

St. Joseph Parish

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

Sunday, April 2, 2023 * Palm Sunday * www.stjosephparish.org



PALM SUNDAY

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." - Mt 21:9

Palm Sunday April 2, 2023

Mass Times: **5pm Saturday 9:00 AM Sunday**

11:00 AM Sunday - Livestream w/ASL on our YouTube channel (Available for viewing all week)
5:30 PM Sunday

Reconciliation: Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30pm
Weekday Mass Schedule: Tuesday-Friday, 7am
YouTube & Parish Center (except First Fridays Mass at 11:30am)

Readings for April 9, 2023

First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
Gospel: Matthew 26:11 - 27:66
Presiding & Preaching: Chris Cartwright, S.J.

Parish Center - 732 18th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112 www.stjosephparish.org Parish Receptionist (206) 324-2522

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St. Joseph School - Main Office	XZUO
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Vince McGovern, Middle School Dir	x219
Robby Hayes, Primary School Dir	x215

A Sense of Belonging

Reflections from Fr. Chris



Many of us think that a sense of belonging, of being connected to others by friendship, kinship and other bonds of love and kindness is a thing that is given to us. We receive the sense of belonging.

Generally, this notion is not true. The 'sense of belonging' we all crave is rather something that comes about when one **gives the sense of belonging!**

Belonging, being connected and attached to others comes about by our giving our self generously to others. We seek others and join them. We offer ourselves to them. We show up to give and make a contribution to the lives of others. We aren't there, in the first place, to take. Really, there are too many "takers." We show up to give. We enrich our own life, paradoxically, by enriching the lives of others. This is pretty much the basic teaching of Jesus.

If you want to feel a part of something, of someone, your objective should be to give and not to receive. This is the fundamental rule of love: giving.

Church is a worthy place to invest your love. Our parish is a community that needs your loving and care and tenderness. We need you coming in, joining us, side by side, to fulfill God's plan for a greater world. Come to church and give more than take. Make time to be with us; don't hurry home or to the next thing. Make up your mind to be part of one (or more!) of the many groups and gatherings offered by our parish or another parish.

Don't see church membership as going to a place for filling-up your spiritual gas tank. Church is a place to belong so that one can join others in learning how to give, growing in mature love and justice and compassion. Church is the starting ground for going out to give others, everyone a sense of belonging. After all, we believe this: Everybody Belongs.

In the Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen* there is a song titled: "Waving Through a Window." One of the memorable lines that occurs several times in the song goes like this: "On the outside, always looking in, will I ever be more than I've always been?"

Being on the outside, always looking in is a good definition of what it feels like to 'not belong.' Belonging will come not by waiting impatiently looking in, waving through a window. It comes when you **come in** and **give a sense of belonging** to others.

Everybody Belongs.

F Chir

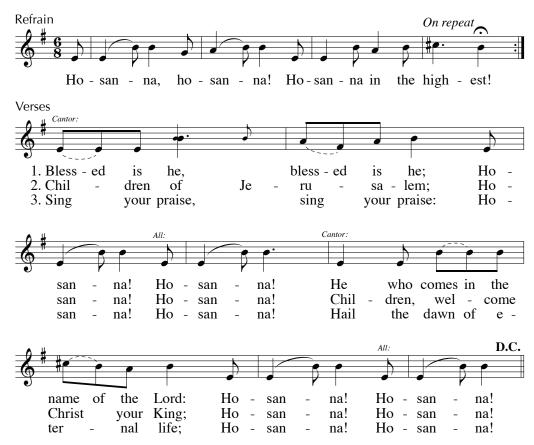
Fr. Chris

PALM SUNDAY

Introit

(9&11) Hosanna





Gospel Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once." This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

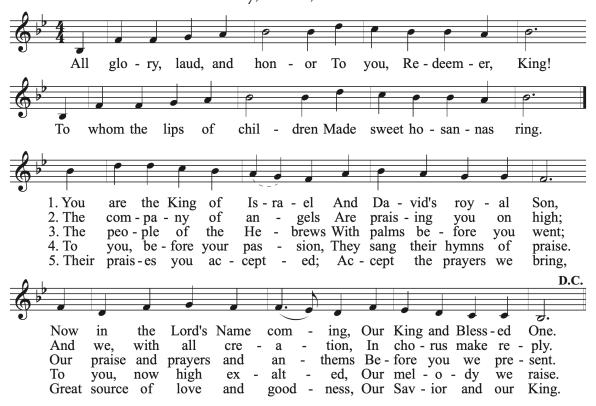
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Say to daughter Zion,
"Behold, your king comes to you,
meek and riding on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."
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The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:

"Hosanna to the Son of David;

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest."

And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."



First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.
Morning after morning

he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled,

have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;

my face I did not shield

from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Psalm

Psalm 22 Haugen



- 1. All who see me laugh at me, they mock me and they shake their heads: 'He relied on the Lord, let the Lord be his refuge. *Ref.*
- 2. As dogs around me, they circle me about. Wounded me and pierced me, I can number all my bones. *Ref.*
- 3. My clothing they divided, for my garments casting lots, O Lord, do not desert me, but hasten to my aid. *Ref.*
- 4. I will praise you to my people, and proclaim you in their midst, O fear the Lord, my people, give glory to God's name. *Ref*.

