



# ST. JOSEPH PARISH

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

Sunday, February 14, 2021 \* The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time \* [www.stjosephparish.org](http://www.stjosephparish.org)



## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. - Mk 1:44-45b



**THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**FEBRUARY 14, 2021**

**Livestream Mass: 5pm Saturday**  
**on our YouTube channel**  
**(Available for viewing throughout the week)**  
**9:30 AM Sunday**  
**5:30 PM Sunday**

**Weekday Mass Schedule**  
**Tuesday - Friday, 7 am, YouTube**

**Readings for February 21, 2021**

FIRST READING: GENESIS 9:8-15

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:18-22

GOSPEL: MARK 1:12-15

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**www.stjosephparish.org**

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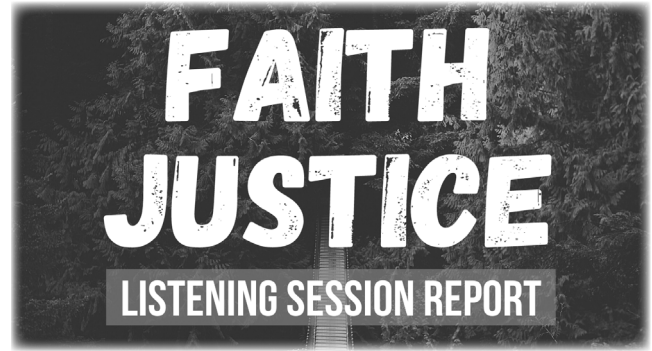
Yuri Kondratyuk, Facilities x110

**Pastoral & Mission Council**

pastoralandmissioncouncil@stjosephparish.org

**St. Joseph School - Main Office**

Patrick Fennessy, Head of School x210  
Mary Helen Bever, Primary School Dir x215  
Vince McGovern, Middle School Dir x219



## Faith Justice Commission – Read the Full Listening Session Report

During Fall 2020, St. Joseph's Faith Justice Commission embarked on a listening and discernment process to gain a better understanding of the status of our current efforts as a Commission and the concerns of the broader parish community.

Here's a snapshot of what they heard from you, our community:

- **Current main issues of concern to the parish are racial justice & equity, homelessness, immigration, and environmental justice**
- **Parishioners would like to see increased collaboration and relationship-building with other parishes, as well as faith-based and social service organizations**
- **Increased and diversified communication to the parish community is needed in order to better share opportunities for service and advocacy and enable the parish's prophetic voice of solidarity on these issues**
- **Parishioners would like to have more clearly communicated opportunities to engage in advocacy, but direct service and advocacy should not be exclusive goals; rather, advocacy should come out of relationships we cultivate (and have been cultivating) with ministry partners**

[Click here, or go to page 9 of the bulletin, for the full report about what they found, and next steps!](#)

## Get Involved!

Interested in Faith Justice and want to get involved in one of the four subcommittees (racial justice & equity, homelessness, immigration, and environmental justice)? It's easy! Simply fill out [this short interest form](#) or email [faithjustice@stjosephparish.org](mailto:faithjustice@stjosephparish.org) and someone from the Commission will be in touch with you – it's easy to plug in here at St. Joe's!

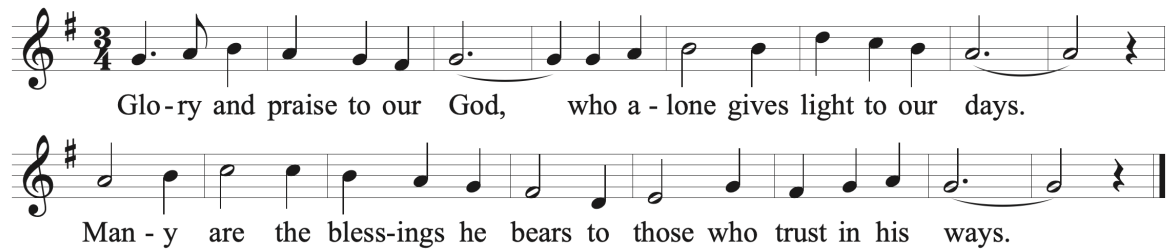
# THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## Entrance Song

