

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

Sunday, December 12, 2021 \* Third Sunday of Advent\* [www.stjosephparish.org](http://www.stjosephparish.org)



## 3rd Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 12, 2021

**Livestream Mass: 5pm Saturday  
on our YouTube channel  
(Available for viewing throughout the week)  
9 AM Sunday, 11 AM Sunday  
5:30 PM Sunday**

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

### Readings for December 19, 2021

FIRST READING: MICAH 5:1-4A

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:3-45

PRESIDING & PREACHING: GREG CELIO, S.J.

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### St. Joseph School - Main Office x208

Patrick Fennessy, Head of School x218  
Mary Helen Bever, Primary School Dir x215  
Vince McGovern, Middle School Dir x219

## The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

### Maria Ochoa Vazquez



Maria will be breaking open the Word with us this weekend, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Maria, the Program Coordinator at the Ignatian Spirituality Center (ISC), has been a parishioner at St. Joe's since 2005, and served the parish coordinating young adult ministry between 2006-2008. She has been involved with RCIA and the Winter Overnight Shelter as well.

Maria leads program development for the ISC, helping to bring alive the practices of Ignatian spirituality for seekers of all types. For the last 16 years, Maria has served in many roles focused on providing spiritual formation and leadership development in the Ignatian tradition through programs, retreats, and spiritual direction, including Assistant Director for the Magis Alumni Ministry at Seattle University, and Regional Coordinator of the Contemplative Leaders in Action (CLA) program in Seattle.

Maria is a graduate of Gonzaga University with bachelors degree in Art, and holds a Masters in Transforming Spirituality from the School of Theology & Ministry at Seattle University. She is a bicultural/bilingual Mexican immigrant who is an artist and creative, gardener, wife, and mother.

### 5pm Saturday Mass – The Story of Juan Diego

Join us as we celebrate the Mass for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday December 11th at the Saturday 5pm Mass (in-person and livestreamed). Parishioner and school parent Julissa Robles is coordinating a group of 6th grade students who will perform a dramatic presentation of the Story of Juan Diego.

This Feast Day commemorates the apparition of the Virgin Mary in 1531 to the humble St. Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. Mary appeared to an indigenous man at a time when many felt the devastation of colonialism on indigenous culture after the Spanish conquest. The miraculous appearance of Mary's image on Juan Diego's coarse cloak was a sign that God's love is for all people. Her image remains on the cloak which hangs in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

All are welcome to join us for Mass and to enjoy Mexican bread and warm drinks afterwards! We hope you will join us!

# Third Sunday of Advent

Presider

Matthew Pyrc, S.J

Call To Worship

*Please stand at the tolling of the bell.*

Entrance Song

(5) *Las Mananitas/Morning Praises*

*Oramos Cantando*

1. Bless - ed Vir - gin, O most love - ly of the A - ná - huac, we  
2. Bless - ed Moth - er, most be - lov - ed, how we hon - or you this  
3. Bless - ed Moth - er, full of grac - es, here we kneel in hum - ble  
4. Ho - ly Vir - gin, you are shin - ing like the bright - est morn - ing

sing: As your chil - dren come to greet you, our morn - ing prais - es we bring.  
day, When you ten - der - ly ap - peared, bring - ing hope and light for our way.  
prayer: Look up - on us with your fa - vor, and show - er all with your care.  
star. As the sky be - gins to light - en we see how ra - diant you are.

Des - pier - ta, Ma - dre, des - pier - ta, mi - ra que yaa - ma - ne - ció; Mi - raes -  
A - wake, Moth - er, now a - wak - en as day - light comes in - to view. See this

te ra - mo de flo - res que pa - ra ti - trai - go yo.  
bright bou - quet of flow - ers we bring to of - fer to you.

*Rejoice In the Lord, Again, Rejoice*

*Psallite*

Re - joice in the Lord, a - gain re - joice! Re - joice in the Lord: the Lord is near!

## Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

*Strike breast during next line.*

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## Kyrie

Cantor

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

All

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

## First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

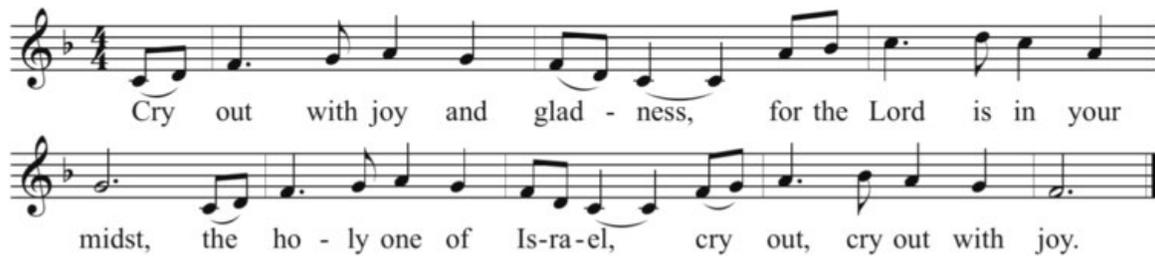
Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!  
Sing joyfully, O Israel!  
Be glad and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The LORD has removed the judgment against you,  
he has turned away your enemies;  
the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,  
you have no further misfortune to fear.  
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a mighty savior;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
and renew you in his love,  
he will sing joyfully because of you,  
as one sings at festivals.

## Psalm

Isaiah 12

Haugen



God indeed is my Savior, I will never be afraid,  
my strength and courage is the Lord, my Savior and my song. *Ref.*

Give thanks and praise the name of God, sing out to all the earth  
the wondrous deeds that God has done, our savior and our song. *Ref.*

Shout with joy, O Zion, for dwelling in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel, your Savior and your song. *Ref.*

## Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor"*

## Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now 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. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

## (5) Dramatic Presentation on the story of Juan Diego

## Homily

Maria Ochoa Vazquez, Program Coordinator, Ignatian Spirituality Center

## Dismissal

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

*Bell*

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.

## Creed

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

(5) *Litany Of Mary*

*Alonso*

Response 1                      Response 2                      Response 3  
O - ra pro no-bis.      O - ra pro no-bis.      O - ra pro no-bis.  
*Pray for us. —      Pray for us. —      Pray for us. —*

Refrain  
A - ve, a - ve, a - ve Ma - ri - a.      A - ve, a - ve Ma - ri - a.  
*Hail, — hail, — hail Ma - ry. —      Hail, — hail, Ma - ry. —*

## *Like A Bird*

*Dufner/Joncas*

1. Like a bird that spreads her wings to gather in her young.  
So you open wide your arms to gather in your own.  
For our free response you wait, Early morning, noon, and late.

Come and wake us, come and wake us,  
come and wake us to your welcome. Maranatha, come.

2. From the ends of earth you call your sons and daughters home.  
Saying "Gather now from far and near, my people, come."  
For our simple trust you yearn till, at last in love, we turn. *Ref.*

3. For the nations you prepare and spread a splendid feast,  
Gather ev'ry tribe and race, the greatest to the least.  
For one fam'ly, how you long: 'Round your table, vast the throng. *Ref.*

## **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## **Mystery of Faith**

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

## **Great Amen**

Amen

## **Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.

Communion

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Latin 9th century



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,  
 2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
 4. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,  
 5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come,  
 6. O come, O Day - spring from on high,  
 7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind



And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
 Who or - der all things might i - ly;  
 Who to your tribes on Si - nai's height  
 From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them  
 And o - pen wide our heav'n ly home;  
 And cheer us by your draw - ing nigh;  
 In one the hearts of hu - man - kind;



That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
 In an - cient times once gave the Law  
 That trust your might - y power to save,  
 Make safe the way that leads on high,  
 Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 O bid our sad di - vi - sions cease,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 And teach us in her ways to go.  
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
 And close the path to mis - er - y.  
 And death's dark sha - dow put to flight.  
 And be for us our King of Peace.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Wait For the Lord

Taize



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Recessional

O Come Divine Messiah

VENEZ DIVIN MESSIE

1. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The  
 2. O come, De - sired of na - tions, Whom  
 3. O come in peace and meek - ness, For

world in si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its  
 priest and proph - et long fore - told, Will break the cap - tive  
 low - ly will your cra - dle be: Though clothed in hu - man

tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.  
 fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.  
 weak - ness We shall your God - head see.

Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the  
 night and show your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O

Come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day When  
 hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

# Simbang Gabi

The Filipino Community of St. Joseph Parish warmly invites you to the inaugural

## Simbang Gabi

A Christmstime Filipino Night Mass

Saturday, Dec. 18

5pm

Refreshments and appetizers immediately following Mass at the Parish Center



ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
THE ISUET PARISH IN SEATTLE



**Simbang Gabi** - by Katy Huston & Jenn Olegario

Simbang Gabi ("Night Mass") is a novena of nine Masses to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as she prayerfully and joyfully anticipates the birth of Christ. It is a Filipino Advent tradition celebrated for nine nights before Christmas.

Simbang Gabi traces its roots to Mexico when, in 1587, the Pope granted the petition of Fray Diego de Soria, prior of the convent of San Agustin Acolman, to hold Christmas Mass outdoors because the church could not accommodate the huge number of people attending the evening Mass.

The Spanish missionaries brought Simbang Gabi to the Philippines, and subsequently became a unique custom for families to make their way to church in the dark to attend the Masses at dawn. Filipino immigrants brought Simbang Gabi to the United States, where they are often held in the evening.

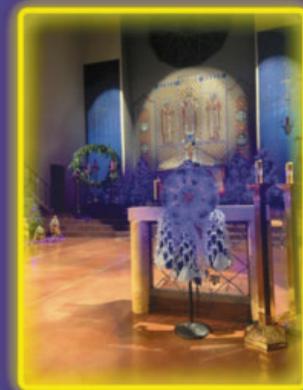
The faithful wake up early (or, alternately, come in the evening) for nine days before Christmas. The faithful make this their Aguinaldo, their gift to God, for the great gift of Jesus. The practice can also be understood as the preparation of the faithful to receive from God the great gift of Jesus, the savior of the world.

On December 17, 1997, the Archbishop of Seattle, the Most Reverend Alexander J. Brunett, celebrated the first Simbang Gabi in Seattle. He was so moved by the experience that he has since encouraged the entire archdiocese to participate in it. Now, it is observed in more than 80 parishes of the Archdiocese of Seattle as part of the advent celebration. Every year at the Commissioning Mass, the Archbishop blesses the Simbang Gabi parish coordinators and their parols (star lanterns symbolizing the light of Christ) and commissions them back to their parishes to share the joyful celebration of Simbang Gabi with their respective communities.

St. Joseph Parish is pleased to celebrate the Filipino community for this Advent tradition on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, at 5:00 pm on December 18th. We are just one of several parishes in the Archdiocese of Seattle taking part in this Advent pilgrimage.

Simbang Gabi is, above all, a time for the community to celebrate the coming Birth of Christ with family, friends and neighbors. Our church will be specially decorated with lights and colorful parol lanterns that lead us from the darkness to the Light of Christ at Christmas.

*Simbang Gabi*



# Advent 2021

## Calendar

Wednesday Dec. 15: Advent Reconciliation Service at 7pm

Saturday Dec. 18: Simbang Gabi celebration Mass at 5pm

Monday Dec. 20: Seattle Girl's Choir Concert at 7pm

Wednesday Dec. 22: Advent Lessons & Carols at 7pm

**Friday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Masses at 4pm, 6pm, & 10pm (10pm Mass will be livestreamed)**

**\*Doors will open an hour before Mass. There will be no assigned seating or registration this year, but masks are required at all events.**

**Saturday Dec. 25: Christmas Morning Mass at 10am (\*this Mass will have a socially distanced section & will be livestreamed)**

(No 5pm Livestream Mass for Feast of the Holy Family)

Sunday Dec. 26: Feast of the Holy Family Mass at 10am (Only Mass of the Day)

