



Pastor's Letter:

Jubilee of Mercy



The return of the Prodigal Son to the merciful Father

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A great perspective on true mercy; a complete picture, if you will:

I am totally one hundred percent in favor of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. I do worry, however, that in our society the idea of mercy is weakened by our lack of understanding about sin and repentance.

When we hear “Mercy” we too often think, “Oh that just means that nasty old Catholic Church has decided to go easy on everybody for a bit.” Ahhhh. Not really. However, if we’re not careful the Year of Mercy might just become an excuse for lazy and liberal priests to wave a hand and say, “Oh, don’t worry about that....That’s not a sin...” What is needed for mercy to have its full effect is for the person to first understand what sin is, and why it offends God.

The Bible defines sin as “falling short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) We were made in God’s image, but that image is wounded by sin. Our destiny is to have that deep wound completely healed and to be “ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven” in Christ. When that happens, the image of God in us comes to

completion. This is what St Irenaeus meant when he wrote, “The glory of God is a human fully alive.” In other words, once the wound of sin is healed the glory of God in us is restored.

Sin, therefore, is anything that we do or anything we fail to do which keeps us from fulfilling that destiny of being fully alive and therefore fully showing the glory of God.

Mercy is God’s love in action. It is God’s love doing that work of redeeming, ransoming, healing and forgiving.

Think it through. We can only have access to that mercy–God’s love in action–if we ask for it, and we can only ask for it if we know we need it, and we can only know we need it if we are aware that we are lacking it and we can only be aware that we are lacking it when we are aware of sin, because sin is anything we do or anything we fail to do which keeps us from that glory of God.

This, in a rather roundabout way of explaining, is what true repentance consists of. It is not simply feeling bad or guilty or ashamed or afraid we’ll get caught. The church calls this “imperfect contrition” It’s okay, but it’s not good enough “Perfect contrition” is the realization that we have not reached God’s glory for us. It is the deep understanding that we have failed God and his love and that we have “done what we ought not to have done and left undone those things we ought to have done and there is no health in us.” Once we truly repent we can truly receive mercy. That is why the Year of Mercy is also a Year of Repentance.

That is why the Year of Mercy is not simply a carte blanche, wave of the hand, “Oh, God love you. You’ll be fine. Go in peace” True mercy demands true contrition. That’s why we enter into confession with renewed hearts and minds devoted to love and serve God fully. That’s why we go on pilgrimage. That’s why we go to the Holy Door. We do these things so that we might learn true contrition and thereby receive true mercy.

By Fr. Dwight Longenecker

Blessings upon you during these final days of Advent!

Fr. David Mulholland



....so, what’s with the dog?

Fourth Sunday in Advent • December, 20 2015

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun.	Dec.	20	Sunday Masses
Mon.	Dec.	21	No morning Mass
Tues.	Dec.	22	Genoveva Golla Llagas+
Wed.	Dec.	23	Marylee Schaeffer+
Thurs.	Dec.	24	No morning Mass
Fri.	Dec.	25	Christmas
Sat.	Dec.	26	Intentions of St. Mark Parishioners
Sun.	Dec.	27	Sunday Masses
Mon.	Dec.	28	No morning Mass
Tues.	Dec.	29	Roberto Bautista+
Wed.	Dec.	30	Kelly Ramaekers+
Thurs.	Dec.	31	Gene Hansen+
Fri.	Jan.	1	Mary Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation
Sat.	Jan.	2	Bill Delancy+

HOSPITALITY IN SULLIVAN HALL

December 20—It's the Annual Santa Breakfast after all Sunday Masses. Bring your cameras for a photo with Santa.

December 27—Two days ago an angel was proclaiming the birth of our Lord; today the Donut Angel is serving you.

