

Sunday, 6 March 2016 * Fourth Sunday of Lent * www.stjosephparish.org

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE



COMFORT
THE
SICK

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 6, 2016

Homily Next Week:
Deacon Steve Wodzanowski

Readings for March 13, 2016

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 37:12-14

SECOND READING: 2 ROMANS 8:8-11

GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-45

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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Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218

Mary Helen Bever, Middle School Dir x215

Lillian Zadra, Primary School Dir x219

Answered Prayers

My mother was one of the most prayerful people that I have ever known. Throughout my life, I always knew that she had a saint assigned to me, as well as to each of my sisters and brothers. Sometimes that saint would shift with time or circumstance—and St. Jude, the patron saint of impossible causes, would move up and down through the family, depending on the mischief in which we were engaged—but my mother always made sure one of her heavenly friends was on duty. My mother's prayer always came from the heart, from the deep place of joy or sorrow within her. For her, prayer was not a letter to Santa or a mere rote recitation, done from duty, it was conversation with those whom she loved, and whose love she always trusted would do what was possible. For her, the saints were friends she shared with Jesus, advocates and examples for her life, women and men whose lives could help her frame her own relationship with Christ.

While all of us in my family could count on my mother's prayer, I always knew that my sister, Elizabeth, received a double-dose. Since she was four years old, when the doctor—miraculously, it seemed—realized that the flu she had was actually the start of diabetes, Elizabeth had been central in the prayer of both my parents; and when my father died, my mother felt even more keenly the need to call upon God to hold her daughter. She would pray each day for her, and each night before she went to bed. And though my sister refused to let the disease conquer her spirit, the suffering she endured was felt by my mother, as well. She was worn down by those nights in the hospital with her young child in insulin shock or suffering through a diabetic reaction; worn by the premature angioplasties and the pain of arthritis, by the chronic neuropathy and infections, all the things caused by the brutality of that relentless disease in a time before many of the treatments found today. Yet, even amid this suffering, I knew my mother was praying—at morning Mass or in her evening rosaries—for my sister and all of us.

Growing up with this sense of my mother's prayer, it surprised me to find her one day, just a few years before her death, sitting in her room crying. I asked her what was wrong. Looking down at the ground, in a voice shaken by tears and touched by a level of sorrow I had rarely heard from her, she said: *"Why doesn't God answer my prayers? Why doesn't God answer me?"*

For years my mother prayed for my sister to be relieved from her suffering, to be cured of her diabetes—or, at least, to have its painful effects lessened. And yet, the pain continued and even worsened. The insidious disease continued to take things from my sister, and all my mother's prayers, all her offers to take the pain herself, all the pleas to the saints and to Christ Jesus himself seemed to offer no miracle, no help, no mercy. Sitting next to my mother, I listened as she wondered aloud what she had done wrong, why she could not help my sister, why God would not grant this favor and this grace. And all I could do was hold her. For I had no words, no answers, just my love for her and for Elizabeth.

Since that night, I have often thought about the way God answers

prayers; why it seems, at times, that silence is all we receive. I know the platitudes and have heard the theories—e.g., “God always answers prayer, but sometimes the answer is ‘No’” or “Prayer is meant to change us, not to change God” or even (the cruelest of all), “You just have to pray harder”—and I have been unconvinced; for such theories do little to lessen my anger at God or to ease my feelings of inadequacy and failure. Indeed, they only heighten my sense of being passed over by God, my sense that I have somehow failed.

Only gradually—through many pains and losses, through days sitting with women and men who cannot understand the suffering they endure, or nights spent on my knees at someone’s bedside, begging God that my will, not God’s, be done—have I begun to believe something different about prayer. After years of feeling angry or hurt when I did not get my way; after years of wondering if Jesus wasn’t just asleep in the back of the boat, it has, gradually, begun to dawn in me that the mystery of prayer is really just a reflection of the mystery of the Incarnation itself. I have begun to believe that, just as Jesus was the true answer to the prayers of Israel, so too, is he the answer to all the prayers I offer.


