

May we who celebrate Paul's conversion to the faith follow him in bearing witness to your truth.

Icon of SS Peter & Paul. Joan Brand-Landkamer, Cathedral iconographer.

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL The Conversion of Saint Paul January 25, 2009

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

Dear Friends,

On this Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, we are fortunate to have as our guest homilist Father John Endres, S.J. Father Endres is an Oregon Province Jesuit and a native of Tacoma. I've had the privilege of knowing him and his family since I was a very young priest at St. Patrick's parish in Tacoma where they were parishioners. John is currently a professor of Sacred Scripture at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. He has the added distinction of having been ordained to the priesthood here in St. James Cathedral by Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen. It is a joy to be able to welcome John to the pulpit of St. James!

Some more good news. As of this writing, 313 "snow angels" have helped rescue the Cathedral from the December snowfall/shortfall. This is pretty remarkable. No, let me rephrase that: *you* are pretty remarkable!

I'm told that there are people who don't believe in angels. I don't have to believe in them. I've *met* them!

You may recall that our shortfall for those two Advent Sundays and Christmas was \$50,000. Thanks to so many of you who sent your envelopes in later, and thanks to each one of you who signed on as a snow angel, we are quite close to making up all our losses.

What incredible people you are! I am grateful beyond words.

Father Michael G. Ryan

P.S. There's still time to become a "snow angel." Just write *snow angel* on the memo line of your check (or on the visitor envelope) and drop it in the basket along with your regular offering. Thank you!

Order of Celebration for the Feast of The Conversion of Saint Paul

RITES OF WELCOMING AND ACCEPTANCE (Saturday 5:30pm)
BLESSING OF AN ICON OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL (all other Masses)

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE PRAYER OF OTHERS, PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES.

PRELUDE (Saturday & Noon) (8:00 & 10:00)

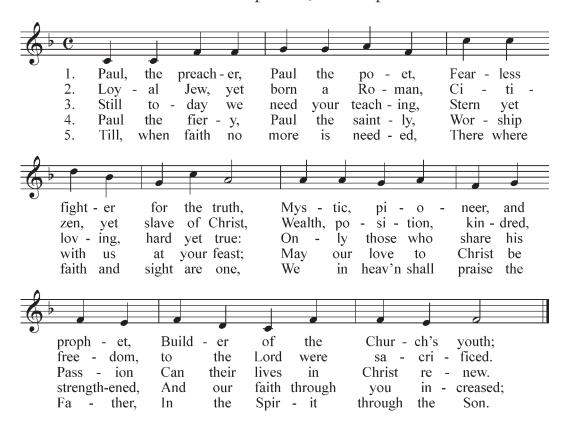
Da pacem, Domine, in diebus nostris Trio Sonata in G Major, BWV 530

Sweelinck Bach

ENTRANCE

Paul the preacher, Paul the poet

STUTTGART



RITE OF WELCOMING OF CANDIDATES FOR FULL COMMUNION (Saturday 5:30pm)

Introduction of the Candidates for Full Communion

OPENING DIALOGUE WITH THE CANDIDATES

CANDIDATES' DECLARATION OF INTENT

Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly All respond, We are.

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE OF CATECHUMENS (Saturday 5:30pm)

Introduction of the Catechumen

CATECHUMEN'S FIRST ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOSPEL

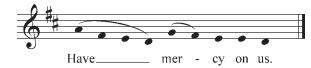
Affirmation by the Sponsor and the Assembly All respond, We are.

All respond, We praise you, Lord, and we bless you.



PENITENTIAL RITE

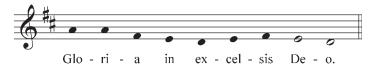
chant, Mass of Angels



GLORIA

Missa de angelis

Vatican VIII



Cantor: Et in terra pax hominibus, bona voluntatis. Laudamus te.



Cantor: Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.

Gratia agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Refrain

Cantor: Domine Deus, Rex calestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.



Cantor: suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. REFRAIN



Cantor: Tu solus Altissimus, Jesus Christe. Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. REFRAIN



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 9: 1-22

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 117

Peloquin



SECOND READING

ALLELUIA chant

Galatians 1: 11-17



GOSPEL Mark 16: 15-18

HOMILY Father John Endres, SJ

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES (Saturday 5:30pm and Noon)

CREED No. 238 chanted on one tone

BLESSING OF AN ICON

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Litany of Saints



PRAYER OF BLESSING

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

Offertory (10:00) The Conversion of St. Paul

Mendelssohn

And Saul journeyed with companions towards Damascus, and had authority and command from the High Priest that he should bring them bound,

men and women, unto Jerusalem.

And as he journeyed, he came near unto Damascus; when suddenly there shone around him a light from heaven: and he fell to the earth; and he heard a voice saying unto him:

"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

And he said: "Lord, who art thou?"