Saturday Jan. 1: Epiphany Mass at 5pm

Sunday Jan. 2: Epiphany Sunday Masses at 9am, 11am, & 5:30pm

Friday Jan. 7: First Friday Healing Mass at 11am

Saturday Jan. 8/Sunday Jan. 9: Baptism of the Lord Masses

[www.stjosephparish.org/christmas2021](http://www.stjosephparish.org/christmas2021)

# Giving Tree

## St. Joe's Giving Tree

We need your help! There are still 150 tags on our virtual giving tree for families in need. Click here to sign up for one! <https://signup.com/go/jxKxWtG>

Make someone's Christmas special. Most of the gifts are gift cards or easy-to-find toys - all you have to do is sign up for a tag (or three) and drop it off by December 14th! Each gift you donate helps one of our [Outreach Partners](#) serve those in need in our community.

**Drop off gifts at the parish center or the church vestibule kitchen (there will be a shelf marked for Giving Tree gifts). Gifts will be secured daily, but please take gift cards to the parish center or give to a staff member or usher. Thanks for your generosity!**



[Sign Up Here For the Giving Tree](#)

## By Candlelight: A Young Adult Advent Reflection

**Monday nights during advent (December 13, 20)**

**Time: 6:00pm-7:15pm**

Meeting on Zoom - Anna at [annarikki@icloud.com](mailto:annarikki@icloud.com)

Join the St. Joe's young adult group this advent season on Monday nights for quiet evenings of reflection, prayer, and faith sharing. We will be using the book *By Candlelight, By Starlight: An Advent Devotional* by St. Joseph's parishioner Cameron Bellm who also writes for the US Jesuits Conference. The book is available online at: <https://brickhouseinthecity.com/product/by-candlelight-by-starlight-advent-devotional-2021/> Participants should provide their own book, but please contact Anna at [annarikki@icloud.com](mailto:annarikki@icloud.com) if anyone needs financial assistance. After a year filled with change and uncertainty, we want to take time to reflect and share in the meaning of the advent season.

# LGBTQ: It's All About Love

Telling Our Stories

by Troy Kaser and Tee Earls

Tee first met my family when they visited Seattle over Thanksgiving in 1999 – and I introduced him as my roommate. Over time, as we shared our story and relationship more broadly, we evolved from spending our holidays apart to alternating holiday visits, as a couple, with each other's families. Extended family members each took their own journey towards acceptance of our relationship, not necessarily fully understanding and certainly not without speed bumps or the occasional controversy. But ultimately, they chose to walk alongside us.

Fast forward and, finally having the right to be civilly married, we started our own family through open adoption. We were selected by each of our two children's birth parents to raise them. We now live an incredibly mundane but beautiful family life where our concerns are focused on feeding the kids balanced meals and getting back-and-forth from soccer practices.

I'm uncomfortable comparing our goofball family to the Holy Family, but there is inspiration in their story. Mary braved the truth of the incarnation at risk of possible rejection by Joseph. Joseph gave himself fully to be Jesus' adopted father. Joseph and Mary even took Jesus to the equivalent of Sunday School, although the lessons weren't over Zoom. I wonder if Jesus, as an eight-year-old, struggled to pay attention as much as my son does?

One of the most beautiful parts of our family is how we have benefited from open adoption, which means we remain in close contact with our children's biological families. These birth parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and even great grandparents have accepted us more fully than we ever expected and are kind and generous to our whole family in beautiful ways. As a result, I've been given the opportunity to understand "family" in a more robust and inspiring sense than I ever would have anticipated.

So, as you look around your Thanksgiving or Christmas table this year, I have two requests. First, think about who might be hiding a story they aren't sure if it's safe to share. How can you create a safe and loving environment for someone who is different, like each of us are, and allow them to feel welcome and included? The other is to take stock in the inevitable imperfections and irregularities of family life and, with a sense of true peace, count them as blessings that reveal both our true humanity and what we have in common with Jesus and his journey here on Earth.



