## ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Out of respect for the liturgy we are about to celebrate,

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELLULAR PHONES.

**PRELUDE** 

We thank thee, Lord, we thank thee

Bach

INTROIT FOR EASTER III

Jubilate Deo / All people of the earth, acclaim LASST UNS ERFREUEN

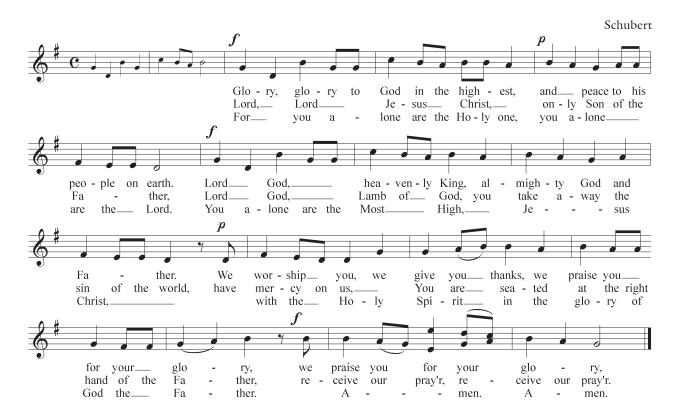


SPRINKLING RITE



#### DISMISSAL TO THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (Noon)

#### **GLORIA**



#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS No. 840

**PSALM RESPONSE** 



**ALLELUIA** 

Palestrina/Monk



**HOMILY** 

Father Michael G. Ryan

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES (10:00)

Litany of St. Paul

Schubert

CREED No. 238

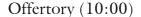
**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS** 



#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Annual Catholic Appeal is an opportunity to participate in the work of the Catholic Church in Western Washington. Your generous response today will support more than 60 Archdiocesan ministries and services that are funded by the Appeal. Everything that is raised above our parish goal will come back to St. James to support parish ministries, like the Cathedral Kitchen. Please put your pledge card in the offering basket. Thank you for your generosity.

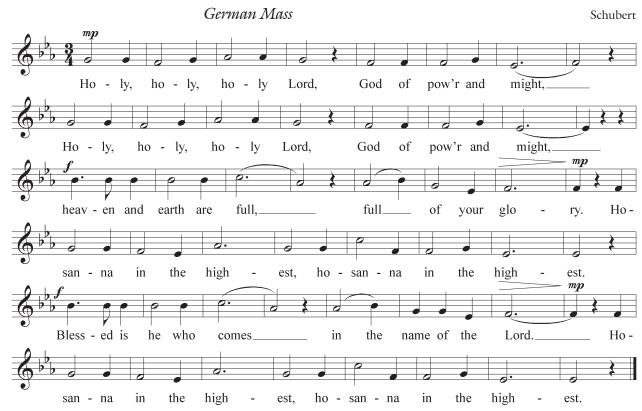
#### PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS



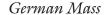
"Worthy is the Lamb" from Messiah

Handel









Schubert, adapted for St. James Cathedral



AMEN







#### **COMMUNION**

Sing unto the Lord, alleluia; sing to the Lord, bless his name; proclaim his salvation day after day, alleluia, alleluia.

(10:00)

"Hallelujah!" from Messiah

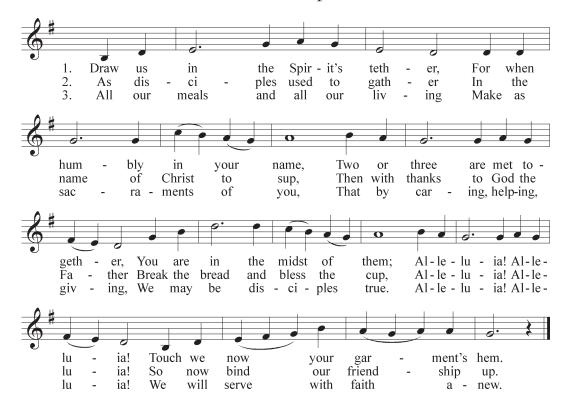
Handel

When you return to your place after receiving Holy Communion, please KNEEL OR BE SEATED. This is the norm for large assemblies in the Archdiocese of Seattle and we thank you for following our practice.

