“When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law.”
Mary, Mother of God, Mother of Exiles

The heart of Mary, more than any other, is a humble heart, capable of accepting God's gifts. In order to become man, God chose precisely her, a simple young woman of Nazareth, who did not dwell in the palaces of power and wealth, who did not do extraordinary things. Let us ask ourselves – it will do us good – if we are prepared to accept God's gifts, or prefer instead to shut ourselves up within our forms of material security, intellectual security, the security of our plans.

-Pope Francis-

She had been promised so much—that she had “found favor with God,” that “the holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you,” that “the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God”—yet it all must have seemed a bit doubtful, as she huddled in that hovel in Bethlehem, the air warmed only by the large bodies of the ox and the ass, who chewed softly on the straw that was her child's only bed. Holding her newborn to her breast, perhaps she asked herself, “If this is finding favor with God, I wonder what the opposite must look like?” And yet then, I imagine, she would have laughed; for despite the talk of angels, both in her own encounter and in the words of the shepherds who wandered in just as she and Joseph were trying to get to sleep, what mattered now was that she was a mother, and must make sure her child was safe in the midst of this dangerous world. “This is my body. This is my blood,” she may have prayed, as she might have prayed throughout his life; indeed, even prayed, with tears in her eyes, as she lay his broken body into a place more horrible than any manger.

In celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we can too easily turn our gaze from that cold, dark morning of the Nativity; choosing instead to imagine the beatific vision of Mary, crowned in glory and floating—eyes demurely lowered—amid the persons of the Blessed Trinity. But such abstraction robs us of the great gift of Mary, whose motherhood was not an ideal of some distant heaven but a reality of heaven come to earth, a grace born in blood and sweat, in dirt and darkness, in the succor offered to a real baby in whom the fullness of God was made flesh. Mary is Mother of God because by her womb everything of the divine becomes immersed in the human. In her milk, God tastes the kindness of a mother’s love. And by her tears, the suffering and fear of every parent who has ever given up home and safety to protect their child, stains the swaddling clothes of the Son of God. Mary may truly have found favor with God, as the angel promised, but it was a favor that draws her even more deeply into her humanity, so that all of her humanity might be made divine in the unfolding love of her beloved son—that exile from heaven who makes the body of Mary the source of his body and the temple of his Holy Spirit.

In that stable of Bethlehem, even more than in the house of Nazareth, Mary becomes the “Mother of God,” receiving with humility the effects of her consent—effects that include uncertainty and vulnerability, a call to tenderness and a need for strength. Like all those who take up the mission of motherhood, she surrenders in love to a mystery she cannot fully understand, and becomes inevitably connected to the mission and life of her son. Thus, in her complete acceptance of this gift of God, i.e., the nurture of this powerless child who is also God and Savior of all humanity, she becomes something more than the mother of one child, she becomes our mother, as well. For we seek her son as our brother, we long for him, even in our exile. And in our exile, we
seek the Mother of God, as well, the one who can show us her Son and in whom we can at last find our way home.

To speak of Mary, Mother of God, therefore, is not to speak of some demigod, removed from us by a pedestal we may never climb. No. The Mother of God is one of us, and through her the Son of God becomes one of us, as well. She is the Mother of Exiles, in whose womb the hope of our homecoming is born. She is the one who gives flesh to the Word, from her own body, and who lays him in the manger of Bethlehem; the one who carries him, a refugee, across the Sinai to Egypt, and who nurtures him when he returns a toddler to Nazareth. She is the one who follows him, worried, through the streets of Judea, and holds him, bereft, as they take him from the cross. Mary, the Mother of God, the Mother of Exiles, the Mother of the Sorrowing: she is the one through whom we become this family, this Church, this home for the flesh as well as for the Spirit.

In the following, you will find a letter from those charged with overseeing Jesuit pastoral and spiritual ministries for the United States and Canada. Promulgated on the Feast of the Holy Family (30 January 2016), this document affirms the unique role that a Jesuit Parish—such as St. Joseph—plays in carrying out the mission of the Society in regards to refugees and migrants. I hope you will read this letter and reflect on how it might guide us into the future.

While we at St. Joseph may not encounter as directly the experience of migrants from Latin America as do parishes along the border with Mexico, nor know as concretely the plight of African and Middle Eastern refugees as do our sisters and brothers in Italy, we cannot let our remoteness from the crisis lull us into apathy. Rather, we must allow the call of Francis and the movements in our own heart to draw us into greater solidarity and more enfleshed accompaniment of these displaced members of our family. For this reason, we have formed a task force to begin the discernment that will lead us to action. In the next few weeks, you will be invited into listening sessions and small group conversations by which we hope to hear the voice of the Spirit, alive in this community.

