“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
I am not a fan of Presidents’ Day. It is not that I don’t like having a three-day weekend on the third Monday of February—surely, February needs whatever joys we can bring it. However, I think something precious was lost when we blended the celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday (February 12) and George Washington’s Birthday (February 22) into this single, somewhat uninspiring, new holiday. Who, indeed, are we celebrating on Presidents’ Day? Is it just Washington and Lincoln, or are we meant to recall all 45 of our Presidents—including the less-than-auspicious Milard Fillmore and the somewhat shady Chester Arthur? Does this day include President Obama and President Trump—or is it just a celebration of the presidency itself? All of these elements seem to blend together in the commemorations of this day, leaving the holiday as something of a hodgepodge, like a left-over soup made from everything in the refrigerator. In earlier days, we were invited to reflect upon Abraham Lincoln’s humble beginnings, upon his melancholy and his courage, upon his willingness to risk all for the preservation of the Union, and his determination to deal with the original sin of the nation in the Emancipation Proclamation; yet now he is only one name among a list of names—not quite important enough for his actual birthday to merit celebration. Like wise, George Washington, whom historians dub “the indispensable man,” was once celebrated on his birthday for the strength of his character and the humility of his service, for the boldness of his Delaware crossing and his leadership of the Constitutional Convention, for his unwillingness to become a king and his gracious departure from office after only two terms—all lessons we forget at our peril.

In recent years, we have done much to demythologize these heroic figures of our past, to show the clay feet at the base of those we had often endowed with almost god-like stature. Researchers and political advocates have pointed to Washington’s slave holding as an invalidating piece of hypocrisy from one who fought for the liberty of all. And even Lincoln, “the Great Emancipator,” is shown through his letters to have doubts about the moral and intellectual equality of those whom he set free. In much the way that Martin Luther King is sometimes dismissed as too passive in his approach or Jefferson is cast down for his relationship with Sally Hemings, we are pressed to undo past adulation by assuming a different lens, one which minimizes the virtues and emphasizes the flaws in those people we had once imagined models of citizenship and service. Washington is now, first of all, a hypocrite, who spoke against the slave-trade while continuing to own and use slaves at Mount Vernon and in his time as President. And Lincoln is just another politician, who was willing to table abolition if it saved the

**Presidents’ Day and the Grace of Each One**

*Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, called conscience.*

-George Washington-

*You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was.*

-Abraham Lincoln-
Union, and supported it only as a device to pressure the South and recruit black soldiers. No wonder neither of these deserve their own day! After all, what makes them better than any other political leader?

The problem with such demythologizing, of course, is not that it reveals the sins and failures of those we have admired; but that it tends to replace one myth with another, darker one—as though human beings are either morally perfect or utterly contemptible. But, in fact, we are all a combination of virtue and vice, wisdom and blindness. Certainly, Washington was flawed and hypocritical, filled with forms of arrogance and the distrust of common people that was typical of the age and situation in which he lived. Likewise, Lincoln was not the simple rail-splitter from Illinois, but had a knack for political intrigue and a certain ruthless pragmatism in his desire to preserve the Union. They were both people of their time—and yet, like all of us, they had a capacity to be something more, as well. For, sinner though he was, Washington was also one who chose, at great personal loss, to join the Revolution, risking his life and fortune for the common good; one who desired the ultimate abolition of slavery in the United States (even while, hypocritically, benefitting from it); one who accepted personal attacks on his character as the price of a free press; and one who governed humbly, giving up the reigns of power when no one could have taken them from him. Likewise, Lincoln, though plagued with melancholy and suffering great personal loss, stood firm in the breach when others ran; preached resistance in the face of rebellion and healing amid the calls for vengeance. And if he believed, as his culture told him, that black people were inferior, he struggled for their liberation, nonetheless, when he could have chosen not to. Though scarred by the age in which they lived (the “original sin” of the age) and by their own histories, Washington and Lincoln still came to see farther than those around them, and chose paths that allowed their country to develop in a way previously unknown on earth.

