After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.
The Feast of the Holy Family

December 27, 2015

Homily Next Week:
Fr. John D. Whitney, S.J.

Readings for January 3, 2016
First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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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Holy Families

All the love God has in himself, all the beauty God has in himself, all the truth God has in himself, he entrusts to the family. A family is truly a family when it is capable of opening its arms to receive all that love. Of course the garden of Eden is long gone; life has its problems; men and women – through the wiles of the devil – experienced division. And all that love which God gave us was practically lost. And in no time, the first crime was committed, the first fratricide. Brother kills brother: war. God’s love, beauty and truth, and on the other hand the destructiveness of war: we are poised between those two realities every day. It is up to us to choose, to decide which way to go.

-Pope Francis-

He used to come to the hospital late at night, after being on the road since 6:00 am. He was usually coming back from some business trip, driving to a county clerk’s office in Eureka or a newspaper in the area around Fresno. But no matter when he got back to the Bay Area, if my sister was in the hospital with some complication of her diabetes, he would always go there first, walking down the halls with an attitude that led the staff to believe he belonged there, even though it was well past visiting hours. With him he would always have something—a small puppet or a doll—to make my sister smile when she awoke, but he never woke her himself. He just sat by her bed for an hour or two, holding her hand; praying; watching, like Joseph at the manger, as his fragile child slept. And then he would come home, rarely mentioning the visit to anyone, except maybe my mother, who herself had sat at that bedside when she could, when the demands of four other children did not pull her away. These vigils, separate yet somehow united, wove my parents together in grief and hope, in faith and love. Through them God’s love for my sister became the love of my parents, and their love became God’s.

This weekend, following the rush of Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. So often, in our conception of this feast, we imagine the little atomic family that we see pictured in holy cards and paintings. There is Joseph, working at his carpenter’s bench, and Mary knitting or watching her child. And there is Jesus, an infant, nestled beside his mother, or a young boy, standing at his father’s side, learning his trade. In some medieval works, we might also see St. Anne—the mother of Mary—watching over her daughter’s shoulder, without (of course) interfering, just like a perfect grandmother. For many of us, this is the holy family we imagine, and it becomes a standard we use to grade our own families and other families—a standard we can never meet, and one that always seems to indict us in our imperfection.

Yet, in thinking this way, we forget the true horror of the stable and the conditions of Jesus’ birth, forget Joseph’s anxiety at failing to find lodging, and Mary’s sense of uncertainty amid the stench and cold of that cattle shed. We ignore the desperation that must have accompanied their flight into Egypt, when the small family became refugees, whose lives stood imperiled by political forces.
beyond their control. In idealizing the holy family, we sanitize the anger and fear that must have been present in those parents when their son chose to stay behind in Jerusalem, as they looked everywhere for him. In erasing all the difficult moments in the life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we make the holy family into plaster saints instead of real people, and thus lose sight of the depth of God’s love for us, expressed in the Incarnation. For God came as one of us, and as one of us experiences a family not so very different from our own.

Like all parents, Mary and Joseph grew old in worry for their son, and grew holy, not from some transcendent perfection, but by choosing to open their arms to one another and to the child given into their care. Like all families, the holiness of Nazareth came through living life together where fear and hurt, loss and tears never overcame their love. They were not a holy family through perfection; rather, their holiness came in repeated choices, made even in the hardest of times, when it seemed that the choice of family was the craziest thing one could imagine. Yet they chose it: Mary’s “Yes” to the angel repeated every time she rose in the night to feed her hungry son; Joseph’s acceptance of Mary and the child renewed in every trip with his son to the synagogue, in every time he did the dishes or took out the trash. And in this life together, holiness poured forth—as it does for so many who live such commitments today.

