

Sunday, 13 December 2015 * Third Sunday of Advent * www.stjosephparish.org

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE



**GAUDETE!
REJOICE!**

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2015

Reflection Next Week:

Gerry Scully

Readings for December 20, 2015

FIRST READING: MICAH 3:1-4A

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-45

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

732-18th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

Monday- Friday - 8 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday - 9 am-1 pm

www.stjosephparish.org

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Main Office x210

Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218

Mary Helen Bever, Middle School Dir x215

Lillian Zadra, Primary School Dir x219

Why Confession?

I confess to Almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned: in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do. Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore, I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

-Confiteor or Penitential Act-

May confessors not ask useless questions, but like the father in the parable, interrupt the speech prepared ahead of time by the prodigal son, so that confessors will learn to accept the plea for help and mercy pouring from the heart of every penitent. In short, confessors are called to be a sign of the primacy of mercy always, everywhere, and in every situation, no matter what.

-Pope Francis-

A few months ago, in a conversation with a parishioner about the the Opening Rite of the Mass. I mentioned to her that the *Confiteor* was the form that often gets the most negative reaction from people—the striking of the breast and the phrase “greatly sinned” seeming to trigger images of judgmental priests and a stern, un-loving God. Much to my surprise, she completely disagreed. Responding with energy and a big smile on her face, she said, “Oh, I feel just the opposite about that prayer. What I love about it is that it is the only time where we get to ask each other to pray for us. I really like that!” This insight, coming from a progressive, feminist Catholic, opened my eyes to something I had never before considered, and transformed the way I pray the *Confiteor*, and, deepened how I understand all acts of penitence—including the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reconciliation is not, essentially, about the bad thing(s) that I have done, nor about the bad things that we have done. It is not about the violation of a rule, or a divine decree, or even a natural law. The sin, though it may precipitate our need to come to God and to our neighbor, is not the *point* of sacramental Reconciliation—it is only the occasion for it. The point of the Sacrament is far deeper: that God loves us, and that God’s love comes to us through the prayers and embrace of other human beings. At the heart of Reconciliation is our deep desire, our need, for mercy, for someone to pray for us “to the Lord our God.”

This is not to deny the reality of sin, but to put it in the context of our faith. God’s deepest desire is for each one of us to live fully, to love with purpose and generosity, to be connected to God and others, to be as God is: i.e., free of all the constraints of selfishness and fear. In Jesus Christ—the true image of the living God—God is revealed as living Mercy, who freely releases all power and privilege, all honors and glory, all safety and comfort for the sake of becoming one with each of us, simply because we are beloved. To be like God is to be like Jesus: full of mercy and willing to do whatever it takes (generosity, kindness, self-sacrifice, etc.) to love the world completely. That we fail to live this way—that we hold onto things and attitudes which keep us from receiving the love of

God and sharing that love with others—does not change God's desire for us. **God loves us even in the midst of our sin.** And, indeed, our failures are sinful not because they break a rule, but because they undermine God's deepest desire for us and our own truest longing. Sin is whatever keeps each of us from being the person we most deeply long to be—which is exactly the person God longs for us to be. And God's response to sin is mercy.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we sit with another sinner, the priest, who symbolizes the whole community of sinners we call "Church." And sitting there, we name those particular things that, most recently, seem to be keeping us from our own deepest desire. We talk about the anger that turns into sullenness or that we take out on our children or spouse; we talk about the loneliness that draws us to look at pornography because we can't find a way to relationship; we talk about lies we tell to look better or how we steal because life seems unfair; we talk about eating too much because we want something to feel good, at least for awhile; we talk about drinking too much so we won't feel anything at all. We don't need to dwell on these, and a good confessor never will. But, **by naming our sins, we open ourselves to the mercy that is always being offered.** This is when we listen for the Word of God in a shared piece of Scripture or in the guidance of the person across from us, or in the depth of our own heart.

None of this requires a priest, of course—though difficult, much of it could be accomplished with a good friend or a trusted advisor. So why go to the priest? Why celebrate the Sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation?

