

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH

THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

Sunday, December 19, 2021 \* Fourth Sunday of Advent\* [www.stjosephparish.org](http://www.stjosephparish.org)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED  
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD  
WOULD BE FULFILLED.”

—LUKE 1:45

*Simbang  
Gabri*



## 4th Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 19, 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 26, 2021

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 1:20-22, 24-28

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3:1-2, 21-24

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:41-52

PRESIDING & PREACHING: RYAN RALLANKA, S.J.

### Parish Center

732 18th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112

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

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### Assisting Priests

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Rev. Ryan Rallanka, S.J. [rrallanka@jesuits.org](mailto:rrallanka@jesuits.org)  
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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



### Liturgy Notes 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.

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.

**Join us to celebrate Simbang Gabi at the  
Saturday 5pm Mass, and afterwards for  
Filipino food and drinks!**

(Proof of vaccination required for post-Mass gathering)

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

Presider **Ryan Rallanka, S.J. (5& 5:30) Mike Bayard, S.J. (9&11)**

**Call To Worship**

*Please stand at the tolling of the bell.*

**Entrance Song**

(5) *Halina, Hesus*

*Hontiveros, Javellana*



Halina, Hesus, halina, Halina, Hesus, halina!

*Come, Jesus, come, Come, Jesus, come!*

Sa simula isinaloob Mo,  
O D'yos, kaligtasan ng tao  
Sa takdang panahon ay tinawag Mo  
Isang bayang lingkod sa Iyo.

*In the beginning You took upon,  
O God, salvation of man  
In due time You called  
A people in servitude to You.*

Gabay ng Iyong bayang hinirang  
Ang pag-asa sa Iyong Mesiya.  
"Emmanuel" ang pangalang bigay sa Kanya:  
"Nasa atin ang D'yos tuwina."

*Guide of Your chosen people  
The hope of Your Messiah.  
"Emmanuel" is the name given to Him:  
"God is always with us."*

Halina, Hesus, halina, Halina, Hesus, halina!

*Come, Jesus, come, Come, Jesus, come!*

Isinilang S'ya ni Maria,  
Birheng tangi, Hiyas ng Judea  
At "Hesus" ang pangalang bigay sa Kanya:  
"Aming D'yos ay Tagapagadya."

*He was born of Mary,  
Virgin only, Jewel of Judea  
And "Jesus" is the name given to Him:  
"Our God is a Provider."*

Darating muli sa takdang araw,  
Upang tanang tao'y tawagin  
At sa puso Mo aming Ama'y bigkisin  
Sa pag-ibig na di mamaliw.

*Coming again on the appointed day,  
To call everyone  
And in Your heart bind our Father  
In love that never fails.*

Halina, Hesus, halina, Halina, Hesus, halina!

*Come, Jesus, come, Come, Jesus, come!*

# O Come Divine Messiah

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.

## 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.

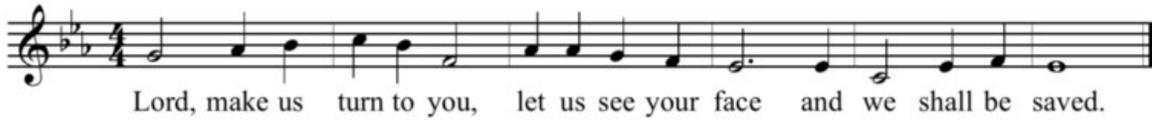
## First Reading

Micah 5:1-4a

Thus says the LORD:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah  
too small to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel;  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient times.  
Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time  
when she who is to give birth has borne,

and the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the children of Israel.  
He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock  
by the strength of the LORD,  
in the majestic name of the LORD, his God;  
and they shall remain, for now his greatness  
shall reach to the ends of the earth;  
he shall be peace.



O shepherd of Israel, hear us, enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.  
Rouse up your might and come to save us. *Ref.*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore; look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted,  
the son of man you have claimed for yourself. *Ref.*

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.  
And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. *Ref.*

**Second Reading**

Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but a body you prepared for me;  
in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight.  
Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll,  
behold, I come to do your will, O God.’”

