

Sunday, December 10, 2017 * Second Sunday of Advent

* www.stjosephparish.org



ST. JOSEPH PARISH

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."*



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2017

Homily This Week: John Whitney, S.J.

Homily Next Week: Deacon Steve Wodzanowski

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5 pm

Sunday - 9:00 am, 11 am & 5:30 pm

Readings for December 17, 2017

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-2A, 10-11

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday, 7 am, Parish Center

Reconciliation

Saturday - 3:30-4:15 pm in the Church
or by appointment

Parish Center

732 18th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

Monday-Thursday - 8 am - 4:30 pm

Friday - 8 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday - 9 am - 1 pm

www.stjosephparish.org

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Patrick Fennessy, Head of School x218

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Lillian Zadra, Primary School Dir x219

Repentance from Fear

The Pilgrim also wanted to enter the house, and finding a sick man, he comforted him, touching his sore with his hand. After giving him some little consolation and encouragement, he went away alone. His hand now began to hurt, so that he thought he had the plague. This imagination was so vivid that he could not overcome it, until, with a forceful gesture he thrust his hand into his mouth, turning it about inside and saying, "If you have the plague in your hand, you shall also have it in your mouth." When he had done this, the imagination left him and the pain in his hand as well.

-The Autobiography of St. Ignatius-

The secret to happiness is freedom. . . And the secret to freedom is courage.

-Thucydides-

In the early 1530's, Iñigo de Loyola, who had lived for many years as a beggar and spiritual pilgrim, seemed to be on the way to a more peaceful—and some might say respectable—life. Since he was wounded at the battle of Pamplona, the young former courtesan had been little more than a vagabond, seeking, as he put it, to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis or St. Dominic. He had renounced his commission and his military honors, setting his sword and shield aside in a vigil at Montserrat, and had lived in a cave for many months in a little village near Barcelona called Manresa. Though something had changed for him during his months at Manresa, he remained, in the eyes of many, something of a crackpot—a religious zealot, who, for all his personal charm, was a bit dangerous to be around. Begging his passage, he had managed to make it to Jerusalem, where he had hoped to stay, but the Franciscans who supervised the Holy Sites had other ideas and ordered him out. Returning to Spain, he had begun studies at various schools, only to be called before the Inquisition on several occasions because of his tendency to attract others to his spiritual ideas—ideas that authorities worried might not be orthodox. Each time he had proven his innocence, usually after several days in jail, but had still been faced with restrictions that limited his ability to talk freely to others about matters of faith and morals. Finally, distressed by these limitations, he went to Paris, where he set about his studies in the college of St. Barbara. There, as he continued his formal studies, he also grew in his understanding of the work of the Spirit in his own heart, and of the power of light and dark that moved within him.

One day, accompanying a doctor friend to the home of a plague victim, Iñigo entered the house to give consolation to the man and his family. Yet, as he emerged from the home, and began to walk home to his rooms at the college, Iñigo became increasingly obsessed with the idea that his hand, which had touched the man's wound, was now itself contaminated with plague. In that moment, as he walked the streets of Paris, all the needs and all the beauty of the city shrank away for him. He could not see the people who shared the streets with him: neither the poor who needed his help, nor the merchants in their stalls. He could not see the richness of that beautiful city: the river and the trees, the wonders of the afternoons sky, nor the bird flying above. He could not sense all that was

given him: the opportunities that presented themselves, nor his own gifts and graces. He could not sense Christ present in the world nor *"God in all things."* Trapped in fear, all he could see was himself: a man filled with anxiety and bound in a prison of his own making.

We can, perhaps, imagine Iñigo in the streets of Paris: his head bowed down with worry, rubbing his hand and feeling the psychic pain, and growing more and more disturbed by his fear, more and more trapped in its power. But then he remembers, if only for an instant, the grace he had come to know so well, a grace that had led him through shipwreck and war, through sickness and near death; a grace and love that he knew transcended death, was deeper even than the grave. And in that moment, he found the courage to confront his fear head on, the courage to refuse to submit to the confinement this fear offered. Thrusting his hand into his mouth and rolling it around, he declared in his heart: *"If you have the plague in your hand, you shall also have it in your mouth."* Suddenly, he was set free from his fear, and his life belonged to him again.

