“After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”
Beloved Sons and Daughters

“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

-Luke 3:22-

I don’t remember my own baptism, though I assume—from the three existing photographs I have seen—that it was in early April, just a few weeks after my birth. I know I wore a traditional long white gown and that my Grandmother Whitney was there—since she is standing with my father and me in one of the photos. In one of the others, she cradles me in her lap, surrounded by my brothers and sisters who were, reluctantly I assume, dressed up for the day. In the last photo, my mother, with my brothers on either side, gazes down at me, swathed in a beautiful blanket and looking a bit like Winston Churchill during the blitz. Unlike the common practice in the years after Vatican II, my baptism would not have been held in the main part of the church, nor at a Sunday liturgy, but would have been celebrated on a Saturday, in the small baptistry located behind the gates, beside the entrance of the church. There my mother—dressed-up with a veil for her head—would have stood close to the font, surrounded, I suppose, by my two sisters and two brothers, all straining to see or straining to get away. I don’t know if either of my godparents were present—my Uncle Joe Malcolm, who lived in Aruba, or my Aunt Jean McKeon, who lived in Massachusetts. If not, there would have been proxies, who answered on behalf of them and in my name: rejecting Satan and all his works and all his empty promises, and committing me to belief in a God who had created the world and then suffered and died so that I might rise again. In my mind’s eye, I can see my father, standing next to my mother, holding me over the font with that joy and devotion I so often saw in him during significant moments of grace: at first communions or confirmations, at my siblings’ weddings or my own first vows. Across from them would be the priest, who, in the custom of the day, would have been vested in a simple cassock and surplice, with a stole over the top, and would have touched my lips with salt as a symbol of the bitterness of the world, before pouring the holy water over my head from a small shell made of precious metal, speaking the words of the rite in Latin, as was still the norm. Then, after the lighting of the candle and the final blessing, we all would leave that little room and head up the hill to our house for cake and ice cream (and perhaps a little champagne for the adults). And I—though too young to enjoy even the children’s version of the celebration—would have been marked for life as a child of God, freed from the stain of sin that I did not yet understand and included as a part of an ancient Church, that was perched in that moment on the edge of transformation and renewal.

For those of us who call ourselves “cradle Catholics,” it is easy to forget that we were not born as members of this faith community; that it was not hard-wired into us at birth. We can—and perhaps too easily do—forget that someone who cared for us chose to bring us to the font and chose to testify by their actions and words that we were loved, and that someone wanted us to be given this blessing and this promise, this assurance that we would belong to God forever. What my parents did, in bringing me to baptism, was to say
that what was most precious to them, they wanted for me. It was the passing on of a legacy of love that their parents had given to them, and their parents’ parents had given, as well—a river of grace and gift stretching back to a time that no one could remember. Across ages and continents, the words of baptism had been spoken and the water had been poured on the heads of Whitney’s and Moriarty’s, of Dignan’s and Bowen’s, of ancestors whose names are now lost to us, but whose lives remain part of a history of baptism that reaches back before the shiploads of immigrants set sail from County Mayo, and before the freed slave, Patrick, landed on the Irish coast; before the Egyptian exiles set up their monasteries on the craggy coast of Iona, or the persecuted Copts wandered into the desert to set up their monastic communities. It is a history that goes back to that day when the ascetic prophet in the desert put the carpenter’s son beneath the waters of the Jordan, and to the time when that carpenter’s son—having passed through the waters of death to emerge newly alive—sent his followers from a hillside near Jerusalem into the whole of the world, telling them to baptize all nations, “In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Like water itself, this stream of history has flowed through deserts and over rocky ground; it has, at times, seemed to dry up, being absorbed in the barren wastelands of ego and pride, only to appear again, like rain falling on distant shores, where its trickles swelled to torrents and its rapids became vast rolling seas. And in each of these eras, in each of these lands, the water has been poured out—from small shells or in great fonts—and given as a gift of love and a reminder of our communion with all who have come before.