This Sunday, in the gospel reading on the man born blind (*John 9*), it appears that the prayers of the man are answered when Jesus comes to him and heals the blindness with which he was born. Yet, just as his blindness was not a curse from God, given to him in punishment for his or his parents’ sins, so the healing was not, really, the answer to his prayers. Rather, both the blindness and the healing were “occasions of grace,” i.e., opportunities for God to give what God always gives, what God longs to give: God’s own self. From the time of his healing until the end of the story, the man born blind is contrasted to those who have always had sight, but whose vision remains dim. In each encounter with the Pharisees and the crowd, the man born blind shows greater and greater insight into the one who has healed him. Speaking first of “the man called Jesus” then of the “prophet” then of the “man from God” and finally of “the Lord,” the man born blind gains not only his sight, with which the story begins, but his vision, which is the true grace of the story, the true answer to his prayers. In the great mercy of God, all of us come to see that the graceful response to our prayers is the presence of Jesus in our lives and the life of Jesus in our flesh.

We in this Parish have been given many gifts—food and shelter, education and health, friendship and family. Not all of these do we have perfectly, but all of them are part of the condition in which we live our lives. There can be a temptation to see these gifts as the grace of God, but they are not, anymore than poverty and homeless-

ness, sickness and isolation would be God’s curse. The gifts we have are *signs* of God’s blessing, they are, potentially, *occasions of grace*, but they are not the grace itself. The grace of God, the true answer to our prayers, is always our communion with Christ—is always the relationship, the call and the touch, the embrace that welcomes us into the community of those washed in the waters of mercy and fed at the table of love. While we may want the signs, may want a miracle that heals or restores someone we love, we must not lose sight of the wondrous gift given to us: for God has become one with us in Jesus, loving us in flesh and blood, and holding us when we weep. More than this or that gift of God, we have received God’s own self, whose tears and blood mix with ours in constant consolation.

In her sorrow, my mother wondered why God did not answer her prayers as Jesus seemed to answer the prayers of the man born blind. But in fact, God did and God does. For the answer is not the healing, but the Healer; the embrace of the Lord present in our midst. The answer to my mother’s prayers—to all our prayers—is the love that envelops our lives, a love that gave my sister the strength to face each painful day, and gives me the hope to live my life without her, until, in Christ, we are united with each other, united with our parents, united with all those whom grace and mercy bring to resurrection.

John SJ



St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For Lee Layman’s health . . . For the wellbeing of Jack, Kay, Myesha, Kevin, Michele, Christina, John, Terry and Michael . . . For Val’s upcoming deposition . . . For senior citizens being able to locate a place to live in comfort and safety . . . For those who are abusing their bodies and minds through drink or drugs, may they find strength to make changes in their lives.

“Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.”

~Pope Francis

Rest in Peace
Cecelia “CeCe” Ruttkay, wife of Tom,
her funeral will be March 11th at 4:30 pm.
Dr. Michael J. Scott and his wife, Nadine, who have both recently passed away.

ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Prelude/Introit

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!

Batasani/Gelineau

Call to Worship

Tolling of Bell

Entrance Song

Grant To Us, O Lord

Lucien Deiss

Grant to us, O Lord, a heart re - newed;
Re - cre - ate in us your own Spir - it, Lord!

Confiteor

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.

Kyrie

Cantor: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. All: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Cantor: Chris - te e - le - i - son. All: Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
Cantor: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. All: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A

The LORD said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons." As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is here before him." But the LORD said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any one of these." Then

Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, "There—anoint him, for this is the one!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23

Haugen

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

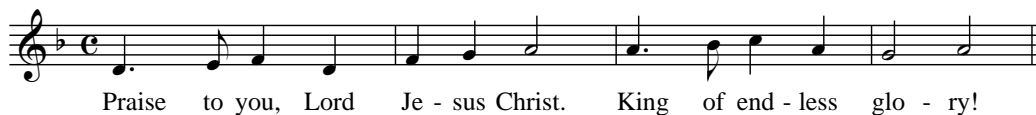
Second Reading

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Ephesians 5:8-14



Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" —which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how

he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.

