“‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’”
A Small Light In A World Besieged By Darkness

It's when we face for a moment the worst our kind can do, and shudder to know the taint in our own selves, that awe cracked the mind's shell and enters the heart: not to a flower, not to a dolphin, to no innocent form but to this creature vainly sure it and no other is god-like, God (out of compassion for our ugly failure to evolve) entrusts, as guest, as brother, the Word.

-Denise Levertov-

Four years after that terrible morning, when blood marked the snow and ice of Newtown; when it stained the clothes of parents, searching for their children among the victims and wondering how they could possibly go on; four years after we mourned their loss, feeling impotent in our grief, struggling with despair: the darkness comes again. This week, children's blood again stained the frigid ground—this time in Aleppo—and parents (those who were still alive) mourned and wept as the agents of President Assad, that modern Herod, murdered their daughters and sons in the hope of securing his power. Behind him, handing him the weapons of death, stood Vladimir Putin, the dime-store Stalin who longs to rebuild the empire of the Tsars on the bodies of children and the rubble of nations and peoples. With a deeper madness even than the one that possessed the Newtown killer, these men encourage the murder of children in their mothers’ arms, the burning of the innocent, the gassing and destruction of homes and hospitals. Meanwhile, their opponents—both the members of ISIS and other rebel groups—hold hostage these same parents and children, these old women and men, who long for peace, but are given death and the murder of their children. Each of these parents feels as deeply as any parent at Newtown the loss of her child, even when that loss floats within a sea of losses, within a mountain of pain and bloodshed. And we sit, as we did four years ago, silenced by anguish and impotence, confused by a sadness and rage which seem to have no outlet.

A week before Christmas, it is tempting to close our eyes to Aleppo and to the suffering of the world, to lose ourselves in the lovely crèche and the beautiful tree, in the final press of shopping and baking, wrapping and entertaining. We see the eyes of our children as they gaze at the stockings with their names on them, or we watch them run wild after too many Christmas cookies, and we feel we cannot turn our minds to Syria or Newtown, to the children killed and dying near to us and far away. We will give a donation to Jesuit Refugee Services or to St. Vincent de Paul, but now is not the time for thoughts of loss and suffering in the world. Christmas is a time of joy and hope, love and consolation, and all the darkness—especially that over which we have so little power—seems a threat to our peace and to the holiness of the season.
And yet, if we see the crèche only as a lovely decoration; if we forget the cold and filth, the blood and pain, the exile of those kept out of the inn, and the death of those who suffered when Joseph and Mary fled, we lose the greatness of the gift we are offered and the power of the blessing we have received. For the entry of God into the world was not in a place of safety and light, of warmth and peace, but came in darkness to those who had been driven from their homes. It was proclaimed to the powerless and the marginalized, to those who seemed to have no ability to change the structures of violence and exclusion in their world, but could only sit in the dark on a hillside, watching their sheep and longing for the dawn. God enters the world among the most fragile, and takes on that fragility in its fullness—the Son of God becoming fully the Son of Mary. And while Caesar Augustus sent forth his armies of occupation to gather taxes for his armies, and Herod sought to crush the Messiah in his crib by the murder of children, the Creator of the world was suckling at his mother's breast and defying the power of darkness by his promise of light.

Perhaps there are days we wish that God would come in a different way: leading an army of angels to break the hold of tyrants and overturn the sins of the unrighteous. Or we wish that we had worldly power to rescue the children of Aleppo and to heal the violent culture that kills young black men in the streets, police officers in their cars, and children in their schoolrooms. But the mercy of God comes into the world not by conquest, but by invitation—like the invitation given to Mary by the angel—and the grace of God overcomes the world not through domination, but through the surrender of those who love—like the surrender of Jesus on the cross. In our willingness to receive the invitation offered by the Incarnation, an invitation to accompany Jesus into the dark stable of the world and to accept the suffering and struggle that comes with accompaniment, we allow God's mercy, i.e. God's Spirit, to move through us to others. And in our willingness to surrender to God, at the foot of the Cross of Jesus, we become one with God's on-going redemption of the world, a redemption marked by the blood of the innocent which becomes our cup or blessing when we make it our own.