Proulx

Second Reading

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation



Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross; Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.



GospelMatthew: The Passion of the Lord

One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The teacher says, "My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples."'" The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, "Surely it is not I, Lord?" He said in reply, "He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born." Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" He answered, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, "This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: *I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed;* but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him in reply, "Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be." Jesus said to him, "Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you." And all the disciples spoke likewise.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!" Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him." Immediately he went over to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and he kissed him. Jesus answered him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter was following him at a distance as far as the high priest's courtyard, and going inside he sat down with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated, "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.'" The high priest rose and addressed him, "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him in reply, "You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?" They said in reply, "He deserves to die!" Then they spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him, saying, "Prophesy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?" Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

SUNG INTERLUDE

When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? Look to it yourself." Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said, "It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood."

After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, *And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me.*

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over. While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in

a dream today because of him." The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They answered, Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" But he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Let him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves." And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.

SUNG INTERLUDE

And when they came to a place called Golgotha —which means Place of the Skull —, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, Iema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him." But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

All kneel and pause for a short time.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, 'After three days I will be raised up.' Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' This last imposture would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "The guard is yours; go, secure it as best you can." So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

SUNG INTERLUDE

Homily

Deacon Steve Wodzanowski

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow. who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, All stand upright.

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen





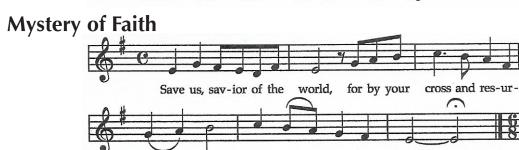
Take, Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, understanding, my entire will. Ref.

Take, Lord, receive all I have and possess. You have given all to me; now I return it. Ref. Take, Lord, receive, all is yours now; dispose of it wholly according to your will. Ref.





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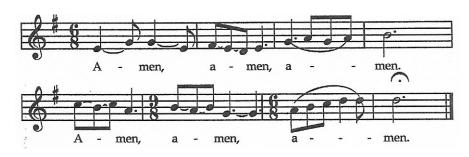
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Foley

Great Amen



Lamb of God



ALL ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD

During communion, we invite all to come forward. If you do not ordinarily receive Eucharist, or choose not to, come for a blessing, indicating your desire by putting your hand on your heart. If you have need of a gluten free host, please come to the Presider and make that known.

Communion

On Calvary

Piontkowski



They mocked his name and on his head they placed a crown; my Savior bled. He cried with pain. Why must this be? They crucified him on Calvary. *Ref.*

They took his hands, they took his feet, they nailed him up onto a tree. My Lord, my God, why must this be? They crucified him on Calvary. *Ref.*

(9&11) When Jesus Wept

Billings

When Jesus wept the falling tear In mercy flow'd beyond all bound, When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear Seized all the guilty world around.



The Paschal Triduum at St. Joseph

Please join us!

Thursday, April 6: 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 7: 2:15pm Stations of the Cross / 7pm Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, April 8: 8:00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 9: 9am, 11am Easter Sunday Masses

Please note there is no morning Mass on Thursday or Friday of Holy Week, no Reconciliation on Saturday, and no 5:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday.

The Parish Center will be closed, Friday, April 7th and Monday, April 10th

Mask Section in the Church: Please note that the section on the north side of the church are reserved for persons who choose to wear a mask. We ask that you help us show respect and model inclusion by wearing a mask if you choose to sit in that section.



You're Invited!

Listening & Action CONTINUING THE SYNOD

Join us as we walk with the Global Synod and turn the desires of our community into action and influence how we implement lay leadership

MAY 7, 2PM - 5PM
Parish Social Hall



REGISTER HERE

COMMON ISSUES FROM THE ST. PAT'S AND ST. JOE'S SYNOD REPORTS:

- Youth & Young Adults
- Lay leadership
- Empowering women
- Racial reckoning
- LGBTQ+ inclusion
- Faith formation for all
- Liturgy & prayer
- Social & climate justice
- Small groups
- Hospitality and welcome

SPONSORED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT VINCE OR THERESA:

pmc@stjosephparish.org (206) 491-4486 theresal@stjosephparish.org (206) 965-1651



St. Joseph Parish

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE



Sister Parish Delegation

June 26th - July 6th

Join us on a delegation to our Sister Parish in El Salvador.
San Bartolome. We'll visit Arcatao and Nueva Trinidad on a once-in-a-lifetime trip with Fr. Matthew and members of the Sister Parish Commitee.

Email sisterparish@stjosephparish.org for more information and an application. Applications are due by April 15th!



Parish Life & Volunteers

Senior Ministry

Come join our St. Joseph OWLS: Older, Wiser, Livelier, Souls. Join us for some fun upcoming events!