*Troy Kaser and Tee Earls have been parishioners since they moved back to Seattle in 2011 and are raising two elementary school age children, Erick and Aubrie.*

Chosen Families

By Chris Galloway

Not all LGBTQ folks are accepted by their birth families. Some have been told to get out and never come back. Some have been shunned not only by their parents, but also siblings and their entire extended family. Some parents have refused to acknowledge a beloved partner. Sometimes, family invitations continue, but the partner is specifically excluded. LGBTQ weddings can be ignored or seen as sinful. Funerals are especially painful when the deceased's family refuses to acknowledge a gay spouse or partner.

In the midst of judgment and rejection by families of origin, the desire for loving and welcoming families is very real and important. Hence, the concept of "chosen families." A friend told me "It's pretty simple. I choose to celebrate with people who love and accept me. People I like, who are like me. Gay people can pick who we want for family. I bet lots of people wish they could do that."

Chosen family does not mean substitute family. Chosen families are committed to each other, build their own traditions and ways of celebrating. Chosen families are all about love.

A friend I worked with told me about spending Thanksgivings with his chosen family in a house in the Alpine Lakes near Leavenworth. Together, they baked pies and rolls and cooked a turkey dinner with each one making his favorite side dish. They had leftovers to last through the weekend and hiked for hours. He told me about this the week after their 9th annual Thanksgiving in the mountains.

A group of friends I knew (a gay male couple, a lesbian couple and a straight couple) became each other's chosen local family. Each had loving family elsewhere but they celebrated holidays together at each other's homes. They explored the Northwest (Mt. St. Helens, the Olympic Coast, Port Townsend), cooking together, taking long walks, and always a big puzzle going on the dining table. They were part of each other's weddings - gay and straight - and saw each other through joy and sorrow, jobs and children, illness and death.

Holidays are about celebrating with family. All kinds of families- extended traditional families, nuclear families, blended families, chosen families, adopted families. All are part of God's family. All are children of God.

## Popular culture

Make it a rainbow holiday! Glitter! Paper and scissors and magic markers! Origami! Shrinky Dink! Unicorns! Make rainbow place cards for the big feast! Fancy cookies!



# 2021 Environmental Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 28 <b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b></p> <p><b>In Laudato Si', Pope Francis calls us toward sustainability.</b> This Advent, register your family to join the <a href="http://LaudatoSiActionPlatform.org">LaudatoSiAction Platform.org</a>.</p>	<p>November 29</p> <p><b>Advent is a time of preparation.</b> Learn about environmental ethics with Fr. James Martin at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIqFTYLC4&amp;t=2s">www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIqFTYLC4&amp;t=2s</a></p>	<p>November 30</p>  <p><b>Meditate on God's creation.</b> Breathe in, and receive God's wonders. Breathe out, and say thanks for those wonders.</p>	<p>December 1</p> <p><b>Pray.</b> Set a time every day to pray as a family, thanking God for the gifts of creation and praying for its care.</p> 	<p>2</p> <p><b>Advocate!</b> Urge your elected officials to work for a sustainable future and talk to your family about caring for God's creation.</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>It can difficult to talk about the climate crisis.</b> Early Jewish houses engaged in constructive conflict while still maintaining close relationships. Today, have that conversation.</p>	<p>4</p>  <p><b>God's creation reveals itself often in silence.</b> As Christmas approaches, use this time to behold God's glory in nature.</p>
<p>5 <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b></p> <p><b>Decorate a Tree for Birds</b> Place suet, pinecones with peanut butter, and seed trays on a tree in your yard. This is great for kids.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p><b>Today is the memorial of St. Nicholas.</b> He was a 4th century bishop known for his generosity to the poor.</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>We remember those who died in 1941 in Pearl Harbor.</b> Pray for the victims of all wars, and for the fullness of God's peace to come into our world.</p>	<p>8 <b>Immaculate Conception</b></p> <p><i>Mother Mary, we are in need of your immaculate gaze. Help us to look upon all of Creation with respect and awareness.</i></p>	<p>9</p>  <p><b>Use heat mindfully.</b> Turn your thermostat to 65°F or lower at night, and to 63° when away from home. Invest in space heaters.</p>	<p>10</p>  <p><b>Outdoor Mini-Lights Can Save Energy</b> A 100-light string uses only 40 watts. For the most efficient outdoor holiday lighting, consider solar LED strings.</p>	<p>11</p>  <p><b>Save water.</b> Take shorter showers, only do laundry when you have a full load, and turn off water when brushing your teeth, etc.</p>
<p>12 <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b></p> <p><i>Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!</i> (Phil 4:4) How can you include Creation in your Advent rejoicing today?</p>	<p>13</p> <p><b>Make today a Meatless Monday.</b> In Genesis, God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth. They will be yours for food."</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>Host a Christmas fundraiser for a local food bank.</b> Food banks can turn donated dollars into more meals because they can buy groceries at reduced cost.</p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>Reuse and repurpose!</b> Instead of buying wrapping paper, reuse old gift wrap, bags or boxes. Be creative—shoe boxes and brown bags work great!</p>	<p>16</p>  <p><b>Stop relying on single-use plastic water bottles.</b> Invest in a reusable water bottle. While you're at it, give reusable water bottles as gifts!</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday, Pope Francis!</b></p> 	<p>18</p> <p><b>'Tis the season for good food.</b> Try not to overindulge this holiday, and to live a little more lightly.</p> 
<p>19 <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b></p> <p><b>God's creation reveals itself often in silence.</b> As Christmas approaches, use this time to behold God's glory in nature.</p>	<p>20</p> <p><b>If you want to wash the winter grime off your car, take it to a commercial car wash.</b> Commercial car washes are required to treat their dirty wash water.</p>	<p>21</p>  <p><b>Today is the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year.</b> Turn off lights when you leave a room. Start using LED light bulbs.</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>A small oil leak has a big impact on our cars, rivers, &amp; Puget Sound.</b> Every drop means a shorter lifespan for your car. Oil is toxic to people, wildlife, &amp; plants.</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>Plant something.</b> Plant a garden, tree and/or plants native to western Washington in your yard.</p> 	<p>24</p> <p><b>Mary is troubled when the angel Gabriel tells her she will conceive.</b> She is instructed, "Be not afraid." Like Mary, may we be open to God, as we face the climate crisis.</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Celebrate Christmas Day with a peaceful walk through nature.</b> Plan to go before Christmas dinner while everyone still has lots of energy.</p>

