The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”
We are a Church conceived in blood and suffering. A Church born on a dusty hill in Palestine, as the fullness of God assumed fully an emptiness that is uniquely human. Dying a death reserved for slaves, dying cruelly, through the fearful machinations of ideologues and at the hands of functionaries of the state, Jesus—the Incarnate God, who had come into the world “not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him”—gave birth to the Church through the shedding of his blood.

Since that first day, coming forth in the blood and sweat—and love—of the cross, the Church has been reborn many times: reborn in the blood of martyrs, whose lives have poured out in testimony to the compassion of Christ, in witness to the indestructible bond between the One who died on Calvary and each of us today. From the stoning of Stephen to the gunning down of Oscar Romero; from Paul, beheaded in Rome, to Fr. Frans van der Lugt, shot in Syria, the blood of martyrs fills the veins and arteries of the Church, giving her life and strength, purifying her disparate parts and bringing the oxygen of the Spirit to every organ and limb. In merciless death, mercy is born, and life rises from the tomb.
Perpetua and Felicity, can seem quaint, even barbaric. We may read the story of these two young women not with a desire to follow them, but with a certain dismay for their seeming passivity and life-ending piety. Today, even the word “martyr” is most often used as an insult—a way of deriding sanctimonious people who seem to revel in ill treatment. We use expressions like, “She’s such a martyr” as a way of puncturing those we feel are too self-absorbed and egoistic. Martyrdom, long a foundational part of the Church, strikes us as a primitive remnant—like exorcisms and corporal penances—that we, as “modern” Christians would just as soon get past.

Yet, while it may make us uncomfortable, martyrdom remains at the center of the Church, a challenge to our respectability and a summons to that radical, life-risking love which is characteristic of all followers of Jesus, the crucified Savior.

We were reminded of this great truth again last week, when four religious women—Missionaries of Charity, from Mother Teresa’s community—were killed in Yemen by those who hated them for their living of the gospel, hated them for the witness they bore of incarnate love among the elderly poor of the retirement center where they worked. Though none of those for whom they worked were Christian, and none of the Sisters were Yemeni, they saw Christ in every patient, loved Christ in every aged and dying face. Along with a Sulpician priest, who was taken prisoner by the gunmen, these women—Sister Marguerite and Sister Reginette, from Rwanda; Sister Judith, from Kenya; and Sister Anselm, from India—followed Perpetua and Felicity into that arena of blood and mercy, first embraced by Jesus on the cross, and waiting for every Christian. Though barely mentioned by media preoccupied with the hand-size of candidates and with Apple subpoenas, these deaths echo across eternity—summoning us to reject “the globalization of indifference” and to bear witness to Christ alive in our companions. In their blood, we are called, anew, to live the faith we profess; to lay down our lives, not for vengeance or for power, not for conquest or for riches, but for love of the One who loves us, and who lives in the face and heart of every woman and man.

Perhaps none of us will ever receive martyrdom at the hands of a violent enemy; yet each of us must become martyrs—witnesses—by the life we lead. Let us witness to God’s compassion and mercy. Let us love in the manner of Christ. Let our blood be mingled with blood of the Sisters of Yemen, with the blood of Perpetua and Felicity, with the blood of Jesus of Nazareth. Let us eat the body and drink the blood given to us for life, and so become life to a world so deeply in need of nourishment.
**First Reading**

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*With the Lord, There is Mercy*

Haugen

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.
Second Reading

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. King of endless glory!

Gospel

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.” When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” He said this, and then told them, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.
Offertory Songs

(5 & 11) For God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world, God gave the only Son, so that ev-ery-one who be-lieves in him may not die, but have life. So much God loved the world, so much God loves the world.

Homily

Deacon Steve Wodzanowski

Scrutiny Response

We Long To Rise to New Life

Browning

Scrutiny Hymn

I Am the Bread of Life

I am the bread of life, you who come to me shall not hunger. And who believe in me shall not thirst, no one comes to me unless the father beckons. And I will raise you up and I will raise you up. And I will raise you up on the last day!

Prayers of the Faithful (5,11)

Assembly Response:

Hold us in your mer-cy. Hold us in your mer-cy.