As Christ Jesus is “the firstborn of many sisters and brothers” (Rom. 8:29), so too is the holy family one of many holy families—families of all variety and form where love is given and arms are open to receive. I think of my own parents, holding my sister close to them in her illness; and holding each other close, without many words, but with an eloquence that only love can bring. I think of a single mother, struck by cancer, who recorded herself reading “Goodnight, Moon” to her sons before the surgery that took her voice; and then I think of her son, just 20 years old, kneeling at his mother’s bedside as she died, holding her hand to comfort her on the way. I think of the two men who committed their lives to each other in marriage, and who are raising their adopted son in the Church—even when their marriage is not recognized there—because they love him and long to share with him the God who nourishes their love together. I think of an elderly man, wheeling his wife down the street, her dementia impairing her ability to recall him, but his love undiminished. I think of the daughter, walking her still-proud mother into church, sustaining her dignity, even when pain and grief fills her mother’s heart. I think of the grandparents raising their daughter’s child, while drugs and darkness draw her away. I think of the Syrian father, holding his child above the waves until a fishing boat lifts the boy aboard, and the father, weakened by his sacrifice, sinks beneath the surface. I think of the families made up of abandoned or abused young people, who join together in a love deeper and more powerful than friendship. All of these, and so many more are holy families—working out God’s salvation of the world in the gift of generational love.

In our world, there are many who will never know a mother and a father to hold them and love them: victims of abuse and human trafficking, slaves held in the shrimp farms of Thailand or the factories of China, children of war and abandonment. Yet, in the human family is always the hope that we, in the image of Christ, will choose to love these women and men, these children and elders, will to open our arms to them in love. May we, at last, become a holy family for all our sisters and brothers, embracing them in mercy, choosing them in God’s love and beauty and truth.
ORDER OF CELEBRATION

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

This worship aid is for all Masses. All are invited to join in quiet prayer with prelude from 5:00-5:30pm on Sunday.

Preludes

Once in Royal David’s City
IRBY/Gauntlett

1. Once in royal David’s City Stood a
lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her
baby, In a manager for his bed. Mary

2. He came down to earth from heaven Who is
God and Lord of all, And his shelter was a
stable, And his cradle was a stall. With the

3. And through all his wondrous childhood He would
donor and obey, Love and watch the lowly
day like us he grew; He was little, weak, and

gentle Is our Lord in heaven above; And he
grew; And he

4. For he is our childhood’s patron, Day by
own redeeming love; For that child so dear and
helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew; And he
gentle Is our Lord in heaven above; And he

5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his
poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
children all should be Kind, obedient, good as he.
feels for all our sadness, And he shares in all our gladness.
leads his children on To the place where he has gone.

Of the Father’s Love Begotten #351 (5:30)

Entrance Songs

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (5, 9 & 11)

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and merciful mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

2. Christ, by high est heav’n a-dored; Christ, the ev er-last ing Lord!
Late in time he hold him come, Offspring of the Vir-gin’s womb.

3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous ness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris’n with healing in his wings.

Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the tri umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the’incarnate Deity,

Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
With the angelic host pro-claim, “Christ is born in Beth lehem!”

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je-sus, our Em-man u-el.
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec ond birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glo-ry to the new-born King!”
First Reading

In those days Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel, since she had asked the LORD for him. The next time her husband Elkanah was going up with the rest of his household to offer the customary sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vows, Hannah did not go, explaining to her husband, “Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever; I will offer him as a perpetual nazirite.”

Once Samuel was weaned, Hannah brought him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh. After the boy’s father had sacrificed the young bull, Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said: “Pardon, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request; now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD.” Hannah left Samuel there.

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 96--Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. Sing God’s glory to the nations, let us sing a glad Noel.
2. Let the plains and hills be joyful, all that in the sea abound.
3. Then shall all the trees and meadows, then shall all the hills on earth sing God’s glory, tell the story of the mighty Savior’s birth. For he comes to

W ZLOBIE LEZY
Second Reading

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel

Each year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Homily

Fr. Glen Butterworth, S.J.

Offertory Song

In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

4. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.
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.
Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus lay dressed in Creator’s green.

2. The cattle are lowing; the baby wakens, But little Lord Jesus, no cry for me.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.

Ox down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay, down from the sky

4. Look your tender care, And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

What Child Is This #380 Haugen/Sung to Greensleeves

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with an anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?