While the actions of Iñigo may not offer us the greatest example of good hygiene, they offer an important image, I think, for this season of Advent—this season of hope and light, which comes to us in the midst of a world threatened by darkness and futility. For what Ignatius (as Iñigo would later be known) recalled on the streets of Paris was that—more than any illness, more than any real danger or threat—it is fear that plagues our human nature, fear that imprisons us, fear that keeps us from opening ourselves in faith to the powerful gifts of God, and turns our hope for God's kingdom into cautious self-absorption and debilitating despair. Fear blinds us in a way that only love and courage can cure.

Living in each of our hearts, fear acts like a viper that can bite us in a thousand different places. How many of us fail to speak out against prejudice or injustice from fear of being unpopular? How many of us join in the whispers of gossip or the degrading joke because we fear that, if we don't, we might be next? How many voices have been silenced from the fear of not being believed, or the fear that a job will be lost or a label given? How many times has our fear that change will be too painful, kept us from listening to those who have been abused or mistreated? How often has our fear of commitment kept us from loving, or our fear of being wrong kept us from risking ourselves for love? How many times has our fear of not being able to do *everything* kept us from doing *anything*? How often do we lose sight of reality, hiding behind titles or positions, behind notions of national sovereignty or personal privacy because we fear being caught in the suffering of others, fear that God will not be there for us, will not love us enough to sustain us, but will abandon us to our own pitiful condition?

In our fear we create separation and alienation from ourselves, from others, and from God. Like Ignatius on the streets of Paris, fear is a disease that closes our eyes, that strands us in the isolation which is essence of sin. When it controls our lives, fear robs us of passion and commitment, of light and hope, of great desires and joyous love. It leaves us seeking only the safe, the small, the reasonable demands of a faith that cannot comprehend the passion of the prophet in the desert nor the sacrifice of the Son of God hanging on the cross.

God does not call us to the safe, the small, the reasonable. God calls us to: *"Go up onto the high mountain, . . . cry out at the top of your voice."* God calls us to *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* These are not words of compromise or resignation; they are not about safety nor caution: they are about overthrowing fear and expecting what we have no right to expect—that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, comes to live with us and abide with us. That we—each one of us, and all of us together, no matter how unworthy we may think ourselves to be—we are meant to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and become part of *"new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."* Such belief, such courage and hope is what we are called to this Advent: it is what the gospel means when it speaks of *repentance*: not the pouring out of a laundry list of sins, but the acceptance of love and mission. In Advent, we repent, we turn towards our life, not by denying our fears, but by refusing to be imprisoned by them; by lighting our small candles, one week at a time, until the gathering flame pushes back the darkness and illumines our journey to hope.

Such repentance from fear and isolation may take many forms: perhaps it will be offering forgiveness when we are not certain it will be received; or reaching out to the poor and forgotten, when we don't know what talents we have to bring. Perhaps repentance means trusting your children to God, even when it seems they have wandered from the Church; or perhaps it means opening the Church to those who feel that they have been pushed out. Perhaps repentance means resistance to unjust immigration enforcement, or standing at the side of refugees and displaced persons. Perhaps repentance means hearing the painful stories of abuse survivors, or telling your story to those who need to know. Perhaps repentance means overcoming the fear of failure and chaos that drives us to anxiety and obsession, and just letting God run the universe for awhile. Perhaps repentance is as silly as sticking your hand into your mouth, or as difficult as standing watch while a beloved one dies. But above all of these, repentance is opening ourselves in courage to the gifts that we are meant to receive: gifts of faith, of hope, and of love that are waiting for us in the heart of Mary's child.

John S.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Please take a moment to silence your cell phones.

Prelude

(9) Advent Introit

Proulx

"Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand."

Call To Worship

Please stand at the tolling of the bell.