First he says, “Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in.” These are offered according to the law. Then he says, “Behold, I come to do your will.” He takes away the first to establish the second. By this “will,” we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia*

*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.*

**Gospel**

Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.* And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

**Homily Ryan Rallanka, S.J. (5& 5:30) Mike Bayard, S.J. (9&11)**

**Dismissal**

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

*Bell*



## Offertory Song

(5) *Tanging Yaman* Manoling Francisco, SJ, Norman  
Agatep, SJ, Philip T. Gan, SJ

Ikaw ang aking tanging yaman      You are my only treasure  
Na di lubusang masumpungan      Not to be easily found  
Ang nilikha mong karikitan      The magnificence you've created  
Sulyap ng 'yong kagandahan      Is a glimpse of your beauty

Ika'y hanap sa tuwina      You I search for, always  
Nitong pusong ikaw lamang ang saya      For this heart you are its only happiness  
Sa ganda ng umaga      In the beauty of the morning  
Nangungulila sa'yo sinta      I long for you, dear one

Ikaw ang aking tanging yaman      You are my only treasure  
Na di lubusang masumpungan      Not to be easily found  
Ang nilikha mong karikitan      The magnificence you've created  
Sulyap ng 'yong kagandahan      Is a glimpse of your beauty

Ika'y hanap sa tuwina      You I search for, always  
Sa kapwa ko ika'y laging nadarama      Among others I always feel you  
Sa iyong mga likha      In all that you have created  
Hangad pa ring masdan      I still wish to behold  
Ang 'yong mukha      Your face

Ikaw ang aking tanging yaman      You are my only treasure  
Na di lubusang masumpungan      Not to be easily found  
Ang nilikha mong karikitan      The magnificence that you've created  
Sulyap ng 'yong kagandahan      Is a glimpse of your beauty

### *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came*

*BASQUE*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came with wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame  
All hail said he thou lowly maiden Mary most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

How blest among all women you shall be whom every age will praise continually  
Your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

## 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.

Santo, Santo, Santo Panginoong D'yos.  
Napupuno ang langit at lupa ng kadakilaan Mo.  
Hosana, Hosana, Hosana, sa kaitaasan.  
Hosana, Hosana, Hosana, sa kaitaasan.  
Pinagpala ang napaparito Sa ngalan ng Panginoon.  
Hosana, Hosana, Hosana, sa kaitaasan.  
Hosana, Hosana, Hosana, sa kaitaasan.

## Mystery of Faith

On your cross and your rebirth  
You have truly redeemed us.  
Our dear Lord Jesus Free us all  
Our dear Lord Jesus Now and forever

Sa krus Mo at pagkabuhay  
Kaming natubos Mong tunay.  
Poong Hesus naming mahal Iligtas Mo kaming tanan.  
Poong Hesus naming mahal Ngayon at magpakailanman.

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.