The role of the priest—who sits not as judge or as jury, but as symbol of the loving Christ and of the Church that wants us to be whole—comes down to the last prayer of the Sacrament. In that moment, the priest gives the answer spoken of in the Confiteor, telling the person who has come to the Sacrament that the whole Church is praying for her, is holding her up before the grace of God's Spirit. And then the priest speaks, as he speaks at the altar, words that belong not to him but to Christ, saying: *"I absolve you of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."* **It is not the power of the priest that brings this healing, but God's mercy, God's love,** which the priest (himself a sinner) has been missioned to convey.

Like all sacraments, Reconciliation exists so that we can grow closer to God and to one another—become the Church, in mercy and communion. Our sin and our healing are never wholly our own, but belong to the journey of grace we make together—one Advent candle at a time. And at the end of this journey, we will be, as God is: diverse and united, with all the the junk left be-

hind, praying for each other and holding each other in the fullness of the kingdom of God.

Going to Confession: Step By Step

1. Go to the priest and sit down; say hello. The priest will lead you to say, *"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*
2. Tell what you want to bring to God: e.g., *"I am having trouble with anger. I find myself lying a lot. I am impatient with my wife and family."* You don't need a long list or how many times, just what you are working on. Talk as to a friend, and say what is keeping you from being the person you want to be.
3. The priest may ask a question or two, suggest a pattern he observes, or share Scripture. Feel free to talk with him. At the end, he will offer a penance—not to pay for your sin, but as training in good. Like an exercise for your soul.
4. Ask for forgiveness and God's help (you can use the Act of Contrition, or your own words).
5. Let the priest bless you with the words of absolution. And believe you are loved and held in mercy.



St. Joseph Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 20

Church cleaning & preparation following the
11:00 am Mass, no 5:30 pm Mass.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Thursday December 24

4:00 pm, Children's Mass (Doors open at 3:00 pm)

6:00 pm, Mass in the Evening

10:00 pm, Lessons, Carols & Mass in the Night

Friday, December 25

10:00 am, Mass in the Morning

New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31

8:00 pm, Benediction & Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament, ending at Midnight
(in Parish Center)

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1, 2016

10:00 am Mass, Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother Of God

ORDER OF CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*This worship aid is for all Masses, including 5:30 contemplative liturgy.
All are invited to join in quiet prayer with prelude from 5:00-5:30 PM.*

Introit (9)

Rejoice In the Lord

"Rejoice in the Lord always again I say: Rejoice!"

Call To Worship

Please stand at the tolling of the bell.

Entrance Songs

Advent Entrance Antiphon (5, 9 & 11)

Gouin



Re-joyce, a - gain I say re-joyce! The Lord is near and com-ing soon,



Your gen - tle - ness be shown to all. Re-joyce, a - gain, I say. re-joyce!

Christ Circle Around Us (5:30)



1. Come, O Word of Truth, font of know-ledge from on high.
2. Come, O Gate of Hope, ho - ly door of heav-en's throne.
3. Come, O Might - y Lord, mas - ter of the stars of night.
4. Come, E - man - u - el, cher-ished hope of Is - ra - el.



Come, Ho - ly Wis - dom, be our faith - ful friend and guide.
Come, Key of Da - vid, o - pen wide the path - way home.
Come, Strength of Pil - grims, keep us in your lov - ing sight.
Come, live a - mong us, ev - er in our hearts to dwell.



Christ, cir - cle round us. Christ, may your light sur - round us.



Shine in our liv - ing. Fill our hearts with great thanks-giv - ing.

Blessing The Advent Wreath

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

Strike breast during next line.

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Kryie

Cantor: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. All: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Cantor: Chris - te e - le - i - son. All: Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Cantor: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. All: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

First Reading

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!
Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has removed the judgment against you
he has turned away your enemies;
the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty savior;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love,
he will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.