John 9:1-41

Scrutiny Response

We Search for Light in the Darkness

Browning



Scrutiny Hymn

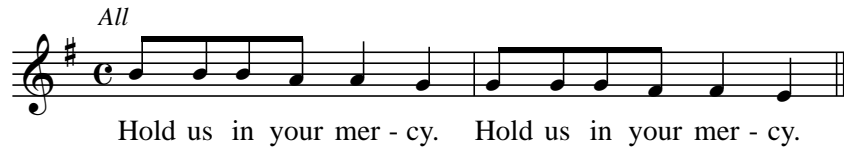
Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound,
 That saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 Was blind but now I see.



Prayers of the Faithful (5,11)

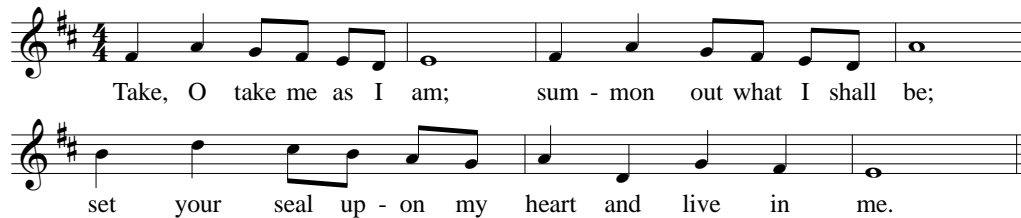
Assembly Response:



Dismissal (9)

Take, O Take Me As I Am

Bell



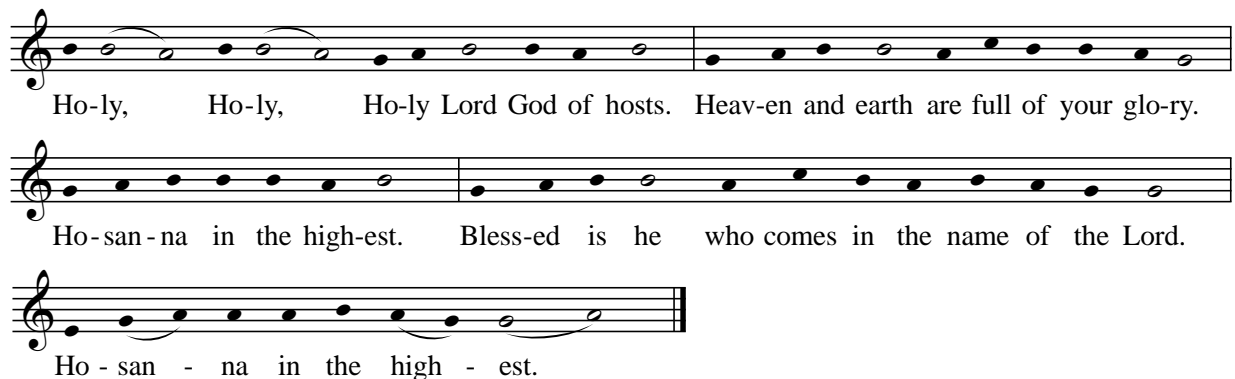
Offertory Song

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

1. My Shepherd, you supply my need; Most holy is your name. In pastures green you make me feed Beside the living stream. You bring my wand'ring spirit back. When I forsake your ways. And lead me, for your mercy's sake, In paths of truth and grace.
2. When I walk through the shades of death, Your presence is my stay. One word of your supporting breath Drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, Does still my table spread. My cup with blessings overflows; Your oil anoints my head.
3. The sure provisions of my God Attend me all my days. O may your house be my abode And all my work be praise! There would I find a settled rest, While others go and come; No more a stranger or a guest, But like a child at home.

