

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE









There was a wedding in Cana at Galilee . . .

# SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 17, 2016 Homily Next Week: Father John D. Whitney, S.J.

#### Readings for January 24, 2016

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27 Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

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

Parish Receptionist (206) 324-2522

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Patrick Fennessy, Principal	x218

Mary Helen Bever, Middle School Dir

Lillian Zadra, Primary School Dir

x215

x219

# The Spoken Word

"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed."

-Communion Rite-

About two years ago, I was invited by Holy Names Academy to spend a day in their junior religion classes, talking about the Sacraments and about my life as a Jesuit. During one of these sessions, as I was discussing the parts of the Mass, one of the young women became very agitated in her seat, and when I called on her, she spoke up with great vehemence: "What is it with that prayer we say right before communion—the one about how I am not worthy? I don't get that. I don't feel unworthy. And why do we say that right before we receive communion?" Though her comment wasn't exactly consistent with what the class was talking about, it was clear that she had been upset by this prayer for a long time, and she wasn't about to miss the opportunity to challenge a priest about it. Leaning back against the wall, I looked at her face and I wondered how many times she had heard that prayer, which seemed to tell her she was unworthy of Christ, and how many times it made her feel that perhaps she didn't belong in this Church at all?

"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed."

This prayer, said as the consecrated bread and wine are held out to the assembly, begins with a declaration of unworthiness—a declaration which, for many, seems to undermine all that has just been recalled in the Eucharistic Prayer. Despite all the talk of God's mercy and Jesus' sacrificial love, the beginning of this prayer seems to drive us back to the penitential posture that begins the Mass, forcing us to profess that we do not deserve to receive Christ, offered to us in this Sacrament. Like a child, pushed away from the table, the People of God are called to profess that they have no place among the holy things, no place at the banquet of God. It is as though the body and blood of Christ, held above my head, is only there to remind me of what I do not deserve. Yet, if this table is only for the worthy, what am I doing here at all?

Such an understanding of this prayer is not limited to high school juniors. Indeed, over and over again I have encountered faithful Catholics, many of whom already feel a generalized sense of shame, who feel further pushed back from the altar by the words of this prayer. Caught by that first clause, and by years of feeling judged and condemned by the Church, many people internalize this humiliation, even as they prepare for communion with Christ. Thus, they may come to the altar with hesitation and fear, feeling presumptuous (and, in some cases, even sinful) as they receive the food for which their soul longs. Meanwhile, others, weary of the abusive shame they feel, and hoping to leave behind the source of their humiliation, absent themselves from the Church, altogether.

Yet, if the Church, as Pope John XXIII says, "prefers to use the medicine of mercy rather than arm herself with the weapons of rigor," how can it be that the prayers of the Mass humiliate at the

very moment when they should be welcoming? Is this simply a vestige of earlier days, when the People of God were to be kept from the altar, and frequent reception of the Eucharist was a rarity? Or might there be more in this prayer than what we hear at first? If we were to look more closely at this small part of the Mass, might we find something new and rich, that we too easily miss in our presumption of understanding?

I believe that when we attend to the entire pre-communion prayer—and understand the story to which it alludes—we come away with a far different sense of our calling as Church and as individuals than we do on a casual hearing. For, like many parts of the Mass, this prayer is intended to evoke a memory of a moment in Scripture, in this case the story of Jesus and the Centurion, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. In that story, an officer in the Roman army—i.e., a powerful figure in the occupied Israel of Jesus' day—comes to Jesus, asking this itinerant healer to cure a beloved servant. In this story, it is clear that the centurion must love his servant a great deal, since asking Jesus' help is an act of humiliation for such an important person. But the centurion does not stop there, for when Jesus agrees to come, the Roman responds, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed." By every mark of society—wealth, power, prestige—the centurion holds greater honor than Jesus; yet he respects Jesus, and does not wish to humiliate him by bringing him into the house of a Gentile. When Jesus hears the words of the centurion, he himself is humbled, praising the man as an example of faith, and curing his servant instantly. Jesus speaks the word the centurion desires, not because the centurion is a powerful person, nor because he is part of the Covenant of Abraham, but because of his faith. Because his hands and heart are open, Jesus, in love and mercy, fills them with his grace.