Responsorial Psalm *Cry out With Joy and Gladness*

Haugen

Cry out with joy and glad-ness, for the Lord is in your
midst, the ho - ly one of Is-ra-el, cry out, cry out with joy.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamations *Alleluia (5,11 & 5:30)*

Murray

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

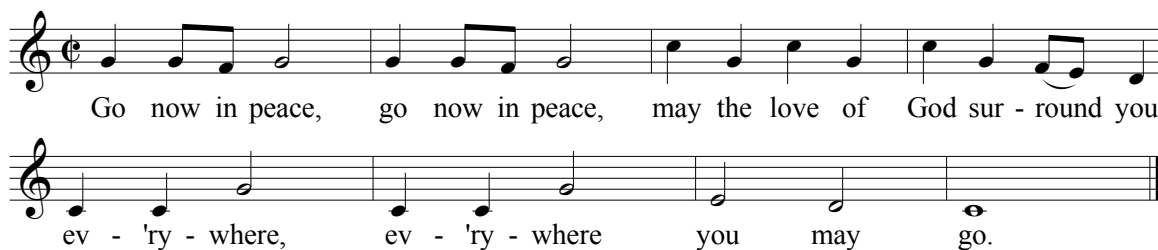
Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

Reflection

Stephanie Ragland



Dismissal Of Candidates and Catechumens (9)



Offertory Songs

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come (9)

Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sin.
Who loved us all, and shed his blood that we might saved be.*

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord almighty. God Who was and is, and is to come.

Sing holy, holy Lord. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein rejoice on earth, ye saints below.

For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon.

*E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come and night shall be no more.
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun for Christ will be their All!*

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful (5, 11 & 5:30)

Three staves of music in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid; lift up your
voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Plainchant

Three staves of music in 4/4 time, key of C major. The melody is a simple, slow plainchant. The lyrics are: Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Mystery of Faith

Plainchant

Two staves of music in 4/4 time, key of C major. The melody is a simple, slow plainchant. The lyrics are: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-claim your Death, O Lord,
un - til you come a - gain.

Great Amen

Plainchant

Lamb of God

Vatican Edition XVII

Plainchant

Three staves of music in 4/4 time, key of C major. The melody is a simple, slow plainchant. The lyrics are: A-gnus De - i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no - bis. A-gnus De - i,
qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no - bis. A - gnus De - i,
qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di: do - na no - bis pa - cem.

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 A GLUTEN ALLERGY, & NEED A GLUTEN FREE HOST, PLEASE COME TO THE PRESIDER & INDICATE THIS.