## Glory and Praise To Our God

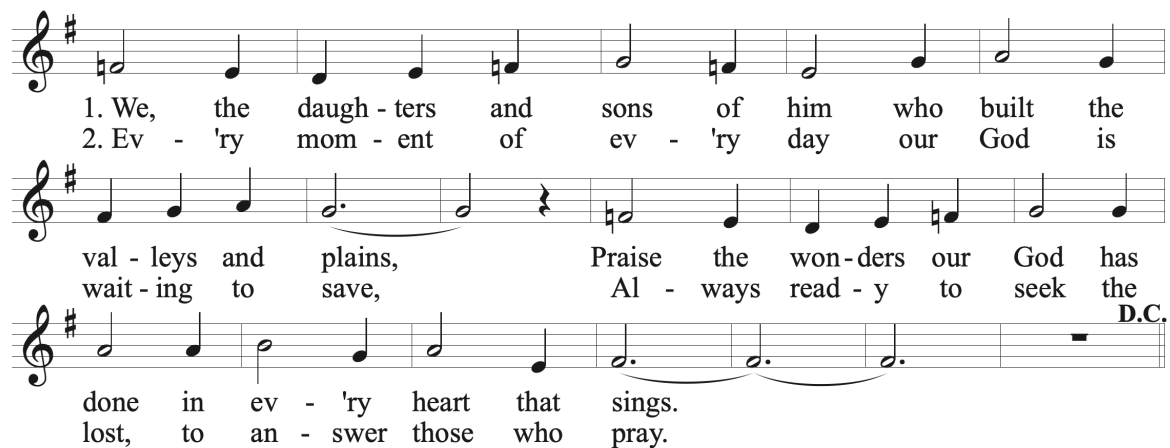
Schutte

### Refrain



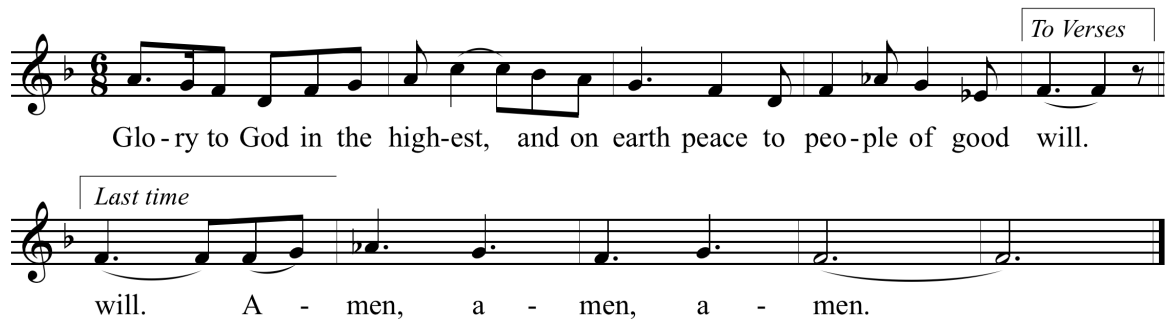
Glo-ry and praise to our God, who a-lone gives light to our days.  
Man-y are the bless-ings he bears to those who trust in his ways.

### Verses



1. We, the daugh-ters and sons of him who built the  
2. Ev-ry mom-ent of ev-ry day our God is  
val-leys and plains, Praise the won-ders our God has  
wait-ing to save, Al-ways read-y to seek the  
done in ev-ry heart that sings. D.C.  
lost, to an-swer those who pray.

## Gloria



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will.  
will. A-men, a-men, a-men.

1. We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

3. For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## First Reading

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

"The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

## Psalm

*Psalm 32*

*Guimont*



Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.

Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile.

To you I have acknowledged my sin;  
my guilt I did not hide.

I said, "I will confess my transgression to the LORD."  
And you have forgiven the guilt of my sin.

Rejoice in the LORD; exult, you just!  
Ring out your joy, all you upright of heart!

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Taize*



*A great prophet has arisen in our midst; God has visited his people.*

## Gospel

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

## Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us (men) and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
*All bow.*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
*All stand upright.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Offertory Song

*Instrumental*

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are  
full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho-san - na! Ho-  
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na! Ho-san - na! Ho-san-na in the high - est.