Entrance Song

Creator Of the Stars Of Night

Latin 9th C

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse
3. When this old world drew on toward night,
4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
5. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
6. To God Cre - a - tor, God the Son,

Your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
You came; but not in splen - dor bright,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
Re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
And God the Spir - it, Three in One,

O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
You came, O Sav - ior, to set free
Not as a mon - arch, but the child
All things on earth with one ac - cord,
De - fend us while we dwell be - low
Praise, hon - or, might and glo - ry be

We pray you hear us when we call.
Your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.
Of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
From all as - saults of our dread foe.
From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Blessing The Advent Wreath

Penitential Act






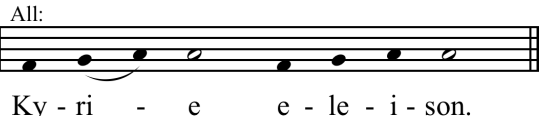
I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,



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.

Kyrie

<p>Cantor:</p>  <p>Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.</p>	<p>All:</p>  <p>Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.</p>
<p>Cantor:</p>  <p>Chris - te e - le - i - son.</p>	<p>All:</p>  <p>Chris - te e - le - i - son.</p>
<p>Cantor:</p>  <p>Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.</p>	<p>All:</p>  <p>Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.</p>

First Reading

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.



Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 85



Lord, let us see your kind-ness; and grant us your sal - va - tion.

I will hear what the LORD God speaks; he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful. His salvation is near for those who fear him, and his glory will dwell in our land.

Merciful love and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have kissed. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth, and justice look down from heaven.

Also the LORD will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase. Justice will march before him, and guide his steps on the way.

Second Reading

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.



Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel Acclamation

Advent Alleluia (9)

Joncas



Chant

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

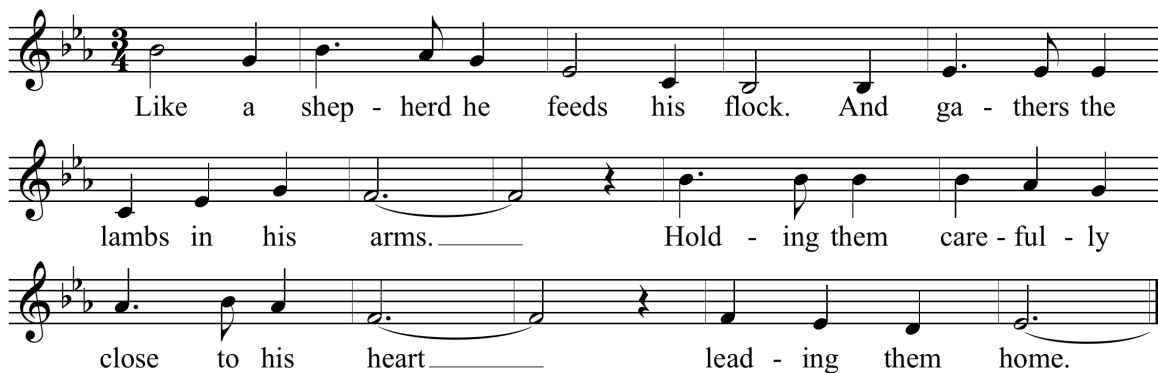


Homily John Whitney, S.J.

Offertory Songs

Like A Shepherd #325

Dufford



(9) Comfort, Comfort

Bach/Ferguson

Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon wait for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near calling us to true repentance since the kingdom now is here.

Oh that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away!