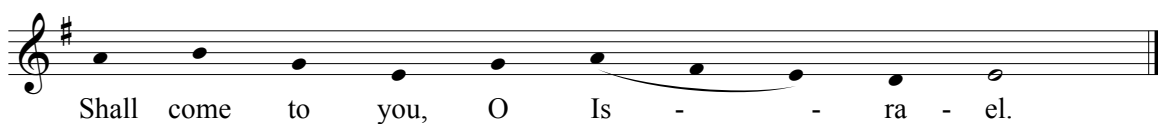
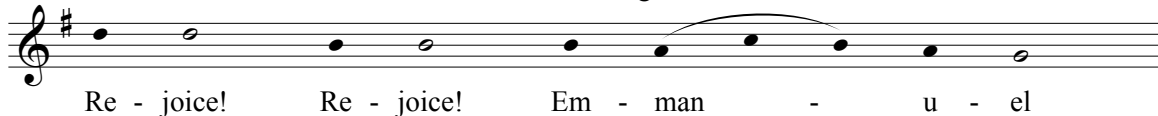
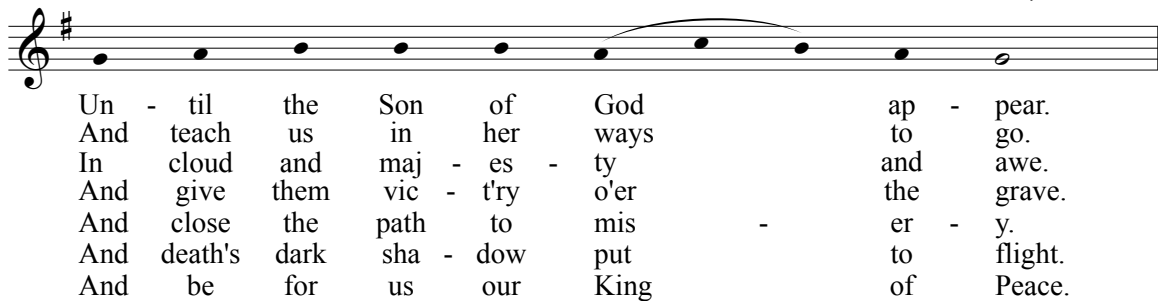
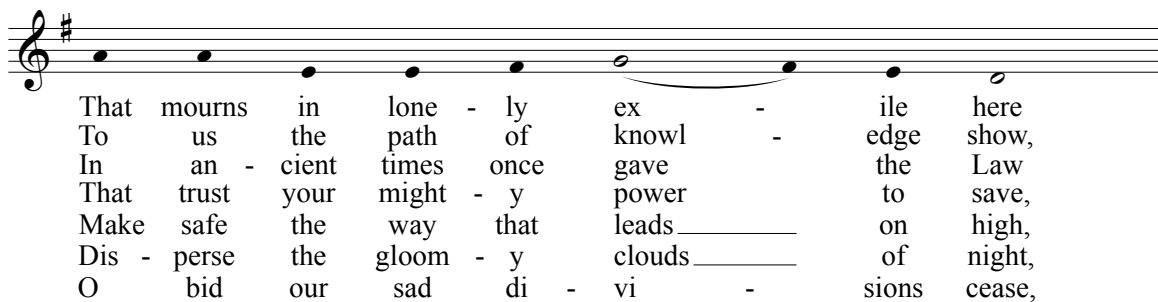
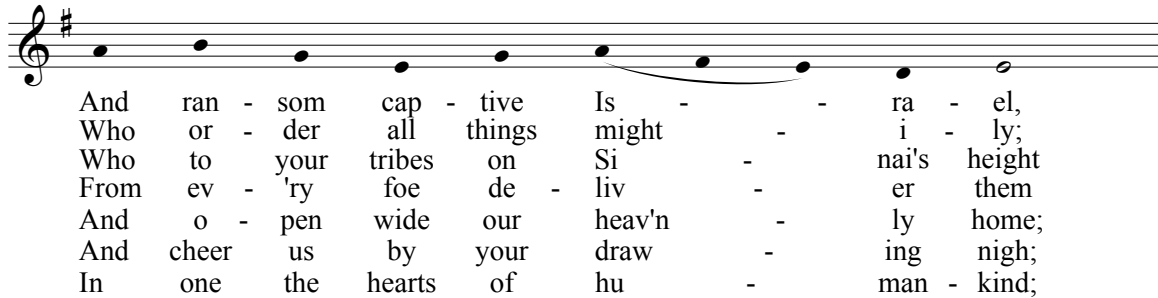
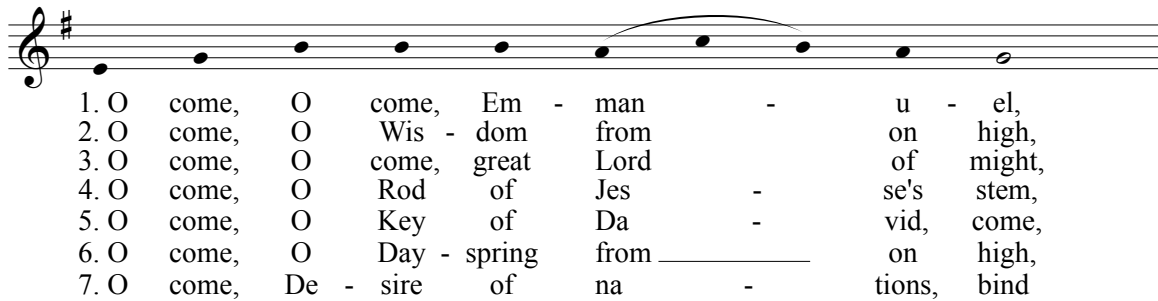
Communion Songs

Rejoice In the Lord (9)

Psallite



O Come, O Come Emmanuel (5, 11 & 5:30)



Song of Praise

O Come Divine, Messiah (5, 9 & 11)

1. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The
2. O come De - sired of na - tions, Whom
3. O come in peace and meek - ness, For

world in si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
priest and proph - et long fore - told, Will break the cap - tive
low - ly will your cra - dle be: Though clothed in hu - man

tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.
fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.
weak - ness We shall your God - head see.

Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the
night and show your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O

Come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day When
hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

Postlude

Instrumental (5,9 & 11)

Recessional

Prepare the Way (5:30)

Psallite

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, and
all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOSEPH



Sunday

9:00 AM Mass - Childcare Available
10:00 AM Coffee & Donuts - Join us!
11:00 AM Mass
5:30 PM Mass

Monday

7:00 AM Mass
7:00 AM Yoga - Body In Prayer
1:00 PM Blood Drive
7:00 PM Sacred Silence Prayer
7:00 PM Rosary Prayer Goup
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

Tuesday

7:00 AM Mass

Wednesday

7:00 AM Mass
7:00 AM Yoga - Body In Prayer
6:00 PM Pathfinders
7:00 PM The VOICE Youth Group

Thursday

7:00 AM Mass

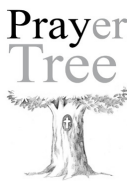
Friday

7:00 AM Mass

Saturday

3:30 PM Reconciliation
5:00 PM Vigil Mass

LITURGY AND WORSHIP



St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For Kevin in his recovery and healing from a serious motorcycle accident . . . May God give Kevin and his family the strength to cope with upcoming surgeries . . . Thankful for the good news about a child's health challenge that can be handled . . . During this Year of Mercy may we extend mercy daily to family, friends and strangers . . . Pray for Pope Francis.

*"He is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."
~ Psalm 95:7*

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

Stephanie Ragland Bio

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps brought Stephanie to Seattle in 1978 from Oakland, California, after undergraduate studies at Santa Clara University. She is currently Director of Vincentian Support for St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle|King County. A graduate of Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry, Stephanie brings over thirty years of extensive experience in retreat work, parish ministry, and social outreach. Prior to joining St. Vincent de Paul, Stephanie was Executive Director of Francis House in Seattle, Spiritual Director with Puget Sound SEEL, and pastoral associate at St. Joseph's Parish. Stephanie and her husband, Jerry Johnsen are members of St. Joseph Parish.

Many hands make light work!

Join fellow parishioners on Sunday, December 20th to prepare the Church for Christmas. This is a great opportunity for new parishioners to get to know others in our community. Immediately following the 11 am Mass, we will gather for a quick lunch in the Arrupe Room of the Parish Center, then head over to the Church, divide in teams, and thoroughly clean the church, light the trees, hang the wreaths and set out the poinsettias. Bring the family. Stay an hour or three. Make it an annual tradition!



FAITH JUSTICE

Thank you for supporting one of our Outreach Partners!

Instructions: GIFTS MUST BE BACK TO THE CHURCH BY MONDAY DECEMBER 14th



Parish Blood Drive

We are having another blood drive on **Monday, Dec 14th from 12-6 pm** (Closed 2-2:45) in the Parish Center. To sign up for the blood drive, please email Renee Leet at rleet@stjosephparish.org

St. Joseph Epiphany Dinner

Sunday, January 10th - 1 - 4 pm - Parish Social Hall

We will open our doors to anyone in the Community for a shared meal and fellowship. We extend a personal invitation to all of our "Outreach Partners" such as Recovery Café, St. Martin de Porres Shelter, Chief Seattle Club, Noel House 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.

This year, sign-ups are on-line at PerfectPotluck.com. Sign-up by entering your name, email & phone number for the item you would like to bring—SUPER EASY! Visit PerfectPotluck.com and locate the meal by coordinator last name (Wodzanowski) and password (Epiphany). You can also signup after Mass.

Thank you in advance for your generosity! Questions? Please contact Deacon Steve at stevew@stjosephparish.org or (206) 965-1646.

St. Martin de Porres

St Martin de Porres shelter for men over the age of 50 is in great need of blankets in this colder weather. Some of the men are using towels as a cover to keep warm at night. If you have a gently-used blanket or can purchase one to give to the shelter it would be greatly appreciated. Either bring it to the parish center or call me. I can pick it up (in Seattle). For more information call Candace, 206 323 814.

CCS Vigil

Please Join Us for a 24-Hour Vigil on the Homeless Crisis in King County

Seattle Mayor Murray and King County Executive Constantine recently called states of emergency about homelessness in Seattle and King County, and have limited allocated additional resources to work toward alleviating the struggle of those who are striving to survive on our streets. We appreciate the local leadership, but we recognize that we must have a Federal investment in affordable housing.

