



During the month of November, we remember
all the deceased parishioners of St. James Cathedral.
In a special way, we remember our benefactors,
1988-2008, whose generous bequests continue
to sustain the mission of our parish:

Alberta Corkery • George Corkery • Betty Hill • Dennis Shea •
Naomi LaVigne • James Lyons • Monica Bambenek • Helen Leonard
• Maude D. Baudizzone • Katherine Baillargeon • Helen Skahill •
Bertha Gladys Giffin • Andy Graytak • Viola M. Maloca • Marie M.
Mallon • Clyde Bennett • Gertrude Wineholt • N. Reinhardt • Sara
Hennessey • Frances Irene Bisey • Mary Winihan • Charles Harmen •
Christine Dolence • Alice Henderson • Arthur Brazil • James Gatling
• Harry Folven • Helena Sheridan • Eileen O'Neil • Yvonne L.
Dupont • Charles Giese • Agnes Holland • Pauline Smith • Eileen
Brown • Peggy Leuschen • Virginia Stewart • David Yozamp •
Florence Dassell • Margaret Smith • Kathro Kidwell • Barbara
Vance • Marguerite O'Neill • Kenneth "Al" and Bernice Bennett •
Anna Arseth • Malvina Foubert • Emil Jobb, MD • Barbara Brown •
Edmund S. Adams • Robert DeWitt • Marie McLaughlin • Mary C.
Miller • Margaret and Marie Purtell • John William Warren •
Howard Hoyt • Madeline Fishbach • Marion C. Smith • Marguerite
Campbell-Gambrell • Mary Alice Kirkpatrick • Patricia Callaghan •
Mabel Luby • May Har Luke • Faye McTague • Robert E. Ricks •
Margaret Smith • Wesley Zeman • Carl Sterner van Hollebeke •
Kevin E. Ryan • David Anderson • Marjorie Ryan • Elizabeth Grace
Scott • Mary Ann Martin • Jeanette Woodward • Keith McCaw •
Elizabeth Hansmann • Marie C. Murphy • Lillian Sullivan • Florence
Foley • Mary L. Forbes • Diane Simperman • Genevieve Albers •
Margaret McDonnell • Frances Dorosh • P. Martin • Leone Beck •
Capitola Rockwell • Joanna Lass • Yvonne J. Jackson • Mary S.
Horrigan • Elsie L. Martin • Robert D. Hyssop • Nellie Suchadolski •
Marie J. Franklin • Helen Lamb • Gary Clampett • Ellen Ashmore •
Angela Beck • Francis H. Smith • Timothy Louis Prior • Regina &
Eugene Parolik • Charles Karoly Nemeth • Elizabeth & Rosa
Nemmers • Francis H. Smith • Sophia Stebbins • Virginia Henning •
Alma Kramer • Raymond F. Strojny • Glen Lee Hughes
• Lucille Morin • Mary Beth Kelly •

The **COMMEMORATION** of the **FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL November 2, 2008

ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR ALL SOULS THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH CELEBRATION (Noon)

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE LITURGY WE ARE ABOUT TO CELEBRATE,
PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELLULAR PHONES.

PRELUDE
(Noon)

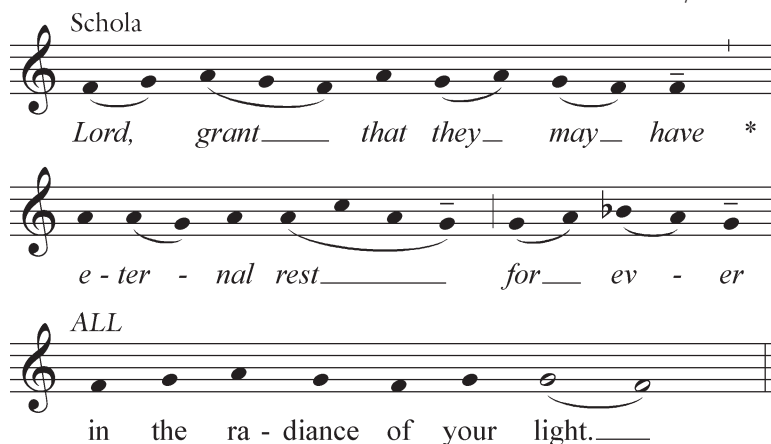
Élégie
Fugue in G Minor

Peeters
Bach

INTROIT FOR ALL SOULS

chant/Durufié

Schola



Lord, grant that they may have *

e - ter - nal rest for ev - er

ALL

in the ra - diance of your light.