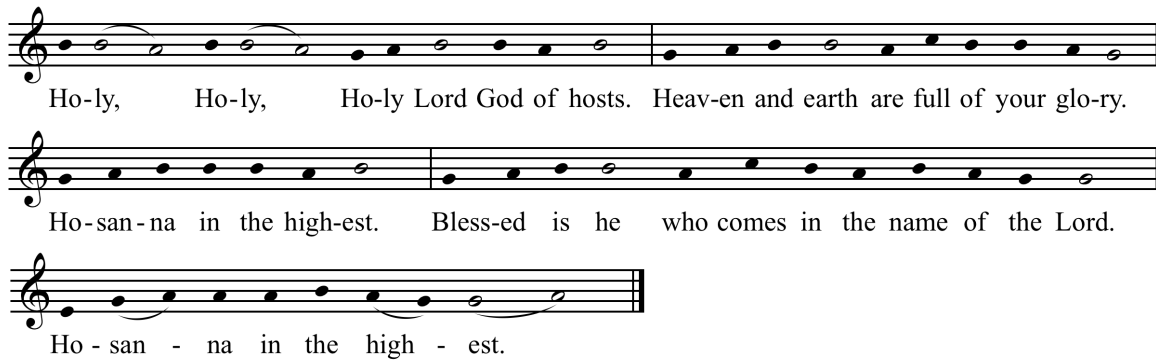
Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!

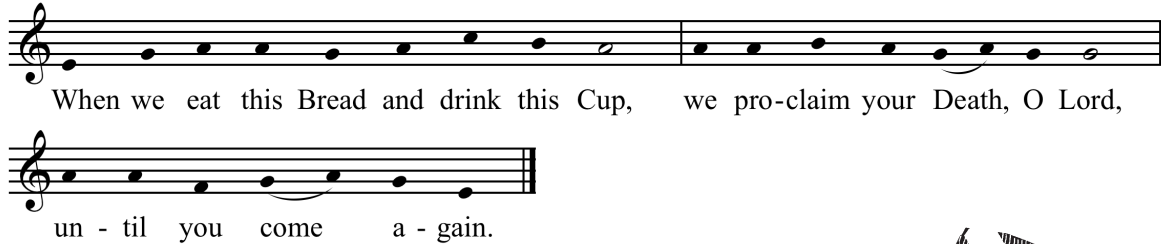
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Mystery of Faith



Great Amen



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

Communion Songs (9) Prepare the Way of the Lord

Taize

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, and
all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre

A Voice Cries Out

Joncas

A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: Pre - pare a
way for the Lord! A voice cries out in the wil - der -
ness: Make straight a high - way for God!

Song of Praise

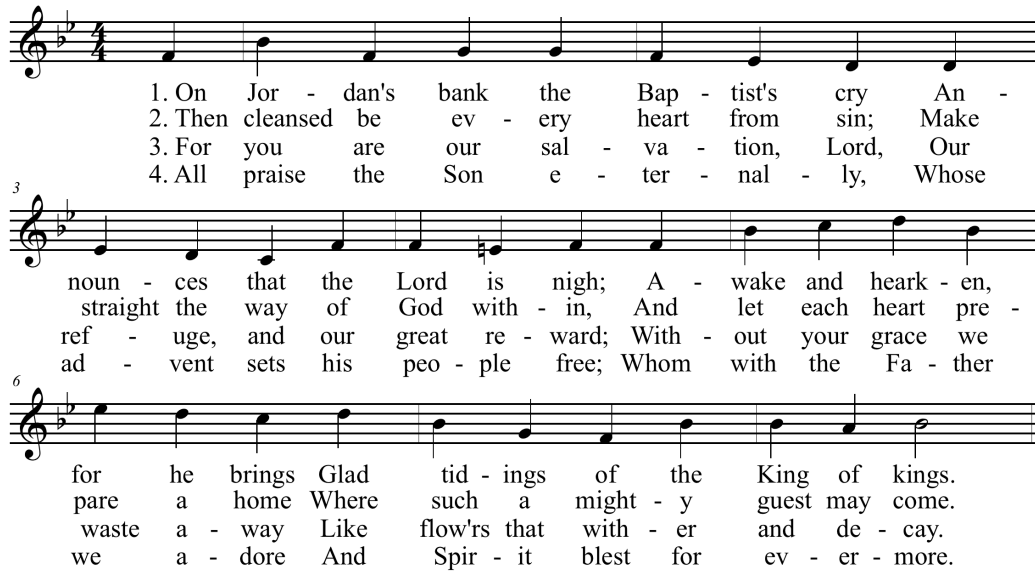
(9) Soon and Very Soon

Crouch

1. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
2. No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
3. No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
4. Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hal-le-lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah,
jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

