

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

- 10 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**
 Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, coffee hour following
 Faith Formation: 9:30 - Benincasa
 New Orleans Mission Trip Meeting: 11:30 - School
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement
- 11 Monday**
 Communion Service: 9am
 Liturgy Committee: 7pm - Benincasa
- 12 Tuesday**
 Mass: 9am
 Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am-7pm
- 13 Wednesday**
 Communion Service: 9am
- 14 Thursday**
 Mass: 9am
 RCIA: 7pm - Benincasa
 Choir: 7pm - Church
- 15 Friday**
 School Mass: 9am
- 16 Saturday**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm
 Mass: 5pm
 AA Meeting: 6:30pm - Benincasa Basement
- 17 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, Coffee hour following
 Marriage Prep: 11:30 - Benincasa
 Social Justice: 11:30 - Benincasa
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

..... *A Word from Victoria*

Christmas is like summer in December. I probably would not have said this last winter, given the amount of snow that we had, even though I am not referring to the weather. Perhaps it is the way Christmas and New Year's fell on the calendar this year. It just seemed to me that we had a longer series of days in which to enjoy the gifts of this season.

Summer tends to be a time of greater ease, a time of more recreation/re-creation, a time to be freer of our many regular obligations. This Christmas season seems to have that sense of greater ease; there was a shift in our pattern of daily obligations to more time with family and for recreation.

Such time is a gift—as any time of rest and relaxation is. It also opens for us the possibility of contemplating the presence of God-with-us. When we are less pressed by our daily responsibilities, we are more able to look around us and see the gifts we have been given.

Though we are already back into our routines of work and school, the Christmas season only ends today. The church recognizes that the mystery of God-with-us in Jesus needs many days of contemplation. The celebration of Christmas is more than the 12 days of the song. The gift we receive is the same gift every day—the gift of God-with-us. Christmas, of course, celebrates the gift of God-with-us in Jesus. The child born is God-with-us. The Christmas season opens our eyes to the many gifts of God's presence daily.

We are helped in this by the darkness of winter. The surrounding darkness draws us inward—into our homes where there is light and warmth. The darkness also draws us into contemplation—into a reflection on our lives, an awareness of God-with-us, gratitude for all that we have been given, a relationship of love with God.

We move now to "ordinary" time in the church year. Though the word means the counting of the weeks (in ordinal numbers), we can see this return to "ordinary" time as an invitation to carry the gifts of Christmas into our ordinary days. Every day is an opportunity to remember and to reflect upon the gifts of God and the presence of God. Every "ordinary" day is a day in which we discover "God-with-us," and a day to take some time to contemplate God's presence and gifts.

May we bring the gifts of Christmas into our ordinary days and discover God-with-us every day.

Victoria

Readings for January 17th
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Isaiah 62:1-5
 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
 John 2:1-12

PRAYERS

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Ray Barnes | James McNamara |
| Luis Batayola | George Nemeth |
| Joe Byrne | Mary Roberts |
| Kay De Ambrosio | Effie Rohner |
| Evan Dubicki | Evelyn Stetz |
| Bob Flakus | Don Sullivan |
| Martha Harris | Chris Young |
| Frank Martin | |

PRAYERS

Announcements

New Orleans Mission Trip Meeting Today

St. Catherine is sending a group of parishioners down to New Orleans this spring to rebuild homes with the St. Bernard Project. Parishioner Sr. Judy is now working with this group in NOLA. This is a program operating in the areas hardest hit by the hurricanes Katrina and Rita. 100% of the homes were rendered uninhabitable and few have been rebuilt. We have not confirmed a date yet but are looking at sometime in April or May. Cost per person will be around \$600 and we plan to fundraise as a group. We have lodging in a retreat house in the French Quarter so there will also be opportunity to explore the city. Check out the parish web site under Social Justice for more information including pictures and links to the St. Bernard Project Web site. There is an informational meeting TODAY at 11:30am in the school. Contact Shannon Fleming Bray with questions.

Whole Community Gatherings

Join us on for our continuing series on Jesus presented by Fr. Peter Byrne, SJ. Fr. Peter will speak on Saturday, February 6 after the 5pm mass and Sunday, May 16 after the 10:30 mass. There will be a meal after mass, separate presentations for adults, youth, and children. Babysitting will be provided for children ages 1-3. The gathering will end with dessert for all. Watch for more information and registration.

Christian Initiation for Children

If your school-age child is interested in being baptized or in joining the Catholic Church, please contact Victoria at the parish office. The first four sessions will be at 3:10 on Wednesday, January 13; Tuesday, January 19; Monday, January 15; and Monday, February 1.

Marriage Preparation

Our series for engaged couples begins on Sunday, January 17 after the 10:30am mass in the Benincasa Center; lunch is provided. If you planning to get married in the next year, this is a good time to participate in the series. Call Victoria at the parish office to register.

St. Catherine's Got Talent

Parish and school talent show on Saturday, January 23 at 7pm, with potluck preceding at 6pm. To sign up your act, contact Mark Adrian at 524-8800, ext 105.

Peace Days for Women

Prayer in Everyday Life": led by Mary Thorne, CSJP. Wednesday, January 20th, from 9:30 - 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary-on-the-Lake Peace and Spirituality Center, 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue. Free-will offering. Bring a sack lunch, coffee and tea provided. To register or for more information contact Carmel Little, CSJP at 425-454-7909 or e-mail peace@csjp-olp.org

Parish Stewardship

January 3, 2009

Collection Total: \$9,206.00

Day of Contemplative Prayer

for Women and Men, led by Kathleen Pruitt, CSJP. Saturday, January 23, from 9:00 - 12:00 noon at St. Mary-on-the-Lake Chapel, 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue. If you are coming for the first time to Contemplative Prayer please arrive at 8:30 a.m. for an introduction. Free-will offering. To register or for more information contact Carmel Little, CSJP at 425-454-7909 or e-mail peace@csjp-olp.org

Discernment in Daily Life

Interested in developing a practice of listening for God in your life choices and responding in faith? Looking for an inner compass in confusing times? Join us at St. Joseph's Parish Center (732 18th Ave. East, Seattle) for Five Thursday Evenings: January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, from 6:30 - 9 PM. Gather to:

- Learn a process for an integrated listening for God's presence in your life experiences and decisions
 - Prayerfully consider guidelines for discernment taught by St. Ignatius
 - Experience small group sharing and support
- Cost: \$150 (Total Program Fee)
Learn more: ignatiancenter.org

A Discernment Series for Young Alumni

You're invited to join us for An Evening Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality on Wednesday, January 20th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Held at the Recovery Cafe in their brand new location on Denny - 2022 Boren Avenue. Learn some of the key elements of Ignatian Spirituality Experience Ignatian Prayer Hear about the Programs of the Ignation Spirituality Center. Learn more: ignatiancenter.org

A note from Fr. Lyle

THANKS! Fr. Lyle thanks you for all the calendars brought for him to take to prison. The men are most grateful. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated. God bless you!