Caesar is gone, and Herod turned to dust; yet, the light of that child is not overcome, but continues to burn in us and work in our world. As St. Paul says, “Though sin abounds, grace abounds all the more” (Romans, 5:20), and the grace that abounds above all is the choice that God makes to become as we are: a small light in a world besieged by darkness, a light that ignites other lights, until—slowly, so slowly—the world is lit with hope.

John 8

Connecting with St. Joseph - WELCOME!

All are welcome at the table!

New? Visiting? Interested? Are you visiting for the first time? Interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities at St. Joseph 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 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!

FOLLOW ST. JOSEPH ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that St. Joseph has a Facebook page? Check out our posted pics and inspirational shares on our Jesuit identity. And while you’re at it, please “like” us. As of press time, the parish had 455 likes. Thanks for putting us over the 450 mark. Let’s go all the way to 500 by end of year!

Check us out at: www.facebook.com/stjosephseattle

Parish Photo Directory

We wanted to provide an update on the delivery of the Parish Directory....Given the hard work that has gone into proofing the directory we have had to push back the delivery date. The directory should be mailed out the first week of February. We realize this is later than we had originally stated, and we are so very grateful for your patience - but we are certain you will be pleased with the final product!
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Call To Worship

Please stand at the tolling of the bell

Entrance Songs

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
    And ransom captive Israel,
    That mourns in lonely exile here.

2. O come, O Key of David,
    And open wide our heav'nly home.
    Make safe the way that leads on high,

3. O come, O Day-spring from on high,
    Give light to those who sit in darkness and in shadow of death.
    Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

4. O come, Desire of nations, bind us together
    In one the hearts of hu-man-kind;
    Until the Son of God appear,
    Shall come to you, O Israel.

Blessing The Advent Wreath

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
Strike breast during next line.

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

Isaiah 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, “I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!” Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24

Guimont

Let the Lord enter, he is King of glory.

The LORD’s is the earth and its fullness, the world, and those who dwell in it.

It is he who set it on the seas; on the rivers he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things.

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamations

Alleluia (5 & 11)

Murray

Advent Alleluia (9)

Joncas
**Gospel**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

**Homily**

Fr. John D. Whitney, S.J.

(9:00) **Dismissal of the Catechumens & Candidates**

*Go Now In Peace*

Sleeth

**Offertory Song**

(9) **Choral Anthem: Christ the Lord In Silence Coming**

Howard Hughes

Christ the Lord in silence coming, word eternal born in time. Son of Mary, come to save us, lowly is salvation’s sign. Prince of Peace, the angels name him, bowing low before His face.

Lord of Lords the nations claim Him, Jesus Son of Adam’s race.

Ref. Glory in the highest heaven to the coming prince of peace.

Christ the Lord in mercy coming, promise kept and hope fulfilled. Bead and wine, the sacred symbols, show the Lord is with us still. Prince of Peace the people greet him, under signs that all may see, Lord of Lords, his people seek him in the sacred mystery. *Ref.*

Christ the Lord in glory coming, when the world at length shall cease. Signs no more need conceal Him, Lord of Lords and Prince of Peace. Waiting hearts shall greet the savior, Christ and Lord in majesty.

He shall reign as King forwever, ruling everlastingly. *Ref.*

(5 & 11) **Quia Respexit**

J.S. Bach

Latin: Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae. Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

*Translation: For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.*

*For behold from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed.*
Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Mystery of Faith

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord,

until you come again.

Great Amen

Amen.

Lamb of God

Vatican Edition XVII

Agnus Dei, qui tollis pec-ca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no-bis. Agnus Dei,

qui tollis pec-ca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no-bis. Agnus Dei,

qui tollis pec-ca-ta mun-di: do-na no-bis pa-cem.
All Are Invited To Come Forward
During communion, we invite all to come forward. If you do not ordinarily receive Eucharist, or choose not to, come for a blessing, indicating your desire by putting your hand on your heart.

If you have a gluten allergy, & need a gluten free host, please come to the Presider & indicate this.