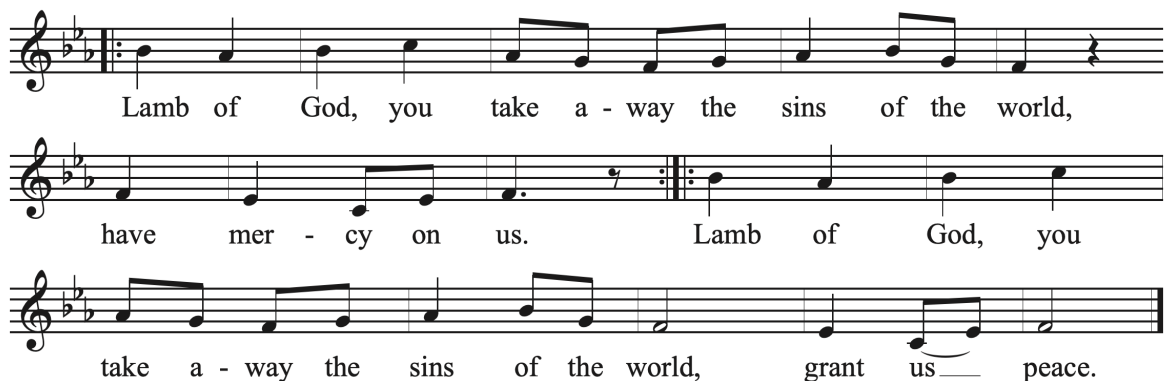
## Mystery of Faith



## Great Amen



## Lamb of God

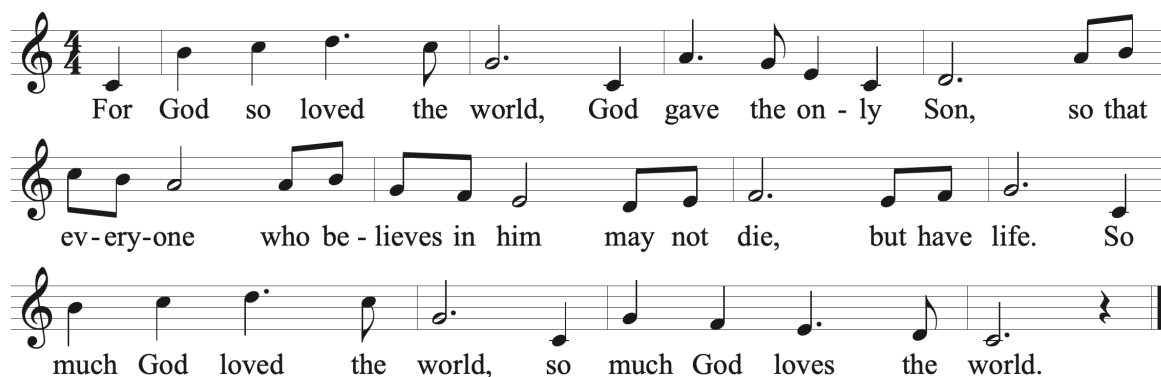


## Communion

*For God So Loved the World*

*Haugen*

Verses



## Recessional

### *All Creatures Of Our God and King*

*LASST UNS ERFREUEN/Vaughan Williams/St. Francis of Assisi*

1. All crea - tures of our God and King, Lift  
2. Dear moth - er earth, who day by day Un -

up your voice and with us sing: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O  
folds rich bless - ings on our way, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The

burn - ing sun with gold - en beam And  
fruits and flow'rs that ver - dant grow, Let

sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
them God's glo - ry al - so show.

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia!

## Ash Wednesday

In addition to the usual morning daily Mass (which will be livestreamed at 7am on our YouTube channel), **this year on Ash Wednesday (February 17th) the church will be open from noon-6pm. Staff will be present during that entire time to distribute ashes in a no-contact, COVID-safe manner. At 7pm, you are invited to join us for an in-person Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word. [See our website for more details.](#)**





# STEWARDSHIP

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## Stewardship Corner

Mary Wiseman, Pastoral Assistant for Stewardship

Dear friends,

It's hard to believe that it is already February! Soon it will be Lent, which means that Spring is just around the corner. In these times of hope and new life, I'm writing to you, our faithful and dedicated parishioners, with two big ideas on my mind.

First, I must once again express my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to you, most importantly, for your continued prayers and for your support for the wellbeing of this community with your ongoing financial assistance. I have been overwhelmed by your generosity – not simply the generosity of finances, but your generosity of spirit. You give freely. You are truly an inspiration to me as St. Joe's weathers what is surely one of the most difficult periods in her 114 years of existence! I feel truly blessed to serve in this faith community as your Pastoral Assistant for Stewardship.