When Christ comes into the world, he comes not as a movement or as a creed, but as a particular human being, fully possessed of all the characteristics of his ancestors and his culture, and possessed, as well, by his own deeply human heart. In facing the temptations of the desert—temptations to ease and honor, to power and ego—he is one of us, and chooses not as the Son of God, but as a fully human being, who has the ability to act differently than his culture or fear might advise, differently than so many have acted before him. Nor does Jesus see this autonomy as something for him alone, but he plants it at the very core of the Church, choosing to leave behind not a Torah nor a Koran, not a series of Laws nor a blueprint to follow, but a community of individuals, each with his own history, each with her own blindness and unique spark of the Holy Spirit—her own conscience. And if all these women and men share a common inspiration, only through the choices made by each one—choices to do good or to do evil, to resist or to give way—will this inspiration take flesh in the world, or fail to take flesh. Some of these choices we know, and some of those who made them we remember—like Paul or Mary Magdalen, like Teresa of Avila or Ignatius Loyola—but the vast majority are made quietly, by individual women and men who choose love over despair, and self-sacrifice over self-interest.

In reducing the two national holidays of Lincoln’s Birthday and Washington’s Birthday to a more convenient Monday in February, we risk losing not just our sense of history, but, more importantly, our sense of the value of individual contribution and choice. Lincoln and Washington were individual persons—flawed and tempted—who had to choose what they valued, and who they wanted to be. Like each one of us, they had the opportunity to make safe choices, to follow a path of least resistance and protect his own ego and his own position; yet, each, instead, chose a different path, one that often mystified their peers. Often, if not always, they chose the way of grace and the way of sacrifice—even when they did not have to do so. In that, they stand, not as two more presidents among many, but as models of what each of us must become as citizens of this country and of the Kingdom of God. We may not be called to save the Union or face the cross, but each of us is called—with our own sins and graces—to act from that spark within us, which transcends our habits or the pressure of our environment. We are called to be the grace the world needs to receive.

Caution-phone scam

Please be aware that one of our parishioners recently received a call from someone claiming to be Deacon Steve. During the call, the parishioner was asked to make a gift to Homeless Veterans. Please know that Deacon Steve is not soliciting donations for Homeless Veterans. If you have any questions at all, please don’t hesitate to call the parish center at 206.324.2522. Many thanks!
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prelude
Instrumental

Entrance Song
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (5,9,&11) HYMN OF JOY

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, Lord of love;
2. All your works with joy surround you, Earth and heaven reflect your rays,
3. Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,

Hearts unfolded like flowers before you, Opening to the sun above.
Stars and angels singing around you, Center of unbroken praise;
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy praise!

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Loving Father, Christ our brother, Let your light upon us shine;

Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Praising you eternally!
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Ubi Caritas (5:30) Taize

Where charity and love are, God is there

Gloria
Found on card in pews

First Reading
Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

The LORD said to Moses,
"Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them:
Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.

"You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart.
Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen,
do not incur sin because of him.
Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people.
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
I am the LORD."
Responsorial Psalm

The Lord Is Kind and Merciful

The Lord is kind and merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful.
Slow to anger, rich in kindness, the Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

Let no one deceive himself. If any one among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool, so as to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written:

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

God catches the wise in their own ruses, and again:
The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

So let no one boast about human beings, for everything belongs to you, Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or the present or the future: all belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

"You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."
Homily

Dismissal of the Catechumens & Candidates (9)

Go Now In Peace

Sleeth

Offertory Songs

Set Your Hearts On the Higher Gifts

Warner

REFRAIN

Cantor/All

Set your heart on the higher gifts, on the things that come from your Maker in heaven. These three gifts are all that remain:

VERSES

Cantor

1. If I speak with the tongues of the living,
   2. And if I understand every mystery,
   3. And if I should renounce all my riches,