When we do not know this reference, we only echo the centurion's words without comprehending their full meaning, and so we get caught in the profession of our unworthiness. But when we know the story, we can read the prayer in its entirety, in its context, recognizing that the word we seek has already been spoken; indeed, the Word has been made flesh and dwells among us, healing us by the very Sacrament we receive. In this context, our declaration of unworthiness is not a rehashing of our sins, but an acknowledgement of God's gratuitous love.

For God doesn't care about our worthiness, but about our faith. Jesus doesn't care if we deserve to be at the altar, but cares that we desire to come. And the Spirit, poured into our hearts for healing and communion, does not care if we are powerful or important or even "good Catholics", but cares that we are beloved. For our wor-

thiness comes from our faith, our right to the Sacrament comes from our desire for it, and our goodness comes as a gift from the One who alone is good, and who longs to be in communion with us.

This is why we pray this prayer on the way to the altar: not as a final act of humiliation, so we don't get too big for our breeches, but as a final reminder that the Word of God is spoken to us, and all we need to receive its fullness is to open our hands and say, "Amen!"

John of



If you read Fr. John's column and wonder what else you may be missing...

Explore Scripture, Spirituality, and Catholic Faith traditions through St. Joseph Adult Faith Formation programs. See what we have to offer on our website www.stjosephparish.org or contact Dottie Farewell at dfarewell@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1642.

# ORDER OF CELEBRATION SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## **Prelude**

God.

#### *Instrumental*



First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch.

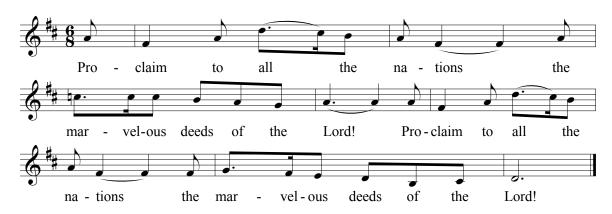
Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God.

No more shall people call you "Forsaken, " or your land "Desolate, " but you shall be called "My Delight, " and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

# **Responsorial Psalm**

# Psalm 96

Haugen

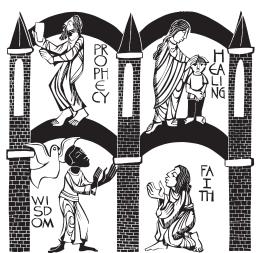


# **Second Reading**

Brothers and sisters: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another, the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another, mighty deeds; to another, prophecy; to another, discernment of spirits; to another, varieties of tongues; to another,

interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11



# **Gospel Acclamation**

### Alleluia

Taize



Gospel John 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from — although the servers who had drawn the water knew —, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

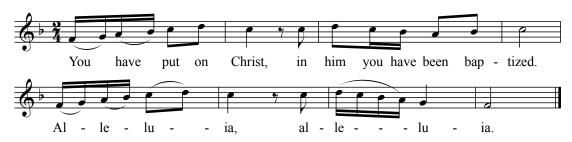
# **Homily**

## **Deacon Steve Wodzanowski**

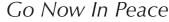
# **Baptismal Acclamation (5, 9, 11)**

You Have Put On Christ

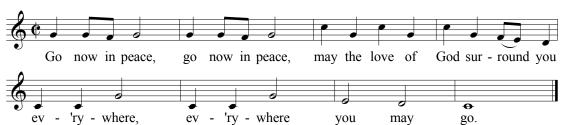
Hughes



# **Dismissal Of Candidates and Cathechumens (5:30)**



Sleeth



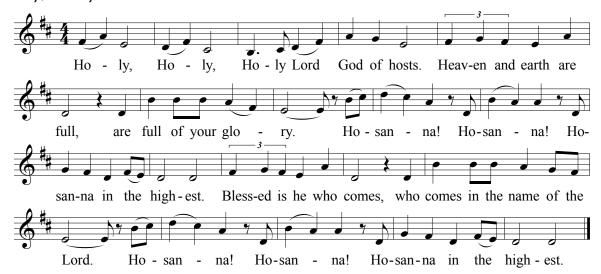
# **Prayers Of The Faithful**

Reader: ...God in your mercy.