Dismissal (9)

Take, O Take Me As I Am

Bell

(9) Choral Anthem: From Deep Distress

Watts/Parker

From deep distress and troubled thoughts to thee, my God, I raise my cries: if though severely mark our faults no flesh can stand before thine eyes. But thou hast built thy throne of grace, free to dispense thy pardons there, That sinners may approach thy face in hope and love as well as fear. Great is his love and large his grace through the redemption of his son; he turns our feet from sinful ways and pardons what our hands have done.
Holy, Holy, Holy

Chant

Mystery of Faith

Chant

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

With the Lord, There is Mercy

Joncas

Mercy, O God

O’Brien
I Am the Bread of Life

Toolan

2. The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his I am the life. If you believe in you are the Christ, the Son of God, you shall live forever, and even though you die, God, Who have come into you shall live forever. And I will raise you you shall not have life with in you. you shall live forever. to the world.

up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day.
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

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

Thursday
7:00 AM Daily Mass

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

Saturday
8:00 AM Centering Prayer Group
12:00 PM Parish Reconciliation Service
5:00 PM Vigil Mass

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

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For improvement in Michele’s health . . . A safe and secure place for an elderly parent . . . For a family’s endeavors to find a place to buy near St. Joseph . . . Happy Birthday to Linda, Jean and Craig this week . . . For Kevin’s recovery to go well.

“A confessional is not a torture chamber, but the place in which the Lord’s mercy motivates us to do better.”

~Pope Francis

Rest in Peace

Allan Payne whose service will be March 18 at 4 pm.

Executive Summary - Liturgy Evaluation November 2015

In November of this past year, all in the parish were invited to participate in an online liturgy evaluation. There was an opportunity to fill out a paper evaluation as well but the results were almost entirely online.

102 responded to the survey, which “Survey Monkey” serviced. The Liturgy Commission met in mid-December to study the results of the survey and to ask: What did we learn about worship at St. Joseph? Are there any areas of concern that warrant further attention? What are the things that are going well that we need to be sure to keep supporting and doing well? Here we summarize what we have discerned to date.

I. Re-Cap of What the Evaluation Asked

The evaluation asked eleven questions. The commission deliberately avoided suggesting answers and so refrained from asking “leading” questions. The initial questions sought demographic information and the results are summarized below in section II “The Results”. Two bookend questions were at the heart of the evaluation:

• What do you find works well and helps you to pray?

• What detracts from your experience of liturgy or is a distraction to prayer?

In both cases respondents were invited to consider elements such as: preaching, presiding, music, the environment, hospitality, flow, celebration. The evaluation then invited parishioners to finish the following sentence:

• “what I absolutely love about liturgy at St. Joseph is . . . .”

The evaluation concluded with two final questions:

• “What touches your soul?”

• “Is there anything else you’d like to share about your experience of liturgy at St. Joseph?”

II. The Results

Demographics: the number of respondents roughly correlated with parish attendance at the four weekend liturgies:

• 9 am Mass: (40% of respondents)

• 5:30 Mass: (30% of respondents)

• 5 pm and 11 am Masses: (15% each of respondents)

Hungering to Grow

A New Tomorrow

This week’s CRS Rice Bowl country is the island nation of Madagascar, where we’re reminded of the important role farmers play in caring for God’s creation. As we prepare our meals throughout the week, let us reflect on where our food comes from—and what role we can play in caring for our environment. Visit crsricebowl.org for more

The Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday ~ March 24th
7:00 pm ~ Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Good Friday ~ March 25th
2:15 pm ~ Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm ~ Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday ~ March 26th
8:00 pm ~ Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday ~ March 27th
7:00 am & 9:00 am & 11:00 am
(Easter egg hunt for small children following the 9:00 am Mass)
Liturgy and Worship

85% of respondents participate in Mass on a weekly basis, and 94% at least twice a month.

The age of respondents:

- 25-40 years old: 21%
- 41-55: 27%
- 56-70: 40%
- 71 and above: 12%

Years in the parish:

- 0-2 years: 20%
- 3-5 years: 15%
- 6-10 years: 9%
- 11-20 years: 19%
- 21-30 years: 17%
- 31-40 years: 13%
- 40 + years: 7%

So roughly a third of respondents have been at St. Joseph 5 years or less, another third have been here between 6 and 23 years, and another third more than 24 years. 58% of respondents are married, 34% are single and 8% marked “other.” 39% have no children, 6% have one child, 28% two children, 20% three children and 8% have four or more children.

III. Reflection and Issues for Discernment

This evaluation shows that, for the most part, the parish is happy with worship at St. Joseph. This is the single biggest “takeaway” from the survey.

Specific examples were given about the quality of liturgical life, which demonstrate we are doing something right. Respondents said they feel that great care and attention is given to all aspects of our worship life: the preaching, the music, the environment, the hospitality, the flow of the liturgical celebrations, with some space for silence and significant engagement of the community, acceptance of the presence of children, the bulletin, etc. And many expressed gratitude for all of this and how it brings a sense of joy, prayerfulness and holiness to our gatherings. This is important information since the Liturgy Commission, and others responsible for these areas of liturgical life, wish to continue to do well the things that are already going well. The old adage “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” comes to mind.