(5&11) On Jordan's Bank

Coffin/Chandler



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
2. Then cleansed be ev - ery heart from sin; Make
3. For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our
4. All praise the Son e - ter - nal - ly, Whose

noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
straight the way of God with - in, And let each heart pre -
ref - uge, and our great re - ward; With - out your grace we
ad - vent sets his peo - ple free; Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
pare a home Where such a might - y guest may come.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
we a - dore And Spir - it blest for ev - er - more.

Recessional

Tolling of the Bell

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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOSEPH

Sunday

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

Monday

7:00 AM Mass
7:00 PM Sacred Silence
7:00 PM Holy Rosary Group

Tuesday

7:00 AM Mass
7:00 PM Yoga

Wednesday

7:00 AM Mass

Thursday

7:00 AM Mass

Friday

7:00 AM Mass

Saturday

12PM-4PM Parish Reconciliation Service
5:00 PM Vigil Mass

WELCOME!

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.

LITURGY AND WORSHIP



Prayer Tree St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: Grateful appreciation for the donated blood and the platelets at our recent blood drive . . . For Lisa's health, may she be comfortable . . . For Nicholas on his birthday . . . For an unknown security guard who was kind and helpful to a lost soul . . . For those who are making a difference by helping the poor and vulnerable.

"Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God."

Isaiah 40:1

ISC Advent Evening of Prayer

The ISC Advent Evening of Prayer is scheduled for next Tuesday evening. This year's service *"The Gifts of Darkness"* is a joint effort with Seattle First Baptist and will be at **Seattle First Baptist 1111 Harvard Ave Seattle, at 7pm on December 12th**. Pat Twohy, SJ and Catherine Fransson are presenting.

Bible Study On Mark

Please join us on **Monday evening, December 11th** for the conclusion to Father Whitney's series on the Book of Mark. Bible study is at 7 pm, feel free to come even if you missed the first part!

Some Advent Prayer Resources

Take a look at some of these Jesuit websites with prayers for your advent reflections.

www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent

www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/prayers

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>

And of course, reflections by St. Joseph parishioners at <https://stjosephparishbiblestudy.wordpress.com>

Come Pray With Us!

Monday Night Prayer Groups

Join us in prayer on **Monday, December 11th, at 7 pm**. There are two prayer groups meeting. Join our Sacred Silence prayer group in the church or come pray the Rosary in the Parish Center Chapel.

Children's Choir

The St. Joseph Children's Choir, "Joyful Voices" will sing for the 4 pm Christmas Eve mass this year! There will be two rehearsals during the week prior to Christmas. Watch the bulletin and listen for an announcement at mass about specific rehearsal times. All children are welcome, as long as they are able to focus on singing through rehearsals and mass. Parents of younger children may need to sit with them and help them through the music. To sign up or for more information please contact Jen or Matt Tilghman-Havens at j.tilghmanhavens@gmail.com and mtilghman-havens@gmail.com. You can also sign up at the parish website under the Liturgy and Worship tab.

Church Social

Join us on **Sunday, December 17th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center**, after the 5:30 pm Mass for some joyful fellowship! We'll have snacks, beverages and wonderful Christmas Caroling led by our own Bob McCaffery-Lent. Please join us!





LITURGY AND WORSHIP

Prepare Yourself For Christmas



SEEKING THE LIGHT...

AN ADVENT DAY OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 16

12:00 NOON - 4:00 PM

- *Come for part or the entire time.*
- *Points for Prayer & Opportunities for Personal Sacramental Reconciliation.*



ST. JOSEPH PARISH
THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

PARISH LIFE

Marriage Enrichment Weekend



February 2-4, 2018
La Conner, WA

“Love Me Tender”

Please join with married couples of all ages and walks of life as we gather for a weekend of spiritual reflection and fellowship.

