

..... *A Word from Victoria*

"This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad!" These words of the psalmist are our Easter refrain. I am not confused about the liturgical season, but I am struck by the faithfulness of our God. Our God has moved with power through the ages to bring us salvation—to bring us healing, forgiveness, wholeness, peace, and joy. God has moved in creation, through the prophets and leaders of old, and in Jesus to bring us new life. Jesus' birth announces the presence of our God who has drawn near; Jesus is God-with-us. Jesus brings God's reign—the fullness of life and love that is God's salvation. Jesus' death and resurrection bring us new life—that fullness of life and love that is God's salvation. The wood of the crib becomes the wood of the cross. The birth of Jesus and the death and resurrection of Jesus celebrate the same mystery of God's faithfulness and love and desire for our salvation. No wonder we can sing of each in-breaking of the power of God: "This the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

"This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad!" These are our words every morning when we awake to a new day—at least, God's great gifts to us and work on our behalf should evoke such a cry of gladness from us. Our stance as a people of God, loved and cared for through the ages, is always one of gratitude. Before the wonder and magnitude of God-with-us in our daily lives, we stand in awe and gratitude. This does require, of course, that we open our eyes to see the signs of God-with-us. Advent has been our practice in seeing with the eyes of faith—eyes focused on God, rather than on the inevitable and ever-present suffering and trials of our lives.

Even more, to say that this is the day the Lord has made is to say not only that we see with the eyes of gratitude God-with-us, but is, remarkably, to say that we bring Christ into our world now. The birth of Jesus was a one-time event 2000 years ago; the birth of Christ is an everyday event. We are all called to be Christ-bearers—here and now. Advent prepares us to see the signs of God-with-us; Christmas calls us to make Christ alive in our world.

"This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad." May the wonder and gift of God-with-us in the birth of Jesus bring us every blessing of life and love, healing and hope, peace and joy. May the gift of God-with-us in Jesus inspire us to proclaim the good news in our words and deeds today and tomorrow and every day.

Calendar

26 Feast of the Holy Family
Mass: 8:30, coffee hour following
Mass: 10:30, coffee hour following
AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

27 Monday
Communion Service: 9am - Church

28 Tuesday
Mass: 9am - Church
Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am - 7pm

29 Wednesday
Communion Service: 9am - Church
Social Justice Movie Night: 7pm - Church basement

30 Thursday
Mass: 9am
Sr. High Youth Group Tubing Trip: 9:30am

31 Friday
Mass: 9am - Church
Feast of Mary Mother of God Mass: 5pm

1 Saturday
Mass: 5pm

2 Feast of the Epiphany
Mass: 8:30, coffee hour following
Mass: 10:30, coffee hour following
AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

3 Monday
Communion Service: 9am - Church
Pastoral Council: 7pm - Benincasa
St. Vincent de Paul: 7pm - Benincasa

4 Tuesday
Mass: 9am - Church
Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am - 7pm

5 Wednesday
Communion Service: 9am - Church
School Commission: 7pm - Benincasa

6 Thursday
Mass: 9am
RCIA: 7pm - Benincasa
Choir: 7pm - Church

7 Friday
Mass: 9am - Church

8 Saturday
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm
Mass: 5pm

9 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Mass: 8:30, coffee hour following
Faith Formation: 9:25 - Benincasa
Mass: 10:30, coffee hour following
AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

Announcements

Discernment in Daily Life

A series for those pondering life's decisions. January 11-February 15, facilitated by Marilyn Nash & Fr. Mike Bayard, SJ. Come learn a process to integrate listening for God's presence in your life decisions, consider guidelines for discernment taught by St. Ignatius, and experience meaningful small group sharing and support. All are welcome! Cost is \$150. For more information and to register, <http://www.ignatiancenter.org/programs/discernment-in-daily-life>.

Letting Go: Five Steps to Forgiveness

January 12-March 2, facilitated by Carolyn Hickman. Recall a situation in which you had a significant problem with another person, something that bothered you. Perhaps someone said, "Just let it go," and you thought, "I'd love to. Would you tell me how?" We'll explore many facets of forgiveness & the art of reconciliation. Series for Recovery Cafe and open to all! For more information, email carolyn@ignatiancenter.org

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

Interested in Adult Co-Ed Volleyball? Come play in Victoria Hall with fellow Parishioners and School Parents. Please contact Tera Figueroa for more information terafigueroa@yahoo.com or 779-8372.

Walk the Labyrinth for Peace in the World

We invite you to greet the New Year by joining with other peacemakers in walking the Labyrinth for Peace in the World. New Year's Eve, December 31, 2010. Come any time between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. St. Mary-on-the-Lake, 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue, WA 98004. For information call the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, 425.451.1770 or www.csjp.org/olp.

A Contemplative Silent Weekend Retreat

Introductory & Continuing Centering Prayer
January 28-30, 2011 Retreat Format: A group retreat with conferences introducing Center Prayer as a silent, contemplative prayer practice. There will be time for practicing Centering Prayer, opportunities to share our experiences and ask questions, and to celebrate the Eucharist and Reconciliation. As we experience our interior silence, we will move more deeply into an environment of group silence. This retreat is primarily designed as an Introduction for those persons who desire to know and practice Centering Prayer and will also include presentations for those who would like to review their Centering Prayer practice.

A Men Faith Sharing Weekend Retreat

Lessons For Men From The Prodigal Son
January 21-23, 2011 Deacon Dave Jones is the Director for the Palisades Retreat Center. He has spent the last 25 years working for the Archdiocese of Seattle in a variety of ministries. Assisting in the retreat will be Fr. Jack Jennings, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Seattle and resident at the Palisades Retreat's Senior Priests Community. Retreat Format: This is a group retreat with large group conferences offering formation in faith, times of silence and prayer. The retreat will focus on the journey of faith that was experienced by the people who encountered Jesus in Scripture and illustrated through the parables.

Holy Names Academy Open House

Please join us for the HNA Winter Open House on Tuesday, January 4th, 6:30-830pm. Meet teachers, students and parents. Register for the Scholarship/Placement Make-up Exam. There will be fun workshops for students, informative sessions for parents, and a special student life assembly with great entertainment.

Readings for January 2nd Feast of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Readings for January 9th Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

Parish Stewardship

December 19, 2010
Regular Collection: \$7,029.00

PRAYERS

Luis Batayola
Kay De Ambrosio
Bridget Dobson
Ken Dobson
Evan Dubicki
Martha Harris

Frank Martin
James McNamara
Effie Rohner
Julia Simon
Marcelina Smith

PRAYERS