Please note, there will be NO First Friday Anointing Mass in April as it falls on Good Friday, please join us at our Triduum liturgies instead.

Wednesday, April 19th – Meet at the Parish Center at 11:15am, head to Razzie's Restaurant for lunch and watch *As It Is In Heaven* at the Taproot Theater. Email caprices@stjosephparish.org or call 206- 324-2522 to reserve your ticket and spot on the bus. Must RSVP by April 12th! Play tickets are \$16, plus you will need to purchase your own lunch.

Fall Volunteers for Middle School Confirmation

We're looking for a committed team of 4-5 people who are passionate about their faith to help out with the Middle School Confirmation preparation classes starting in Fall 2023. We will meet a few times in the late summer to prepare for the school year. No teaching experience is necessary! Interested? Reach out to Samantha, samanthab@stjosephparish.org

Adult Volunteer for Agape Service Project Trip

Volunteer needed! We're looking for a service-minded male chaperone to meet the Archdiocese student-to-adult ratio requirement for the Agape Service Project trip in Bellingham, WA for July 16-20.

We prefer dads of the students already going, BUT any adult male over the age of 21 can inquire about chaperoning. Experience working with youth (age 13-17) is not mandatory, but definitely encouraged! This is a great opportunity if you've been thinking about getting involved with youth ministry work! Interested? Contact Samantha.

Tree of Hope for Sister Parish: Senior Food Program and Scholarships

Our goal is \$18,000 - \$13,000 for DHP scholarships in Arcatao and \$5,000 for the senior food program in Nueva Trinidad. We've raised over \$10,000 so far - can you help us reach our goal?

It's easy to help! You can take a tag from the tree and use the QR codes to donate directly to a fund. Or, you can simply visit the giving website for scholarships - www.osvhub.com/stjosephparish/giving/funds/sister-parish and www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QZPM2X56T3FYY

Email <u>sisterparish@stjosephparish.org</u> if you have any questions!





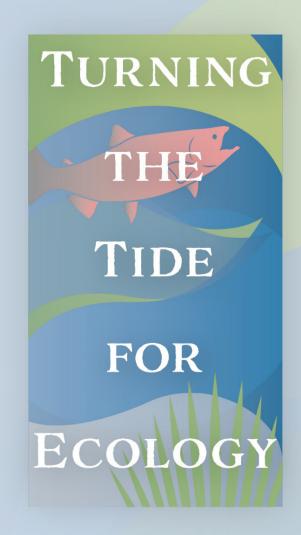






Scholarship Donations

Food Program



This free in-person event is open to all and includes a vegetarian lunch & parking.

Register by April 17th at ipjc.org/turning-the-tide-for-ecology-registration

2023 Catholic Earth Day Summit

Saturday, April 22, 2023 9am – 4pm PDT Seattle University Student Center

Join the Creation Care Network for its annual environmental justice summit! The day will provide space to ground our collective work spiritually, discern how the Spirit is calling us to build reciprocity with the Earth, and act together for climate justice!

The day will include:

- Mass with Archbishop Paul D. Etienne
- Keynotes on integral ecology and salmon recovery
- Discernment on how the Spirit is calling us to care for our common home
- · Panel on climate action
- Group reflections on environmental justice
- · And more!



HOSTED BY















APRIL Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



The Effects of ABUSE

When a child is abused, the effects are grave and can last a lifetime. Some of the most common effects of abuse include:

- Loss of faith and trust in God.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological distress, and other indirect signs of trauma, such as anxiety, trouble sleeping, chronic stomach pain, and headaches.
- A greater risk of developing behavioral problems, substance abuse, and suicide.

The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt, and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place.

Steps to Prevent ABUSE

Communicate with Your Children

It is extremely important to communicate openly with your children. Let them know that they can talk to you about anything that bothers them. This will help you identify warning signs and grooming behaviors perpetrated by offenders before they escalate to abuse.

Educate Yourself and Your Children on Abuse

Learning how to identify, prevent, and report abuse is key. Parents and guardians should empower their children to protect themselves from harm and to report abuse. Ask your diocesan safe environment coordinator or parish delegate about opportunities for safe environment training.

Identify and Report Warning Signs of Child Abusers

Grooming behaviors are the actions abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, while others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling. Abusers also often try to isolate their victims from family or friends and encourage their victims to keep secrets from their parents or other caring adults.

Holding Offenders ACCOUNTABLE

To help hold offenders accountable, report all suspected

abuse to local public authorities. You can also contact your local diocesan victim assistance coordinator to make a report and seek outreach for the abused.

In accordance with diocesan policy, when a single act of sexual abuse is admitted or established, the offender is to be removed permanently from ministry.



"Let it be clear that before these abominations the Church will spare no effort to do all that is necessary to bring to justice whosoever has committed such crimes . . . To those who abuse minors I would say this: convert and hand yourself over to human justice, and prepare for divine justice."

-Pope Francis, Dec. 21, 2018



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