Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!
The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in
everything, by prayer and petition, with
thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.
**Mary the Mother of Life**

It is almost too long ago to remember—when I was a woman without children, a person, really, like a figure standing in a field, alone, dark against the pale crop . . . .

I cannot remember that instant when I gave my life to them the way someone will suddenly give her life to God and I stood with them outside the universe and then like a god I turned and brought them in.

-Sharon Olds-

The Word became flesh
And made his dwelling among us.

**John 1: 13**

This week, between the celebrations of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe, my mind and my prayer has been filled with images of Mary and with a growing sense of this girl from Nazareth who was called not just to bear Jesus into the world—not simply as a vessel for the divinity's manifestation—but to rear him and to care for him, to give him life from her own body as he grew in her womb, and nurturing milk from her breasts as he lay nestled in her lap. It amazes me, sometimes, how little of what we read during the season of Advent recalls us to Mary—to her love and her power, her courage and her compassion. Indeed, of the four Sundays in Advent, Mary is spoken of only in the final week, when Luke recalls the child of Elizabeth leaping in the womb at the visit of the pregnant Mary, and recalls Elizabeth herself proclaiming: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” And while the daily readings, during the final days of Advent, recall the other parts of Mary's story, as told in Luke, much of the season emphasizes the beautiful vision of Isaiah and the promise of Elijah, fulfilled in the life and preaching of John the Baptist. Mary, the woman and progenitor of all disciples, seems too easily reduced, amid all this eschatological and prophetic imagery, to a mere vehicle for the fulfillment of prophecy—an incubator of the Incarnation—rather than the woman and mother she must have been. For when she lays open her life to God—when she declares to the angel: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word”—Mary assumes a role of service familiar to any mother, one that will call forth all her gifts, and challenge all the limits she thought she knew, but which will also demand of her the fullness of her humanity, not its abandonment. It seems fortunate, then, that these two great Marian feasts occur in the course of Advent, since they offer us the chance to reflect more deeply on the fullness of Mary, this quite ordinary, extraordinary woman who became the partner of God in the creation of Jesus, and the mother of God in the birthing of the Church.

At first glance, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which recalls Our Lady of Guadalupe, my mind and my prayer has been filled with images of Mary and with a growing sense of this girl from Nazareth who was called not just to bear Jesus into the world—not simply as a vessel for the divinity's manifestation—but to rear him and to care for him, to give him life from her own body as he grew in her womb, and nurturing milk from her breasts as he lay nestled in her lap. It amazes me, sometimes, how little of what we read during the season of Advent recalls us to Mary—to her love and her power, her courage and her compassion. Indeed, of the four Sundays in Advent, Mary is spoken of only in the final week, when Luke recalls the child of Elizabeth leaping in the womb at the visit of the pregnant Mary, and recalls Elizabeth herself proclaiming: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” And while the daily readings, during the final days of Advent, recall the other parts of Mary's story, as told in Luke, much of the season emphasizes the beautiful vision of Isaiah and the promise of Elijah, fulfilled in the life and preaching of John the Baptist. Mary, the woman and progenitor of all disciples, seems too easily reduced, amid all this eschatological and prophetic imagery, to a mere vehicle for the fulfillment of prophecy—an incubator of the Incarnation—rather than the woman and mother she must have been. For when she lays open her life to God—when she declares to the angel: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word”—Mary assumes a role of service familiar to any mother, one that will call forth all her gifts, and challenge all the limits she thought she knew, but which will also demand of her the fullness of her humanity, not its abandonment. It seems fortunate, then, that these two great Marian feasts occur in the course of Advent, since they offer us the chance to reflect more deeply on the fullness of Mary, this quite ordinary, extraordinary woman who became the partner of God in the creation of Jesus, and the mother of God in the birthing of the Church.

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very humanity into which Jesus enters for our salvation. Yet, such interpretations of this ancient tradition, which separate Mary and her Son from us in a bid to make them perfect, are merely an overlay on a beautiful mystery, one which shows us that Mary came from somewhere, that she was raised in love and freedom, and that her choice to give herself over to God emerged from the freedom of a disciple, a freedom that all of us now enjoy through the grace of baptism.