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS

Boy Scouts: Dennis Halpin (206) 365-1971

Knights of Columbus: Jim O'Sullivan (206) 832-7231

St. Vincent de Paul: Mary Kay Snedden (206) 364-7900

Heaven Guild: Barbara Arnesen (206) 940-5010

Ladies Guild: Lynn Waterson (206) 849-5546

Funeral Reception Volunteers: Gini Harmon
(206) 364-6834

Marriage Help: Retrouvaille (206) 706-2608

Seniors & Friends: Judy Parsons (206) 367-1714

Holyhood Cemetery: (206) 363-8404

Beck's Funeral Home: (425) 771-1234

Harvey Funeral Home: (206) 632-0100

STEWARDSHIP 2015-16 The Sunday Collection through 12/13/2015

Weekly Amount Needed	Last Week's Collection	Needed Year to Date	Actual Given Year to Date	Surplus Year to Date
\$ 15,137	\$ 14,908	\$ 363,288	\$ 380,564	\$ 17,276
Online Giving	# Online Givers	Amount Collected Online:		
	All Funds: 39	\$ 3,410		

CALENDAR

Sun.	12/20/15	4th Sunday in Advent
		KofC Santa Breakfast after all Sunday Masses
		Religious Ed, 10:10 am, School
Mon.	12/21/15	Family Rosary, 6:30 pm, Church
		Boy Scouts, 7 pm, Cafeteria
Tues.	12/22/15	KofC Officer Meeting, 7 pm
		St. Vincent de Paul Mts., 7:30 pm, Library
Thurs.	12/24/15	Christmas Vigil Masses, 6 pm & Midnight
Fri.	12/25/15	Christmas Day Masses, 8:30 am & 10:30 am
Sun.	12/27/15	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, all Masses
		YLI, noon, Library
Mon.	12/28/15	Family Rosary, 6:30 pm, Church
		Boy Scouts, 7 pm, Cafeteria
		Light Weigh, 7 pm, Sullivan Hall
Tues.	12/29/15	Elaine Mulrone funeral and reception, 11 am
Thurs.	12/31/15	Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation, 5 pm
Fri.	1/1/16	Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation, Mass at 9 am
Sun.	1/3/16	Religious Ed, 10:10 am, School
Mon.	1/4/16	Family Rosary, 6:30 pm, Church
		Boy Scouts, 7 pm, Cafeteria



A TIME TO HEAL...physically, emotionally, or spiritually

Allan Meier, son of Virginia Meier

Jim Salmonsens, brother of Doug Salmonsens; **Jacquie Ingram and Mary Devlin-Sage**, friends of Rose Buckley
Charles Asiedu

Jim Roufs and Isaiah Schmitz, cousins of Nadette Yarbrough

Herald Householder and Brian Abbott, friends of Steve Abele; **Anna Marie Epps**, grandniece of Rose Buckley
Janice Valdez, friend of Diane Bunce **Carol Bettinger**, mother of Rebecca Anderson

Sister Anne Cornelia, sister of Cornelia Miller

A TIME TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY IN THE MILITARY

SN Alexander Thorne, USN, son of John and AnnaLise Thorne

1st Lt. Owen Stratton, USA, deployed overseas, son of Tom and Cory Stratton;

Andrew T. Kerrick, Airman 1st Class USAF, grandson of Connie Hanson

Ensign Dylan Thomas Jessum, USN, grandson of Tom and Mary Pat Lord

PFC Isaiah Thorne, USMC, son of John and AnnaLise Thorne;

David Leitzen, SPC, US Army, nephew of Teresa and Elenor K. Schoen

Annika Jensen, IT3, USN, daughter of Paul and Maryjane Jensen

Taylor Amundsen, USAF, grandson of Mary Amundsen; **John E. Eaton, S/Sgt USMC**, grandson of Evelyn Combe

Bryant McDaniel, USAF, nephew of James and Lynn Ronald; **Michael Angelo Silang, USN**

Mark Anthony Silang, USMC; Matthew Johnson, USAF, grandson of Helen Bradley

Christopher Abele, ITC (SW/IDW) USN, son of Steven and Janet Abele

Nathan Keiffer, Airman 1st Class, USAF, son of Nigel and Cheryl Keiffer

Zachary Sharp, USAR, grandson of Nigel and Cheryl

A TIME TO MOURN...