**Communion Songs**

(9) *My Soul Rejoices in God*  
*Psallite*

**Verse 1:**
My soul rejoices in God, all my being blesses God's name.

**Jesus Hope of the World**  
*Tate*

**Verse 2:**
Jesus, hope of the world, __________

**REFRAIN:**
Je - sus, hope of the world, __________

**VERSSES**

1. Come to us, O Son of God! Come to us, O Son of
2. Come to us, O Promised King! Come to us, O Promised
3. Come to us, O Rising Sun! Come to us, O Endless
4. Come to us, O Heart's Desire! Come to us, O Saving

1.–4. Come, Lord Jesus! __________

**REFRAIN**: 2

1. Shepherd your people in love! ______
2. Come and be Lord of our hearts! ______
3. Shatter the darkness of death! ______
4. Banish our doubt and our fear! ______
Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

1. A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, For
   an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
   soon he is born, Be - hold the Child of our long - ing!
   Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -
   geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav’n - ly door And

2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - 
   man - u - el comes a - sing - ing; His hum - ble song is
   qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
   Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov - ing -
   won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And

3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When
   all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so
   qui - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
   Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in
   and - ness, The thun - der of his an - them roll To

4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though
   dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall
   crown you with light; Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.
   Love be our song and love our prayer And love our end - less
   stor - y. May God fill ev - 'ry day we share And

Postlude

Tolling of the Bell
**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOSEPH**

**Sunday**
- 9:00 AM  Mass - Childcare Available
- 10:00 AM  Coffee & Donuts - Join us!
- 11:00 AM  Mass
- 12 Noon  Church Cleaning for Christmas
- 5:30 PM  NO MASS

**Monday**
- 7:00 AM  Mass
- 7:00 PM  Sacred Silence Prayer
- 7:00 PM  Holy Rosary Group
- 7:00 PM  St. Vincent de Paul

**Tuesday**
- 7:00 AM  Mass

**Wednesday**
- 7:00 AM  Mass
- 6:00 PM  Pathfinders
- 7:00 PM  The VOICE Youth Group
- 7:30 PM  Taize Prayer in Church

**Thursday**
- 7:00 AM  Mass

**Friday**
- 7:00 AM  Mass
- **PARISH CENTER CLOSED December 23, 24, 26, 27**

**Saturday**
- 4:00 PM  Children’s Mass
- 6:00 PM  Mass in the Evening
- 10:00 PM  Lessons, Carols & Mass in the Night

**LITURGY AND WORSHIP**

Prayer Tree

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For all those who have been in car mishaps/accidents because of weather conditions... For those who are beginning their travels to visit family and friends during Christmas... For the homeless, may we provide acts of kindness in our words and attitude... To see one another as a beloved child of God... To treasure our children... Grateful for the support St. Vincent de Paul provided for a woman in need... For the people of Aleppo who have suffered greatly.

“May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ Give You His Blessings and His Peace.”
- Philemon 1:3

**Help with Church Decorations!**

Join fellow parishioners on **Sunday, December 18th**, to prepare the Church for Christmas. This is a great opportunity for new parishioners to get to know others in our community. Immediately following the 11 am Mass, we will gather for a quick lunch in the Arrupe Room of the Parish Center, then head over to the Church, divide in teams, and thoroughly clean the church, light the trees, hang the wreaths and set out the poinsettias. Bring the family. Stay an hour or three. Make it an annual tradition!

Sacred Silence

The Sacred Silence prayer group will gather on **Monday, December 19th, 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 centering prayer, Ignatian imagination or another prayer. For information on Sacred Silence and silent prayer practice contact Jim Hoover at sacredsilence@stjosephparish.org or 206-286-0313.

**No Yoga Over Christmas Break**

There will be no Tuesday Night Yoga on **December 20th and 27th**. We will resume on Jan 3, 2017. Thank you.
For those who serve the faithful through the liturgy

MINISTRY enrichment GATHERING®

A time to gather for prayer, training, and formation.

Saturday, February 11, 2017
9:00AM–2:30PM

St. Joseph Parish
732 18th Ave. E, Seattle, Washington 98112

Co-sponsored by Christ Our Hope Catholic Church
Register by January 28, 2017.

www.MinistryEnrichmentGathering.org
Thank you to all who have made gifts and pledges to our annual stewardship appeal. To date, we have received 534 pledges totaling $919,718 toward our goal of $1,500,000. We are endlessly grateful for your commitment to St. Joseph Parish!

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


IRA Charitable Rollover

The IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals who are 70-1/2 years old to donate up to $100,000 to charitable organizations directly from their IRA. This transfer counts toward the minimum required distribution rule for IRA accounts, and such distributions are free of both income and estate taxes. To qualify, contributions must come from a traditional IRA or Roth IRA, and they must be made directly to qualified charities like St. Joseph Parish or St. Joseph School. Additionally, the donor may not receive goods or services in exchange for the donation, and they must retain a receipt from each charity to which a donation is made. For more information, please consult your financial advisor or contact Tina O’Brien, our Director of Advancement, at stewardship@stjosephparish.org or 206.965.1654.