Kordero ng Diyos na nag-aalis

Ng mga kasalanan ng mundo Maawa Ka sa amin

Kordero ng Diyos, maawa Ka

Kordero ng Diyos na nag-aalis

Ng mga kasalanan ng mundo

Maawa Ka sa amin Kordero ng Diyos, maawa Ka

Kordero ng Diyos na nag-aalis

Ng mga kasalanan ng mundo Ipagkaloob Mo sa amin

Ang kapayapaan

## 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!

### (5) Oyayi

Arnel Aquino, SJ

Kay lamig na ng gabi sa ilang Habang ang bituin ay nag-aabang Giliw ko sa aking sinapupunan Kay lapit Mo nang isilang	It's so cold at night in the wilderness While the star is waiting I caress my womb Because You are about to be born
Aming pakikipagsapalaran Upang makahanap ng tahanan Abot-abot ang kaba sa dibdib Kay lapit Mo sa panganib	Our adventure To find a home Chest throbbing is palpable Because You are close to danger
Oh, giliw kong Anak Tupad na pangarap ko Pagsilay Mo sa ating mundo Maging tahanan ng mahirap At puso Mo'y tanggulan ng aba	Oh, my dear Son My dream came true Reflect on our world Be home to the poor And Your heart is a fortress of woe
Sa kapaguran ng Iyong amain Ang disyertong pilit niyang bagtasin Animo'y walang patid ang lawak Buhay nati'y kanyang hawak (buhay nati'y kanyang hawak)	In the weariness of Your uncle The desert he struggled to traverse The extent seems to be unbroken Our lives are in his hands (our lives are in his hands)
Oh, giliw kong Anak Tupad na pangarap ko Pagsilay Mo sa ating mundo Maging tahanan ng mahirap At puso Mo'y tanggulan ng aba	Oh, my dear Son My dream came true Reflect on our world Be home to the poor And Your heart is a fortress of woe
Liwanag ng unang pasko Hesus, bituin ng mundo	Light of the first christmas Jesus, star of the world
Oh, giliw kong Anak Tupad na pangarap ko Pagsilay Mo sa ating mundo Maging tahanan ng mahirap At puso Mo'y tanggulan ng aba	Oh, my dear Son My dream came true Reflect on our world Be home to the poor And Your heart is a fortress of woe
Kay lamig na ng gabi sa ilang Habang ang bituin ay nag-aabang Giliw ko sa aking sinapupunan Kaunting tiis na lang Tahanan nati'y daratnan	It's so cold at night in the wilderness While the star is waiting I caress my womb Just a little patience We will arrive home

# Recessional

## (5) Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit

Vicente D. Rubi, Mariano Vestil, Levi Celerio

Ang Pas-ko ay su - ma - pit Ta - yo ay ma-ngag-si - a - wit Ng  
 Ta - yo'y ma-ngag-si - a - wit Ha-bang ang mun-do'y ta - hi - mik Ang  
 ma-ga-gan-dang hi - mig Da - hil sa ang Diyos ay pag - i - big. Nang si Kris-to'y i -  
 a - raw ay su - ma - pit Ng Sang-gol na du - lot ng la - ngit. Ta - yo ay mag-ma  
 si - lang May tat-long ha - ring nag - si - da - law. At  
 ha - lan A - ting sun - din ang Gin-tong A - ral. At  
 ang ba-wat i - sa ay nag-si-pag-han - dog ng ta - nging a - lay  
 mag-bu-hat nga - yon ka - hit hin-di Pas - ko ay mag - bi - ga - yan

Christmas has come let us sing beautiful melodies and songs, because God is love. When Christ was born, he was visited by Three Kings and each of them Offered a unique gift especially meant for him.

Let us sing while the world is silent the day has come of the Infant offered from heaven. Let us love one another, let us heed the Golden Rule and from now on, Even when it's not Christmas, let us have charity towards one another

It is New Year! Let us have new lives so our country will be joyous Let us work hard so we can achieve prosperity.

## People Look East

BESANCON/Farjeon

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near Of the  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare. One more  
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the  
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more  
 5. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth Him who  
 crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there: Give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley  
 a - ble, Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple look  
 nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple look  
 fro - zen He for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple look  
 weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple look  
 hum - ming With the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple look  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Guest is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Rose is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Bird is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Star is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Sponsored by St. Joseph Parish and Seattle University's Center for Jesuit Education  
and Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture

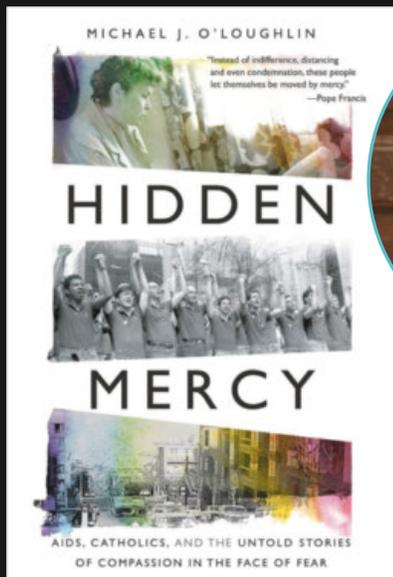
# HIDDEN MERCY

## *Stories of Catholic Responses to the AIDS Epidemic*

A talk with author  
**Michael J. O'Loughlin**  
**Wednesday, February 16th**  
**at 7pm**