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

#### Draw us in the Spirit's tether

**UNION SEMINARY** 



**PROCESSION** 

Praludium and Fugue in C Major, BWV 547

Bach

"REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE" Cabrini Ministry Training invites you to attend a presentation by Brian Des Roches MSC, LMFT, Ph.D. which will integrate the practical application of the new neuroscience with spirituality and ministry. Brian is a local therapist and nation-wide speaker whose passion is to help individuals become their best selves. Please plan on attending this special event on Saturday, May 9 at the Pastoral Outreach Center from 9:00am-12:30 pm. The cost is \$30. For further information and to RSVP, contact Lisa Dennison at 206-760-0583 Ext 1 or lisad@cabriniministry.org

CATHEDRAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR RAINBOW SCHOOLS STUDENTS Our parish has established a scholarship fund to assist families in meeting the financial obligation involved in sending their elementary school age children to any one of the Rainbow Schools (Sts. George, Edward, Paul, Theresa, and Joseph). Applications are now available for the 2009-2010 school year. Families are required to be registered in our parish, have a Sacrificial Giving card on file (whether they are able to make a monetary pledge or not), and are active in the parish in some capacity. *Applications are due May 15. Information*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514, hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org

**MEDIEVAL WOMEN'S CHOIR** Saturday, May 16, 8:00pm Margriet Tindemans directs 14th- & 21st-c. songs of praise and peace with St. James Resident Ensemble Medieval Women's Choir and soloists. *Information* 206-264-4822 or www.medievalwomenschoir.org.

WELCOME, PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN We support all of our parishioners who are attending Mass with young children and we welcome those children into our midst. If you find that your child needs a quiet place away from the stimulation of the Mass, please feel free to step into the west vestibule or the cathedral chapel, where we have provided a sound system so that you can continue to participate in the Mass. We appreciate your effort to be with us and to include your child in our worship. Please note that babysitting is available in the Mother Cabrini Room at the Pastoral Outreach Center during the 10:00 am and 12 Noon Masses.

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.

**SICK OR HOMEBOUND?** If you or someone you know is seriously ill, hospitalized or homebound, and would like to receive communion calls or are in need of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please call John Simpson, 206-274-3173 or jsimpson@stjamescathedral.org.

#### I AM IN YOUR MIDST AS ONE WHO SERVES

Volunteer Opportunities

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN During the summer months when satellite winter shelters are closed, many people find themselves out on the streets with no place to go. Homeless women are especially vulnerable during this season. St. James is partnering with Operation Nightwatch to meet the housing needs of these women by establishing a 3-month summer shelter for women. We are looking for women volunteers (18+) who are interested in serving as overnight hosts in pairs. We are hoping to provide as many nights as possible so we will need a core of committed volunteers. Please consider serving one or two nights a month. *Information*, Jennifer Ibach 206-654-4640 or jibach@stjames-cathedral.org.

**SANDWICH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** St. Martin de Porres Shelter has seen an increased need for meals and St. James is responding by adding a second night of service to our current Sandwich Ministry. We need a whole new crew of volunteers who can help us make 300+ sandwiches for the 4th Monday of each month. *Information*, Tara, sandwich.volunteers@gmail.com.

ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER AT ST.

JAMES? Many who attend St. James regularly and consider the Cathedral their parish have never officially registered. We strongly encourage you to register. Registered parishioners receive important mailings from the Cathedral (including offering envelopes!), are regular recipients of the Cathedral's highly acclaimed journal *In Your Midst*, are able to celebrate their wedding at the Cathedral, and their children may attend any of the five Catholic Rainbow Schools at parishioner rates (and become eligible for Cathedral scholarship money). In addition, if you are a registered parishioner and use envelopes, or are on the direct deposit program, we will mail you a quarterly report of your contributions to the parish. Registration cards can be found in the vestibule. Please drop the completed card in the collection basket or put it in the mail.

If you're not sure whether you're registered at St. James, call the parish office at 206-622-3559.

ARCHBISHOP HUNTHAUSEN LIBRARY Visit your friendly and accessible Archbishop Hunthausen Library in Cathedral Hall during the Sunday coffee hours. We have a good selection of old favorites and recent releases.

#### 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 (622-3559 x3996) 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 Specialist

Jim Hodges, Citizenship Cecilia Erin Walsh, ESL Coordinator Lupita Gonzalez, ESL Coordinator

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 8:15 & 5:30 pm 8:15 & "Vigil" 5:30 pm

Weekdays Saturdays

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

**ELCOME:** *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.

THE CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE Stop by the Cathedral Bookstore today for a CD of Father Robert Barron's wonderful homilies on the Seven Last Words, available in a two-CD set for a limited time. Books by Father Barron are also available. Also, we have a wide selection of new releases, including In Due Season, a new memoir by Paul Wilkes, and Flannery, a wonderful new biography of Flannery O'Connor.