**St. Joe's wishes you & your loved ones a Merry Christmas!**

*Calendar compiled by St. James Cathedral and graciously shared with St. Joe's. These tips have come from a number of sources, including Earth Ministry, Catholic Climate Covenant, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Dioceses of Worcester, MA and Columbus, OH, and Puget Sound Starts Here.*

# Becoming Antiracist

December 2021

## Understanding The Racial Wealth Gap in America

**Scripture:** James 2: 14-17. “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled”, without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

**History:** Institutional/Systemic Racism: The racial segregation and disparities in wealth between Caucasians and African American people include legacies of historical policies. In the Social Security Act of 1935, agricultural workers and servants, most of whom were black, were excluded because key white southerners did not want governmental assistance to change the agrarian system. In the Wagner Act of 1935, Blacks were blocked by law from challenging the barriers to entry into the newly protected labor unions and securing the right to collective bargaining. In the National Housing Act of 1939, the property appraisal system tied property value and eligibility for government loans to race. The 1936 Underwriting Manual used by the Federal Housing Administration to guide residential mortgages gave 20 percent weight to a neighborhood’s protection, for example, zoning ordinances, deed restrictions, high speed traffic arteries, from adverse influences, such as infiltration of inharmonious racial groups. Thus, white-majority neighborhoods received government’s highest property value ratings, and white people were eligible for government loans and aid. Between 1934 and 1962, less than 2 percent of government-subsidized housing went to non-white people. – *The Angela Project Presents 40 days of Prayer for The Liberation of American Descendants of Slavery*, Simmons College of Kentucky, 2019

In 1968, the Fair Housing Act (FHA) was signed into law to eliminate the effects of state-sanctioned racial segregation. But it failed to change the status quo as the United States remained nearly as segregated as before 1968. A newer discriminating lending practice was the subprime lending in the 1990’s. Lenders targeted high-interest subprime loans to low-income and minority neighborhoods who might be eligible for fair-interest prime loans. Securitization, mortgage brokers, other lenders, and legislative deregulation of the mortgage lending industry all played a role in promoting the subprime lending market. – *The Angela Project Presents 40 days of Prayer for The Liberation of American Descendants of Slavery*, Simmons College of Kentucky, 2019