The names of parishioners buried from the Cathedral during the past year, and of benefactors of the Cathedral 1988-2008, are placed over the crypt. At the Noon Mass, children carry names of deceased loved ones which are placed over the crypt and incensed during the entrance procession.

ENTRANCE (Noon only) No. 705 *For all the saints*

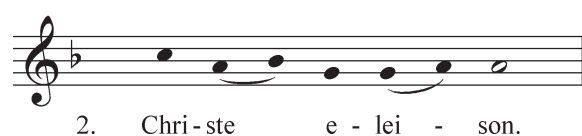
SINE NOMINE

PENITENTIAL RITE

Vatican XVI



1 & 3. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.



2. Chri - ste e - lei - son.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Job 19: 1-23, 27a

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 23

Gelineau



My shep - herd is the Lord, noth - ing in - deed shall I want.

SECOND READING

I Corinthians 15: 51-57

ALLELUIA No. 280

O filii et filie

chant

GOSPEL

John 14: 1-6

HOMILY

Father Michael G. Ryan

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES (10:00)

CREED No. 238 *chanted on one tone*

(10:00 and Sunday Evening)

Credo III

Presider Credo in unum Deum,

Schola Patrem omnipotentem factorem cæli et terræ,
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.*

ALL

Et in u - num Do - mi - num Je - sum Chri - stum,
Fi - li - um De - i u - ni - ge - ni - tum.

*We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,*

Schola Et ex Patre natum ante omnia sæcula.

eternally begotten of the Father;

ALL

De - um de De - o, lu - men de lú - mi - ne,
De - um ve - rum de De - o ve - ro.

*God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,*

Schola Genitum, non factum, consubstantialem Patri:
per quem omnia facta sunt.

*begotten, not made,
one in being with the Father:
through him all things were made.*

ALL

Qui pro - pter nos hó - mi - nes et prop - ter no - stram
sa - lú - tem de - scén - dit de cæ - lis.

*For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:*

ALL BOW AT THE WORDS OF INCARNATION, SUNG BY THE SCHOLA:

Schola Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine,
et homo factus est.

*by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.*

ALL

Cru - ci - fí - xus é - ti - am pro no - bis
sub Pón - ti - o Pi - lá - to; pas - sus et se - púl - tus est.

*For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.*

Schola Et resurrexit tertia die, secundum Scripturas.

*On the third day he rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;*

ALL

Et a - scén - dit in cæ - lum,
se - det ad dēx - te - ram Pa - tris.

*he ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.*

Schola Et iterum venturus est cum gloria,
judicare vivos et mortuos,
cuius regni non erit finis.

*He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

ALL

Et in Spí - ri - tum San-ctum, Dó-mi-num et vi-vi-fi-
cán-tem: qui ex Pa-tre Fi - li - ó-que pro - cé - dit.

*We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from
the Father and the Son.*

Schola Qui cum Patre et Filio simul
adoratur et conglorificatur:
qui locutus est per prophetas.

*With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.*

ALL

Et u - nam, san - ctam, ca - thó - li - cam
et a - pos - tó - li - cam Ec - clé - si - am.

*We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.*

Schola Confiteor unum Baptisma in remissionem peccatorum.

*We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.*

ALL

Et ex-spe-cto re-sur-re-cti - o-nem mor-tu - o - rum.

*We look for the resurrection
of the dead,*

Schola Et vitam venturi sæculi.

and the life of the world to come.

ALL

A - - - - - men.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Litany of Saints

Te ro - ga - mus au - di - nos.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