**NEW ON THE WEBSITE** Secure online giving is now available at the Cathedral website, www.stjamescathedral.org. This is a brand-new way to make special gifts or fulfill your pledge using your credit card or bank card. Information, Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284 or visit www.stjames-cathedral.org.

THANK YOU FROM THE MISSIONS OFFICE Our parish donated \$8,918 to the Catholic Relief Services Collection, taken up the fifth Sunday of Lent. In addition, the parish collected \$11,336 in the Rice Bowl Collection on Holy Thursday. Thank you for your extraordinary generosity to the poorest in our world!

YOUNG ADULTS INFORMAL WINE AND CHEESE gathering will take place TODAY, Sunday, April 26 immediately following 5:30 Mass. Young adults over the age of 21, single or married, gather for fun, refreshments, and fellowship in the Fireside Room of the Pastoral Outreach Center. Newcomers and those not new to the parish are all welcome! *Information* youngadults@stjames-cathedral.org or TerryAnn Bowen, 206-382-2018.

**CATHOLIC 101: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (As you** have never thought of them before!) Join us on Tuesdays April 28 (IV), May 5—evening only (V), May 12—afternoon only (V) May 19 (VI) and May 26 (VII); 1:00-3:00 or 7:00-9:00 [please note date/time changes!], 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, hoesterle@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. Mark in Shoreline, St. Catherine in Seattle, and St. Joseph the Worker Mission in Yacolt.

ARE YOU A CATHOLIC WHO HAS BEEN AWAY FROM THE CHURCH? Our Welcome Back program provides a safe place, in the company of others who are also examining their faith, to ask questions about returning to regular church attendance, returning to the sacraments, and to learn about changes in the church. The sessions are offered on Mondays from 7:00-9:00pm, through July 13 in Cathedral Place, 2nd floor. Classes are offered without any obligation. *Information*, TerryAnn Bowen 206-382-2018 or tbowen@stjames-cathedral.org.

FOUNDATIONS IN OUR CATHOLIC FAITH: THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH TODAY, Sunday, April 26, 1:30–5:30 pm at St. Peter's Parish Hall. In this course, participants will focus on the importance of Apostolic Succession and the roles of the Hierarchy as the Church moved through the centuries, formulating a Creed, defining the Canon of Scripture, and developing the Sacraments. They will explore how the Sacraments foster holiness, community, and continuity with the Apostolic Church. Please bring your Bible and copy of the Catechism to the class. This program is a wonderful opportunity to continue to grow as mature and well-informed Catholics. (Co-sponsored by St. James Cathedral with the South Seattle Deanery) *Information*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514.

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 Wednesday, April 29. *Information*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514, hoesterle@stjamescathedral.org.

#### ESL PROGRAM BOOKFAIR

All day, Sunday, May 3, 2009 Barnes & Noble at University Village, Seattle

Stop by the Barnes and Noble at University Village anytime on Sunday, May 3 to support our efforts to help immigrants and refugees to learn English and become citizens. Present a bookfair voucher or just mention us when you make a purchase and a portion of the sale will be donated to the ESL Program. Pick up vouchers at any cashier or at the customer service desk. And don't miss a discussion and Q&A with book signing at 1:00 pm, with local authors Erica Bauermeister, Garth Stein, Stephanie Kallos, Jennie Shortridge, Maria Semple.

Don't forget to grab a bite at the B&N Café where your purchase will also support the ESL Program!

### Sacred Steps

BAPTIZED on Sunday, April 19, were Kasen Steven Burke, Raphael Jazz Evangelista, Noah Michael Ordonia, Caroline Francesca Leen, Nadia Maria Man, Abigail Marie Morse, Trent Robert Winston Mummery, Aiden James Espiritu Pineda, Daniel Joseph Rozal, Ella Brianne Weeks, and Nicholas Ryan Ziedalski. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they begin their Christian journey. We welcome them with great joy!

