

St. Joseph Parish

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

Mothers' Day



I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 12, 2019 **Reflection This Week: KerriLyn Vander Heyden Reflection Next Week: Roger Rigor**

Weekend Mass Schedule Saturday - 5 pm **Sunday** - 9 am, 11 am & 5:30 pm

Readings for May 19, 2019

FIRST READING: ACTS 14:21-27 SECOND READING: REVELATION 21:1-5A GOSPEL: JOHN 13:31-33A, 34-35

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- Friday - 8 am - 4:30 pm Saturday - 9 am - 1 pm www.stjosephparish.org

Parish Receptionist (206) 324-2522

Pastor

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Patrick Fennessy, Head of School

Mary Helen Bever, Primary School Dir

Vince McGovern, Middle School Dir

x218

x215

x219

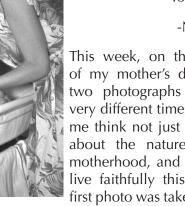
A Mother's Love

If I promise not to cry, Will you look me in the eye, And tell me that you've known me. I was your late, your lonely child, I am enhanced by all you've shown me.

And in my youth I did defy you to the end, Please forgive my wildness then, Even I can't comprehend. What a mother's love has lent,

To all that is me.

-Nanci Griffith-



This week, on the anniversary of my mother's death, I found two photographs of her from very different times, and it made me think not just about her but about the nature and gift of motherhood, and all those who live faithfully this mystery. The first photo was taken—I presume

by my father—in late 1949, when my parents were living in San Francisco. It shows my mom as a new mother, 29 years old, holding onto my sister, Patty, in one of those old-style baby baths. The youngest in her family, my mother had little experience with babies, and told me later that she was terrified to give Patty a bath—afraid she would drown or drop her—and so she would wait until my father got home from work before she would try it. In the photo, you can detect some of that fear in her face—a fear familiar, I think, to many new parents—mixed with weariness and sleep-depravation. And at the same time, looking at her face you can also see an overwhelming sense of joy. My mother loved Patty, loved each one of us, with a love that was stronger than her fears, more compelling than the sense of hesitancy and inexperience that held her back. She was never so tired, never so scared, never so worried about her own fragility or failures that she would not make the effort to give us what we might need. For the sake of the children whom God had brought to her, my mother discovered dimensions of herself which that young girl of 29 could never have foreseen, and came to surrender things she thought she'd always need. The love of her children would break her heart, at times, leading her to places she never wanted to see—to hospitals and jails, to the principal's office and the ICU—and it would put her heart back together with greater strength and loveliness that she could have imagined possible.

This is not to say that my mother ceased to be herself in motherhood, or that she became nothing more than a reflection of her children. She retained her humor and her love of a good party, her stubbornness and her occasionally fiery temper (I recall one time when, as a teenager, I was tasked to mow and rake our front yard. As I sullenly raked the leaves, she opened the front window and yelled out, "You could have a better attitude." She then slammed the window so hard it shattered, at which point she said, through the now

empty frame, "See what you did?!"). But though she retained her own identity, my mother's spiritual center of gravity moved through her life as a parent, changing the balance of her life and her relationship to the world. No longer did her decisions affect only herself; rather, practically all her decisions became enmeshed in the formation of her children, and in our becoming what she most wanted: our own persons, independent but not isolated, strong but not callous, capable of making our own decisions but guided always by a compassion that had been nurtured and taught to us from before we knew how to walk. My mother—like so many mothers—never thought of herself as giving her life for her children, but saw in the love and nurture of her children the fulfillment of her life, the practical resurrection by which all that was best in her (and sadly for her, some that was not) was reborn and redeemed in our lives and our choices. That she did not live this resurrection perfectly—that she saw in her children some of her own failings and could not fix everything so that we might avoid the scars and failures of our own lives—was a sadness to her, but one that she brought to Christ and to Mary every night in her prayers and every morning in the Mass she almost never missed. Another lesson offered without words, but lived in flesh and blood.