10:00

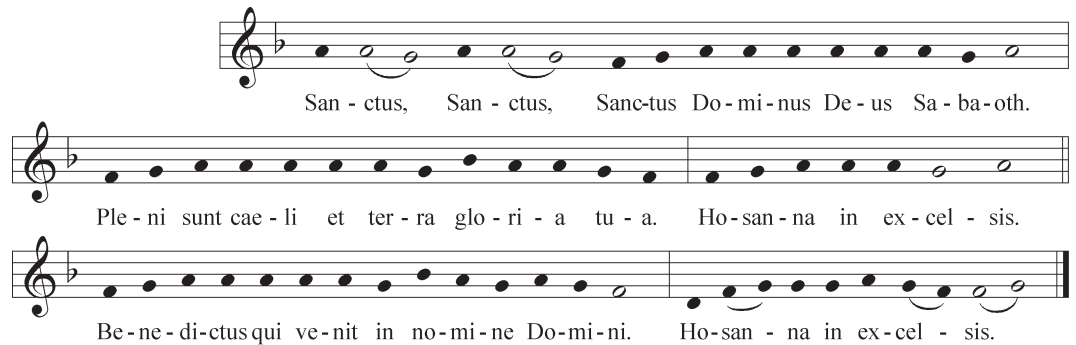
“O thou the true & only light” from *St. Paul*

Mendelssohn

O thou the true and only light, Direct the souls that walk in night;
And bring them 'neath thy sheltering care,
To find their blest redemption there.
Illumine those who blindly roam;
And call the wanderer kindly home:
The hearts astray that union crave,
And those in doubt, confirm and save.

SANCTUS

Vatican XVIII/Durufié



San - ctus, San - ctus, Sanc-tus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth.
Ple-ni sunt cae-li et ter-ra glo-ri-a tu-a. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.
Be-ne-di-ctus qui ve-nit in no-mi-ne Do-mi-ni. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.

MEMORIAL ACCOMMODATION

Adapted by St. James Cathedral



Dy-ing you de-stroyed our death. Ri-sing you re-stored our life.
Lord Je-sus, come in glo-ry.

AMEN No. 350

chant

AGNUS DEI

Vatican XVIII/Durufié



Cantor: ALL:
A-gnus De-i, * qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: 1, 2. mi-se-re-re no-bis.
3. do-na no-bis pa-cem.

COMMUNION

May eternal light shine upon them, O Lord,
in the company of your saints for eternity,
for you are full of goodness.

chant

(10:00)

Ave verum corpus

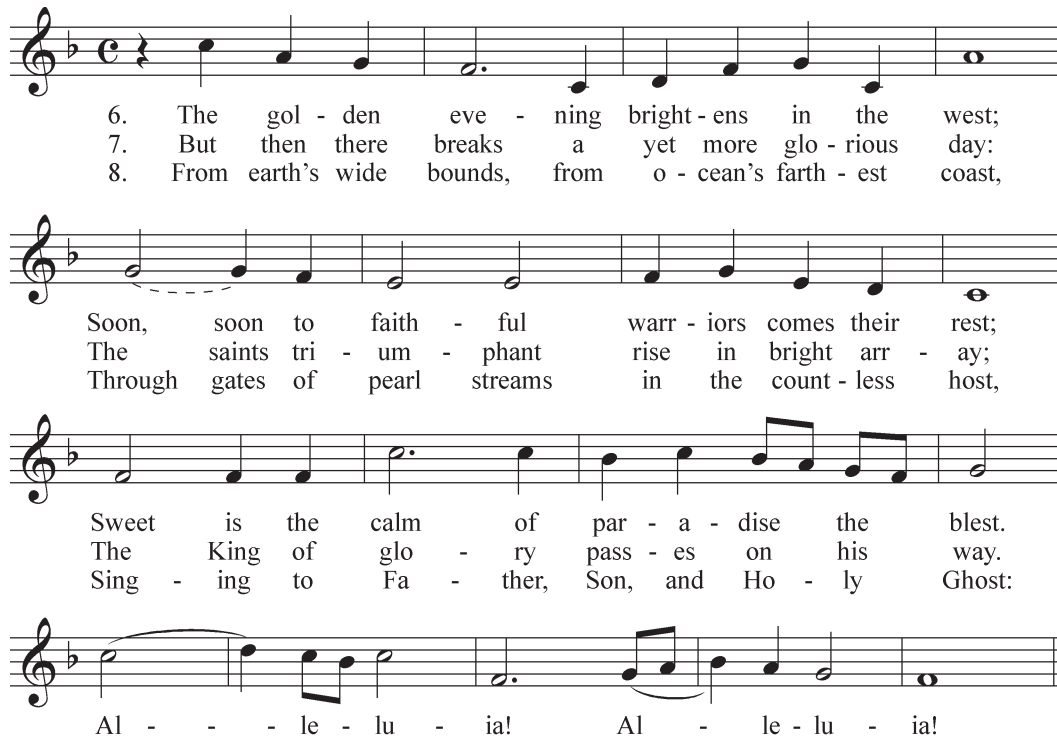
Mozart

AFTER RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION, please return to your place and **kneel or be seated**. This is the norm for large parishes in the Archdiocese of Seattle and we thank you for following our practice.