Elaine Mulroney

Marian Halpin

Marjorie Bollinger

"May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last."

J. H. Cardinal Newman

CHANGES IN THE PRAYER LIST

We now have a Prayer Intention book in our parish. It can be found in the church on the podium to the left of the Pieta statue (which is just to the left of the main exit doors). This will be a place where you can write down the concerns of your heart, either for your loved ones or for the world at large. We will continue to have the prayer sheet in the bulletin, but the names will appear for a shorter time. If there is an immediate need for prayer that you want in the bulletin, please continue to call or email your request. Even if you do not have a prayer request, please stop by and see what prayers are needed by your parish family.

Mass Schedule for the Christmas Season 2015



Thursday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Christmas Vigil Mass: 6:00 p.m. (no incense)

Christmas Mass at Midnight: 12:00 a.m. (incense)

Friday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

Christmas Mass at Dawn: 8:30 a.m. (no incense)

Christmas Day Mass: 10:30 a.m. (incense)

December 26-27 ~ Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. (no incense)

Sunday Masses: 7:30 a.m. (no incense)

9:00 a.m. (incense) & 11:00 a.m. (incense)

Mary, Mother of God

First Time Thursday, December 31 Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. (no incense)

Friday, January 1 Mass: 9:00 a.m. (no incense)

Sunday, January 3 ~ Epiphany of our Lord

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. (no incense)

Sunday Masses: 7:30 a.m. (no incense)

9:00 a.m. (incense) & 11:00 a.m. (incense)

Sunday, January 10 - Baptism of our Lord

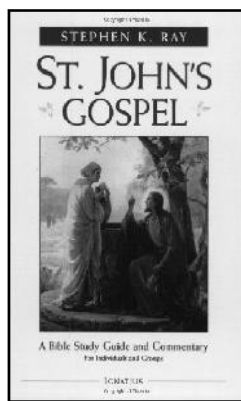
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m. (no incense)

Sunday Masses: 7:30 a.m. (no incense)

9:00 a.m. (incense) & 11:00 a.m. (incense)

BIBLE STUDY RETURNS IN JANUARY

The beloved disciple, St John, was a special witness to the greatest events in history. He was the only person present at all three of the key events in the life of Christ: the Transfiguration, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. In addition to this, he cared for Holy Mother Mary for the remainder of her earthly life, giving him countless opportunities to glean from her wisdom. Further, he was the only person ever taken up in the spirit into heaven, before the throne of God, and shown the coming victory of good over evil at the end times. Finally, he was the only author in the New Testament who was proclaimed a prophet by an archangel according to the Word of God. All this makes the Gospel of St John a true blessing... the inside-story of Jesus Christ as revealed by God to His prophet, the beloved disciple. Please join us as we study this most profound, yet mysterious, of all the Gospels.



Our bible study of the Gospel of St John will begin on Thursday, January 7, from 7 to 9 pm in Sullivan Hall, and will meet each Thursday until early June. For the first class, you will need to bring your bible and order our study guide: *St John's Gospel, A Bible Study Guide and Commentary* by Stephen K. Ray. You can order this from Amazon or through your local Catholic bookstore. Please read Chapter One of the Gospel and Chapters 1a & 1b from the Stephen Ray book before the first class. The book is currently selling

for under \$15 from Amazon (under \$12 for the Kindle version), and appears to be in high demand, so you should order soon. The retail list price is \$19.95.

For more information, contact the class leader, Claude Golden, claudgolden@gmail.com, or call 206.362.2105.