Which leads me to the second picture I found, again,



this week. This photo, taken the last time she was in Seattle, shows a woman more than a half-century older than the new mother, struggling to find the courage to bathe her baby daughter. In this picture, her hair is white and thinning, the wrinkles deep and well-earned, and the eyes faded to a beautiful blue-grey. She is, just as I remember her to the end of her life, still filled with desire and stubborn joy, not fully resigned to the weakness that comes with aging, but still looking for what she might give to her daughters and sons, and to the grandchildren with whom she loved to stir things up. Yet, though this diminishment angered her—one of the last things she said to me was, "I hate being a damned old lady!"-she also came to accept that her ability to

give had lessened with years, and to look, as she does in this photograph, towards the time when she must allow whatever she has sown to grow without her. Though she would never say it of herself, she had emptied herself in love, and struggled to receive the love her children had for her. Yet, in her last months, in moments that were to her as scary as learning to bathe my sister, she came to accept more deeply her own vulnerability, e.g., the need to take my arm as we crossed a street or to be helped out of the car when her legs were not strong enough. In these moments, she allowed us to give to her, and so blessed us again with the last gift a mother can give: surrender.

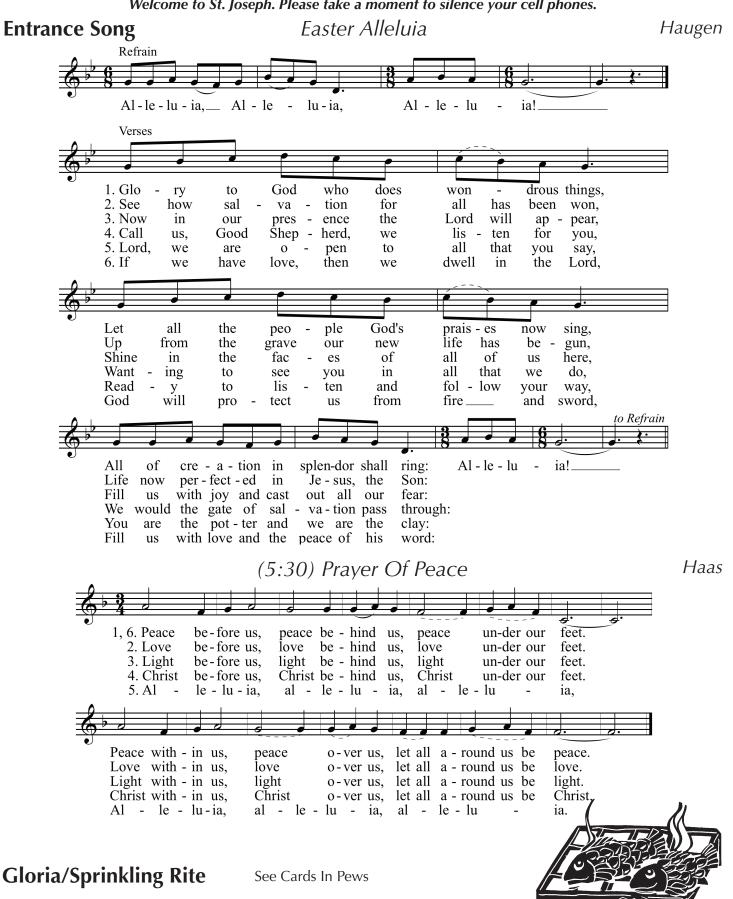
I have no illusions that my mother was perfect—she could drive me crazier than anyone I have ever met, pushing all of my buttons, most of which were installed by her-but she received her motherhood as a mission from God, and lived it as best she could. For that I am truly grateful. I know how many have not been blessed as I have; how many, on the contrary, find Mothers' Day a painful reminder of separation and selfishness. Too many women and men have not received what God desires all of us to receive: that primordial love by which the mercy of God takes flesh in sacraments of milk and touch, in whispered assurances and circling walks across a nursery floor. Too many children have not been nurtured to become themselves, but have, instead, been treated as accessories or inconveniences, pressed into the entourage of a parent's ego or drafted as a parent's second chance. For these women and men, the hearts and flowers of Mothers' Day may offer only darkness and thorns; and more than that, the lack of the experience of a mother's love may also make more difficult the acceptance of the maternal love of God.

Thus, the call of this Mothers' Day must entail more for people of faith than simply giving thanks for the mothers who have blessed our lives. We must become mothers ourselves: mothers of the heart, if not of the body. We must become nurturers and protectors, women and men of courage and compassion, who find joy in the flourishing, not of miniature version of ourselves, but of unique women and men, who know themselves loved for who they are. In this way we honor those mothers who have given us life, those mothers who have faced their fears to sustain us and strengthen us, those mothers who have taught us how to love not by lecturing us but by loving us themselves. For me and for many of us, the first of those mothers was the one who gave us birth, but she might also be an aunt or a grandmother, a step-mother or a godmother, a foster mother or a mother of the heart. Indeed, as Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arch who died this week, shows us, that mother might even be a man, who sees us with a mother's love and nurtures us with the grace of our

mother God.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome to St. Joseph. Please take a moment to silence your cell phones.