HYMN OF PRAISE

For all the saints

SINE NOMINE



6. The gol - den eve - ning bright - ens in the west;
 7. But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day;
 8. From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's farth - est coast,
 Soon, soon to faith - ful warr - iors comes their rest;
 The saints tri - um - phant rise in bright arr - ay;
 Through gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,
 Sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.
 The King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.
 Sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:
 Al - - - le - lu - ia! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

PROCESSION

(10:00)

(Noon)

*In paradisum**In paradisum**Präludium in C Minor*

Daniel-Lesur

chant/Durufié

Mendelssohn

St. James Cathedral - Seattle

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend Alexander J. Brunett, Archbishop of Seattle

PASTOR

The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

IN RESIDENCE

The Reverend David A. Brant
The Reverend Thomas Marti, MM

PASTORAL ASSISTANT for ADMINISTRATION

Lawrence N. Brouse (206-382-4280)

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

John Simpson (206-274-3173)

SOCIAL OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

Patty Bowman, Director (206-382-4515)
Jennifer Ibach (206-654-4640)
Jim and Jill McAuliffe, Cathedral Kitchen (206-264-2091)
Deacon Joseph Curtis

LITURGY

Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy (206-622-3559)
Deacon David Olsen, Stephen Pace, Bryan Long, Brenda Bellamy,
Sacristans

MUSIC MINISTRY (206-382-4874)

Dr. James Savage, Director of Music
Joseph Adam, Organist (206-382-4597)
Clint Kraus, Associate Organist; Director of Youth Music
Stacey Sunde, Music Assistant
Ian Newhall, Coordinator of Special Projects

FAITH FORMATION

Helen Oesterle, Director/RCIA (206-382-4514)
TerryAnn Bowen, "Welcome Back" & Confirmation (206-382-2018)
Marianne Coté, Youth & Family Ministry (206-382-4512)
Lita McBride, Children's Faith Formation (206-654-4658)
Theresa Van de Ven, Administrative Assistant (206-219-5822)

MINISTRY TO IMMIGRANTS (206-382-4511)

Christopher J. Koehler, Director
Glenda Caldwell, ESL Tutoring
Jim Hodges, Citizenship
Cecilia Erin Walsh, Refugee Project Coordinator
Lupita Gonzalez, Community Mentors
Mali Main, Development Assistant

STEWARDSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

Maria Laughlin, Director (206-382-4284)

WEDDING COORDINATORS

Linda Carr, Bev Mauser (206-622-3559 ext. 3979)

PARISH OFFICE

Kay Kaiser, Executive Assistant (206-654-4650)
Marilyn Maddeford, Receptionist (206-622-3559)
Joan McDonell, Marriage Tribunal Advocate (206-622-3559)
Sister Mary Slater, SNJM, Bookkeeper (206-622-3559 ext. 3974)

FACILITIES and GROUNDS

Dennis Morse, Facilities Manager (206-622-3559)

CELEBRATIONS of the SACRAMENTS

MASS

Sundays 8 - 10 - 12 & 5:30 pm
Weekdays 8:15 & 5:30 pm
Saturdays 8:15 & "Vigil" 5:30 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS Weekdays at 12:10 pm

VESPERS and BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sundays at 4:00 pm.

BAPTISM Communal celebrations are held monthly. A preparation program for parents and godparents is required. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

RECONCILIATION Saturdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm. A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated four times yearly in preparation for Christmas and Easter.

MARRIAGE A formal program of marriage preparation over a period of several months is required, however, registered parishioners may begin the scheduling process 14 months in advance.

ANOINTING of the SICK A communal celebration is held regularly. In other situations (anticipated surgery, emergency) please call the parish office.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER with music from Taizé, Fridays at 6:30 pm.