On Sunday, January 8, 2017, from 1-4 pm in the Social Hall, doors open to anyone in the community for a shared meal and fellowship. We extend a personal invitation to all of our “Outreach Partners,” such as Recovery Café, St. Martin de Porres Shelter, Chief Seattle Club, Noel House, and Jubilee Women’s Center, to name a few. Transportation will be provided from several locations downtown. As is our tradition, we invite members of our community to provide cooked turkeys, hams, vegetables, potatoes, beverages, desserts and appetizers. Volunteers are needed for food prep, cooking, decorating, table hosting and clean-up.

Sign-ups are super-easy! Visit PerfectPotluck.com and locate the meal by coordinator last name (Wodzansowski) and password (Epiphany). Sign-up by entering your name, email & phone number for the item you would like to bring. You can also sign-up after Mass. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Questions? Please contact Deacon Steve at stevew@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1646.
Parish Life

Seniors On The Go

**Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017** - Join us for our Seniors Planning meeting at 11:30 am in the Arrupe Room. Brown bag lunch followed by movie matinee at 1 pm. Film TBD.

**Friday, January 6th, 2017** - Healing Mass at 11:30 am followed by Seniors Luncheon in the Parish Center.

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 parents 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.

LGBT Ministry

**For Heaven’s Sake Cookie Bake**

**Wednesday, December 21st, 6:30-9:00 pm**

Arrupe Room/Parish Center

Come join us for fun and a chance to socialize with new friends from the parish. We will bake and decorate cookies for the Men’s Homeless Shelter and PSKS.

Young Adult Ministry

**YA Epiphany Social**-- **Sunday, January 8th, 2017** in the Parish Center after 5:30 Mass. We’ll host a conversation with Fr. Julian about using our gifts and talents. Pizza, salad, and beverages will be provided. Suggested donation of $10. For details email youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org

Faith Formation

Children’s Faith Formation News

Celebrate Advent with CFF! **Sunday School class** will be held on **December 18th**. Our Christmas Break is December 25th thru the New Year holiday, so no Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st. Classes resume Sunday, January 8, 2017.

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

Children’s Baptism -- If you have a child age five to seven years old and he or she would like to be baptized into the Catholic Faith, then this is the program for you! Preparation begins in January with the Sacrament of Baptism taking place this upcoming April.

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

**Pathfinders 2016**

Calling all St. Joseph 6th, 7th and 8th Graders. Pathfinders will meet this **Wednesday, December 21st**, in the Parish Center. For information, please contact Dottie Farewell at dfarewell@stjosephparish.org

St. Joseph School

To be added to the mailing list about current events and happenings at St. Joseph School, feel free to subscribe to the weekly Flash at: http://www.stjosephsea.org/about/news-publications
Join other married couples of all ages and walks of life for a weekend of spiritual reflection. This year’s theme will revolve around Bob Dylan’s classic song “Shelter From the Storm”! Explore different ways to weather the storms of life with your partner.

Price includes Continental breakfast Saturday & Sunday, as well as a Saturday night group dinner!

Register with Deacon Steve by January 3rd
206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

$365 Per Couple*
Partial Scholarships Available

“Shelter From The Storm”

Join other married couples of all ages and walks of life for a weekend of spiritual reflection. This year’s theme will revolve around Bob Dylan’s classic song “Shelter From the Storm”! Explore different ways to weather the storms of life with your partner.

* Price includes Continental breakfast Saturday & Sunday, as well as a Saturday night group dinner!
St. Joseph Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 18
12 Noon-4 pm Come help us prepare the church for Christmas.
No 5:30 pm Mass due to church cleaning.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
Saturday, December 24
4:00 pm, Children’s Mass (Doors open at 3:00 pm)
6:00 pm, Mass in the Evening
10:00 pm, Lessons & Carols
10:30 pm, Mass in the Night

Sunday, December 25
10:00 am, Mass in the Morning

New Year’s Eve
Saturday, December 31
5:00 pm, Vigil Mass
8:00 pm, Benediction & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,
ending at Midnight

New Year’s Day
Sunday, January 1, 2017
9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:30 pm