As we approach the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, let us be ready—as she always was—to open our arms to the grace God gives us: a grace that will always surprise, will often challenge, and will (if we see it through) ultimately lead us to the reign of God.

A Letter from the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States

On December 9th Pope Francis offered his annual blessing of the nativity scene in St. Peter’s Square. In his remarks he encouraged the faithful to remember today’s migrants when looking at the crèche. He drew a familiar parallel between the experience of a refugee and the birth of Jesus. “In the painful experience of these brothers and sisters, we revisit that experience of the baby Jesus,” said the Holy Father, “who at the time of his birth did not find accommodation and was born in a grotto in Bethlehem and then was brought to Egypt to escape Herod’s threat.”

Today, many immigrant families live in vulnerable situations. Like the Holy Family, they face rejection and often have to flee dangerous threats. Many of us come into contact with these families who live in the shadows, fearing separation, detention, deportation and limited participation in our communities. And on this feast we remember that all families are holy in God's eyes.

When we hear of the violence and turmoil that a few have provoked around the world, it is understandable why some seek policies and protective measures to calm such fear. But Pope Francis challenges us never to act solely out of fear. Earlier this year he said, “We must not allow misunderstanding and fear to weaken our resolve . . . we are called to respect the foreigner, the immigrant and the people of different cultures as worthy to be listened to.” And we witnessed Pope Francis live out this message when he brought three refugee families home with him after a visit to Greece. In so doing, he lived out 1 John 3:18, “Let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”

The Jesuit parish has always been a home to the immigrant and the foreigner. Many of our churches were built to care for immigrants, and they remain one of the few Jesuit ministries that serve the public on a daily basis.

The provincial assistants for Jesuit Spiritual and Parish Ministry, who serve the nine Jesuit provincials in Canada and the U.S., have convened from across North America to respond to the plight of migrants. On this Feast of the Holy Family they are asking parish communities to take Pope Francis’ message to heart and discern how they can best respond to the plight of migrants, remembering that love must be shown in deeds and in words.

There is so much good that a parish can do for the most vulnerable in our communities—from sponsoring refugee families to lifting our voices in the public square, calling for greater protections for our brothers and sisters who are suffering.

As a family united in Christ, please remember refugees and migrants in your prayers and pray that we grow in our awareness of the issue of migration.

In this Christmas season where we continue to contemplate the mystery of the incarnation, let us never stop looking for the face of Christ, particularly in the faces of the poor and alienated.

Be assured of our prayers for you and your family in the New Year.
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Introit
A Child Is Born In Bethlehem
A child is born in Bethlehem, alleluia. Exult for joy Jerusalem, alleluia, alleluia.
Our joyful hearts we raise! Christ is born: O come adore hymn. And sing new hymns of praise.

Entrance Songs

Sing of Mary

1. Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, Virgin Mother, unde-filed.
2. Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, In the home at Nazareth.
3. Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son;
   Sing of God's own Son most holy, Who became her little child.
   Toil and labor cannot weary Love enduring unto death.
   Glory be to God the Spirit; Glory to the Three in One.

Fair - est Child of fairest Mother, God the Lord who came to earth,
Constant was the love he gave her, Though he went forth from her side,
From the heart of bless-ed Mary, From all saints the song ascends,
Word-made-flesh, our very brother, Takes our nature by his birth.
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, Till on Calvary he died.
And the Church the strain re - ech-oes Un-to earth's re - mot-est ends.

Magnificat (5:30)

Ma - gnifi - cat, ma - gnifi - cat, Ma - gnifi - cat a - ni-ma
me - a Do - mi-num. Ma - gnifi - cat, ma - gnifi - cat,
Ma - gnifi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!
First Reading
Numbers 6:22-27

The LORD said to Moses: “Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 67

Psallite

O God be gracious and bless us; And let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth; and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice; With fairness you rule the peoples you guide the nations on earth.

The earth has yielded its fruit for God, our God has blessed us. May God still give us blessing; till the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Let the peoples praise you, O God. Let all the peoples praise you!