In trying to understand the Immaculate Conception, we can too easily move to the metaphysical plain, as though God “fixed” the system by making Mary a being intrinsically different than any of us. Yet, if original sin—the sin of Eve and Adam, passed on to us—is not some sort of biological disorder, but, instead, a way of understanding the wounded system of the world, into which all of us are born, then Mary’s freedom from this sin might mean simply that it had no power over her, and that her own openness to God’s call is the sign of that freedom. Certainly, this freedom is the product of grace—a grace alluded to when Gabriel greets her as “full of grace”—but it is also a grace confirmed in the life she lived, a grace she could have refused or fearfully abandoned, just as Eve and Adam did. That she did not do so, need not lead us away from her humanity, but should lead us deeper into it. Who was this young girl, such that she did not give way to fear and did not suffer, as Eve did, the doubt that God loved her? What had she learned in the presence of her own mother, Ann, and her father, Joachim? This great mystery of the Immaculate Conception does not stop at Mary’s birth, but is lived out in the family who raised her and loved her in such a way that she trusted—even at the risk of her own death—enough to say “Yes” to the One who called her. In my prayer on the Immaculate Conception, I have been drawn to think of St. Ann, and the way in which her love and courage must have been, if not the origin of Mary’s “immaculate” heart, at least the strong bulwark by which it was protected and grew. And it must have been at the side of her mother that the Mother of God learned to nurture and support her child, even when she did not understand—a skill Mary would certainly use when her Son went forth to the cross, and she followed him with tears, with trust, and with unconquered love.

Just as with the Immaculate Conception, in celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe, we may, without discernment and prayer, fail to see how much Mary leads us back to the beauty of the Incarnation, to the God who has come to pitch his tent with us, and who comes to us through the blessings of human life. Though, like many Marian apparitions, there can be a tendency to reduce Guadalupe to an other-worldly experience, meant to draw us out of this realm of struggle and sin into some heavenly sphere, the humanity of the Lady of Tepyac does something very different from this: she reveals to us that the reign of God is in our midst, among us in our particular culture and our distinct humanity. Christ Jesus, through the motherly care of Mary, comes to live in the struggles and blessings of our life. Thus, to understand what is true in the apparition of Guadalupe, we must not become preoccupied with the signs of Mary’s presence—i.e., with the roses and the image on the tilma—but must, instead, look for the message these signs declare. For it is not an angel or a ghost who comes to that indigenous farmer, Juan Diego, not a being of heaven alone; rather, it is Mary, taken up body and soul by God, who appears, body and soul to offer a mother’s hope and love to those divided by colonization and class prejudice.

Just as, through Mary, the Son of God comes to be part of a particular culture and people, so Mary comes to Juan Diego as one like himself—though remaining a unique individual. Clothed in a mantle on which the stars directly mirror the night sky on the date of her appearance, and in indigenous garb, the woman who identifies herself as the Blessed Virgin Mary is neither purely Spanish nor purely Indigenous, but rather Mestizo—i.e., an adult woman of mixed race, such as would not be found in Mexico for years to come. And though she speaks to Juan Diego in his own language, with familiarity and love, she offers a message comprehensible, as well, to the Spanish bishop. Just below her breasts, she wears a black sash, indicative, within indigenous culture, of one who is pregnant; thus proclaiming with her body what she says with her words, that she is a Mother, speaking to her children. In all of these ways, the Mary of the tilma, the Mary who shows herself to Juan Diego—though not, in physical appearance, identifiable as Mary of Nazareth—reveals herself to be one with the Mother of God, through whose body the creator of the universe became flesh and was nursed to new life.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is no transcendent deity, no avatar of God come down to earth. Rather, she is Mary, the Mother of Jesus, whose humanity is, itself, a manifestation of God. She comes to Tepeyac as one who, in her body, already holds the communion of Spaniards and Indigenous; whose child, the Son of God, will likewise bear the marks of his mother, and be of mixed blood, a child in whom the “otherness” of this world is overcome, and through whom all women and men will be made sisters and brothers in flesh as well as spirit. Our Lady of Guadalupe, with her Son, comes fully into the world, living beneath the same stars as Juan Diego, loving him not with some promise of life after death, but with roses and healing, with a mission and a new Church in which all will be welcome. Even in her miracles, she reveals a mother’s love: that love which encourages and blesses without taking away freedom, and which remains, at last, in the heart and choices of her child. As with Mary of Nazareth, Mary of Tepeyac does not put herself forward, but draws her children into the world and sends them out marked by her image and her prayers.