This year's theme, *Love Me Tender*, invites us to explore how the ordinary, every day things we do for one another can be filled with loving tenderness.



ST. JOSEPH PARISH
THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

\$365 per Couple*

Partial Scholarships Available

For more information or to register, please contact Deacon Steve at (206) 965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org.

* Price includes two nights lodging, Continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and the Saturday evening group dinner.

Seniors On The Go

Friday, December 15th - Join us for our Seniors Christmas Potluck Party from 5-8 pm in the Arrupe Room.

Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry is holding a coffee connect on **Saturday, December 16th** at Vios on 19th Ave E from 10 - 11am. Please join us for an hour of lively conversation. Contact Sheila Marie at 206.251.7035 if you have any questions.



STEWARDSHIP

Many, many thanks to all who have made gifts and pledges to our annual stewardship appeal. **To date, we have received 307 pledges totaling \$611,507 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. Many thanks to: Hugh Bangasser & Lucy Homans, Catherine Beck, Bradley & Cindy Ann Belanger, Charles Bucheit & Thuc Vu, Kathleen Calvert, Frances Chikahisa, Allison Chodl, Joyce Colella, John Culkin, Joan Dinkelspiel, Frisco & Lauren Divina, Sr. Mary Annette Dworshak, SNJM, James & Janet Dwyer, Kevin & Dottie Farewell, Patrick Fennessy & Ann Alokolaro, Sean & Jamie Flynn, John Frady & Ann Vine, Paul & Mary Freiburger, Miriam Garvey, Patrick Gemperline & Jan Dwight, Brian & Michelle Hayden, Patrick Healey, Christina Hemmen, Nabil & Layla Jammal, Anna Johansen, Lori Kaiser, Walter & Hilda Kicinski, Johanna Krogh, Greg Lindhorst & Zoe Barsness, Katelyn Mendoza, Mark & Ellen Mills, Greg & Mary Moga, Stephen Nash, James & Patricia Navone, Jeffrey Nevin & Carrie Nemec, Michael & Lori Newell, Patrick & Bernadette Noonan, Al O'Brien, Marlene Oneil, Jennifer Paquette, Joe Paton & Susan Safioles, Paul Peterhans & Mary deRosas, Tim & Kathy Reilly, Paul & Meredith Reinhart, Louise Robinson, Charles & Margaret Rogers, Robin Rosamond & Katherine Mitch, Jon & Erin Sainsbury, Emily Schwartz, Jason & Lisa Snavlin, Ronan Stokes & Liz Keenan, Evelyn Sybor, Bret Taylor & Deborah Taylor-Hill, Robert & Jeanne Tiscareno, Doreen Twohy, Steve & Lisa Visintainer, Silvia Waltner, Brian Werner & Kate Crisham, Dennis West & Margaret Kineke, David & Laura Young. As always, for additional information please don't hesitate to contact Tina O'Brien, Director of Advancement, at stewardship@stjosephparish.org or (206) 965-1654. Many thanks!



*From Pope Francis 2nd Sunday of
Advent Address 2014*

Isaiah addresses people who have passed through a dark period, who have been subjected to a very difficult trial; but now the time of comfort has come. Sorrow and fear can be replaced with joy, for the Lord himself will guide his people on the way to liberation and salvation. How will He do all this? With the solicitude and tenderness of a shepherd who takes care of his flock. He will in fact provide unity and security and feed his flock, gather the lost sheep into his sure fold, reserve special attention to the most fragile and weak (v. 11). This is God's attitude toward us, his creatures. For this reason, the Prophet invites those who hear him — including us, today — to spread this message of hope: that the Lord consoles us. And to make room for the comfort which comes from the Lord.

We cannot be messengers of God's comfort if we do not first feel the joy of being comforted and loved by Him. This happens especially when we hear his Word, the Gospel, which we should carry in our pocket: do not forget this! The Gospel in your pocket or purse, to read regularly. And this gives us comfort: when we abide in silent prayer in his presence, when we encounter Him in the Eucharist or in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All this comforts us.