I would also like to keep you fully informed about our parish's financial status, as we finish the first half of our fiscal year. While this column won't get "into the weeds" of our financial picture, we always strive towards total transparency, and you are always welcome to contact me with questions about specifics! As of the start of 2021, the parish is currently down about \$145,000 in ordinary income, compared to what we had budgeted at the beginning of the fiscal year. This is to be expected, as the economy as a whole has shrunk in a similar respect, so we are not panicked. However, it does mean that we must continue to strive to keep the parish in a healthy financial state.

We are extremely fortunate to have Marti McGaughey, Pastoral Assistant for Administration, on staff. She has examined every aspect of our budget to determine where we can cut expenses, and as of now, she expects to be able to cut the budget expenses by \$75,000 by the end of the fiscal year (none of this comes at the expense of jobs or outreach to the poor – most of these savings are the result of wise operational changes). This, in combination with Paycheck Protection Program money received in August (which, while originally a loan, should be fully forgiven), will help us maintain a positive cashflow.

Although we do have some savings for emergencies and other unforeseen needs, it is only prudent to maintain a balance of reserves to ensure our financial solvency and stability. While we are in a good place, considering the scale of the pandemic, we cannot let our guard down when it comes to stewarding our financial resources.

If you are able to [give](#), please do. Your gifts to St. Joe's not only keep the lights on and the heat working, but also allow staff like Deacon Steve, Theresa, Claire, and others to continue to serve the spiritual and material needs of our community. There is a direct causal effect between what you give today and the programs we are able to sponsor through the coming year.

Finally, let us continue to pray for each other. I pray that God's peace be upon you and your families as we move closer to worshipping together as a parish family.

In Christ our Hope,

*Mary Wiseman*

# LITURGY & WORSHIP

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## Greeter Ministry – Volunteers Needed!

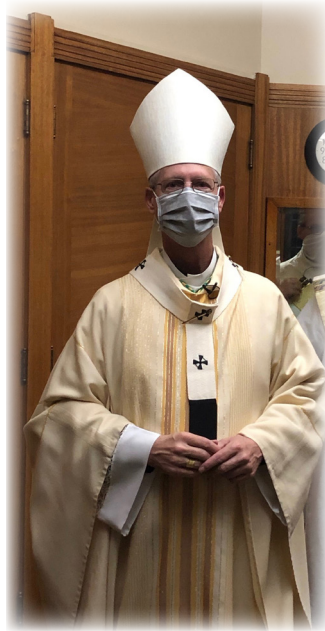
We are in need of volunteers to help greet people and run the check-in station at in-person Mass. Are you interested in this important ministry? Email Bob McCaffery-Lent at [rmclent@stjosephparish.org](mailto:rmclent@stjosephparish.org)



# LITURGY & WORSHIP

## Confirmation

The St. Joe's community was thrilled to celebrate confirmation with 85 7th, 8th, and 9th graders over the past two weeks. In addition, we had the privilege of welcoming Archbishop Etienne to the 7th grade confirmation on Tuesday, February 2nd. Congratulations!



## Ash Wednesday & Lent

By Katy Huston, MAPS  
Art and Environment Team

Our English word Lent is a shortened form of the Old English word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" describing the lengthening of days in spring...at least in the Northern Hemisphere. One year, I experienced the end of Lent in Australia, where it was the beginning of fall! It is clear that the ancient meanings of words may be overlooked by present reality.

The Season of Lent goes back a very long way in our church history. It is generally believed that the season was created at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD, and the count of 40 days varies slightly in Christian traditions. But the symbolism of 40 is strong. Think of all the uses of "40 days" in our salvation history.

We are called to the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, beginning with Ash Wednesday. That will look a bit different in this year of the pandemic. In the bulletin, you will find the schedule for the distribution of ashes. Importantly, those who have family confined at home will be able to bring ashes to them.

Our environment and liturgy during Lent help us to contemplate this time of preparation for the great Feast of Easter. The flowers are put aside and bare branches—that will gradually blossom as we grow closer to Easter—take their place. Images of bare branches will fill the walls and remind us of the desert time that Lent calls us to experience. The color of vestments is purple, a sign of repentance.



# FAITH JUSTICE

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## Updates from Nurturing Roots

**Join us on Zoom on Tuesday, Feb. 16th at 7pm** to learn about our Nurturing Roots greenhouse and the many ways we can be “Building community through farming, healing community through relationships.” For the Zoom link, or to get involved with the project, contact Deacon Steve at [steve@stjosephparish.org](mailto:steve@stjosephparish.org).