1. and of angels, but speak without love, I am only
2. having wisdom, but think without love, had I faith to
3. feed the hungry, give over my life; without love my

To Refrain

1. brass without song, an empty noise on the wind.
2. scatter the hills, I am nothing at all.
3. profit it is loss, my caring finds no reward.
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

**Bless the Lord, My Soul (9)**

Bless the Lord, O My Soul; Blessed are you, O Lord.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul; and forget not all his praises.
Who forgives all your iniquities. Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies.
Bless the Lord, O My Soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Blessed are you, O Lord.

**Ubi Caritas**

U-bi ca-ri-tas est ve-ra, est ve-ra: De-us i-bi est, De-us i-bi est.
Where charity is, truly God is there

God Is Love #629

God is love, and all who live in love, live in God.

Song of Praise

**There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy**

1. There’s a wide - ness in God’s mer - cy Like the wide - ness
   of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad - er Than the meas - ures
   of the mind;
Which is more than lib - er - ty. There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion
In the blood that has been shed; There is joy for
all the mem - bers In the sor - rows of the Head.

Song of Praise

**There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy**

HOLY MANNA

1. There’s a wide - ness in God’s mer - cy Like the wide - ness
   of the sea;
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Song of Praise

**There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy**

HOLY MANNA
Liturgy and Worship

Altar Servers

Would you like to be an altar server? St. Joseph is currently inviting children to join the altar server ministry. This ministry is open to all children in 5th through 8th grade who are baptized and have received first communion. You would serve at a parish mass approximately once a month. There will be a mandatory training session (with pizza!) on Saturday February 25th from 9 am - noon. To register to attend the training and to be an altar server please contact Linh Dam at Damle002@yahoo.com or 425-248-1728.

Ash Wednesday Masses

Wednesday, March 1
at 7am & 7pm
in the Church.

Special Collection
for St. Martin de Porres
All Are Welcome!

Monday Night Prayer Groups

Join us in prayer on Monday, February 20th at 7 pm.
Join our Sacred Silence prayer group in the church or come pray the Rosary in the Parish Center Chapel.

The Sacred Silence prayer group will gather 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... Participants need to enter the church before 7 PM as the church is locked in the evening. For information on Sacred Silence and silent prayer, contact Jim Hoover at sacredsilence@stjosephparish.org or 206-286-0313.

Praying the Rosary can help us face the often harsh realities of life with hope and grace. Many who’ve prayed the Rosary have experienced a sense of peacefulness during challenging times. Pray the Rosary at St. Joseph for the first time or the thousandth. People will help guide those who are just learning. Bring your own Rosary beads, count on your fingers or use a smartphone app such as iRosary.

Ministry Enrichment Gathering

Last weekend St. Joseph hosted a Ministry Enrichment Gathering for liturgical ministers from all over the archdiocese. We had over 200 registered participants and the Social Hall was packed! Putting on an event of this magnitude is a team effort so a big THANK YOU to all who helped to make this a gathering that so many found worthwhile. Special thanks to MARY OTT and her Hospitality Team who worked all day to make sure that no one went hungry or thirsty, to Katy Huston and our sacristan Dan Tobin for gathering up dozens of items from the church and sacristy to be used in the presentations and making sure everything got back to where it belonged, and to Mary Sepulveda for bringing some beauty into what is otherwise a pretty functional space. Special thanks also to Fr. Julian and Thomas Boehling, our musicians who, along with our team of “liturgical movers;” Julie Olsen, Bob Sepulveda, Chris Galloway and Tom Borthwick, spent Friday evening in rehearsal to prepare for Saturday’s event. Thanks to all who participated!

“The music, the prayers, the bowing and rising, the incense—all of it was breaking down my defenses. That’s what good liturgy does. It breaks your heart open and turns you toward God.”