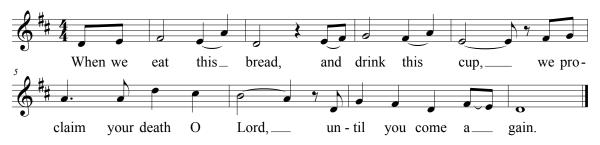
Assembly: Hear our prayer.



# Holy, Holy, Holy



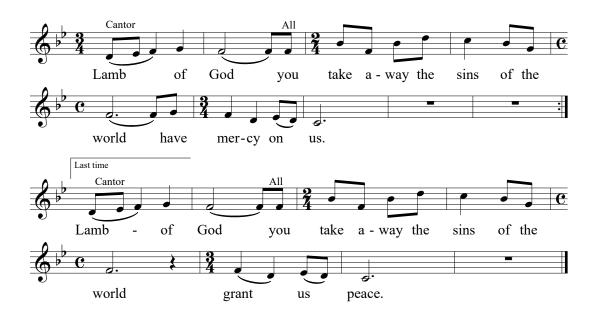
# **Mystery of Faith**



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



# **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.

### Recessional

# This Little Light Of Mine (5, 9, 11)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

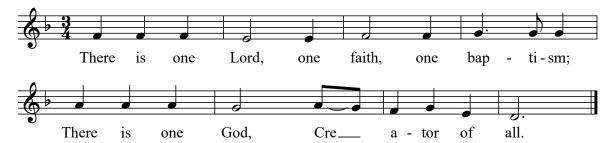
Everywhere I go I'm gonna let it shine...

North and south and east and west, I'm gonna let it shine...

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

# There Is One Lord (5:30)

Taize



## **Postlude**

#### Instrumental

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# 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 (please use side door of Parish Center)
7:00 PM Sacred Silence Prayer (in the Church)

Tuesday

: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 Mass



# LITURGY AND WORSHIP

# A New Priest at St. Joseph

Fr. Scott Santarosa, S.J., Provincial of the Jesuits of the Northwest, has missioned Fr. Julian Climaco, S.J. to work at St. Joseph Parish this year. Fr. Julian, who is an accomplished pianist and musician, was ordained last June and will join the St. Joseph community in August, filling the post previously held by Fr. Glen. Some of you may have met Fr. Julian when he visited just before Christmas so you know he will be a wonderful addition to our community. Let's keep Fr. Julian in our prayers for success in his studies and a great transition.

# **Baptism Families**

Please join us in praying with the families having children baptized this weekend.

> Michael & Anne Balicki Ben & Katherine Brawner Jeffrey & Malia Cawaling Alex & Elisa Cooper Joey & Jessica Kaempf Mark & Joanna Mullaly Patrick & Aileen Ramos Chad & Camille Raymond Jeremy & Brigette Yates

# **Choir Auditions**

The St. Joseph Choir is seeking new members to join us for the second half of the year. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm and sing the Sunday 9 am mass and other special parish liturgies. For more information or to schedule an audition, visit the liturgy section of the parish website or contact Director of Music Ministries Robert McCaffery-Lent at Rmclent@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1649, or talk to Bob aat church after Mass.



St. Joseph Community extends its Prayer prayers and hopes for the following **TEC** intentions: For Robert McEvoy and for his family as he is in hospice care . . . For Kevin in his recovery after surgery. . . For Callie's wellbeing after falling off her bike . . . For guidance and discern-

ment in making a family decision . . . Prayers for Pope Francis in his role as spiritual leader.