Nurturing Roots is a community farming program located on South Beacon Hill, focusing on environmental justice, access to education, and re-engaging people, especially young people of color, with the environment.



Parishioners Joe Anderton, Thomas Boehling, and Ray Wheeler were hard at work last weekend, installing the foundation for a new 8x20 greenhouse at Nurturing Roots farm.



Thank You  
St. Joseph Parish  
Families!

Here at L'Arche Noah Sealth of Seattle, our holiday season was made brighter with your generous gifts, cookie decorating kits, and stockings. We hope you all had a joyful holiday season and we are wishing you well in the months to come!





# ADULT FAITH FORMATION

## Lenten Small Groups on Zoom

St. Joe's is hosting two book-based Small Groups as we walk in faith together this Lent.

We'll be using *No Unlikely Saints: A Lenten Pilgrimage With Sacred Company*, written by our very own parishioner Cameron Bellm, and *Wonderous Encounters: Scripture for Lent*, by Richard Rohr. Be thinking of which one you'd like to join, and email Theresa at [tlukasik@stjosephparish.org](mailto:tlukasik@stjosephparish.org) to sign up!

## PARISH LIFE

### Men's Winter Walk @ Discovery Park

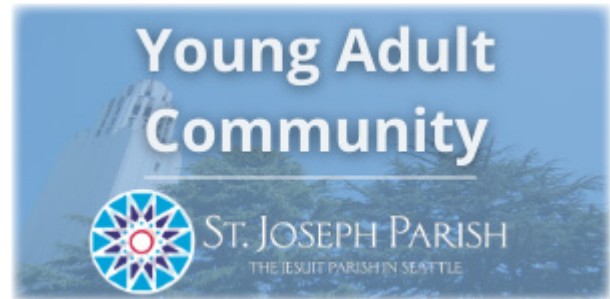
Saturday, Feb 27th - 1:30pm – 3:30pm  
Optional trip to Rooftop Brewing after

Meet inside the southern parking area, at the billboard area as you enter the lot. If lot is full, then enter area on foot from neighborhood, near 41st Ave W and Emerson St gate.

The route is 3.85 miles with beach views of the Sound. About 2 hours walking and includes some uphill and some muddy ground. The reward is water views through bare winter trees and some wetland bird watching.

If the weather is bad on 2/27, we'll push it back one week to March 6th. For details, contact Joe Prusa at [she-joprusa@hotmail.com](mailto:she-joprusa@hotmail.com) or [Steveu@stjosephparish.org](mailto:Steveu@stjosephparish.org). Of course, everyone needs to mask up and we'll pair up and socially distance during the walk!

Afterwards, for those who want and feel comfortable, we'll head over to nearby Rooftop Brewing at 1220 W Nickerson St. If it's full, we'll head to Rueben's Brewing or Stoup Brewing.



### Young Adult Happenings

#### Lenten Bible Study

Thursdays, starting February 18th, 6:30pm-8pm  
Virtual (email us for the link!)

Join us every Thursday from February 18th through the end of Lent as we read through a Lenten Study (you can access via email newsletter; we also have a limited number of free copies to hand out)! This is a great opportunity to dive deeper into your faith through thought-provoking and encouraging discussions. Contact [youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org](mailto:youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org) to join!

#### Virtual Speed Friending

Friday February 26th, 6pm-7:30pm  
Virtual (email us for the link!)

Join the young adult community for a round of speed friending! This will be a great opportunity to meet new people and deepen existing friendships! Contact [youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org](mailto:youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org) to receive an email invite to the meeting. Feel free to share the invite - the more, the merrier :)



ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

## **St. Joseph Faith Justice Commission Discernment Process Update – February 2021**

**During Fall 2020, St. Joseph's Faith Justice Commission embarked on a listening and discernment process to gain a better understanding of the status of our current efforts as a Commission and the concerns of the broader parish community.** We hoped that this process could help us as discern and prioritize our focus for the coming year. With the challenges and increased anxiety of our most vulnerable neighbors due to COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice uprisings across the country, Commission members were especially aware of the difficulties and changes this time presents to our partners' work and ministries.