During this Advent season, we invite you to join us in calling for a vigorous national investment in housing. We are partnering with numerous social service agencies and the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, and their peer organizations in Portland and Los Angeles, to bring forward a national campaign to call for more affordable housing. Pope Francis summons us all to behold and respond in love. Every day, we see the great suffering of those without shelter in our own communities. As Catholics, we pray and come together so that we may bring the good news and loving presence of God to the poor and most vulnerable among us.

Please join us as we hold vigil for 24 hours on homelessness to highlight the need for affordable housing in King County.

- December 16 through December 17
- Noon to noon
- The Henry M. Jackson Federal Building
- 915 Second Avenue, Downtown Seattle
- Sign up now for a two-hour shift

For more information, please call or email Kerry Cooley-Stroum CCS/Dialogue for Justice: kerryccs@ccsww.org, 206.910.1400.

Urgent Need For Volunteers

2nd Saturday Team St. Martin de Porres Shelter
Starting January 2016

We need 4-8 volunteers to make/bring
24 hearty sandwiches
3 dozen hard-boiled eggs
fruit (bananas, satsumas, grapes)
3-4 gallons of milk/cider

To help contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

PARISH LIFE

Funeral Hospitality

We need help with our funeral hospitality ministry. This important ministry offers support to families coping with the many details of funeral planning. As part of our loving concern for the life of the community here, our hospitality team provides assistance in the planning and hosting of a reception after funeral services.

This is a great opportunity for school moms to earn "service hours" and a pleasant way for newcomers to become acquainted. Please contact Mary Ott with any questions or to sign up at ottjm4@gmail.com or 206-324-7459.

Seniors On The Go

Wednesday, December 16th - Christmas Party Potluck Dinner, 5:00-8:00 pm in the Social Hall. Please bring an unwrapped toy for St. Francis House and a gift for under \$5.00 to exchange. Questions? Call Dolores Dorn at 206-322-2259.

Friday, January 8th - Healing Mass at 11:30 am followed by Seniors Luncheon in the Parish Center. *(Please note date change).*

LGBT Ministry



Christmas Party, Sunday, December 20th at 6 pm,
Parish Center



JESUIT PUGET SOUND

"The Promise of Mercy"

Tuesday, December 15, 2015* (*note new date!)
7:00 pm at St. Joseph Church, Seattle

What will this Year of Mercy mean for you? One week after Pope Francis opens St. Peter's doors for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, you are invited to open the doors of your heart to God's "promise of mercy" in the spaciousness of this contemplative Advent evening of prayer, music, art, storytelling, silent reflection, and ritual. Be inspired by humble and uplifting stories of mercy from the L'Arche and Recovery Café communities. Give yourself time to breathe in the midst of a hectic time of year!

Free will offering. Seating is first-come, first-served. An RSVP is helpful, but not necessary. For more information, contact andrea@ignatiancenter.org or (206) 329-4824. Co-sponsored by the Ignatian Spirituality Center and St. Joseph Parish, Seattle.

Save The Date

Catholic Advocacy Day is **February 8, 2016**. Mark your calendars and join us! Registration information will be available soon.

A Winter Day of Reflection: An Examen at the Turn of the Year

Saturday, January 2, 2016 , 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
St. Joseph Parish Center, Rosanne Michaels, facilitating

Looking for a unique and meaningful gift idea? Consider giving this one-day mini-retreat to your loved one's! When the hectic holiday season dies down, we invite you to join us at the turn of the calendar year for a peaceful Winter Day of Reflection to look back on the previous year and look forward to the year ahead in the light of God's perspective. COST: Early registration fee - \$45 (through Monday, December 28) Final week registration fee- \$55 (after Dec 28). Light breakfast, lunch and materials included. Partial work scholarships available. INFO: For more information about this day, or for questions about partial work scholarships, contact Andrea Fontana at (206) 329-4824 or andrea@ignatiancenter.org





**Getting to
Know You...**



**And Getting to
Know Myself
With You.**



St. Joseph's Couples Retreat Weekend
February 5 – 7, 2016
La Conner Country Inn

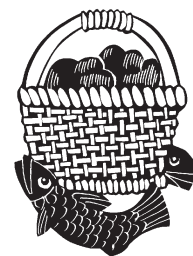
*\$365 per couple **
Partial scholarships available

**Includes Continental breakfast Saturday and
Sunday and Saturday group dinner*

Saturday lunch and afternoon on your own

*Register with Deacon Steve by **Jan. 11***
206-965-1646 or steve@stjosephparish.org

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Update

Many, many thanks to all who have made gifts and pledges to our annual stewardship appeal. **To date, we have received 536 pledges totaling \$897,240 toward our goal of \$1,500,000.** We are endlessly grateful for your commitment to St. Joseph Parish!