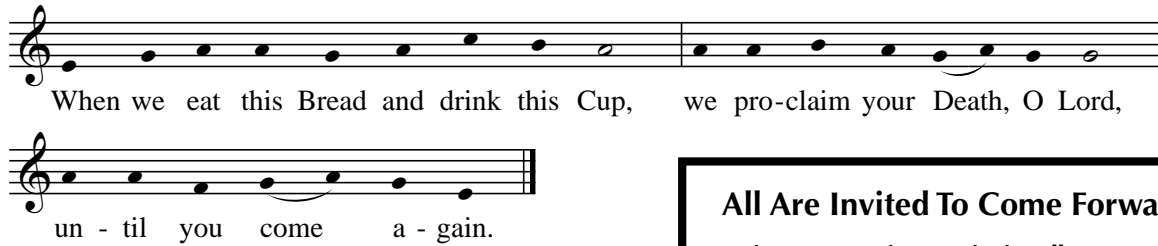
Holy, Holy, Holy

Chant



Mystery of Faith

Chant



When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-claim your Death, O Lord,
un - til you come a - gain.

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

Communion Songs

Christ Be Our Light

Farrell



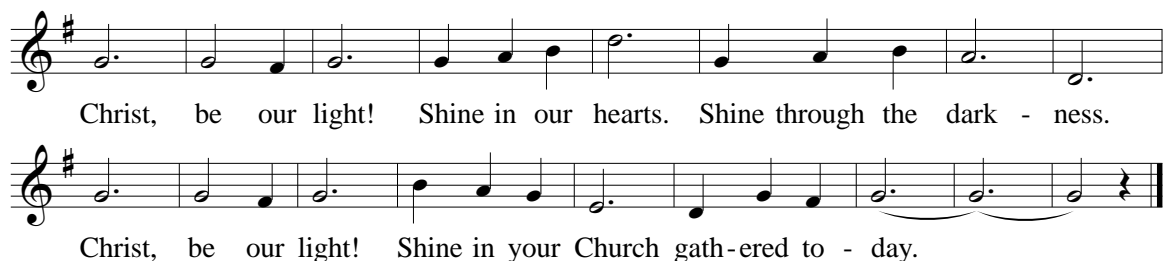
1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.
3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.
4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,

Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.
Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.
Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.
Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold.
Man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.

Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,

Light for the world to see.
Make us your liv - ing voice.
Shared un - til all are fed.
Walls made of liv - ing stone.
Mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gath - ered to - day.

Open My Eyes

Manibusan



1. O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
 2. O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
 3. O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
 4. O - pen my mind, Lord. Help me to know your way.
 5. Ev - ery - thing's ho - ly. Help me to love your world.
 6. Your love and grace, Lord: These are nough for me.



O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.
 O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.
 O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love.
 O - pen my mind, Lord. Help me to know.
 Ev - ery - thing's ho - ly. Help me to serve.
 Your love and grace Lord. These are e - nough.

Song of Praise

Amazing Grace



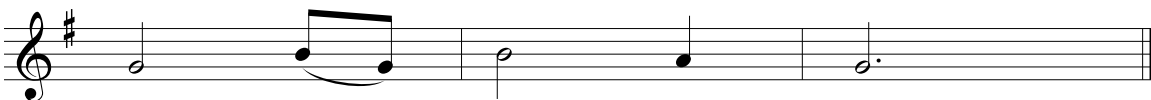
1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I
 grace my fears re - lieved; How
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis
 shin - ing as the sun, We've



once was lost, but now am found, Was
 pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The
 grace has brought me safe thus far, And
 no less days to sing God's praise Than



blind but now I see.
 hour I first be - lieved!
 grace will lead me home.
 when we'd first be - gun.

Communion Prayer

Celebrate Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful,
as the heavenly Father is merciful.
Help us to celebrate your mercy:
by loving the world as you love,
by walking the way of your cross,
by living as women and men bound for resurrection.
May the love you revealed
in the emptiness of the cross,
bring us the fullness of hope.
May the mercy you offer in your body and blood,
nourish us in mercy for others.
May the glory of God you receive
in the wonder of the Resurrection,
bring us all to communion with you
who live and reign with the Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.
Amen.