Let us therefore allow Isaiah's call — "Comfort, comfort my people" — resound in our heart in this Season of Advent. Today there is need for people to be witnesses to the mercy and tenderness of God, who spurs the resigned,

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enlivens the disheartened, ignites the fire of hope. He ignites the fire of hope! We don't. So many situations require our comforting witness. To be joyful, comforting people. I am thinking of those who are burdened by suffering, injustice and tyranny; of those who are slaves to money, to power, to success, to worldliness. Poor dears! They have fabricated consolation, not the true comfort of the Lord! We are all called to comfort our brothers and sisters, to testify that God alone can eliminate the causes of existential and spiritual tragedies. He can do it! He is powerful!

Isaiah's message, which resounds in this second Sunday of Advent, is a salve on our wounds and an impetus to prepare with commitment the way of the Lord. Indeed, today the Prophet speaks to heart to tell us that God condones our sins and comforts us. If we entrust ourselves to Him with a humble and penitent heart, He will tear down the walls of evil, He will fill in the holes of our omissions, He will smooth over the bumps of arrogance and vanity, and will open the way of encounter with Him. It is curious, but many times we are afraid of consolation, of being comforted. Or rather, we feel more secure in sorrow and desolation. Do you know why? Because in sorrow we feel almost as protagonists. However, in consolation the Holy Spirit is the protagonist! It is He who consoles us, it is He who gives us the courage to go out of ourselves. It is He who opens the door to the source of every true comfort, that is, the Father. And this is conversion. Please, let yourselves be comforted by the Lord! Let yourselves be comforted by the Lord!

FAITH JUSTICE



Giving Tree

Thank you for supporting one of our Outreach Partners! Instructions: **GIFTS MUST BE BACK TO THE CHURCH BY MONDAY DECEMBER 18th at 4pm.** 1. Please choose an ornament and purchase the requested item. 2. If your item does not indicate whether to wrap the gift or to leave it unwrapped, please leave the gift UNWRAPPED. 3. Please attach the ornament/tag you received to the wrapped/unwrapped gift. 4. Bring your giving tree donations back to the St. Joseph's Giving Tree or the Parish Center. Note: The last day of our collection is Monday, December 18th. 5. If you have any questions regarding the Giving Tree, please contact Deacon Steve at stevew@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1646. **Ornaments Color Codes:** Gold Westside Baby; Red Francis House; Blue St. Martin de Porres; Purple Jubilee Women's Center; Yellow Chief Seattle Club; Brown Winter Shelter; Light Green L'Arche; Orange Recovery Café; Light Blue Noel House; Black Peace on the Streets for Kids on the Streets; Dark Green Pregnancy Support; White St. Vincent de Paul; Pink and Blue –Wintonia residents.



Francis House

St. Francis House is always grateful for non-perishable food, particularly canned meat tuna and peanut butter donated by St Joseph parish. This winter there is a great need for blankets, comforters and sleeping bags. Also, kitchen pots and pans, silverware, and small electric appliances, as toasters, coffee makers, irons, etc. are needed. Items can be taken to St. Francis House at 169 12th Ave., or to the Parish Center.

Share The Journey

ADOPT A REFUGEE FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

St. Joseph's is partnering with Refugee Woman's Alliance (ReWA) in helping 6-10 Refugee families this Christmas. If you would like to ADOPT A FAMILY, please contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

St. Joseph Epiphany Dinner

On **Sunday, January 7, 2018, from 1-4 pm in the Social Hall**, we'll open our doors 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 (Wodzanowski) 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.





St. Joseph Holiday Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23, 5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 24, 9:00 am Mass

(no 11:00 am or 5:30 pm Mass)

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Sunday, 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

Monday, December 25

10:00 am, Mass in the Morning

New Year's

Sunday, December 31

Sat 5:00 pm, 9:00 am, 11:00 am Feast of the Holy Family

5:30 pm Vigil Mass, Mary Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2018

10:00 am Mass, Mary Mother of God