It probably comes as no surprise that this evaluation reflects that members of this community don’t all think the same way. What is a pathway to prayer for one person is an obstacle to prayer for another. What is a positive for one is a negative for another. For example, many people are delighted that we have a pastor who genuinely loves children and is comfortable with the messiness, spontaneity and hubbub that young children regularly provide in community prayer. There are others, however, particularly at the 5:30 contemplative liturgy, who wish that this liturgy be consistently characterized by a sense of quiet, deep contemplation...something that tends not to be a strength of the aforementioned youngsters. Some people love the sound of the organ and wish it were used more. Others hate it and wish it would be heard less. Some people find that holding hands during Lord’s Prayer gives a welcome earthiness and human touch to our community prayer. Others are not so fond of it. Some appreciate when homilies, through the lens of scripture, address head on current issues in our culture. Others feel this is too “preachy.” Some love singing the songs that they have known for many years, while others want new music. And on and on it goes.

Three issues surfaced that seem to warrant further study and consideration.

1. The “overfullness” of the liturgy, for lack of a better word, is mentioned numerous times. In some ways, this is a sign that St. Joseph is a vibrant parish which is good! But it also means that, with so much going on in the community, there are lots of sacramental celebrations, such as infant baptisms, and much to pray for in the prayers of the faithful, and many announcements at the end of Mass. How best to celebrate the weekly liturgy in a prayerful and joyful manner is a question for us to continue to be aware of and grapple with.

2. The question of the role of young people in the community and how best to bring them up in the faith and encourage their active involvement in parish life is always before us. The Liturgy Commission and the Faith Formation Commission will meet later this year to converse about this issue.

3. How to best welcome new folks to the parish and help newcomers find their place in the community and not slip through the cracks was raised a number of times around the issue of hospitality and welcome.

The Liturgy Commission, will report back to the parish after dialoguing with other commissions and committees about these issues. Many thanks to all who participated in this liturgy evaluation. We hope that even more folks will participate next year when the evaluation is undertaken again.
Thursday, March 17
- Senior Ministry Potluck Dinner 5-7:30 pm in Arrupe Room. Questions? Call Dolores Dorn at 206-322-2259.

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

**Women’s Ministry**

**Coffee Connect**

Please join our St. Joseph Women’s Ministry Group Coffee Connect to sip and socialize **Saturday, March 19th** at Tulley’s on 19th & Aloha, 10-11am. Call Sheila Marie at 206.251.7035 if you have any questions.

**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.

**We Are St. Joseph Service Days and Dinner**

On **Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23**, St. Joseph parishioners, family, and friends will have the opportunity to volunteer for special service projects for our parish Outreach Partners. Each year, we send teams to a number of locations to help those in need. Information will be given during Masses in the weeks leading up to the Service Days, which will culminate with a Celebration Dinner the evening of Saturday, April 23.

For newcomers, the Spring Celebration Dinner is a wonderful time to meet others in our community. Seniors, families, singles and kids…it’s fun for everyone.

If you are interested in volunteering for or helping coordinate this “don’t-miss” event, please contact Deacon Steve at stevew@stjosephparish.org or call 206-956-1646.

**Young Adults**

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**

**Thursday, March 17** - Senior Ministry Potluck Dinner 5-7:30 pm in Arrupe Room. Questions? Call Dolores Dorn at 206-322-2259.

**Friday, April 8th** - Healing Mass at 11:30 followed by Lenten 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/](http://www.stjosephsea.org/track-field/)

**St. Joseph’s School Passion Play**

We are very excited to invite you to St. Joseph School’s Passion Play put on by the 8th grade class on **Wednesday, March 16th at 7:00 pm**. The Passion Play has been a tradition at St. Joseph’s for more than forty years. The play has taken different forms over the years as it has had different artistic directors, but it has always brought the story of Christ’s Passion to life. This year’s play is directed by Annie DeMartino, who has years of theatre experience and currently works for Book-It-Theatre Company. Annie attended St. Monica’s grade school and has a son currently attending Our Lady of Guadalupe in West Seattle. This story of our faith is very personal to Annie, and she is excited to bring it to life for students and all those who get an opportunity to see it.

The Passion Play is a unique opportunity for our students to experience this story in a very real way. They are experiencing the emotions through the eyes and hearts of those who were there some two thousand years ago. The student’s faith is stretched and grows during this journey. We hope it can add some depth to your Lenten experience as well.

Please join us if you are able!
St. Joseph 8th Grade Class of 2016
**St. Joseph's Parish Dance**

Calling all 7th and 8th graders – join us for a NEON dance hosted by the VOICE, St. Joseph's high school youth group. All proceeds will go toward a youth delegation trip to El Salvador. Dress up, bring friends and support a good cause! Be sure to invite your friends from the other parishes and schools listed below!