TOURS OF THE CATHEDRAL Groups of 6 or more may arrange a tour by calling Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284

CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE Open 11:00 am to 3:00 pm weekdays, after Masses on weekends. Call 206-382-4500 for information

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL PARISH

804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: 206-622-3559 FAX: 206-622-5303
Website: www.stjames-cathedral.org
Emergency Number: 206-467-3049
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

WELCOME: *If you are a visitor to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are – whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish here in the Archdiocese. Thanks, in part, to the generosity of visitors like you, we are able to celebrate the Church's liturgy here in a fitting and beautiful way. We are also able to offer a wide range of services to needy people living in the central district of our city.*

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR are from Gerri Barker in memory of her brother Cruz Monte, on the third anniversary of his death.

IN THE BOOKSTORE New Vatican Library items for your Christmas shopping. Celebrate the Year of St. Paul with a book from our St. Paul display. And look for our best-selling authors, Ronald Rolheiser OMI, Kathleen Norris, Marilyn Robinson, and Sister Helen Prejean who have been in Seattle recently, and Richard McBrien whose newest book, *The Church: The Evolution of Catholicism* is in our "NEW" section.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH This past week, the annual report on the financial condition of the parish for the fiscal year 2007-2008 was sent along with quarterly statements to all donors to the parish. The report is also available online. Additional copies are available in the kiosk in Cathedral Hall during coffee hours.

YOUNG ADULTS FIRST EVER "FIRST-THURSDAY" SOCIAL! Be an original... be part of the first ever First Thursday evening social with the Young Adults group! On Thursday, November 6 we will meet for pizza, libations, and fun at Piccora's Pizza on Madison Street. Watch for a St. James Young Adults email with time and details. If you are age 21-35 years and not signed up for the Young Adults email notices, visit the Young Adults page on our website www.stjames-cathedral.org and sign up today! *Information*, TerryAnn Bowen 206-382-2018 or youngadults@stjames-cathedral.org.

SANDWICHES FOR ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SHELTER may be brought to the coffee hours next Sunday or to the parish office before 3:00 pm on Monday, November 10. We always welcome new sandwich makers who want to share in this important ministry. *Information* Jennifer Ibach, 206-654-4640, or jibach@stjames-cathedral.org.

PARISH REMEMBRANCE *Throughout the year because we are the Cathedral Church, we remember in prayer at Mass and Vespers each of the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Seattle on a Sunday near their feast day.* This week we remember in prayer the parishes of St. Leo, Tacoma; St. Martin of Tours, Fife; and St. Hubert, Langley.

I AM IN YOUR MIDST AS ONE WHO SERVES

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BARISTAS NEEDED! Release your inner coffee artist. The Espresso cart needs baristas to staff the cart at the coffee hour after the Sunday Masses. Training provided. Meet some wonderful people and support this hospitality ministry at St. James. *Information*, Sean Berry 425-582-7754.

PREGNANCY SUPPORT MINISTRY is dedicated to helping foster human life by providing practical assistance and emotional and spiritual support for pregnant and newly parenting women. The need is great, and we are looking for additional volunteers to join us. If you can cook a meal, drive a client to an appointment, or help with light chores, we need you! Next training session is Monday, November 10. *Information*, Denise Carlascio, 425-687-7495.

BE A GREAT MUSIC FOR GREAT CATHEDRALS VOLUNTEER (a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners) Stagecraft? Costume building? Lighting assistance? Meal preparation? Duct tape engineering? Etc. etc. etc. *Information* Ian Newhall 206 382 4874 or musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? You are invited to participate in the RCIA, a process of initiation into the Catholic community of faith. It is a process which encompasses the study of Scripture, Catholic teaching, and Christian values—the development and deepening of a life of prayer and action—all with the support and involvement of the parish community. A new inquiry session will begin on Wednesday, November 5. *Information & registration*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514, hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org.

CATHOLIC 101: INTRODUCTION TO THE MORAL LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN Join us on Mondays, November 3, 10 and 24, 1:00-3:00 or 7:00-9:00, Cathedral Place-second floor for an ongoing look at the newly published *US Catechism for Adults*. Helen Oesterle reviews the foundations of our Catholic faith from our American Catholic experience and facilitates lively conversations among the participants. *Information*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514 or hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org

Babysitting

Available each Sunday during the 10:00 and 12:00 Masses in the Pastoral Outreach Center, Mother Cabrini Room.