~Fred Bahnson, Soil and Sacrament: Four Seasons
Among the Keepers of the Earth
WestSide Baby’s 16th Annual Communitea!

Sunday, March 12, 2017 - 2 to 4 pm - Hilton Airport
Purhase tickets online at www.westsidebaby.org. Join us for tea, inspiration and a chance to find out how you can work with us to keep the children well.

Who Is My Neighbor?
The Face of Poverty in Washington State

Who Is My Neighbor?
The Face of Poverty in Washington State - A Pastoral Letter from the Catholic Bishops of the State of Washington

This past November the Catholic Bishops from our state released a Pastoral Letter inviting all Catholics to reflect on poverty and the disturbing trend that more and more Americans are living in poverty. In the words of Pope Francis “I want a church which is poor and for the poor. They have much to teach us... We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them.” You can download the letter and access the accompanying video by going to www.thewscc.org

The Intercommunitiy Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) has created a three week study guide for parishes to use and we are hoping to have one or more study groups meet during LENT between March 6th-10th. At this time, we are looking for facilitators and determining the level of interest among parishioners to participate. Exact dates/times have not been set. We are also hoping to engage our Outreach Partners in this endeavor by inviting their members to join our parish groups.

If you are interested in facilitating or participating, please contact Deacon Steve at stevew@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1646.
An Evening of Discussion & Discernment on Our Welcome of Refugees to St. Joseph Parish

Thursday, 2 March 2017
7:00 PM in the Arrupe Room
St. Joseph Parish Center
732 18th Avenue E.
Seattle, WA 98112

www.stjosephparish.org
Chartered bus for registered participants!

AGENDA
8:45-9:15: Registration
   St. Michael Church, Olympia
   Legislative Briefings
   Mass
   Legislative Appointment Preparation
12:30: Legislative Appointments
   *Lunch is on your own. A brown bag is suggested.

Free Will Offering

Multiple Departing Sites:
   Bellevue, Bellingham, Burlington,
   Everett, Federal Way, Kirkland,
   Renton, Seattle, Tacoma,
   Vancouver

—Others TBA based on participants

Meet us at St. Michael Church
for our program and a legislative briefing before going to scheduled appointments with your legislators at the capitol.

All parish members, staff, and Catholic organizations are invited to join us to ensure that the Gospel message to care for our neighbors is heard in Olympia.

Catholic Advocacy Day is sponsored by:

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center · Washington State Catholic Conference
Catholic Community/Housing Services of Western WA · Archdiocese of Seattle · Pierce County Deanery · St. Vincent de Paul

Online registration begins January 9, 2017 at ipjc.org
Please register by February 24, 2017
For registration questions, call 206.223.1138 or email catholicadvocacyday@ipjc.org

Women’s Ministry

1. St. Joseph Women’s Ministry invites you to "Roll Away the Stone"! Bring a friend and join our vibrant group of women for continental breakfast and time for reflection. Four women of different generations from our community will share how they’ve experienced the theme in their lives, followed by small group discussion and reflection. Questions or RSVP: stevew@stjosephparish.org or denise@cassidyhome.com. **Saturday March 4, 2017 9 am -12:30 pm, St Joseph Parish Center, Arrupe Room** This event is free! All are welcome!

2. Women’s Search for Wisdom: The Second Fifty Years.
A 6-week Reflection Retreat facilitated by Janet Mc Dermott, MTS. **Monday Evenings March 6th-April 10th - 7-9pm Parish Center - Cost $60.00**

For more information, contact Janet at janetmcd4u@yahoo.com or Deacon Steve 965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

St. Joseph’s LGBTQ Ministry
Restoring the Desert: A Lenten Reflection Series
Tuesdays in March, 14, 21, & 28
7:00 to 8:00 pm in the Parish Center

Join with St. Joseph’s LGBTQ Ministry in Lent to take some time and enter the desert with Jesus. Discover what more God is calling you to in discovering beauty in the desert of prayer, fasting and alms giving.