Who? 7th and 8th graders
When? Friday, April 8
Time? 7 pm – 9:30 pm
Where? Wyckoff Gym, St. Joseph's School

Price? $10 w/ free water bottle (AND first 100 people receive free LED foam stick)!

List of Included Parishes and Schools: St. Joseph, ASB, Christ the King, Forest Ridge, Holy Family, Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of the Lake, Seattle Nativity School, St. Alphonsus, St. Anne, St. Benedict, St. Bernadette, St. Catherine, St. Edward, St. Francis, St. George, St. John, St. Luke, St. Mark, St. Matthew, St. Paul, St. Therese, and Villa.

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**St. Joseph’s Easter Egg Hunt for Children**

Easter Sunday, March 27th after the 9 am Mass on the Front Lawn. (*Don’t forget to bring your Easter Baskets*). Age ranges from 0-2 yrs and up to 11 years old.

Please bring: a dozen pre-filled plastic Easter Eggs (per child) in advance to the Parish office by noon on Friday, *March 25. Office Hours: M-F 8-11:30 am; 12:30-4:30 pm *Good Friday, March 25, Closes at Noon.*

Meet the Easter Bunny & enjoy coffee & donut hospitality. To help or for questions, please call or email Dottie Farewell at: dfarewell@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1652.

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**Adult Faith Formation**

**Partnering With Parents** series continues 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. Sue Grady, MDiv leads the discussion every Sunday from 10:15 am to 10:55 am.

**Lenten Daytime Scripture Study:** This study will cover the Gospel of Luke, Chapters 12-24. There will be no charge for the book or class. This class requires no expertise in Scripture Study, but instead is a time for you to read the passages, read the commentary, jot answers to questions in the books and share your thoughts. Daily homework takes about 20 minutes of reading and prayer which you will be expected to complete. We meet **Monday mornings from 11:30-1pm.** If you are interested in this exciting commitment for Lent, please email Sue Grady at sue.e.grady@gmail.com or phone her at 503-329-5919.

**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 Arupe)

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**Youth Ministry Easter Break**

No Pathfinders or the VOICE for the following two weeks: **March 23 and March 30.** We’ll resume April 6.

**CFF Easter Break**

Reminder CFF students, No Sunday School Class on Easter Sunday, March 27. We WILL have regular classes on ALL weekends throughout April: 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th.

**CFF Passion Play**

Sunday, March 20th is Palm Sunday and the older children in our Sunday school classes will be performing the Passion play beginning at 10:30am in the Arrupe Room of the Parish Center. Please join us!
Pedal for a Cure Thank You!
To Fr. John and St. Joseph Parishioners: A heart felt thanks for those who supported the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and helped me raise $934. Pedaling this year created different challenges for me. So thanks to those who helped me set up my bike, pick me up when it collapsed, and the smiles wishing me well. I have been truly blessed Pedaling for a Cure these past 14 years. In a way, it feels like coming home once a year! Wishing you all peace and joy, Kathy Marion.

P.S. If you still want to donate you can at: http://pages.teamintraining.org/wa/yourway16/kmarionkmw

You are Cordially Invited to the WestSide Baby Tea

Sunday, March 20th 2016  2:00pm – 4:30pm
Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center

Purchase your tickets online at: https://wsbaby.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/AnnualTea2016/Registration/tabid/733547/Default.aspx

Volunteer at the Tea!
We are also looking for volunteers to help at the Tea, contact shana@westsidebaby.org for more information.

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

Pope-Pourri

“Dear brothers and sisters, my prayer, and undoubtedly yours as well, always includes the dramatic situation of refugees who flee from wars and other inhuman situations. In particular, Greece and other countries that are at the forefront, are generously helping them, which requires the cooperation of all nations. A collective response can be effective and equitably distribute the burden. For this, it’s necessary to work toward negotiations decisively and unreservedly. At the same time, I have received with hope the news of the ceasing of hostilities in Syria, and I invite everyone to pray that this break may bring relief to the suffering population and open the path to dialogue and to the peace that is so desired.”  --Pope Francis

Shirts Across America
This year’s SAA New Orleans participants are: Matthew Broom, Roman De Laurentis, Jack Dean, Burke Hoss, Michael Janney, Dylan Murphy, Sara Snowden, Noah Traynor, and Alexa Vecchio. Chaperones are Jennifer Wood and Alicia Olson. Our VOICE delegates will be joining Holy Names Academy the week of March 26th thru April 2. Please keep them in your prayers.
Parish Reconciliation Service

Join us Saturday
19 March from 12-4:30pm

All are Welcome.