"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

1 Corinthians 12:7

Rest in Peace

James Hough, husband of Karyn, whose funeral is January 20th at 11 am.

# **Seattle Nativity School**



In honor of Catholic Schools week we will have special envelopes in the pews during weekend Masses on January 30th and 31st for a collection to benefit Seattle Nativity School. Please join us in supporting this worthy lesuit endeavor.

# **Sacred Silence**

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 center-



ing prayer, Ignatian imagination or another prayer. For information on Sacred Silence and silent prayer contact Jim Hoover at sacredsilence@stjosephparish.org or 206-286-0313.

# **FAITH FORMATION**



## **Adult Faith Formation**

Who Is Pope Francis? What is He Up To?: Insights into Francis' life, reforms in the Church, and challenges for the world. Guest speaker Fr. Patrick Howell, S.J. will discuss Pope Francis and the Church on Thursday, January 21 from 7-8:30 pm in the Arrupe Room. Fr. Howell is a Distinguished Professor at Seattle University's Institute of Catholic Thought and Culture, author of several books and most recently an article in America magazine, "Pope Francis Meets the American Church."

Catholic 101 meets Wednesday nights from 7 - 8:30 pm beginning Wednesday, January 20 on the top floor of the Parish Center. Catholicism 101 will center around who is God and what is our desire for God, God's revelation in Scripture, Faith, Trinity, Creation, and Incarnation. It is designed for those who are interested in exploring the Catholic Faith, but aren't ready to commit to the RCIA process or for cradle Catholic's who are desiring to be more deeply connected to their faith. We will explore the meaning behind what we say at Mass each week, learn about the Nicene creed and other basic tenants of the Catholic faith more deeply. People of all levels of understanding are encouraged to join because your experience and understanding will enrich all of our experiences.

To sign up for ANY of the above programs, please contact Dottie Farewell at dfarewell@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1652.

# **Partnering With Parents**

Parents whose children attend Sunday morning Faith Formation: Do you know that we have a free discussion group that meets in the Parish Center each Sunday when your children are in their classes?

Sue Grady, MDiv leads the discussion every Sunday morning from 10:15 am to 10:55 am in the foyer of the Parish Center. Receive weekly links to current articles from great Catholic magazines like *America* (Jesuit magazine), *US Cathloic* (Claritian magazine), and *National Catholic Reporter* (independent weekly Catholic newpaper. It's an interesting way for you to spend the time your children are in class and we can guarantee you will enjoy it!

## 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. The program begins in January. Please set up an appointment with Dottie Farewell by calling 206-965-1652 or email dfarewell@stjosephparish.org

# Family Mass & Dinner Dance Party

Please join us for our Annual Family Mass and Dinner Dance on February 6th. We'll celebrate Mass at 5:00 pm then head to the Social Hall for dinner and dancing. There will be a DJ and kids entertainment.

Don't miss out on all the fun! RSVP to cff@stjosephparish.org, cost is \$10.00 for the first adult, \$5.00 for each additional family member. All are welcome (reminder to CFF 1 & 2 families: participation in this event is part of your formation program). To volunteer please contact David Hein at davidh@okigolf.com

Hosted by the PAB & Parish.

# **Save The Date**

Confirmation will be January 30th at the 5 pm Vigil Mass. We welcome Archbishop Sartain and members from St. Therese joining us for this Sacrament.

Reception to follow, If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Erin at cff@stjosephparish.org



# FAITH JUSTICE

# **Catholic Advocacy Day**

Please join hundreds going to Catholic Advocacy Day, Monday, **February 8th, 2016,** in Olympia. To register, go to: www.ipjc.org

# JUSTICE TOR ALL

# **Catholic Hospital Ministry at Harborview Medical Center**

Volunteers are needed to bring Holy Communion and provide a presence to patients and their families at Harborview Hospital. Volunteers must complete all necessary paperwork, background checks, personal interviews and Orientation/Training sessions. Time expectation is once a week - 3-4 hour shift, plus bimonthly check-in gatherings. There is lots of flexibility in regards to specific day/time. If you would like to participate, contact Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

Serving as a Eucharistic Minister at Harborview is one of the most rewarding volunteer activities I have ever done. I strongly feel the presence of Christ when I visit a patient. And the patients are usually so grateful to have someone bring them Holy Communion. Many of them are often moved to tears after receiving the sacrament. The experience also makes me grateful for my own health and God's blessings. This has been a rich experience for me.