Wyckoff Auditorium (ENGN 2nd Floor)  
Seattle University

Register for this  
live, in-person  
event here:



**Michael J. O'Loughlin** is an award-winning journalist and national correspondent for America Media.

He is the host of the New York Times recommended podcast *Plague: Untold Stories of AIDS and the Catholic Church*, which was honored with awards from the National LGBT Journalists Association and the Religion News Association.

Prior to joining America, O'Loughlin was a national reporter for *The Boston Globe*.



ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
THE JESUIT PARISH IN SEATTLE

**SEATTLEU**  
CENTER FOR  
JESUIT EDUCATION  
INSTITUTE FOR  
CATHOLIC THOUGHT AND CULTURE



## Calendar

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

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

**\*Doors open at 3pm. 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 (livestreamed)

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

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

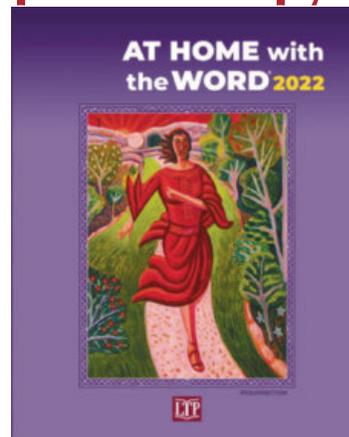
Saturday Jan. 8/Sunday Jan. 9: Baptism of the Lord Masses

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

## Sacramental Prep for Older Children

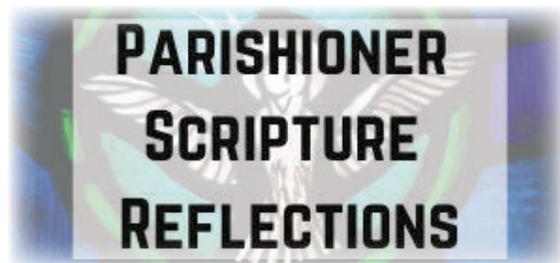
If you have a child Ages 7-12 who wants to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation or Eucharist, a Preparation class is starting up in January following the 9:00am Mass in person. For more information and to register, contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or [stevev@stjosephparish.org](mailto:stevev@stjosephparish.org)

## At Home with the Word - Pick Up Your Copy Today!



We have purchased several hundred copies of the book "At Home with the Word" published by LTP (Liturgy Training Publications). This is a wonderful resource that contains all the Sunday readings for the coming liturgical year. It guides you to a deeper understanding of the Sunday Scriptures, providing insights from Scripture scholars, pastoral reflections, and action steps. The book also includes prayers and citations for the weekday readings.

Please feel free to pick one up in the vestibule. You can make an optional donation to defray the cost of the books by dropping it in the donation box or using the Dip Jar in the vestibule. (Suggested donation is \$10.)



[stjosephparishbiblestudy.wordpress.com](http://stjosephparishbiblestudy.wordpress.com)

## November "Saints Corner" Pictures

If you brought a photo in of your beloved ones for our "Saints Corner", you can go to the Parish Center to pick up your picture on the table in Reception until December 21st.