Though we are right to rejoice in the love of the Father, manifested in the Incarnation of Jesus, we should not forget nor minimize the grace Mary brings to all of us. She is the model of what we all are called to be: women and men who surrender to God not passively, like an object to be used, but freely and passionately, bringing all that we are to the service we undertake. Like one beloved, Mary did not lose herself in becoming the Mother of God, but brought all she had received of love into the mix, and passed that on in the raising of her son. Let us rejoice, then, in the humanity we share with Mary, the humanity through which God is saving the world and lovingly building the kingdom.
Welcome to St. Joseph. Please take a moment to silence your cell phones.

**Prelude**
Prepare the Way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand. Prepare.

**Call To Worship**
Please stand at the tolling of the bell.

**Entrance Song**

Christ, Circle Round Us

Schutte

1. Come, O Flow'r of Love, holy branch of Jesse's tree.
2. Come, O Word of Truth, font of knowledge from on high.
3. Come, O Gate of Hope, holy door of heaven's throne.
4. Come, O Might-y Lord, master of the stars of night.

Come, Bough of Bless-ing, bloom for all the world to see.
Come, Ho-ly Wis-dom, be our faith-ful friend and guide.
Come, Key of Da-vid, o-pen wide the path-way home.
Come, Strength of Pil-grims, keep us in your lov-ing sight.

Christ, cir-cle round us. Christ, may your light sur-round us.

Shine in our liv-ing. Fill our hearts with great thanks-giv-ing.

**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,

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**

All: Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.

All: Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.
First Reading  
Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!  
Sing joyfully, O Israel!  
Be glad and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The LORD has removed the judgment against you,  
he has turned away your enemies;  
the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,  
you have no further misfortune to fear.  
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!  
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a mighty savior;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
and renew you in his love,  
he will sing joyfully because of you,  
as one sings at festivals.

Respnsorial Psalm  
Isaiah 12  Haugen

Cry out with joy and gladness, for the Lord is in your midst,  
the holy one of Israel, cry out, cry out with joy.  
God indeed is my savior, I will never be afraid,  
my strength and courage is the Lord, my Savior and my song. Ref.  
Give thanks and praise the name of God, sing out to all the earth  
the wondrous deeds that God has done, our Savior and our song. Ref.  
Shout with joy, oh Zion, for dwelling in your midst  
is the holy one of Israel, your Savior and your song. Ref.

Second Reading  
Philippians 4:4-7  Joncas

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation  
Alleluia  Joncas

(9) Advent Alleluia

Hal - le-lu - ia, hal - le-lu - ia, hal - le-lu - ia!
Homily Julian Climaco, S.J.

Gospel
The crowds asked John the Baptist, “What should we do?” He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He answered them, “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” Soldiers also asked him, “And what is it that we should do?” He told them, “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

Dispensation of Catechumens & Candidates (5:30) Take, O Take Me As I Am

Offertory Wait For the Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy

Chant
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

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
    That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
    Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
    To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice!...

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
    In ancient times once gave the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice!...

4. O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from ev'ry foe deliver them
    That trust your mighty power to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice!...

5. O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
    Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice!...

O Come, O Come Emmanuel          Neale
Besançon/Farjeon

Recessional

(5:30) Rejoice in the Lord Always

Song Of Praise

People Look East

Besançon/Farjeon

Jesus, Hope Of the World

Tate
Giving Tree
GIFTS MUST BE BACK TO THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 16th at 6pm.

1. Please choose an ornament and purchase the requested item. If your item does not indicate whether to wrap the gift or to leave it unwrapped, please leave the gift UNWRAPPED.
2. Please attach the ornament tag you received to the wrapped/ unwrapped gift.
3. Bring your giving tree donations back to the Giving Tree or the Parish Center. Note: The last day of our collection is Sunday, December 16th.
4. Questions? Deacon Steve at stevew@stjosephparish.org or 206-965-1646.

Casa Latina Breakfast
Share The Journey Breakfast at Casa Latina
Thurs, Dec 20th - 7:00 to 9:00 am - 317 17th Ave S

As part of our parish efforts in support of our sisters and brothers who are refugees and immigrants, we are putting on a breakfast for 100 people at Casa Latina. We need money to buy food items and volunteers to help cook, serve and clean-up. We need items they can include in their raffle: $10-$25 dollar gift cards to Starbucks and McDonald’s; $25-$50 gift cards to Safeway or QFC; winter gloves, jackets and hats. To help please contact Kaitlyn O’Leary at kaitlyn.m.oleary@gmail.com or Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org. To learn more about Casa Latina go to their website http://casa-latina.org/

St. Joseph Epiphany Dinner
On Sunday, January 6, 2019, 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 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.