Recessional

Silence/Tolling of the bell

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOSEPH



Sunday

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

Monday

7:00 AM Daily Mass
7:00 AM Yoga - Body in prayer
7:00 PM Sacred Silence Prayer
7:00 PM Rosary Prayer Goup
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul meeting
7:00 PM Novena of Grace

Tuesday

7:00 AM Daily Mass
7:00 PM RCIA
7:00 PM Novena of Grace

Wednesday

7:00 AM Daily Mass
7:00 AM Yoga - Body in prayer
6:00 PM Pathfinders Youth Group
7:00 PM The VOICE Youth Group
7:00 PM Novena of Grace

Thursday

7:00 AM Daily Mass
7:00 PM Novena of Grace

Friday

7:00 AM Daily Mass
11:00 AM Stations of the Cross

Saturday

3:30 PM Weekly Reconciliation
5:00 PM Vigil Mass
6:00 PM Ceili in the Wyckoff

Stations of the Cross
Fridays During Lent at 11 am
Join Us!

We Are St. Joseph Events
Save The Date!
We Are St. Joseph Service Days & Dinner
April 22 & 23

FAITH JUSTICE



St. Vincent de Paul Collection

Our St. Vincent de Paul volunteers encounter some amazing people and can relate some equally amazing stories.

After a 1-1/2-year-wait, this single mom and her son finally got an apartment with Capitol Hill Housing. She was a victim of domestic violence but had not given up on a better life. Friends from their group home had provided some kitchen utensils and a few furnishings. Still, they needed beds. We ordered them from the St. Vinnie's store.

As our volunteers began to leave, the young boy exclaimed "December is my favorite month!" "Why is that?" inquired one of our volunteers. Joyfully the lad said that his birthday is in December, that Christmas is in December and that "Now on the last day of December we have a new home!"

Later that New Year's Eve, the other volunteer phoned back the mom to say when the new beds would arrive. And, he wondered, how they might like a New Year's Eve dinner at Dick's? They were delighted and thankful to accept. So our volunteer drove them up to Dick's for a feast of burgers and the trimmings. "Giving Tree cards from parishioners fed them very well on the last day of December," related our volunteer.

Your generosity every first Sunday of the month allows us to provide beds for people like this mom and son. And, your additional generosity of gift cards at Christmas time enables us to extend your generosity during the season of giving in a small but very special way. This mother and son will never forget that New Year's Eve. Thank you for your support.



Tent City

If you're interested in helping host Tent City this summer at St. Joseph join our committee. Our first meeting is **Thursday March 31st** at 7pm. Info? contact Deacon Steve at stevew@stjosephparish.org

**Special Collection this Weekend:
Catholic Relief Services.
Envelopes are in the
Back of the Church.**



PARISH LIFE

Young Adults

Year of Mercy Small Group: Starting **Tuesday, March 8th** at 7pm. This Lent grow in faith and community with your fellow young adults-- meet for six Tuesdays and discuss Kerry Weber's "Mercy in the City." To sign-up email youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org.

Join fellow young adults (ages 21-35) to celebrate St. Patrick's Day after the 5:30 mass on March 13th! Come for the Guinness and company; stay for a game of Irish-themed mafia, featuring leprechauns, river dancers, and (if we're really lucky) St. Patrick himself!

Seniors On The Go

Tuesday, March 8th - Please join us for our Seniors Brown Bag Lunch Planning meeting at 11:30am followed by our matinee movie, the INTERN starring Robert DeNiro and Anne Hathaway. Experience never gets old! Movie is free. Bring a snack to share if you like.

Friday, April 8th - Healing Mass at 11:30 followed by luncheon in the Parish Center.

Track & Field

It's time to register for CYO Track and Field (4th-8th) and St. Joseph Track Club (K-3). Registration is \$25 for Track and Field; \$10 for Track Club. The deadline to register for both is **Thursday, March 24th**. Register online: <http://www.stjosephsea.org/track-field/>



Ceili Dinner
Saturday, March 12th - Wyckoff Gym

Purchase tickets at <https://www.stjosephparish.org/267/9026/ceili-dinner.html>