Sacred Steps

Sacramental Celebrations at St. James

BAPTIZED in the Cathedral October 26: *Isabella Rose Beltran, Andra Danielle Dulay Box, Alexander Vaughan Creery, Caley Jordan Chhim Cruz, Olivia Dora Gass, AnaLeah Reine Gonzalez, Danica Marie Caser Lynch, Mikichris Caser Lynch, Gustavo Diego Mendoza, Grace Alexandra Noel Mummery, Kieran Everett O'Keefe, and John Michael Shira.*

DO YOU GIVE AT THE OFFICE? Help refugees and immigrants to learn English, become citizens, and contribute to the communities in which they live. When you make a gift through the United Way or other workplace giving campaign, you can designate the St. James ESL Program. For United Way, simply fill in the line that asks which specific agency you want to designate with "St. James ESL program." If you work for Boeing or Microsoft, your gift will automatically be matched, doubling your donation. Many other businesses will also match employee gifts. Visit our website at www.stjames-cathedral.org/esl to see what a difference your donation can make. *Information*, Christopher Koehler at 206-382-4511, or ckoehler@stjames-cathedral.org.

PRAYER WITH MUSIC FROM TAIZÉ Each Friday at 6:30 pm in the Cathedral, all are invited to join in an ecumenical service of readings, silence, candlelight, and the music of the ecumenical community of Taizé in France. This simple, reflective prayer is the perfect way to end a busy week.



THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL

Each week during this Year of St. Paul, watch this space in the bulletin for reflection questions that will lead us deeper into the writings and example of St. Paul. You are also invited to visit the Place of Prayer in the west aisle and at www.stjames-cathedral.org.

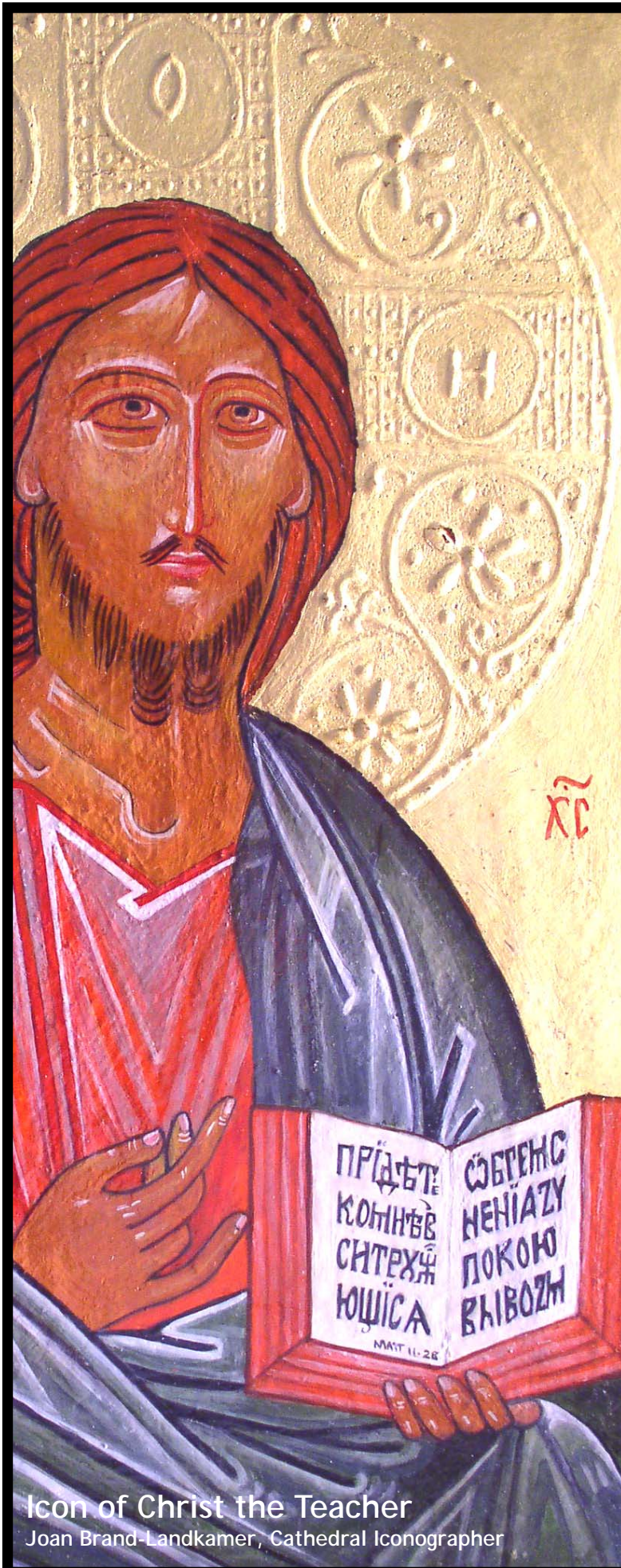
- On this All Souls Day, we read I Corinthians 15: 51-57. St. Paul explores the "mystery" of death and resurrection. How have you experienced that "mystery" in your life? On this day when we pray for the dead and look forward to the resurrection on the last day, who do you remember in prayer? Are there moments when you are able to say with St. Paul, "O death, where is your victory?"
- In his writings, St. Paul often sees the spirit and the flesh in opposition. But that doesn't mean that our bodies don't matter. In today's reading, Paul insists that our bodies are with us to stay, even in the resurrection, though "we will all be changed." How do you imagine that change that will happen on the last day?