**The Commission identified two parts for this listening process: 1) one-on-one conversations between Commission members and over a dozen current outreach ministry leaders; and 2) two parish-wide virtual listening sessions on Zoom to receive information from the entire St. Joseph Parish community.** Our one-on-one conversations focused on what was working well and what could be improved in ministry partners' relationship with St. Joe's, as well as current challenges and opportunities in our ministry partners' work. The parish-wide listening sessions sought to uncover what faith justice means to the parish community, what issues are important to the parish, and how parishioners want to be engaged in the parish's faith justice work. After each step of our discernment process, the Commission met to review and discuss this input and fruits of the conversations in order to identify opportunities and clarify our priorities for the direction of our faith justice efforts.

From our one-on-one conversations with outreach ministry partners, we heard about devastating impacts on vulnerable communities; increased needs for advocacy; the incredible resilience and creativity of our ministry partners; and the need for personal connection and closer relationship between parishioners and the people we seek to serve and be in solidarity with.

From the parish-wide listening sessions, we heard the following themes:

- **Current main issues of concern to the parish are racial justice & equity, homelessness, immigration, and environmental justice**
- **Parishioners would like to see increased collaboration and relationship-building with other parishes, as well as faith-based and social service organizations**
- **Increased and diversified communication to the parish community is needed in order to better share opportunities for service and advocacy and enable the parish's prophetic voice of solidarity on these issues**
- **Parishioners would like to have more clearly communicated opportunities to engage in advocacy, but direct service and advocacy should not be exclusive goals; rather, advocacy should come out of relationships we cultivate (and have been cultivating) with ministry partners**



**As a result of this process, Commission members decided to form four sub-committees organized by the main issue areas of interest to the parish** (racial justice & equity, homelessness, immigration, and environmental justice) in order to connect with ministry partners and parish committees to outline specific activities and steps for expanding service and advocacy opportunities. Two of these sub-committees already exist in the parish with our **Racial Equity Committee** and the **Immigration Committee**; they will continue their work in progress. Two new sub-committees will be formed to prioritize issues of concern related to **homelessness** and **environmental justice**. The Commission also agreed to return to our outreach ministry partners and ask for an updated sense of concrete needs and ideas for how to move forward together.

**As part of our next steps, the Faith Justice Commission is setting up communication channels for more consistent communication with the parish on opportunities to engage in our work.** This will include more opportunities to learn about opportunities through the bulletin, website, and parish social media channels. The Commission plans to actively engage parishioners in the work of the sub-committees to gather information; parishioners will hear more from each sub-committee in the coming days and weeks about programming and volunteer and advocacy opportunities. If you would like to become involved in one of the four sub-committees, [please fill out this short interest form](#). You can also email the Faith Justice Commission Co-Chairs, Bob Baur and Julia Fitzpatrick, at [faithjustice@stjosephparish.org](mailto:faithjustice@stjosephparish.org).

We are grateful to the St. Joseph community for their prayerful support of and participation in this process so that we, as a parish, can better love God and love our neighbors and be in right relationship in companionship with each other.

~ The St. Joseph Parish Faith Justice Commission

Bob Baur & Julia Fitzpatrick, Co-Chairs

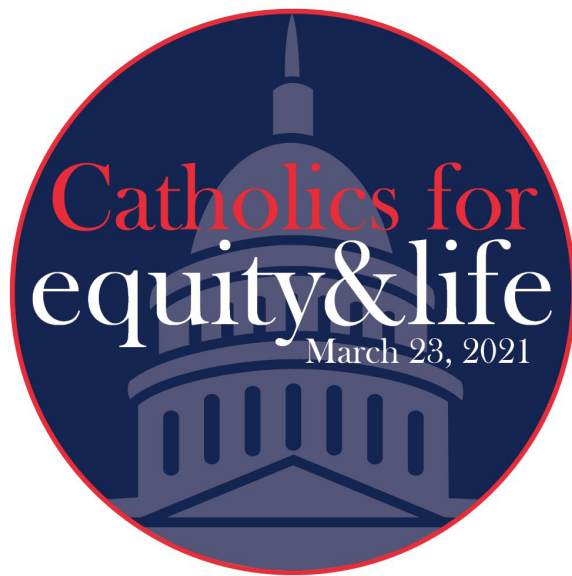
### **St. Joseph's Faith Justice Commission Mission Statement**

*The Faith Justice Commission builds a community of gospel love and care at St. Joseph by sharing information and promoting opportunities for parishioners to engage in direct service with those in need, assisting in those events or programs that build greater companionship with the poor or marginalized, and developing collaborative avenues of advocacy to transform structures of poverty and displacement.*

"IGNITED BY THE EUCHARIST TO LOVE & SERVE"

732 18th Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98112  
206-324-2522  
[www.stjosephparish.org](http://www.stjosephparish.org)





# Catholic Advocacy Day

Tuesday March 23, 2021 | 8am-4pm

In this time of COVID and the call for economic and racial equity, join with Catholic parishes and organizations in a day of advocacy for a society in which all people and Earth can thrive.