First Reading Acts 13:14, 43-52

Paul and Barnabas continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia. On the sabbath they entered the synagogue and took their seats. Many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God.

On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth." The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.



Psalm 100

Haas



Cry out with joy to the Lord, all you lands, all you lands.

Serve the Lord now with gladness, come before him singing for joy! Ref.

Know that the Lord is God. Know that the Lord is God,

Who made us to him we belong, God's people the sheep of his flock! Ref.

Indeed how good is the Lord, whose mercy endures forever, For the Lord is faithful, is faithful from age to age. *Ref.*

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

Then one of the elders said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Gospel Acclamation

Festive Alleluia

Mozart



(5:30) Chant

Plainchant



Gospel John 10:27-30

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Reflection

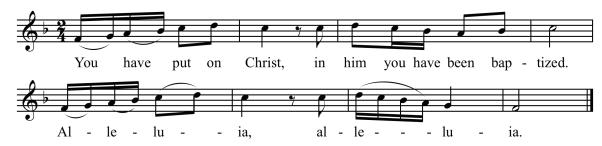
KerriLyn Vander Heyden

Baptismal Acclamation

You Have Put On Christ

Hughes

Haas





up - hold

and help you;

strength-en you

you with my



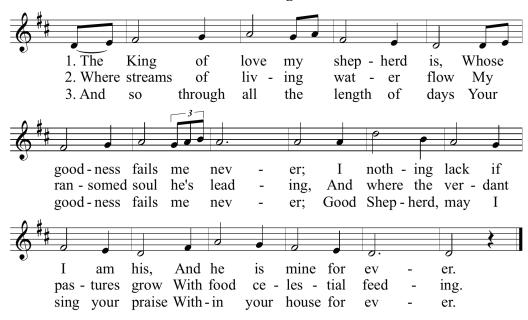
All Are Invited To Come Forward

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.







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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOSEPH

Sunday

9:00 AM Mass

10:00 AM Coffee & Donuts - Join us!

11:00 AM Mass5:30 PM Mass

Monday

7:00 AM Mass - Parish Center

1:00 PM Blood Drive

7:00 PM Sacred Silence Prayer Group

7:00 PM Rosary Prayer Group

Tuesday

7:00 AM Mass - Parish Center

Wednesday

7:00 AM Mass - Parish Center

Thursday

7:00 AM Mass - Parish Center

Friday

7:00 AM Mass - Parish Center

Saturday

3:30 PM Reconciliation

5:00 PM Mass

Please join us in prayer for the families with Baptisms this weekend!

The Leon/Hernandez Family
The McIntyre Family
The Palomino-Lara/Steen Family
The Rhea Family
The Swanburg Family
The Uhl Family
The Van Hoy Family
The Van Nostrand/Krefft Family
The Weber Family

St. Joseph Financial Update



Thank you to everyone who gave a gift in April! The good news is we met our budget goal for April and decreased our deficit by another 20K. The sad news is we are still running at a deficit of just over 100K below budget. We are so thankful for the 35 new families who gave in April. There are an additional 900 active families who have an opportunity to pledge or give a gift in FY 18/19.

As I have previously stated, I can make up some of the deficit by deferring building and grounds maintenance until next year. An example of this is the landscaping in front of the church. After the "Paint the Church" project we had planned to spruce up the landscaping. This project is on hold until we are sure we can meet our budget for the year. Having a long term conversation with you is important. What do you want in your parish? The dedicated employees, the quality programs, and our beautiful church and grounds all need to be supported. It takes a village of large and small donations to reach these goals.

I have received several calls and emails with questions, ideas and concerns for the parish. They are all good conversations. Please don't hesitate to reach out, 206.965.1648 or marti@stjosephparish.org

Current Fiscal Year to 4/19		Budget	Difference
Ordinary Income	\$138,7462.51	\$1,487,600.00	(\$100,137.49)
Donations and Fundraisers	\$33,756.42	\$41,711.78	(\$7,955.36)
Business Income	\$7.00	\$0.00	\$7.00
Proceeds from Endowment	\$16,190.86	\$16,190.86	\$0.00
Total	\$1,437,416.79	\$1,545,502.64	(\$108,085.85)

LITURGY AND WORSHIP



Come Pray With Us! Monday Night Prayer Groups

Join us in prayer this **Monday 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.

