.

Summer Mass Schedule

Please note that our Mass schedule will go back to 9 am and 11 am on Sunday mornings on September 7th.

St. Joseph's Parish Women's Weekend Retreat

"Finding Time for God in My Life"



"Come to the Water"

Friday, September 26th - Sunday, September 28th
Camp Casey, Whidbey Island

Retreat Facilitator: Sue Grady, MDiv

Cost: \$150 per person*

Includes two nights lodging and four meals, single occupancy
Partial Scholarships Available

**Cost does not include transportation. We will organize car pooling before the retreat.
Accommodations are simple and rustic! A "must bring" list will be sent after registration.*

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Registration Deadline: September 15th

To register, please fill out the form and email/mail to or drop off at the parish.

NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

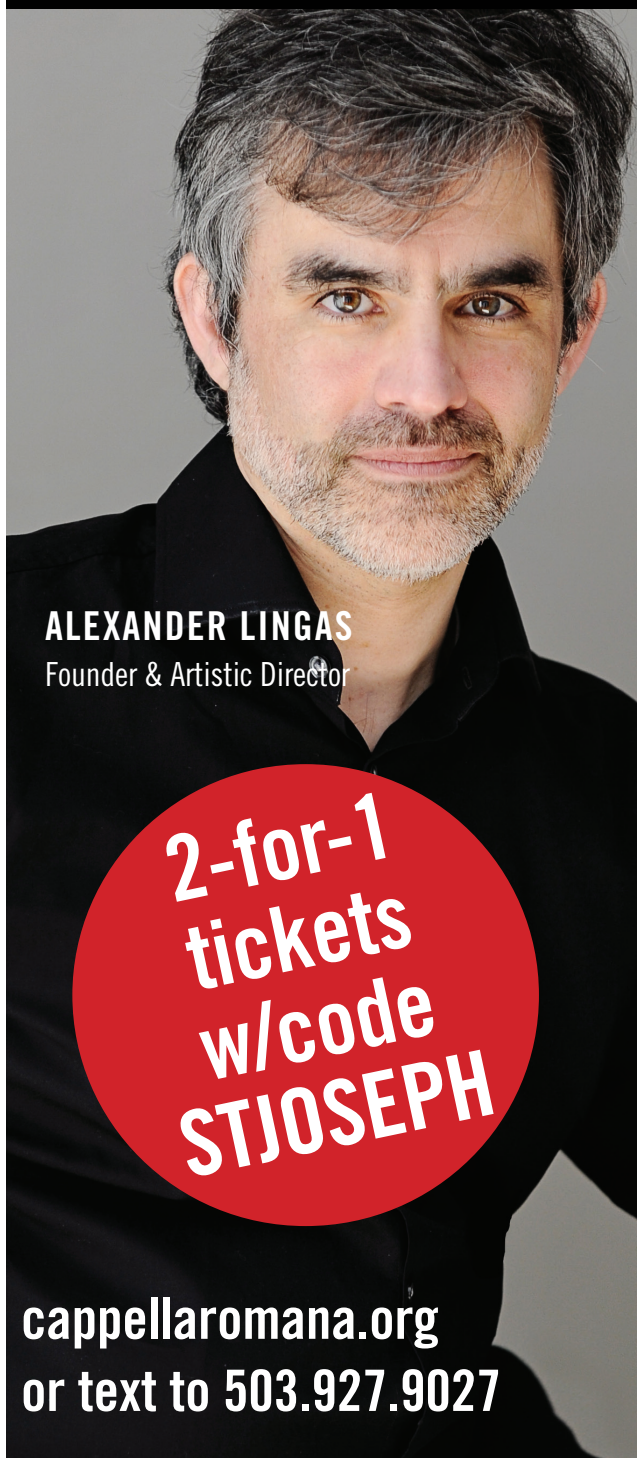
WILL YOU DRIVE? YES___ NO___

DO YOU NEED A RIDE? YES___ NO___

To submit registration or for questions, contact
Steve Wodzanowski (steve@stjosephparish.org / 206.965.1646)
Karen Quinn-Shea (kmquinn@stjosephparish.org)

CAPPELLA ROMANA

V O C A L E N S E M B L E



ALEXANDER LINGAS
Founder & Artistic Director

2-for-1
tickets
w/code
STJOSEPH

cappellaromana.org
or text to 503.927.9027

Friday Before Bumbershoot!

The Fall of Constantinople

FRI 29 **AUG** 8pm, St. Joseph's Parish

Experience the world of Catholics and Orthodox coming together in the 15th century, only to face the fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans in 1453.

Just before Cappella Romana's European tour to the Utrecht Early Music Festival.

Ancient Chants from Hagia Sophia, Constantinople, and the Laments for the Fall of Constantinople by Guillaume DUFAY (1397-1474) and Manuel CHRYSAPHES (fl. 1440-1463).





Pope - ourri

The quest for peace also represents a challenge for each of us, and in a particular way for those of you dedicated to the pursuit of the common good of the human family through the patient work of diplomacy. It is the perennial challenge of breaking down the walls of distrust and hatred by promoting a culture of reconciliation and solidarity. For diplomacy, as the art of the possible, is based on the firm and persevering conviction that peace can be won through quiet listening and dialogue, rather than by mutual recriminations, fruitless criticisms and displays of force.



Peace is not simply the absence of war, but *"the work of justice"* (cf. Is 32:17). And justice, as a virtue, calls for the discipline of forbearance; it demands that we not forget past injustices but overcome them through forgiveness, tolerance and cooperation. It demands the willingness to discern and attain mutually beneficial goals, building foundations of mutual respect, understanding and reconciliation. May all of us dedicate these days to peace, to praying for it and deepening our resolve to achieve it.

*APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 6th ASIAN YOUTH DAY*