## Virtual Events

- Mass with Archbishop Etienne or Bishop Elizondo
- Speaker from State Government (TBD)
- Briefings on Issues
- Legislative Zoom meetings by District
- Social media campaigns

Register by March 9 at  
[ipjc.org/cad](https://ipjc.org/cad)

Questions? Call 206.223.1138 or email  
[catholicadvocacyday@ipjc.org](mailto:catholicadvocacyday@ipjc.org)





## THE MAGIS FAMILY FORMATION PROJECT

### Love In Action (Fast, Pray and Give) February 2021

February — the month of love! Many people celebrate St. Valentine's Day on the 14th by showing love to others with cards and small gifts. An even greater opportunity to show love comes soon after with Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent on February 17th. During Lent we show our love for Jesus through special acts of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

#### CELEBRATE THE SAINTS

Saints come from all around the world, representing different races and ethnicities. It's impossible to know for sure what many of them looked like, but they are often portrayed as white, even if they probably had dark skin. This is one example of **systemic racism**. As we celebrate Black History Month, take time to learn more about some of the Black saints and pray for their intercession through a [Litany of Black Saints](https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2020/06/a-heart-for-gods-people-resources-for.html) at

<https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2020/06/a-heart-for-gods-people-resources-for.html>

For more information visit The National Black Catholic Congress' page on [Black Catholic Saints and Martyrs](http://www.nbccongress.org/black-saints-and-martyrs.html) at <http://www.nbccongress.org/black-saints-and-martyrs.html>



St. Josephine Bakhita



St. Benedict the Moor



St. Monica



St. Martin De Porres

#### DAILY EXAMEN

Be still and ask the Holy Spirit to help **PAUSE** your day.

Next, ask the Holy Spirit to help **REWIND** and go back over your day, being thankful for God's blessings.

Next, ask the Holy Spirit to help **FAST FORWARD** through your day, recalling those moments that moved you closer to God as well as those things that took you away from God.

Thank God for the moments when you were aware of His presence and ask forgiveness for the moments you failed to follow Him.

Finally, ask the Holy Spirit to help you **STOP** and to look forward to the rest of the day or the new day to come and to commit to following the Lord more closely.

Finish your Examen by quietly praying the Lord's Prayer.

(Adapted from [Joe Paprocki](#))

#### LENTEN SCAVENGER HUNT

- ☐ **Purple cloth or purple plant** representing the color of Lent.
- ☐ **Rosary** representing our call to spend more time in prayer during Lent
- ☐ **Coins**, representing our call to give generously during Lent
- ☐ **A shoe** representing the journey Jesus will make to Jerusalem and the cross
- ☐ **Thorns** representing Jesus' crown of thorns



- ❑ **Dropped branch**, a symbol of the palms of Palm Sunday
- ❑ **Sand** representing the desert where Jesus was tempted
- ❑ **Bread** representing Jesus' words, "one does not live by Bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."
- ❑ **Stuffed or toy animals** representing the wild animals that surrounded Jesus in the desert

## TAKE A (VIRTUAL) TRIP... FROM YOUR OWN HOME!

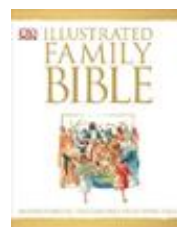
We may not be able to travel right now, but through the wonder of the internet we can visit beautiful places that are important to our Catholic faith.

- [Pilgrimage to the Holy Land](#)
  - (<http://faith.nd.edu/s/1210/faith/interior.aspx?sid=1210&gid=609&pgid=32742>)
- [Tour of St. Peter's](#)
  - ([https://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san\\_pietro/vr\\_tour/index-en.html](https://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_pietro/vr_tour/index-en.html))
- [Tour of Stations of the Cross \(Via Delorosa\)](#)
  - ([https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1l13E9c8wFi\\_eflo8MZ\\_PmI3XiF4&ll=31.779756514232627%2C35.23343450000002&z=16](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1l13E9c8wFi_eflo8MZ_PmI3XiF4&ll=31.779756514232627%2C35.23343450000002&z=16))
- [Tour of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#)
  - (<https://www.nationalshrine.org/virtual-tour/>)

Have you been to one of these places? Would you share your impressions with us? Contact [MarkP@Stjosephparish.org](mailto:MarkP@Stjosephparish.org) to share your memories and a photo! You could be featured on our Facebook page!