Second Reading
Galatians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.
Gospel

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Homily

Deacon Steve Wodzanowski

Offertory Song

Maria Viegenlied (5 & 11)  
Reger/Boelitz

Maria sitt im Rosenhag Und wiegt ihr Jesuskind, Durch die Blätter leise Weht der warme Sommerwind. Zu ihren Füßen singt Ein buntes Vögelein: Schlaf, Kindlein, süße, Schlaf nun ein! Hold ist dein Lächeln, Holder deines Schlummers Lust, Leg dein müdes Köpfchen Fest an deiner Mutter Brust! Schlaf, Kindlein, süße, Schlaf nun ein!

Amid the roses Mary sits And rocks her Jesus-child, While amid the treetops Sighs the breeze so warm and mild. And soft and sweetly sings A bird upon a bough: Ah, baby, dear one, Slumber now! Happy is Thy laughter, Holy is Thy silent rest, Lay Thy head in slumber Fondly on Thy Mother’s breast. Ah, baby, dear one, Slumber now!

‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (9:00) DeBreubeuf/FRENCH CAROL

1. ‘Twas in the moon of winter-time, When all the birds had fled, That God the Lord of all the earth Sent fair As was the ring of glory ’round The true; The holy child of earth and sky Is an angel choirs instead; Before their light the help less infant there. The chiefs from far born this day for you; Come kneel before the stars grew dim, And wand’ring hunters heard the hymn: fore him knelt With gifts of fox and beaver pelt. radiant boy, Who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. Jesus your king is born; Jesus is born, in ex-

Je - sus your king is born; Je - sus is born, in ex-
cel - sis glo - ri - a.
Holy, Holy, Holy

Mass of Christ the Savior

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Bless-ed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

Mystery of Faith

Mass of Christ the Savior

When we eat this bread, and drink this cup, we proclaim your death O Lord, until you come again.

Great Amen

Mass of Christ the Savior


Lamb of God

Mass of Creation

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world grant us peace.

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.
What Child Is This?

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On
   Mary's lap is sleeping, Whom angels greet with
   Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing, Whom an - gels greet with
   ox - and ass are feed - ing? Good Christian, fear; for
   ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Christian, fear; for
   peasan - t, king, to own him. The King of kings sal -
   an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
   sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
   va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where
   Where
   Where
   Where
   Where
   Where
   Where
   Where
   Where

3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come,
   This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
   Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y.

Holy Is Your Name

And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er - a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the
   peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name.

Verses

1. My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my savior:
   you have looked upon your servant, you have visited your people.

2. I am lowly as a child, but I know from this day forward
   that my name will be remembered, for all will call me blessed.

3. I proclaim the pow'r of God, you do marvels for your servants;
   though you scatter the proud hearted, and destroy the might of princes.

4. To the hungry you give food, send the rich away empty.
   In your mercy you are mindful of the people you have chosen.

5. In your love you now fulfill what you promised to your people.
   I will praise you Lord, my savior, everlasting is your mercy.
Recessional

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"
2. Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored; Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!"
Late in time be-hold him come, Off-pring of the Vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal-ing in his wings.

Joy-ful, all you na-tions, rise; Join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the'in-car-nate De-i-ty,
Mild he lays his glo-ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With the'an-gel-ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el.
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec-ond birth.

Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Postlude

Instrumental

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
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul

Tuesday
7:00 AM Mass
11:30 AM Seniors Planning Meeting
7:00 PM RCIA
7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday
7:00 AM Mass

Thursday
7:00 AM Mass
7:00 PM Holy Hour

Friday
7:00 AM Mass
11:30 AM Anointing Mass with Senior Luncheon

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

Parish Announcements

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.

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

Adult Faith Formation

Catholicism 101 series begins January 26th. This series is intended for both Catholics and non-Catholics. If you are a cradle Catholic and want to gain deeper insight into the basic tenets of our faith, this is a great opportunity to do so. If you aren’t Catholic but always wanted to know why Catholics do what they do, this is a no pressure way to get those answers and enter in dialogue.

Our approach to the series is a balance of content, group discussion, Q&A, and an integration of prayer styles. The series covers the nature of Jesus, Scripture, the sacraments, Mary and the saints, and Catholic social teaching. The sessions will meet on Thursdays beginning January 26th – March 2nd from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Parish Center’s Brebeuf Room. To register or for more information email Theresa Lukasik at theresal@stjosephparish.org

St. Joseph Epiphany Dinner

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 (Wodzanski) 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.
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
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

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732 18th Ave. E, Seattle, Washington 98112

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Register by January 28, 2017.

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