Hope & Healing Group
Please join us for Hope and Healing, a new group at St. Joseph’s for anyone seeking health and wellness. February’s topic is Mindfulness. We will meet at 7pm on February 21st upstairs in the Parish Center Jogues Room. Questions? Contact Deacon Steve Wodzanowski at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org or Avery Haller at averyhaller@outlook.com or 206-459-1768.

Black Catholic Advisory Council of the Archdiocese of Seattle
Please join us for a Listening Session at St. Paul’s Catholic Church on March 22nd at 6 pm. In preparation for the National Black Catholic Congress XII in Orlando, Florida. For more information visit http://www.nbcccongress.org

Seniors On The Go
A DAY RETREAT WITH SR. JUDY RYAN, SNJM
Pondering the Mysteries of Our Lives thru the Rosary
**Thursday, February 23rd - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**
Parish Center - FREE! - Lunch Included

An Opportunity:
- to reflect on the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of your lives
- to choose to live your days ahead with grace and gratitude
- to offer your wisdom to our wounded world

RSVP by emailing or calling Renee at 324-2522 or rleet@stjosephparish.org

Sr. Judy grew up in Seattle, she entered the Holy Names novitate in 1958, made vows in 1960. Her experience in so many different ministries, makes her an invaluable leader for this retreat.

Friday, March 3rd - Stations of the Cross at 11 am followed by a Healing Mass at 11:30 am then Seniors’ Lenten Luncheon in the Parish Center.

Friday, March 17th - Join us for a Seniors’ Potluck Dinner at 5 pm in the Social Hall.

Jubilee Clothing Drive
The Holy Names Academy Alumnae Board is holding its 6th annual Clothing Drive to Benefit Jubilee Women’s Center (http://www.jwcenter.org/) on **Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, the 26th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the St. Joseph Parish Social Hall.** (Due to construction at HNA, the Clothing Drive was moved off-site this year.) We will provide assistance with unloading if you need it. The Drive will be going on during Sunday Hospitality and the 11am Mass if you would like to drop things off before or after.

Clean out your closet, and bring your clean, consignment-quality, gently used women’s clothing, shoes, accessories, lingerie, etc. They also always need velvet coat hangers, plastic tube or “store” hangers (not wire), shopping bags from nice stores, and full size deodorant. In addition, we will be collecting umbrellas, toilet paper, warm socks (that fit in shoes) and twin-sized blankets or comforters.

For more information, please contact Annie Wickwire Delucchi ‘82 at 206-498-2510.
Children’s Faith Formation
On February 26, St. Joseph will offer one developmentally appropriate Safe Environment course in each of our CFF PreK thru 8th grade classes. In continuing the high-quality faith formation for our youngest parishioners, we are integrating the Seattle Archdiocesan abuse prevention lessons into our curriculum. This annual course will be offered for one class period only. As guardians, parents may choose to have their children opt out of this lesson. Opt out forms will be available in the classrooms prior to February 26. Otherwise, there is no additional paperwork for parents/guardians to complete.

To help families understand what their children will be offered, please visit: http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP/faithformation.aspx. This will provide you with parent and guardian resources, a good FAQ page and opt out forms.

For questions, contact Director of Religious Education, Dottie Farewell at dfarewell@stjosephparish.org or 206.965-1652.

Holy Land Tour
Join Fr. Glen Butterworth, S.J. on his spiritual and cultural 14 day tour: “JOURNEY THROUGH THE HOLY LAND & JORDAN” OCTOBER 8 - 21, 2017

This journey focuses on many of the important places in Jesus’ life, his birth, his preaching and his miracles in Israel and Jordan. Visit Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, swim in the Dead Sea and more.

CONTACT parishioners Hilda and Walt Kicinski for full tour details and savings opportunities at 206.501.4468 or info@vikingcat.com