This is not to say that every baptized child has grown up in a happy or loving home, or that every baptism has been consciously performed with love. Indeed, the fear of limbo and the power of custom have, sadly, often corrupted this Sacrament and weakened our ability to recognize the grace it is meant to carry. Yet, though it is often imperfectly lived out and even misguided in its application, still—like the Church itself—baptism carries within it a power and a hope that cannot be wholly obscured, but it bound to the story it tells and to the One who enters the waters with us, rising as our brother and our Lord. This is why the Church never re-baptizes anyone, even those who have been away from the Church since the day of their baptism: for the failures of women and men to love as they had promised can never fully separate any child from the God who has given him or her new birth, nor from the community who prays for them, even without knowing it. The symbolism of baptizing a child proclaims what creation itself implies: that this person belongs to God regardless of all the evil and hurt that may ever come to her or him. To each child, emerging through the womb of water and the Holy Spirit, baptism says, “You have a home and a family, a place where you belong. And no one can take that from you.”

Since the Second Vatican Council, the Church has been invigorated by the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Indeed, St. Joseph has been profoundly blessed by those women and men who have come into the Catholic Church, and accepted the Christian faith as adults. Choosing to join for their own reason, these people have come with fresh eyes and open hearts, free of the baggage that can come from long association. Yet, at the same time, we should not forget the equally profound grace that comes with the baptism of children into our community, nor should we “cradle Catholics” regret that we do not have the formational opportunity offered by RCIA. For the baptism of small children is a Sacrament for the whole Church, for all of us, and not just for those children who receive it. Baptism of children is a reminder to us that our selection in Christ is not, in the end, a rational calculation that we make, nor an achievement that we attain. Rather, the grace given us in baptism is a gift that embraces us before we ever choose it, a love passed onto us by the God who has loved us first—and whose love for us does not rely upon our good works. Just as the voice from heaven identifies Jesus as “my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” before Jesus has taught a single lesson or performed a single miracle, so we are beloved by God before we do anything at all to “deserve” or “merit” such love. As infants at the font, before we could even speak, we had a mission in the Church, which every child fulfills by being simply who they are. For in their expectation of love, in their openness to grace and to blessing, children teach us how to pray and how to stand before God: always ready and willing to receive. We baptize these children, as we “cradle Catholics” were ourselves baptized, before they can doubt or even question if they are worthy or are ready. We baptize them because they are loved. And we baptize them with the promise that—worthy or unworthy, wise or foolish, rich or poor, whatever they choose and whatever wounds they suffer in this world—they will always be a part of us. They are chosen—as we have been chosen—from the beginning of the world, heirs of a grace they do not control, and beloved daughters and sons, held in the arms of their Maker.
Welcome to St. Joseph. Please take a moment to silence your cell phones.

Entrance Songs

(5&11) Songs Of Thankfulness and Praise

Salzburg

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
   Man - i - fest at Jordan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and King su - preme;
   Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
   Grant us grace to see you, Lord, Mir - rored in your ho - ly word;

   Man - i - fest ed by the star To the sag - es from a - far;
   And at Ca - na, wed - ding guest, In your God - head man - i - fest;
   Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
   May we im - i - tate you now, And on us your grace en - dow;

   Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In your birth at Beth - le - hem;
   Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
   Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
   That we like to you may be At your great e - piph - a - ny;

   An - thems be to you ad - drest, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
   An - thems be to you ad - drest, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
   An - thems be to you ad - drest, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
   And may praise you ev - er blest, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

(9) Baptized In Water

BUNESSAN/Saward

1. Baptized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Cleansed by the
   blood of Christ our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion, Trust-ing his
   prom - ise, Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

2. Baptized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Dead in the
   tomb with Christ our King: One with his ris - ing, Freed and for -
   giv - en, Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

3. Baptized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Marked with the
   sign of Christ our King: Born of one Fa - ther, We are his
   chil - dren, Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

(5:30) Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless his ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.
First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD:

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
on whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104

O LORD my God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and honor, wrapped in light as with a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent. Ref.

On the waters you establish your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers, flame and fire your servants. Ref.

How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures. Vast and wide is the span of the sea, with its creeping things past counting, living things great and small. Ref.

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up; you open wide your hand, they are well filled. Ref.

You hide your face, they are dismayed; you take away their breath, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, and they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. Ref.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation

Christmastime Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al-le-lu-ia!

Gospel


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.”

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”
Homily Julian Climaco, S.J.

Baptismal Acclamation

(5&9) You Have Put On Christ  

Hughes


take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;  
set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Dismissal of Catechumens & Candidates

(5:30) Take, O Take Me As I Am  

Bell

Offertory

(5&11) Instrumental

(9) Wade In the Water  

Spiritual

Holy, Holy, Holy

Mass of Christ the Savior  

Schutte

You have put on Christ, in him you have been baptized.