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For the health of Brian and Novyes . . . For Carolyn's eyes to be okay . . . Children: you are special gifts from God and your mothers give you wisdom and love to guide your lives – Happy Mothers Day.



"The measure of love is to measure without measure."

~St. Augustine

FAITH JUSTICE

Racial Justice Book Group

Please join other parishioners in our next meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 7PM in the Parish Center to discuss the book. We are reading How Does It Feel to be a Problem by Moustafa Bayoumi, an exploration of being young and Arab in America. Our group provides a safe and respectful place to address racism through the lens of the Gospel, and for discerning action steps in response. As the modern day prophet, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr, said, "It is an unhappy truth that racism is a way of life for the vast majority of white Americans, spoken and unspoken, acknowledged and denied, subtle and sometimes not so subtle - the disease of racism permeates and poisons the whole body politic. And I see nothing more urgent than for America to work passionately and unrelentingly-to get rid of the disease of racism." 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.

Mental Health Awareness

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to pray, support and fight stigma for people affected by mental illness and their families in our parish, city and country. Millions of Americans are affected by mental health conditions every year here are facts about the prevalence and impact of mental illness.

- \sim 1 in 5 adults in the United States lives with a mental health condition and 1 in 25 adults lives with a serious mental illness.
- ~ Half of all life time mental health conditions begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24, but early intervention programs can help.
- ~ 90% of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, but suicide is preventable.
- ~ The best treatments for serious mental illnesses today are highly effective; between 70-90% of individuals have significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life with the right treatments and supports. (NAMI National Alliance for the Mentally III)

Mental Health Ministry brochures from the Seattle Archdiocese can be found in the vestibule.

Blood Drive

It is time to spring into action by giving blood at your upcoming blood drive!

Monday, May 13th - St. Joseph Church Parish Center - 1PM to 7PM - (closed 3PM - 4PM)

To make an appointment, please email Renee Leet at rleet@stjosephparish.org.



Parish Life

Seniors On The Go

Friday, June 7th - Anointing Mass at 11:30 am, then join us for our celebratory BBQ in the Parish Center. All are welcome! Please feel free to park in the parking lot and take the elevator up.

Men's Ministry

Planning Meeting - Tuesday May 28th 7:00pm – 9:00pm in the Parish Center

Newcomers Welcome! Questions or details, contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

Young Adult Ministry

Mariners Game

Join us for our annual Mariners "Star Wars" fireworks game coming up on Friday May 31st vs. Los Angeles Angels 7:05 pm start time. Pre-function at 6:00 pm. Tickets are only \$15.00. Invite your friends, co-workers, housemates. Purchase tickets on our website www. stjosephparish.org. Deadline is Friday, May 17th. For more information, youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org or contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646.

3rd Sunday Social at Canterbury

Sunday May 19th Join us for Mass at 5:30 pm then we will head over to the Canterbury Ale House.

We Are St. Joseph Service Days and Filipino Culture Mass & Celebration

Service Days - Friday & Saturday, May 17th & 18th Sign up on our website for service projects around our community.





Filipino Culture Mass & Celebration, Saturday May 18th Join us for Mass at 5 pm then a POTLUCK dinner in the Social Hall. Bring a dish from your culture to share. There will be lechon and lumpia provided, yum!

We Are St. Joseph Service Days

Friday, May 17th 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Iubilee Women's Center

Providing safe, affordable and supportive community housing and services for women since 1983, Jubilee serves nearly 1,500 low-income women in the community with classes on technology, life skills and job readiness, community referrals, an open computer lab and free clothing boutique. Their address is 620 18th Ave E Seattle, WA 98112, 206-324-1244 http://jwcenter.org

5-7 volunteers needed ages 21 and older. Volunteers needed for gardening project. Basic yardwork, weeding and mulching. Dress comfortably and for the weather. Bring gardening gloves and tools (brooms, trowels, shovels, etc.) optional but encouraged.