MASS IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED HOMELESS

On Monday, November 3, 2008, at 5:30pm, all are invited to gather at St. James Cathedral for a special Mass in memory of the men and women who died on the streets of King County during the past year.

This year, we gather on the Church's feast in honor of St. Martin de Porres. St. Martin (1579-1639) was the illegitimate son of a freed slave and a Spanish nobleman. Martin dedicated himself to the service of the poorest of the poor in Lima, Peru. He is the patron saint of race relations and of all who work for social justice. The Mass will include a blessing for all those involved in our outreach ministries.



CATHOLIC 101

Introduction to the Moral Life of a Christian

Mondays, November 3, 10, & 24
1:00-3:00pm or 7:00-9:00pm
Cathedral Place, second floor;
803 Terry Avenue

Join us for an ongoing look at the newly published *US Catechism for Adults* as Helen Oesterle, Director of Faith Formation at St. James, reviews the foundations of our Catholic faith from our American Catholic experience. The *US Catechism for Adults* situates the truths of faith in a context particular to our nation. It is a wonderful resource and one that every adult Catholic is encouraged to have and get to know.

Newcomers always welcome!

Information, Helen Oesterle,
hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org
206-382-4514

Icon of Christ the Teacher

Joan Brand-Landkamer, Cathedral Iconographer

Olivier Messiaen

the complete works for organ

in honor of the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth

a joint presentation in six recitals by the four organists of Seattle's cathedrals...



Born in 1908, the French composer Olivier Messiaen left an incredible legacy of sound in the organ works he composed during his lifetime. Organist of the Church of La Trinité in Paris from 1931 until his death in 1992, his profound Catholic faith found expression in these great personal musical reflections.

In a joint ecumenical venture, the four organists of St. James Cathedral and St. Mark's Cathedral will mark the centenary of Messiaen's birth with performances of his complete organ works in six recitals this fall.

The series continues with Cathedral Organist Joseph Adam performing Messiaen's final work for organ, the ***Livre du Saint Sacrement*** — "The Book of the Blessed Sacrament." This monumental composition consists of eighteen reflections on the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament — the Eucharist, the central tenet of our Catholic faith. Hear

this deeply-felt music by one of the 20th century's greatest Catholic composers come alive on the spectacular organs and in the incredible acoustics of St. James Cathedral.

Remaining recitals in the series at St. James Cathedral will be on Monday, November 24; and Sunday, December 7. Recitals at St. Mark's Cathedrals are on Friday, November 21.

Friday, November 7 at 8:00 pm

\$15 suggested donation, with students & seniors paying as able.

Reserved passes are available online

Information at www.stjames-cathedral.org/music or call 206-382-4874

MINISTRIES FAIR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2008 *after the Morning Masses*



"Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything."

—Pedro Arrupe, SJ



On Sunday, November 9, we will have our annual MINISTRIES FAIR after the morning Masses. This is our chance to "fall in love" with one of the many different opportunities for service at St. James Cathedral. It's also a time to celebrate the rich and varied ministries of our Cathedral parish. More than 1,100 people volunteer in 40+ different ministries at St. James each year. Come celebrate what your generous support of the Cathedral parish makes possible and find out how you can become a part of it!

Information, Maria Laughlin, Director of Stewardship and Development, 206-382-4284 or e-mail mlaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org.