Allelulia, allelulia.

Wade in the water, Wade in the water children.

Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

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

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.
Mystery of Faith

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

Great Amen


Lamb of God

Je-sus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. 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.

Communion Song

Now In This Banquet #833

Now in this banquet, Christ is our bread; Here shall all hunger be fed.

Bread that is broken, wine that is poured, Love is the sign of our Lord.

(9) You Are The Voice #549

You are the voice of the living God, calling us now to live in your love, to be children of God once again!
1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let
2. Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns; Let
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And

earth receive her King; Let every
us, our songs employ; While fields and
makes the nations prove The glories

heart prepare him room, And
floods, rocks, hills and plains; Re-
of his righteousness, And

heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature
peat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding
wonders of his love, and wonders of his

sing, And heaven and heaven and nature sing.
joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

(5:30) You Are the Voice

You are the voice of the living God, calling us now to
live in your love, to be children of God once again!

Verses

1. Praise for the light that shines through the night, from
darkness to light, from death to new life, and praise to the
seed that gives life to all who believe, God's love over-

2. Praise for the water that springs from the sea, the
new heart and voice, all raise the song of praise to cre-
morning that brings forth the sun, to open our eyes to the Lord!
flowing, our hearts know the joy to be daughters and
action; all heaven and earth, come sing of the glory of God!

D.C.

To open our eyes to the Lord!
For
To be daughters and sons of the Lord!
For
Come sing of the glory of God!
For
St. Joseph Prison Ministry Visit

MONROE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
Friday, February 8th and Friday, February 22nd
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 two weeks in advance. Space is limited. Contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

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

St. James Racial Justice Dialogue

Join us for the St. James Cathedral Racial Justice Dialogues, a five-week program for parishioners who desire to more deeply explore questions at the intersection of faith and racial justice. It starts on Monday, January 21, 2019. For information or to register go to: www.stjames-cathedral/immigrant

St. James The Dentention Lottery

January 24th at 7 pm - Cathedral Hall
Join us for an immersive theatre experience set in a US immigration detention center. This is a dynamic and deeply moving play based on the direct experience of immigration attorneys from Seattle.

It gives you the opportunity to learn about how immigration court proceedings are handled, and the tough decisions lawyers and detainees must make.

Free. Please RSVP to Christopher Koehler, ckoehler@stjamescathedral.org or 206.382.4511.

Sister Parish

St. Joseph’s Sister Parish Ministry with San Bartolome in Arcatao, El Salvador, is seeking parishioners to join in our Strategic Planning Process to strengthen this relationship and help in celebrating our 30th Anniversary! Please join us on Sunday, January 13th 3:30 pm – 5:00 in the Parish Center. For more information, contact Andrew DeBerry adeberry@outlook.com or Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646.

Casa Latina

Are you having trouble finding workers who are hardworking and reliable? Casa Latina’s new Jobs Connect Team can help you find the long-term workers you are looking for! Call us today to access our pool of workers who are searching long-term employment in industries including but not limited to construction general labor, restaurants, housecleaning, hotel staffing, maintenance work, nannying, house sitting etc. We offer you comprehensive support that is flexible to your needs as an employer! Our friendly bilingual staff can connect you with eligible applicants; facilitate interviews and initial onboarding/training with candidates! We work with businesses, families, companies, contractors, apartment buildings, and more!

To learn more about our workers & how the program works, give us a call at 206.686.2616!
Seniors On The Go

**Thursday, January 24th** - Please join us for a tour at Theo Chocolates followed by lunch at the Lockspot Café. Leave from St. Joseph at 10:30 am, tour at 11:15, followed by lunch. Cost: $5.00 for hour long tour plus lunch. Be back around 2:30 pm.

**Friday, February 1st** - Anointing Mass at 11:30 am. Followed by a delicious luncheon in the Parish Center. Please feel free to park in the lot behind the church and take the elevator.

Recorded Homilies

St. Joseph is now recording the homily each weekend. We are sharing those recordings on our website, www.stjosephparish.org and also on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/stjosephseattle. Please feel free to listen and to share them with others. We hope you enjoy this new feature.