# LGBTQ: It's All About Love

## Telling Our Stories

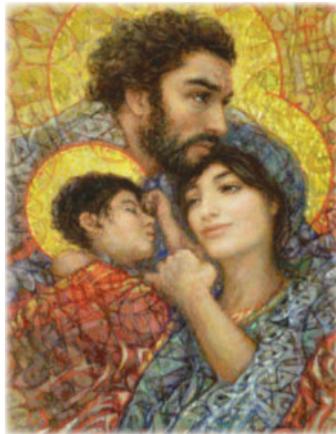
by Theresa Shepherd-Lukasik

A few years ago, a dear pastor friend gave me an icon of the Holy Family and said, "this is for your holy family." It was such a simple gift, but the words rang in my heart, "Yes, my family is a holy family." That was the purpose of our marriage, to love God, to love each other, but through our love we felt called to serve the community of God together. We hoped the "fruit" of our love would extend beyond us one day to our children, either biologically or through adoption, but we also felt called to be "sisters" or "aunties" to our chosen family and members of the church.

At our wedding, the second reading was from Romans 12, in which we were promising to make our marriage an offering of service to God and to the community. Our love was never just for ourselves, but to be shared with our chosen family, the church, the family of God.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another." With these words, we aspired to be people of hope who extended hospitality to the community. As a gay couple, we knew that we'd experience resistance, both in our families and in the church, and yet we want to bless and pray for those who do so. We wanted to weep with those who weep, celebrate with those in joy, we wanted to be a couple who lives the beatitudes not just in our own marriage, but that our love would extend to the community around us.

As I contemplate the Holy Family, I think we tend to sentimentalize families and we make of them idyllic Hallmark movie style families, but that was not reality for the holy family and nor for our own. Mary was an unwed mother, and Joseph was a father who confronts this scandal and wants to send her away quietly; and later on, they became refugees. In the holy family there was real suffering and struggles, yet they trusted in God, they were faithful to God, and they prayed together. Being a family is difficult - there are disagreements, hurts, and struggles, but there is also love, mercy, forgiveness, and joy, which become real signs of God's love in the world. God desires to come to us, to be with us in the messiness of our family, we acknowledge that we are not perfect, but God is with us and is manifest in our love.



After I was presented with the icon of the holy family, I began to see Holy Families everywhere: in refugee and immigrant families seeking work to support their families, in unhoused families looking for a safe place to lay their heads at night, in our parishioners, and in our queer families who adopt children, especially in families where the child is "of the flesh" of one of the parents (as Jesus was), and the spouse, like Joseph, raises the child as their own.

## 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.

# THE Antiphons

Sung in monasteries since at least the eighth century, these prayers begin the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer for December 17-23. Ancient biblical imagery draws from the Hebrew Scriptures to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment of all our hopes. The repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. We invite you to consider praying these antiphons as part of your evening meal prayer, or at the end of the day.



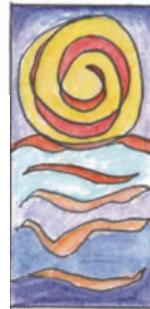
DECEMBER 20

**O Key of David**  
 opening the gates of  
 GOD'S eternal  
 Kingdom  
**COME** and set free  
 the prisoners  
 of darkness.



DECEMBER 17

**O Wisdom**  
 of our GOD most high  
 guiding creation  
 with power and LOVE  
**COME** to teach us  
 the path of  
 knowledge



DECEMBER 21

**O Radiant Dawn**  
 splendor of eternal light  
 sun of justice  
**COME** and shine  
 on those  
 who dwell in darkness  
 and the shadow of death.



DECEMBER 18

**O Leader of the House of Israel**  
 giver of the Law of Moses  
 on Sinai  
**COME** rescue us with  
 your mighty power



DECEMBER 22

**O King of all nations  
 and Keystone  
 of the Church**  
**COME** and save  
 humanity  
 whom you formed  
 from the dust



DECEMBER 19

**O Root of Jesse's Stem**  
 sign of GOD'S LOVE  
 for all his people  
**COME** save us  
 without delay.



DECEMBER 23

**O Emmanuel**  
 our King and  
 Giver of Law  
**COME** save us  
 LORD OUR GOD.

# 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@stjosephparish.org](mailto:maryw@stjosephparish.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](mailto:maryw@stjosephparish.org) (206) 324-2522 x114

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Photo by JOHN TOWNER on Unsplash

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