WWW.STJAMES-CATHEDRAL.ORG

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



This brief document is a summary of the United States bishops' reflection *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. It complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states. A large-print version of this document is available free at www.faithfulcitizenship.org.



Our nation faces political challenges that demand urgent moral choices. We are a nation at war, with all of its human costs; a country often divided by race and ethnicity; a nation of immigrants struggling with immigration. We are an affluent society where too many live in poverty; part of a global community confronting terrorism and facing urgent threats to our environment; a culture built on families, where some now question the value of marriage and family life. We pride ourselves on supporting human rights, but we fail even to protect the fundamental right to life, especially for unborn children.

We bishops seek to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with the truth, so they can make sound moral choices in addressing these challenges. We do not tell Catholics how to vote. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. Faith helps us see more clearly the truth about human life and dignity that we also understand through human reason. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34). According to Pope Benedict XVI, "charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as 'social charity'" (Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 29).

The United States Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to participate and speak out without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning our central moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to the political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good.

How Does the Church Help Catholics to Address Political and Social Questions?

A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and

right" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

The Virtue of Prudence

The Church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be accompanied by courage which calls us to act. As Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which public policies are morally sound. A good end does not justify an immoral means. At times Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build through moral means a more just and peaceful world.

Doing Good and Avoiding Evil

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of human life through abortion. It is always morally wrong to destroy innocent human beings. A legal system that allows the right to life to be violated on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed.

Similarly, direct threats to the dignity of human life such as euthanasia, human cloning, and destructive research on human embryos are also intrinsically evil and must be opposed. Other assaults on human life and dignity, such as genocide, torture, racism, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified. Disrespect for any human life diminishes respect for all human life.

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support.¹

Opposition to intrinsically evil acts also prompts us to recognize our positive duty to contribute to the common good and act in solidarity with those in need. Both opposing evil *and* doing good are essential. As Pope John Paul II said, "the fact that only the negative commandments oblige always and under all circumstances does not mean that in the moral life prohibitions are more important than the obligation to do good indicated by the positive commandment" (Encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, no. 52). The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights to the goods that every person needs to live and thrive—including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work. The use of the death penalty, hunger, lack of health care or housing, human trafficking, the human and moral costs of war, and unjust immigration policies are some of the serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

Making Moral Choices

Difficult political decisions require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. "Those who formulate law

therefore have an obligation in conscience to work toward correcting morally defective laws, lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil and in sinning against the common good” (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [USCCB], *Catholics in Political Life*).

When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice—even if partially or gradually—without ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all human life from conception to natural death (see Pope John Paul II, *Encyclical Evangelium Vitae*, no. 73).

Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care, and immigration. When Church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this may not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of Catholics.

What Does the Church Say About Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square?—Seven Key Themes

A consistent ethic of life should guide all Catholic engagement in political life. This Catholic ethic neither treats all issues as morally equivalent nor reduces Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates’ positions on issues and should consider candidates’ integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens “to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest” (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following themes of Catholic social teaching provide a moral framework for decisions in public life.²

The Right to Life and the Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred. Direct attacks on innocent human beings are never morally acceptable. Within our society, life is under direct attack from abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, and destruction of human embryos for research. These intrinsic evils must always be opposed. This teaching also compels us as Catholics to oppose genocide, torture, unjust war, and the use of the death penalty, as well as to pursue peace and help overcome poverty, racism, and other conditions that demean human life.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible. Each of us has a right to religious freedom, which enables us to live and act in accord with our God-given dignity, as well as a right to access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

While the common good embraces all, those who are in greatest need deserve preferential concern. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor and marginalized.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, opportunities for legal status for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity.

Solidarity

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

Caring for God’s Creation

Care for the earth is a duty of our Catholic faith. We all are called to be careful stewards of God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, as bishops we vigorously repeat our call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the defense of life, the needs of the weak, and the pursuit of the common good. This kind of political participation reflects the social teaching of our Church and the best traditions of our nation.

Notes

- 1 For more on the moral challenge of voting, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, nos. 34-39. Visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org.
- 2 These themes are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005). For more information on these seven themes, see www.faithfulcitizenship.org. For information on how we bishops of the United States have applied Catholic social teaching to policy issues, see www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

For a wide range of educational and other resources to help share Faithful Citizenship, go to www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

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