~Dick Malloy

## **Our Faith In Action**

If your New Year's resolution was to help solve the homeless problem in our community, here are a couple of options:

1. The Winter Shelter located in the old gym under the church needs more hosts to spend the night with the men. Specifically the 4th Saturday of the month really needs a couple of men or women to work the one night a month till April.

We also need volunteers to work when they can one night a month but not on any specific night.

2. Every Saturday St Joseph's feeds the men at St. Martin de Porres shelter. The 3rd Saturday of the month team could really use more help. Specifically, we need folks to bring: sandwiches or hot dogs, four dozen hard-boiled eggs, or 4 gallons of milk on the 3rd Saturday.

Please contact Taffy McCormick at 206.321.3702 or taffymccormick@comcast.net for more information or to volunteer.

## Mass for Life

Please join Archbishop Sartain at the Mass for Life at 9:30 am on Tuesday, January 19th.

For Mass details, call the Liturgy Office: 206-382-4878. For parking and other questions: ocff@seattlearch.org.

All are encouraged to participate in the March for Life at the Capitol Building in Olympia and to schedule a time to meet with your legislators after the March. More information is available at www.washingtonmarchforlife. org.

Where: Saint Martin's University, 5000 Abbey Way SE, Lacey, WA 98503

"A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being."

# PARISH LIFE



# Connecting with St. Joseph WELCOME!

**New? Visiting? Interested?** Are you visiting for the first time? Interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities at St. Joseph's parish? Please join our weekly e-news blast at www.stjosephparish.org and click on the "Sign up for our eNewsletter" link in the upper right corner of the homepage. Thank you!

**Register!** Are you a Catholic attending Mass at St. Joseph Parish, yet haven't officially registered? Join us!

Why register? St. Joseph's Church is a vibrant parish offering many avenues for ministry, connecting with other parishioners and spiritual development. We'd love to get to know you, connect with you, and inform you of our various activities, groups and events going on at the church. Please pick up a registration form in the back of the church or go online to register at www.stjosephparish.org and click on the "Join Our Parish" link. We look forward to connecting with you. Thank you!

# Young Adult Lenten Retreat LET MERCY IN!!

Camp Huston, Goldbar, Wa. http://huston.org/ Feb. 13-14 - Sat. 8:30 am - Sun. Noon \$95.00 - includes one night lodging and three meals Double Occupancy - Partial scholarships available

Carpooling Available. To register/pay go to parish website https://www.stjosephparish.org Minimum number needed: 26- Max 36. For more information contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or Stevew@stjosephparish.org

# **Seniors On The Go**

**Thursday, January 28th** - Senior Retreat at the Parish Center, 10 am to 2 pm. Must register with Renee at 206-324-2522.

**Friday, February 5th** - Healing Mass at 11:30 followed by luncheon in the Parish Center.

**Friday, March 4th** - Healing Mass at 11:30 followed by Lenten Juncheon in the Parish Center.

# Attention All Seniors 65 & Older

Give yourself the gift of a retreat for the New Year.

"Gifts and Challenges of Aging"

Thursday January 28th - 10 am -2 pm

St. Joseph's Parish Center

Free lunch provided and parking in the lot. Pat Lewis, who has led Senior retreats for many years, will facilitate. Pat led a series of workshops for us about ten years ago. To register contact Renee At 206-324-2522. If you need a ride contact Deacon Steve.



# Newcomers Wanted! Welcome to St. Joseph!

If you are a newcomer to the parish, please join us for our NEWCOMERS MEET, GREET & EAT Gathering.