REST IN PEACE Please pray for the repose of the souls of *William Charles Adkisson, Patricia Parr,* and *Brother Elphege Enda St. Martin.* 

YOUNG ORGANISTS FESTIVAL, Monday, April 27, 7:30pm. St. James Cathedral with the American Guild of Organists presents five young Washington organists, JoeAnn Park, Michael Plagerman, Thomas Varas, Halden Toy, and Kyle Kirschenman in recital on the Cathedral's magnificent pipe organs. Free and open to the public. *Information* www.stjames-cathedral.org/music or 206-382-4874.

**MENDELSSOHN'S** *ELIJAH* Friday, May 8, 8:15pm & Saturday, May 9, 8:00pm Resident Ensemble Seattle Pro Musica celebrates the Mendelssohn Year with the composer's greatest sacred oratorio for chorus, soloists, and orchestra. Charles Robert Stephens sings the part of Elijah. Karen P. Thomas, director. *Information* 206-781-2766 or www.seattlepromusica.com.



Be sure to visit the place of prayer for the year of St. Paul in the south aisle of the Cathedral and online at www.stjames-cathedral.org.

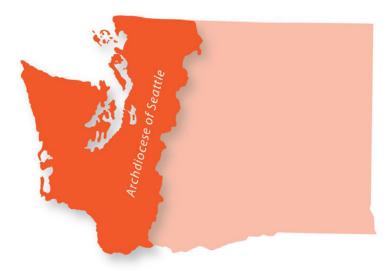
In the Letter to the Galatians, St Paul gives a very personal profession of faith in which he opens his heart to readers of all times and reveals what was the most intimate drive of his life. "I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2: 20). All Paul's actions begin from this centre. His faith is the experience of being loved by Jesus Christ in a very personal way. It is awareness of the fact that Christ did not face death for something anonymous but rather for love of him—of Paul—and that, as the Risen One, he still loves him; in other words, Christ gave himself for him. Paul's faith is being struck by the love of Jesus Christ, a love that overwhelms him to his depths and transforms him. His faith is not a theory, an opinion about God and the world. His faith is the impact of God's love in his heart.—Pope Benedict XVI, Homily for the Opening of the Pauline Year, June 28, 2008

The Catholic Church in Western Washington

## A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

#### 2009 Goal: \$10.4 Million

St. James Cathedral goal: \$283,939



# What do the funds for Annual Catholic Appeal do, versus the funds for Sacrificial Giving?

Sacrificial Giving supports the ministries of **your** community parish. The Annual Catholic Appeal supports the 63 ministries and services of **our** Archdiocese. The Archdiocese has responsibilities that continue in good economic times and bad:

- Poor people need to be served
- · Liturgies need to be celebrated
- Education and outreach programs need to be funded

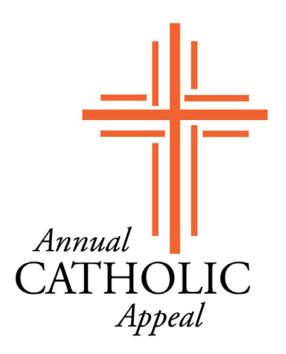
Examples of some of the different 63 ministries and services are:

- Office of Youth and Young Adults Ministry
- Catholic Schools & Campus Ministries
- · Seminarian & Deacon Services
- · Retired Priests' Medical & Priests' Pension Plan
- · Catholic Community Services

## Why give to the Annual Catholic Appeal?

Now more than ever, in these changing economic times, we need your support. No gift is too small! Help the vulnerable and needy in our archdiocesan community who may not be so fortunate. Giving to the Annual Catholic Appeal:

- Makes a statement regarding who you are and what you value
- Fulfills your vision for our community and our archdiocese
- Contributes to your sense of belonging to something greater than yourself



Thanks to YOUR generosity, our church is here in times of need, providing comfort and hope.



#### The Health and Healing Ministry presents Part 3 of a 3-part series on Mental Health

# Spirituality, Faith, & Mental Illness

## Tuesday, April 28, 2009

7:00pm-8:30pm, Pastoral Outreach Center Community Room

Mental Illness can substantially alter and disturb a person's spiritual life. Depression, bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, trauma and abuse, and chemical dependency profoundly impact the soul. We are called to share the journey of healing, serving as companions, a way of care especially suited to reaching into the isolation and loneliness of mental illness and supporting long term recovery. Craig will share wisdom and practice gained from 22 years as a mental health chaplain helping others build a faith adequate to the struggles individuals and families face with brain disorders and deep psychological woundedness.