## REFLECTING ON FEBRUARY'S READINGS AND HOLIDAYS

There are wonderful stories this month from the Gospels and Old Testament that can help us prepare for our Lenten practice of Praying, Fasting and Giving. You might like to use a children's Bible to read the stories together. The illustrations and background information will help children understand and visualize the text.



**Feb 7: *Jesus cures the sick.* Mark 1:29-39.** Do you know someone who is sick? Say a prayer for them. Send them a card or a picture to cheer them up.

**Feb. 14: *Jesus cures a leper and tells him to tell no one.* Mark 1:40-45.** Talk about why Jesus would heal a man quietly and not want praise or a reward for healing him. As we get ready for Lent, pray for or help someone quietly without needing a thank you or reward.

**Feb. 14: Feast of St. Valentine** This kind, third century physician was known for healing a blind girl and marrying young lovers. He is the patron saint of epilepsy, beekeeping and lovers. You might like to read more about him in the book [Saint Valentine by Robert Sabuda](#), available at the Seattle Public Library.



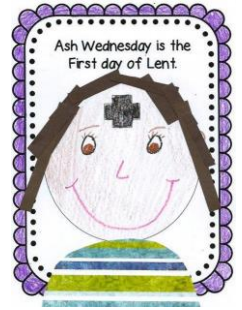
**Feb. 15 is Presidents' Day** where we honor important leaders in our nation's history. Did you know our new President, Joseph R. Biden Jr., is Catholic? The last (and first) Catholic President before him was John F. Kennedy.



*"My Catholic faith drilled into me a core truth – that every person on earth is equal in rights and dignity, because we are all beloved children of God. We are all created "imago Dei" – beautifully, uniquely, in the image of God, with inherent worth. It is the same creed that is at the core of our American experiment and written into our founding documents – that we are all created equal and endowed by our creator with inalienable rights." - Joseph R. Biden, Jr.*

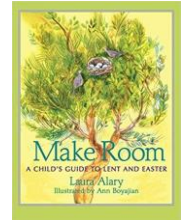


**Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, marks the beginning of Lent**, 40 special days before Easter that Christians use to “Fast, Pray and Give.” Jesus spent 40 days in the desert and during that time he fasted and prayed as he prepared for his ultimate act of giving. He gave himself to the suffering of the cross for our sakes. We want to be followers of Jesus and so, like him, we “Fast, Pray and Give” during Lent. On Ash Wednesday, the priest places ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads and reminds us to “Repent and Believe in the Gospel.” The ashes come from the palms from last year’s Palm Sunday. We may not all be able to receive ashes in person this year, but we can still “examine” or think about how we can be closer to Jesus. Draw a picture of yourself and include ashes on your forehead.



Search for: [Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter by Laura Alary](#)

**Feb. 21: Noah and the Promise of the Rainbow. Genesis 9:8.** God has promised that he will always love us. What promises do you make? **Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the desert. Mark 1:12-15.** What is a temptation? Can you share a way that you fight temptation? Lent is a good time to practice fighting temptation.



**Feb. 28: “If God is for us who can be against us.” Romans 8.** Have you ever felt picked on or that someone is against you? When you feel this way can you tell God about it? Can you share a way that God has shown you that He loves you?

#### GET CRAFTY

Using this [template](#), print suggestions for ways your family can pray, fast, and give this Lenten season. Cut them into strips and place in three envelopes or pockets. Pick a strip every day to help guide you on your journey to grow closer to God throughout Lent.

<https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2017/02/lent-pray-fast-give-printable.html>



Recreate how a [Caterpillar turns to a Butterfly](#) using an empty toilet paper roll, popsicle stick, and some paper. This metamorphosis can remind us that we too should undergo a transformation during Lent as we strive to become more like Jesus.

<https://catholicblogger1.blogspot.com/2012/02/crafty-crafters-lent.html>

#### BOOK CORNER

[I am Love by Susan Verde](#)

[A Child's Introduction to African American History by Jabari Asim](#)

[Wish Tree by Katherine Applegate](#)

[Stations of the Cross for Children by Jerry J Windley-Daoust and Vicki Shuck](#)