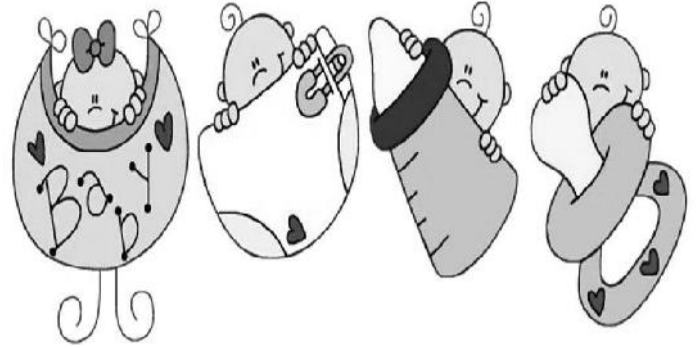
SAVE THE DATE – MARCH FOR LIFE 2016

Get ready to join us in Olympia on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 for the Washington State March for Life. We will have buses leaving from St. Mark on that morning. Join us for a faith-filled experience as we stand with others who support the dignity of all human life and encourage our state elected officials to do the same. Sign ups will start next month.

LIGHT WEIGH MEETING - AN INVITATION TO A TRANSFORMATION!

Are you interested in finding out about Light Weigh, our parish Bible Study Weight-loss group? We meet weekly on Monday evenings and would love to have you join us! Our next session starts in January. For more information call Rebecca at 206-718-1205.

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION BABY SHOWER – SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016



Please join the Respect Life Committee after all the Masses on Sunday, January 10 in Sullivan Hall at a baby shower to celebrate the conclusion of our 2015 Spiritual Adoption prayer. We will be accepting newborn items: sleepers/jammies, bibs, booties, blankets, etc., for a local pregnancy center. Cash will be given to Pro-life of Washington (the billboard people)

IS YOUR MARRIAGE IN TROUBLE?

Have you and your spouse drifted apart over the years? Are you simply going through the motions, but wish your marriage could be much more than that? Do you think it's impossible to have a warm and loving marriage? Think again. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-v) can help. For confidential information about, or to register for our upcoming program beginning Jan 22-24, 2016 call 360-671-6479 or visit our website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

GABRIEL PROJECT

Please continue praying for our parish's Gabriel Project. This four-year-old apostolate ministers to women facing crisis pregnancies. We are all called to be Christ to others. Pregnant women can request assistance by calling 888-926-2643.

ANNUAL YEAR-END PAYMENTS AND DONATIONS

Want to make your Church donation by year-end for tax purposes?

Any payments or new gifts you want credited to the 2015 calendar year for tax purposes need to be in the church office by December 31st. Ways to contribute?

- Sunday collection basket or Parish Office mail box
- www.osvonlinegiving.com/149
- mail to St. Mark Parish, 18033 15th Place NE, Shoreline 98155 (postmark must be stamped by Dec 31, 2015 in order to be applied in the calendar year).

**ST. MARK RESPECT LIFE
COMMITTEE'S**



**ANNUAL TRIP TO
OLYMPIA
FOR THE
**MARCH FOR
LIFE****

Prayerfully ride to Olympia with fellow parishioners and friends as we join thousands of other people from across the state in standing up for the Gift of Life! We will attend the Mass for Life at St. Martin's University prior to the rally.

**Two buses will leave
St. Mark Church at 7:30 AM
Tuesday, January 19, 2016**



This will be the 43rd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade. If you have any questions or to reserve seats call Michelle Dotsch at (425)776-0320***

Mission Statement

for our parish:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20

Vision Statement

for our parish:

“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles... they ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” - Acts 2:42

SAINT MARK PARISH REGISTRATION

ID # _____

Date _____

Please Complete Both Sides of Form

This is the name that will be used to identify your family.

Family Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone Numbers _____

Member	Adult #1	Adult #2	Child #1	Child #2	Child #3	Child/Adult #4
First Name						
Last Name						
Last Name before you were married						
Gender	Male Female	Male Female	Male Female	Male Female	Male Female	Male Female
Birthdate	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___
Religion						
Occupation						

Please Complete Both Sides of Form