2. Why lies he in such mean estate Where sinners here The silent Word is pleading.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.
Communion Prayer

Seek Mercy

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

Postlude

Instrumental
This Week At St. Joseph

Sunday
9:00 AM Mass
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
7:00 PM Sacred Silence Prayer
7:00 PM Rosary Prayer Group
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

Thursday
7:00 AM Mass
8:00 PM Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday
10:00 AM Mass, Solemnity of Mary

Saturday
8:00 AM Centering Prayer Group
3:30 PM Reconciliation
5:00 PM Vigil Mass

Our Local Church

Improving the Health of Mothers & Babies in Ethiopia: How Medical & Faith Communities in Partnership Can Make a Difference

Monday, Jan 25th from 7-8:30 pm Brebeuf Room, Parish Center

If you got sick, who would you call first – your doctor or your priest?

SCOPE is a partnership between the University of Washington, University of Gondar, and faith-based institutions in the United States and Ethiopia. We envision a world where creative partnerships between medical and faith communities bring lasting, positive change to healthcare access and service. Our programs harness the broad and influential reach of faith communities to expand understanding of and access to healthcare.

Join us and see how you can get involved!! For more information contact Barbara Clinton at barbaralclinton@yahoo.com

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

Save The Date
Catholic Advocacy Day is February 8, 2016. Mark your calendars and join us! Registration information will be available soon.
Many, many thanks to all who have made gifts and pledges to our annual stewardship appeal. **To date, we have received 719 pledges totaling $1,066,029 toward our goal of $1,500,000.** We are endlessly grateful for your commitment to St. Joseph Parish! If your name is NOT on this list, and you think it should be, please give us a call at 206-965-1654, or email tinao@stjosephparish.org

Seniors On The Go

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry has made many beautiful shawls and blankets that have been given to parish members, as well as their friends and relatives.

Our ministry typically meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Parish Center from 7-8:30 pm. The next meeting is January 5th. We spend that time in prayer and friendship, while knitting or crocheting our blankets and shawls. We welcome all levels of experience, even people who would like to learn to knit or crochet as we have members who would be happy to teach and mentor at the gatherings.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Rothmeyer at jenniferrothmeyer@hotmail.com

St. Martin de Porres

St Martin de Porres shelter for men over the age of 50 is in need of blankets in this colder weather. Either bring to the Parish Center or call Candace, 206 323 814.

St. Joseph Epiphany Dinner

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

We extend a personal invitation to all of our “Outreach Partners,” however, all are welcome for community and fellowship. 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! 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. Vincent de Paul Collection

Next Weekend

The wonderful story of the Maji bringing gifts to Jesus, Mary and Joseph offers many implications for us and not only at Christmas time. Yet each year at this time our St. Vincent de Paul group partners with students at Holy Names Academy to present very substantial gift baskets to poor families with children.

From the many families we get to know over the course of the year, we provide the names of three or four families—often single moms with two or three kids—to receive a gift basket. The Holy Names students really turn out for this: ample food stuffs appropriate for the Christmas and winter season; toys and books appropriate for the ages of the family’s children; and, new clothing and a special treat or two tossed in.

Just as the Holy Family no doubt welcomed with gratitude the gifts of the Maji so long ago, the families receiving the gifts from the Holy Names students are every bit as grateful.

Thank you for supporting our St. Vincent de Paul ministry. It’s a time of year when the needs are many. Your support is most appreciated.

Cyo Sports

Volleyball registration is up on the St. Joseph website. The last day to register is January 14th. Volleyball is open to all boys and girls in the 4th-8th grade. 4th grade teams as well as boy’s teams are dependent on interest.

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. Please contact Mary Ott with any questions or to sign up at otjim4@gmail.com or 206-324-7459.
Faith Formation

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.

Agape Service Project Meeting
Have you heard of the Agape service trip for middle school students and wanted more information? We are holding an Agape information meeting on Wednesday January 6th, 2016, from 6:00-7:00pm in Parish Center. Agape is a week-long service trip in Bellingham, WA during the first week of August 2016. This is a great summer service project and an empowering trip for middle schoolers. Questions? Email Erin Tobin at cff@stjosephparish.org

Adult Faith Formation
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)

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’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 begins 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 email dfarewell@stjosephparish.org

No CFF Sunday School on January 3rd. Classes resume Sunday, January 10. Happy New Year!