Friday, May 17th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm St. Francis House

St. Francis House is established in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi to be a presence in Seattle to serve those in need and to inspire simplicity and charity in its volunteers and those they serve. We serve hundreds of people each week. No one is turned away. At 10 AM, St. Francis House opens the doors to a line of people patiently waiting outside. Hot coffee, pastries and sandwiches are served by our volunteers to these clients until we close our doors at 2:00 PM. Their address is 169 12th Ave 206-621-0945 http://www.stfrancishouseseattle.org

8 volunteers needed - Children over 12 must be accompanied by parent. Spring cleaning inside and out, plus assisting with serving clients, yardwork, gardening, donation sorting. Bring work gloves, general yard and outdoor tools (brooms, rakes, trowels, clippers, etc.) and cleaning supplies for inside (bucket, gloves, spray bottles, concentrated cleaner). Bring your own snacks/lunch.

Friday, May 17th 10 am – 1:00 pm The Wintonia – Catholic Community Services

The Wintonia is a 92-single-room-occupancy building in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood serving men and women coming out of King County's Dutch Shisler Sobering Support Center. Please call (206) 467-1878 for more information. Their address is 1431 Minor Ave, Seattle https://ccsww.org/get-help/housing/permanent-housing/

4 - 8 volunteers needed ages 18 and older. Volunteers will be cleaning community kitchens including scrubbing, mopping and sweeping. We are also painting the Kitchen so wear your painting outfit! Lunch is provided, please bring your own water.

Friday, May 17th 10:00 am -1:00 pm or 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Westside Baby

WestSide Baby was founded in 2001 by a new mom who recognized the stresses of caring for an infant. We are the only social service agency in West King county area that collects, inspects and distributes free diapers, clothing, cribs and safety gear for babies and children. More than 114 local social service agencies, including shelters and food banks, rely upon us to provide critical necessities for low-income families. Since WestSide Baby opened our doors, we've provided more than \$19 million worth of free diapers, clothing, and gear to more than 233,000 infants and children whose families face challenges meeting those basic needs. Their address is 10002 14th Ave SW, Seattle. For more information visit their website http://westsidebaby.org/

10-20 volunteers needed - Children 8 and up accompanied by parent. Volunteers will sort incoming donations along with bundling diapers into care packages to be given to local families. Wear closed toe shoes and comfortable clothing, Bring snacks and water.

Saturday, May 18th – 10:30 am – 4:30 pm Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King County

The vision of all Habitat for Humanity organizations around the world is "a world where everyone has a decent place to live." Southcenter Habitat Store, 1185 Andover Park W, Tukwila. http://www.habitatskc.org/

5-10 volunteers needed, ages 14 and older must be accompanied by an adult. Habitat Stores sell new and gently used building materials, appliances and furniture at discount prices. Proceeds help fund Habitat. Volunteers will assist drivers on donation pickups, merchandising donations and general customer assistance. Habitat will provide all necessary safety or volunteer equipment. Please wear pants, closed toe shoes and shirts with at least short sleeves. Bring your own lunch.

Saturday, May 18th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Pregnancy & Parenting Support: Catholic Comm Svcs

The primary focus of the Pregnancy & Parenting Support Program is to assist pregnant and newly parenting women, the fathers of the babies, their families and significant others in creating a plan for the unborn child and addressing the pertinent issues integral to making the plan work. We support new mothers and significant others in locating resources, creating new opportunities, and forming positive environments for themselves..

4250 South Mead Street, Seattle (St Edward Parish, Old rectory) 206-725-2090 http://www.ccsww.org/

6-8 volunteers needed. We need 1-2 folks who have a truck for hauling items! Volunteers will turn over soil in the garden beds, remove weeds, haul away miscellaneous yard items, repair garden boxes, add compost and spread mulch. Some indoor handywork needed. Dress for outdoor work and please bring your own gardening tools (shovel, rake, wheel barrow, pruning shears, etc.). Also bring a brown bag lunch.

Saturday, May 18th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm L'Arche

The Mission of L'Arche is: To make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships. To engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society. To foster community that is inspired by the core values in our founding story and responds to the changing needs of our members. L'Arche address is 1425 E. Ward St. Seattle 206-325-9434 http://www.larcheseattle.org/

3-6 volunteers, 18 and older. We will be sanding an outdoor deck. Wear closed toe shoes & grubby clothing, work gloves, sunscreen and bring a water bottle. Snacks provided.