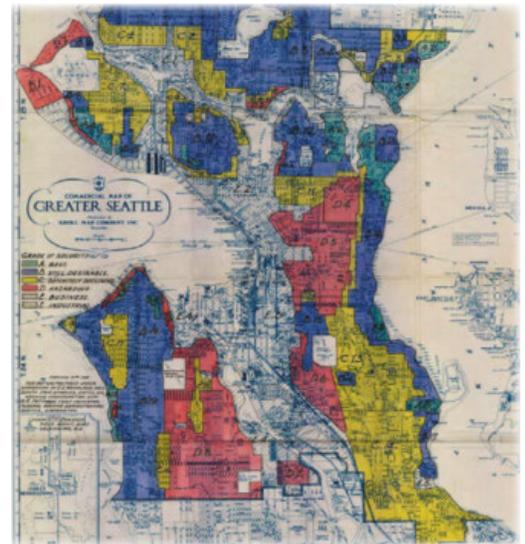
Read more about segregation in Seattle: [Segregated Seattle](https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/seggregated.htm) by the University of Washington, Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project <https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/seggregated.htm>

Redlining in Seattle Seattle City Archives <https://www.seattle.gov/city-archives/exhibits-and-education/online-exhibits/redlining-in-seattle>

Videos: Watch “Explained: The Racial Wealth Gap” on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mqrhn8khGLM>

“Redlined: A Legacy of Housing Discrimination” on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFQQOwaJ1jA>

Prayer: “Gracious God, Shake the foundations of our conscience until we cannot help but change our course...Cause us to live our lives to serve others. Teach us that life, liberty and pursuit of happiness requires justice and hope and help and caring. Expand our morality beyond the narrowness of personal piety into the broadness of public policy. Give us the strength to challenge racism, poverty, unchecked militarism, and ecological devastation. Empower us with Your Spirit that we might be a nation unto God, not unto fear; show us again that America is only here by your grace.” From “A Prayer for America” by Rev. William Barber, quoted in *Just Faith Ministries* 2020-2021



A Banker’s Map of Seattle Showing Neighborhoods Where They Refused to Offer Mortgages

# STEWARDSHIP

## Stewardship Corner with Mary Wiseman

**Did You know? New tax laws and strategies can help you minimize your taxes and maximize your contributions to St. Joseph Parish! Here's how:**

**\$300 Charitable Deduction  
Tax-free Transfer IRA Transfer  
Double Tax Reduction from Appreciated Stock**

**2021 is the last year for the \$300 charitable deduction for non-itemizers!**

Even if you don't itemize deductions, i.e. use the standard deduction, you can deduct up to \$300 for donations made in cash that are paid directly to the charitable organization. This allows anybody to give, even in a small way, and reap the tax benefit. Online giving is an excellent way to capture a record of those donations.

### **Tax-free transfer from an IRA**

If you are 70 or older, you can give up to \$100,000 per year tax-free from your IRA to St. Joe's (called a qualified charitable distribution or QCD). The gift counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD), but isn't included in adjusted gross income.

(Donors need not be required to take an RMD now or until age 72, but may still make a QCD. The distribution may be monthly, quarterly or annually. See your account holder for details.)

### **A double tax reduction by giving appreciated stock**

In lieu of sending cash to St. Joe's, you may find greater tax benefits by giving appreciated stock. Holdings owned for more than a year may be deducted based on their value on the date donated. Non-itemizers still benefit from avoiding the capital gains tax on the stock.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at maryw@st-josephparish.org or call me at (206) 324-2522 ext.114 with any questions or concerns.

Peace and blessings,  
*Mary Wiseman*

Mary Wiseman  
Pastoral Assistant for Stewardship  
maryw@stjosephparish.org (206) 324-2522 x114

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Photo by JOHN TOWNER on Unsplash

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