CRAIG RENNEBOHM, D. MIN. graduated from Carleton College in 1966 and Chicago Theological Seminary in 1970. He was ordained in the United Church of Christ and served in the parish ministry for sixteen years, eleven of them in Seattle. In 1986, Craig entered the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, where he concentrated on pastoral care and received the Doctor of Ministry degree. He returned to Seattle in 1987 and founded the Mental Health Chaplaincy. Under Craig's leadership, the Chaplaincy has grown to serve families, create mental health ministries in local congregations, and advocate for an effective and readily accessible community mental health system. Craig has taught and presented in a variety of local, national, and international settings, and served for ten years with an international, interfaith working group on Spirituality and Social Work.

He has received numerous recognitions for his Chaplaincy work, including the Tipper Gore Award of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, a Carleton College Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award, and a Seattle Post-Intelligencer Jefferson Award.

Caregivers, family members and friends of those suffering from mental illness are encouraged to attend this series. Please note: This is not intended to be a forum for audience members currently suffering from mental illness to share their stories.

#### St. James Cathedral's Stewardship Council presents



# Stir into Flame the Gift God has Given You Discerning our Gifts

MONDAYS, MAY 4, 11, AND 18
7:00—8:30pm
PASTORAL OUTREACH CENTER,

**COMMUNITY ROOM** 

in the Year of St. Paul

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone." (I Cor 12:4)

What are the gifts God has given me? In celebration of the Year of St. Paul, we'll explore the different gifts God gives and have time to reflect on our own gifts and how we can use them to build up God's kingdom.

During this three-part retreat, led by parishioner Nathan Standifer, we'll have the opportunity to complete the extensive "gifts

inventory" from St. Catherine of Siena Institute, with individual results provided for each participant. Your gifts may surprise you!

Information or to register, Maria Laughlin, mlaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org, 206-382-4284



# HEALTH FAIR

Stewardship of the Environment Stewardship of our Health

> Sunday, May 3, 2009 11:00am to 2:00pm in Cathedral Hall

Our health and the health of our environment are intimately connected. This year's Health Fair continues our focus on how, by being responsible stewards of one, we can also be caring and effective stewards of both.

More than twenty local health, environmental and government organizations will be on hand to demonstrate and speak to you about our health and the health of our environment, and show how those areas are connected. Join us in Cathedral Hall for a chance to collect valuable information and ask questions. Bring family and friends!

A sample of the exhibit topics:

- Lung-related environmental and health issues
- Children's environmental health
- Fall prevention
- Dentistry and general health
- Natural health options
- Mental health
- Hospice care
- Colo-rectal health
- Cancer care and survivorship
- Healthy footwear
- Transportation choices
- Avoiding toxic toys
- Local hospital participation

"The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives."

Native American proverb



# THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL MAKING FRIENDS WITH PAUL

First in a Series April 26, 2009

he Acts of the Apostles and Paul's own letters provide us with a wealth of detail about the life of St. Paul—more than we have about any other apostle, with the possible exception of Peter. We know that Paul (his Jewish name was 'Saul') was from Tarsus, a large, multicultural city in what is now Turkey. Raised in the strict observance of the Jewish faith, he was in fact a Pharisee, one of those rigid and correct observers of the Law with whom Jesus so often found himself in conflict. Paul persecuted the followers of "the Way" until his encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus.

A well-educated man,
Paul spoke several languages, knew the Hebrew scriptures intimately, and was familiar with Greek rhetorical devices as well. We also know that Paul was a working man, a tentmaker (Acts 18: 3). Even when he was traveling and preaching he continued to support himself by the work of his hands (I Thess. 2: 9). In describing his own background, Paul revealed his great pride in his Jewish roots: "Circumcised on the eighth day, of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrew parentage, in observance of the law a Pharisee, in zeal I persecuted the church, in righteousness based on the law I was blameless" (Philippians 3: 5).

The Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letters also tell us much about Paul's life after his conversion to Jesus Christ. Though some were at first suspicious of this persecutor-turned-apostle, Peter and the others soon came to acknowledge the genuineness of Paul's call, especially his call to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul, in turn, acknowledged the special role of Peter, and visited Jerusalem to consult with him several times. But Paul did not hesitate to challenge Peter when he felt



The image is from a 9th-century manuscript from the Monastery of St Gall and is believed to be one of the earliest European depictions of St Paul.

he was wrong, particularly on the status of Gentiles in the new faith. While some insisted that non-Jewish believers must observe the entire Jewish law, Paul argued that this was an unnecessary burden—and Peter and the others eventually saw things Paul's way.