**Tuesday, January 26th- 6:00 – 8:00 pm** - Parish Center Food and Drink provided!

Come meet the Parish Staff, your fellow new parishioners and learn about how to get involved in the parish.

To RSVP please contact Jack Hilovsky at 206-965-1653 or jackh@stjosephparish.org

# OUR LOCAL CHURCH

St. Joseph is co-sponsoring the first two sessions: Ignatius' use of Lectio Divina on Jan 28 presented by John Hickman and the Examen on Feb 4 presented by Deacon Steve W. Sessions are from 6:30-8:45pm in the Mother Theresa Room of the Parish Center. Single session option available for \$20/session. Please register by Thursday, Jan 21 at www.ignatiancenter.org or contacting Dottie Farewell at dfarewell@ stjosephparish.org.



# **Survey Says**

St. Joseph Parish has been selected to participate in a national pilot study by Catholic Leadership Institute. By participating in this survey, we have an opportunity to identify how we are growing spiritually as individuals as well as the ways in which our parish community supports that growth.

Through participating in this pilot we hope to:

- Allow parishioners to reflect in their spiritual growth and discipleship
- Identify the ways in which the parish effectively supports that growth
- Look at opportunities to support that growth more in the future
- Create goals and action plans to achieve that growth

The survey will be available from the week of January 18 through Ash Wednesday, February 10, and there are three ways you can participate in this survey:

- 1. Survey sent directly to your email address if we have your **email address** you will receive the survey directly from DiscipleMakerIndex@measuring-success.com
- 2. Survey accessed by a generic link this will be available on our website starting January 18th
- 3. Survey completed on **paper** copies will be available in the Parish Center.

Our goal is a 100% response rate to ensure that we hear all parishioner voices. The data collection, analysis, and reporting will be handled by an independent third party, Measuring Success, a firm that has worked in the non-profit world for 10 years to develop tools to assist non-profits to measure effectiveness. Measuring Success will conduct the survey itself and handle all of your survey responses confidentially. We will receive an aggregate report of the results and will not have access to individual survey responses (unless you choose to self-identify).

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important project. Please keep an eye on our parish website, bulletin and your email during the week of **January 18th** for the invitation to the survey. It will only be available until February 10th so complete it as soon as you can!

# Come Visit Our Chapel Of Mercy - In the north transept of the church

When Bob and Father Whitney approached me about painting a new piece for St. Joseph Church to commemorate and celebrate this Year of Mercy, I was grateful for the opportunity to spend a few lovely weeks painting, praying, and contemplating "Mary, Untier of Knots." The devotion to "Mary, Untier of Knots" (or "Undoer of Knots), which originated in the Church of St. Peter and Perlach in Augsburg, Germany, was popularized in South America by our own Pope Francis. After the Cherynobl disaster in 1986, this image of Mary, who could undo the knots of disobedience and sin, gained enormous popularity and inspired devotion in Catholics across the continent of Europe.

I created my first painting for St. Joseph in 2000—Mary, Mother of Tenderness, which we see at Christmas—when I was



working as lead scenic painter for Village Theatre in Issaquah. Scenic painters are, by trade, very inventive copy artists who trade in devices to make images sing and dance in large spaces like St. Joseph. My original goal, then, was to simply recreate the image that moved and inspired Pope Francis; however, our "Mary, Untier of Knots" is not a copy. The Augsberg icon is difficult to read; when I confessed to Father Whitney that I was unable to decipher the details of the images that were available to me, that I felt I had lost my way, he told me to listen to Mary. "She will tell you what she wants; I firmly believe that." "Someone will see this," said Father John, "who needs to see exactly this image at precisely this time. And it will change something for them."



That is my prayer. In this year of mercy, I pray that we all may experience that grace—that something—an image, a gesture, a conversation, an act of kindness—that will strike us and change us and grow something beautiful inside us. And I pray that it will happen for each of us at exactly the right time. I hope that the new icon will inspire each of you in some small way. Happy 2016! ~Iulie Olsen