Prison Ministry Visit
MONROE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
FRIDAY JAN. 4th or JAN. 18th
3:30 pm - 9:30 - Carpool from St. Joseph Brown Bag Dinner

Join Deacon Steve for Catholic Communion Service plus a chance to hear stories from some of the men who are incarcerated. You must be willing to fill out a visitor application. Deadline is December 21st. Contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org.

Racial Justice Book Group
Please join other parishioners in our Racial Justice Book Group on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7PM in the parish center to discuss White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo. Robin DiAngelo is a local renowned expert on racism and white privilege. Our group provides a safe and respectful place for us to address racism through the lens of the Gospel, and for discerning action steps in response. If you cannot join us please read along on your own. Everyone is welcome-men and high schoolers are especially invited to join us. Please email Mary de Rosas at mderosas@pnwimmigration.com with any questions or to RSVP.

Catholic Hospital Ministry at Harborview Medical Center
Volunteers are needed to bring Holy Communion and provide a presence to patients and their families at Harborview Hospital. Volunteers must complete all necessary paperwork, background checks, personal interviews and Orientation/Training sessions. Time expectation is once a week - 3-4 hour shift, plus bimonthly check-in gatherings. There is lots of flexibility in regards to specific day/time. If you would like to participate call 206-965-1646 or email Deacon Steve Wodzanowski at stevew@stjosephparish.org.
Parish Life

Young Adult Ministry

Soulful Soups

Soup season is here! Join the St. Joseph Young Adult community every other Monday for a chance to take a break from your busy week for fellowship and friends. We’ll take turns volunteering to make the soup, and others can bring a drink or side dish to share. The next Soulful Soups will be 7 p.m. on: 12/17 (in Parish Social Hall underneath the church – enter doors off parking lot on 1/7, 1/21 in the Parish Center Arrupe Room. For details, contact Callie at youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org

Parish Stewardship

Many, many thanks to all who have made gifts and pledges to our annual stewardship appeal. To date, we have received 390 pledges which is 21% of our families, totaling $776,030 toward our goal of $1,700,000. 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, many thanks to: Monica Alquist, Mary Anglin, Matt Bartoloni, Marc & Heidi Baxter, Martin & Kelsey Brantner, James & Patricia Brennan, Michael Caputi, Alexandra Cratsenberg, David & Dorothy Crean, Monica Cyr Parent, Megan Davidson, Carlos Delgado, Marilyn Dennehy, Ross & Jennifer Elkin, Thomas Farrelly, David & Gabrielle Fitzgerald, Paul & Mary Freiburger, Jason & Erin Hagens, Frank & Diana Heffernan, John & Maria Hughes, Andrew & Heather Karch, John & Sheelagh King, Robin Krause & Dr. Julie Ann Lord, Maxine Larson, Scott & Patricia Larson, Ryan & Cynthia Lysne, Kevin & Amy MacDonald, Helen McDuffie, Stephen McGrath & Eva Turella, Larry Meadows, Catherine Meehan, Tyler & Maureen Mintkeski, Mr. Kris & Dr. Stacie Moore, Michael & Laurie Murphy, Jeffrey Nevin & Carrie Nemec, Robert & Katherine Ortblad, Andrea Papi, Pablo & Jennifer Proaño, Philip & Martha Read, Robert & Sandra Schwab, Thad & Tricia Scott, Raymond Serrano & Colene Jablonski, Gayle Sommerfeld, William Treacy, Arthur Wahl, Joseph & Donna Whitford and Gary Zimmerman & Michele Genthon
An Advent Day
Of Reconciliation

Prepare yourself for Christmas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
12:00 NOON - 4:00 PM
Come for part or the entire time.
Points for Prayer & Opportunities for
Personal Sacramental Reconciliation.

St. Joseph Holiday Schedule

Parish Advent Reconciliation Service
Saturday, December 22, 12 noon to 4 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 22, 5:00 pm Mass
Sunday, December 23, 9:00 am & 11 am Mass
(no 5:30 pm Mass)

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
Monday, 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

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

New Year’s
Tuesday, January 1, 2018
10:00 am Mass, Mary Mother of God

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For the health of a beloved granddaughter . . . For Henry’s recovery from surgery . . . For those who are suffering the side effects of chemotherapy . . . Gratitude to the wonderful response in providing for others by taking tags from the Christmas Giving Tree to make a difference to a stranger on Christmas Day . . . Thanksgiving for our community which generously gives weekly food donations to St. Francis House to help people in need.

“Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.”

~Luke 3:11