Paul was constantly on the move, and both the *Acts* of the *Apostles* and his letters provide detailed evidence of his missionary journeys, which took him from end to end of the ancient world, from Athens to Rome. Sometimes with other disciples, and sometimes alone, Paul preached the good news in small towns and large cities. In some places the message flourished; in others Paul endured sharp

persecution for the faith. (For Paul's own account of all he went through for the faith, see 2 Corinthians 11: 24-27.)

The Acts of the Apostles concludes with Paul awaiting sentence in Rome. Tradition tells us that he was beheaded there around the year 62, during the reign of Nero. Over his remains rose one of the oldest Christian basilicas, that of Saint Paul outside the Walls. Recent archeological excavations beneath the Basilica, which has been rebuilt a number of times over the centuries, have confirmed the presence of the Apostle's tomb below the papal altar.

#### St. Paul the Writer

hough he wrote no Gospel, Paul's New Testament letters have had an incalculable impact on the Church. The late Raymond Brown, SS, one of the greatest scripture scholars of the last century, said it definitively: "Next to Jesus Paul has been the most influential figure in the history of Christianity." The range of his letters,



A dramatic 19th-century representation of St. Paul stands outside the Basilica of St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls, where his relics are venerated.

wrote Father Brown in his Introduction to the New Testament, "plus the depth of his thought and the passion of his involvement, have meant that since his letters became part of the New Testament, no Christian has been unaffected by what he has written. Whether or not they know Paul's works well, through what they have been taught about doctrine and piety, all Christians have become Paul's children in the faith."

Paul's letters—which scholars tell us predate all four of the Gospels by a dozen years or more—laid the groundwork for all Christian creeds and theology. They have shaped the very vocabulary we use to talk about our faith: Paul was "the first to coin a Christian meaning for the words apostle, gospel, charism, ministry," writes Pauline scholar Carolyn Osiek. Paul's letters have helped us to understand who Jesus is: truly human, and truly divine. They have opened up for us the meaning of the salvation Christ won for us on the cross.

More than anything else, perhaps, these letters addressed to struggling Christian communities continue to teach us what it means to live together as Christians. In his letters to far-flung communities Paul variously flatters, cajoles, mocks, mourns, instructs, condemns, pleads, and prays. He is at his harshest in writing to the Galatians, near the Black Sea: "I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel," he says roundly in the opening lines of this letter (1:6). He is at his gentlest, perhaps, in his letter to Philemon, in which he begs Philemon to receive Onesimus, a wayward slave, with forgiveness: "I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.... if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me" (12, 17). To Timothy, a nervous young bishop, he is full of good

advice: "Stop drinking only water, but have a little wine for the sake of your stomach" (I Timothy 5: 23). If Paul was hard on wayward Christian communities, he was equally hard on himself. He never hesitated to use his own story to reveal the amazing grace of God. "You heard of my former way of life," he told the Galatians, "how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it" (1:13). "I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle... but by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective." (I Corinthians 14:10)

Paul was never one to avoid controversy, and his teachings on some subjects—especially the role of women—have sparked controversy through the years. But even as we struggle with these teachings, we should be open to the other side of St. Paul, the Paul who envisioned a Church so united, organic, and open to the Spirit that we are still coming to terms with all that might mean: "to each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.... you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it" (I Corinthians 12: 7, 27). One thing is certain: Paul will continue to teach, to challenge, to cajole, and to inspire as his letters are proclaimed in the liturgy day after day.

—Corinna Laughlin

#### Prayer for the Year of St. Paul

Glorious Saint Paul,
Apostle to the Gentiles,
when the Lord called, you answered,
and you spread the good news of the Gospel
to the very ends of the earth.

Pray for us,

that we may serve Christ as you did: proclaiming the name of Jesus in good times and bad, when convenient and when inconvenient.

Pray for us,

that we may welcome all the people we meet with compassionate hearts and open minds.

Pray for us,

that Christ may live in us as he lived in you. We pray in the name of the One who is your Lord and ours,

Christ Jesus the Lord. Amen.

This is the first in a series of bulletin inserts about Saint Paul in celebration of the Year of St. Paul. The Jubilee Year will conclude June 29, 2009.