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 at 7 pm, on: 1/21 in the Parish Center Arrupe Room. For details, contact Callie at youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org

Bible Study

Join the Young Adult Bible Study as we study the Gospel of St. Luke. We will wrap up before Lent on February 28th. Plan to meet for dinner at 6:30 pm with discussion beginning at 7:00 and ending promptly at 8:30. Please email Sabrina at spopoff@spu.edu to RSVP and for more details!

Liturgy and Worship

Prayer Tree

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For the infants being baptized this weekend and for their parents and godparents.

Give us a pure heart that we may see thee,
a humble heart that we may hear thee,
a heart of love that we may serve thee,
a heart of faith that we may love thee.
—Dag Hammarskjold

Baptism Families

Please join us in praying for the families having children baptized this weekend.
The Bellm Family
The Grigalunas Family
The Tomy Family

Come Pray With Us!

Monday Night Prayer Groups

Join us in prayer on **Monday, January 14th 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.

The Sacred Silence prayer group will gather in the church for an hour of silent prayer. Please arrive before 7 pm as the doors are locked right at 7. For information, 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. We have volunteers ready to help guide those who are just learning.
Christmas Thank You!

The church’s document on music and liturgy, “Sing to the Lord,” states that “Faith grows when it is well expressed in celebration. Good celebrations foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations may weaken and destroy it.” When we celebrate “well” it seems effortless, natural and Spirit guided. Indeed it is Spirit guided but it is by no means effortless! On the contrary there are many, many people of St. Joseph who gave in “extraordinary ways” so that we might pray well together as this special time of year. At the risk of leaving someone out, thanks to:

- Fr. John and Fr. Julian for presiding over our communal prayer...
- To all who helped clean and decorate the church and created a beautiful sacred space...
- To Fr. John, Fr. Julian and Deacon Steve who opened the word for us...
- To all those who sang, or who played an instrument, who came to many rehearsals so that we might raise our voices in song and pray through music on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning...Special thanks to our St. Joseph Adult choir, and their organist/pianist extraordinaire, Matthew...
- To Joyful Voices, our St. Joseph Children’s Choir who, under the leadership of Jen and Matt Tighelman-Havens and Barbara Trentalange, came together for several weeks to practice so that we might delight in their presence and pray well through joyful song at the 4 PM Christmas Eve liturgy...
- To all who served as Ushers, Lectors, Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers...so that we might feel welcome, hear the word proclaimed clearly and boldly, and approach the table as one...the body of Christ...sharing the Body of Christ...
- To Andy Perez who used his tech savvy and figured out how to broadcast the 4 pm Christmas Eve liturgy in the Arrupe Room next door, allowing for overflow seating next door...
- To our facilities folks, under the leadership of Yuri, who got their fingernails dirty on a regular basis to help decorate and undecorate the sanctuary so that we might have beauty in which to gather for prayer, and made sure we had enough chairs for everyone, lights and sound and clean restrooms...
- To Caprice who carefully (and cheerfully!) prepared the bulletin and songsheets that we might have the “things” we need to participate fully...especially the lyrics to sing those obscure third verses of the Christmas carols)...and to Renee who made sure we had enough copies and tended to a thousand other questions and needs...
- To anyone I may have inadvertently forgotten to mention
- And, indeed, to all who came through the doors and raised our voices in spoken and sung prayer, and opened our hearts and minds to the possibility of hearing the old, old stories in a new way...opening our entire selves to the possibility of Christ being born anew in each one of us...transforming the world even as we are transformed.

Happy New Year!
Robert McCaffery-Lent
Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy and Music

5:30 Mass Help

We are in dire need of at least 2-3 new Ushers to assist and support at the Sunday 5:30 pm Mass. This is typically a once per month commitment. If interested, please contact Brian Cruess at brian.cruess@gmail.com or Bruce Mirken at brucem@bluenile.com Thank you!

Interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister at the 5:30 pm Mass? We are seeking an additional member to join our team, serving once every three weeks. Please contact Ann Patnaude (annpatnaude@gmail.com or 312.330.6657) to learn more.

Online Bible Study

Did you know that St. Joseph’s has an Online Bible Study with reflections written by Parishioners? This is the perfect opportunity to make a little space in your busy week to read and pray with the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. Join our online community and allow your fellow parishioners to help deepen your prayer life through their reflections. You can also find our online bible study on the top of the weekly e-newsletter that is sent out on Thursday, just click the button that says “Online Bible Study”.

https://stjosephparishbiblestudy.wordpress.com/