If you haven't yet affirmed your active membership in our parish, please do so, and prayerfully consider what, if any, gift you are able to give to support our work. To speak, or write an affirmation is to make your membership intentional and not merely pro forma. In a community of prayer and spirit, such an affirmation, we hope, will also encourage reflection and break the, perhaps, merely habitual ties. So, that is why we ask for annual affirmation.

Many thanks... Monica Alquist, Connie Anthony, Hugh Bangasser & Lucy Homans, Michelle Beauclair, Matt Bell, Kristen Bernard, James Chesko, Dino & Jeannine Christofilis, Bob & Molly Davidson, John & Susan Gabbert, Mike & Kari Ginal, Moises Gutierrez, Victor & Pamela Harned, Frank & Diana Hefferman, Jim & Kathie Hood, Corbin Johnson, Renee Leet, John & Deborah Marchione, Ryan Moore & Susan McCauley, Mark & Amanda O'Callaghan, Sean & Shelley O'Donnell, Robert & Katherine Ortblad, Tom & Brooke Pigott, Fred & Susan Raney, Jon & Elizabeth Rhea, Glen & Elizabeth Rogers, Josh Sanderson & Ellen Kendrick, Gary & Megan Schmidt, Ronald & Angela Souza, John & Geri Stukel, Freddie & Katherine Tate, Isaac Wallick & Julia Keller, Brendan & Elizabeth Wilson, Drew & Katie Zwiebel

FAITH FORMATION



Adult Faith Formation

Partnering With Parents series continues thru December 20th and then returns on Sunday, January 10th during Children's Faith Formation in the parish center. Open to all adults, this group meets to discuss current Catholic topics in the media today.

On-line Scripture Study continues weekly; this online, self-directed study allows you to bring Christ alive in your head and heart through weekly lectionary-based reflections. Please visit and sign up: <https://stjosephparishbiblestudy.wordpress.com> (to access use the word Arrupe)

Join us in the New Year for these faith formation highlights: **Catholic 101**-a small group series focused on the pillars of the Catholic church. Meets Wednesday nights from 7-9pm beginning in January. **Guest speaker Fr. Patrick Howell, S.J.** will discuss Pope Francis and the Church on Thursday, January 21 from 7-8:30 pm.

Infant Baptism Prep Classes

Baptism is the first of three sacraments of initiation into the Catholic Church. Our next set of infant baptism preparation classes for parents and godparents will be held on Thursday, January 7 and 14 from 6-8pm. Pre-registration is necessary by emailing Dottie Farewell at dfarewell@stjosephparish.org.

Children's Faith Formation

Rite of Christian Initiation for Children - Children who have not yet been baptized by the age of seven years old receive full initiation (baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation) into the church during the Easter season. Children participate in preparation classes as a group to learn about the Catholic faith. Parents and godparents are selected and are also an active part of the child's faith formation during this time. Please contact Dottie Farewell at dfarewell@stjosephparish.org

Children's Baptism – if you have a child age five to seven years old and he or she would like to be baptized into the Catholic Faith, then this is the program for you. The program of preparation beginning in January with the Sacrament of Baptism taking place on Sunday, April 10th.

Please set up an appointment with Dottie Farewell by calling 206-965-1652 or emailing dfarewell@stjosephparish.org



SEEK MERCY

PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Seek Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful,
as the heavenly Father is merciful.

Help us to seek mercy:
in the forgiveness of our sins,
in the desire of our hearts,
in the surrender of our will.

May the mercy you have given to us
in your coming among us as brother and friend,
fill us with joy and hope,
that we might grow in mercy through communion
with you, who live and reign with the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever
and ever. Amen.