Saturday, May 18th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm St. Martin de Porres Shelter

St. Martin de Porres Shelter provides safe and dignified night shelter for homeless men age 50 and older. The shelter opened in October 1984 in response to the growing need for an emergency shelter for this special population of elderly men who are vulnerable to the weather, street predators, and illness. We currently operate at our full capacity of 212 men a night. The shelter is open 365 nights a year from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. and during the day for medical convalescent care. Their address is 1561 Alaskan Way South, Seattle 206-323-6341 www.ccsww.org/

4-6 volunteers needed ages 18 and older. Volunteers will be staining exterior deck and cleaning/painting entrance hall. Wear clothing you can get paint on! Bring a brown bag lunch.

Saturday, May 18th 4:00 pm -6:30 pm Recovery Café

Recovery Café and its School for Recovery serve men and women who have suffered trauma, homelessness, addiction and/or other mental health challenges. In this loving community, men and women experience belonging, healing and the joy of contributing. The Café and School for Recovery helps participants develop tools for maintaining recovery and stabilizing in mental/physical health, housing, relationships and employment/volunteer service. Their address is 2022 Boren Ave Seattle, 206-374-8731 http://www.recoverycafe.org/

6-10 volunteers age 15 and older if accompanied by an adult. Assist with May "OPEN MIC" Night. Plate and serve meal (prepared by Café staff, assist with clean-up. Optional: provide paper plates, forks, drinks, dessert, table décor) Join us for dinner!

Saturday, May 18th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Genesee Park Volunteer with EarthCorps

EarthCorps enables community members of all ages to give back to their community by helping keep city parks and forests healthy. You bring a positive attitude, your lunch, and clothes that can get dirty, and EarthCorps will provide the rest!

4316 South Genesee Street, 10-25 volunteers, ages 5 and older (Children must accompanied by parent/guardian) While the exact tasks at hand vary, our projects focus on improving the forests and parks in our local cities. Please bring, sturdy, closed-toed shoes (work boots, hiking boots, rubber boots, or tennis shoes), clothing that can (and will) get dirty, long pants and long sleeves to help protect against prickly plants, rain gear and warm layers, lunch, snacks and water bottle, garden gloves and tools.

FAITH FORMATION

First Communion

Blessings to all those who received their Easter Sacraments. May God continue bless them with love and happiness.





High School Confirmation 2019-2020

Registration
Begins Early August

This is the Last Year for High School Students!!!

The Sacrament of Confirmation is offered annually for our High School youth. To receive the sacrament, our High School Youth must attend Confirmation sacramental prep sessions beginning in late September followed by the Confirmation Mass in winter. There are 12 preparation sessions, 2 required service projects, and a retreat date TBA, but likely on the first Saturday in November. These preparation sessions are not meant to be viewed as classes but a formational experience through which the youth are encouraged to enter into a deeper relationship with God to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that they may become Christ in the world for others.

The upcoming year 2019 - 2020 is the last year for high school students, as the Archdiocese is lowering the age at Confirmation to 13 years old. After this year, youth over 15 will go through RCIA. If you have a high school student seeking Confirmation this is the year! High school students must be 14 years of age, baptized, received Eucharist, and are actively seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep these changes in mind as you make plans for next year.

For our 2020-2021 Confirmation prep sessions will be open to youth 12-14 years of age .

Why did the Archbishop lower the age of Confirmation to 13?

- The focus of the sacrament is on the reception of the Holy Spirit which will strengthen the recipient so they may become true witnesses of Christ.
- The Archbishop was also concerned that with the pressures of High School, people were unable to commit to the formation process for the reception of this sacrament.
- Less than half of the children baptized in the Archdiocese of Seattle receive the sacrament of confirmation. As a sacramental Church, these statistics represent a serious concern. The Sacrament of Confirmation has real and profound effects on those who receive it and the Church. The most important effects of Confirmation comes, not by our action, but by the work of the Holy Spirit. If Catholics are not receiving this sacrament, a very important opportunity is being missed to deepen ones relationship with God and one another.

Any questions, please contact: Theresa Shepherd-Lukasik at theresal@stjosephparish.org



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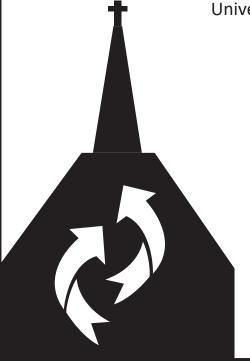
Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture

SCANDAL, STRUCTURE, & RENEWAL:

Sociological Perspectives on Change in the Catholic Church

Tuesday, May 14
7 pm | Student Center 160
Tricia Bruce, PhD
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