And the Lord said to him:

"I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest."

And he said, trembling and astonished:

"Lord, what will Thou have me do?"

The Lord said to him:

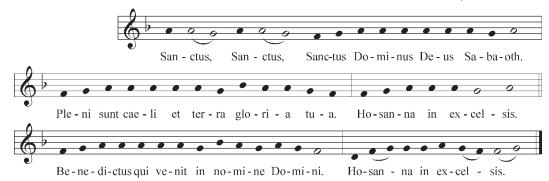
"Arise, and go into the city;

and there thou shalt be told what thou must do. Acts 9:3-6

Rise! up! arise! rise in light.

The glory of the Lord appeareth on thee. Isaiah 9:1-2

SANCTUS chant, Vatican XVIII



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

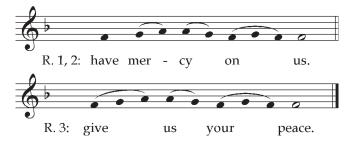
Nicolai, adapt. St. James Cathedral



AMEN

LORD'S PRAYER No. 246

AGNUS DEI chant, Mass of Angels



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.

COMMUNION

Amen, I say to you, that you who have given up everything and followed me will receive a hundred times more and will inherit eternal life.

(10:00)

"Great is the wisdom" from St. Paul

Mendelssohn

O great is the depth of the riches of wisdom and knowledge of the Father! How deep and unerring is he in his judgments! His ways are past our understanding! Sing his glory for evermore, Amen. Romans 11:33



PROCESSION (5:30 & Noon) "Allegro" from Concerto in B-flat Major, op. 4, no. 6 (8:00 & 10:00) Präludium in E-flat Major, BWV 552

Handel Bach



Pope Benedict XVI granted special permission for the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul to be observed on a Sunday this year in honor of the Jubilee Year of St. Paul, which will run through June 29, 2009. Visit the place of prayer in the west aisle. Find out more about Saint Paul and the Jubilee observance at the Cathedral website, www.stjames-cathedral.org.

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend Alexander J. Brunett, Archbishop of Seattle

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

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

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 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.

FLOWERS IN THE CATHEDRAL are from Frank and Carol Robl, in memory of Marie Grady on the thirtieth anniversary of her death.

CATHOLIC NORTHWEST PROGRESS SUNDAY For more than one hundred years, the Progress has been telling the good news of the work of the Catholic Church in Western Washington. Free copies are available in the vestibules this weekend. You can also meet *Progress* staff at the coffee hours this Sunday. What better time to subscribe than on this feast of St. Paul, the patron saint of journalists, reporters, and newspaper staff?

YOUNG ADULTS INFORMAL WINE AND CHEESE gathering will take place this Sunday, January 25 immediately following the 5:30pm 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. Our own Vanessa Diego will share some information on homelessness and our own Housing Advocacy Committee. 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—LIVING A MORAL CHRISTIAN LIFE Join us on Tuesday, February 3, 1:00-3:00pm or 7:00-9:00pm, Cathedral Place—2nd 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. Next week's topic: Third Commandment: "Love the Lord's Day." Information, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514 hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org

CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE The Midnight Mass, broadcast live on KING-TV, is now available on DVD in the Cathedral Bookstore. Supplies are limited; get your copy today! We also have classic favorites for wintertime reading.

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. Paul in LaConner and Seattle, and the St. Paul Mission in Westport.

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS—THE RAINBOW SCHOOLS COALITION On the weekend of January 31February 1 we will celebrate Catholic School education, and in a particular way the Cathedral children who attend one of the five Rainbow Schools. Our parish is a contributing member of the Rainbow Schools Program whereby children from our parish can attend at "parishioner" tuition rates. Approximately 60 cathedral children are enrolled in one of these fine schools. Children are encouraged to come to Mass in their uniforms. *Information*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514.

HELP A SENIOR IN NEED Many people in our St. James community and beyond are in need of help with transportation, shopping, laundry, housework, and more. Age, illness, economics, and disabilities can all be barriers to accomplishing these routine daily tasks. By volunteering just a few hours a month, you can make a huge difference in someone's life by providing them peace of mind and the option to stay in their own home rather than going to an institutionalized setting. If you are interested in joining this rewarding ministry, please come to the orientation to be held in the Pastoral Outreach Center on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 pm. *Information* Jennifer Ibach, 206-654-4640 or jibach@stjames-cathedral.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR "GREAT MUSIC" Great Music will be February 20 and 21 and we will need your support once again for this exciting St. James original production. *Information*, Ian Newhall 206-382-4874 or musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org.

ADVENT SOCK DRIVE UPDATE A huge thank you to all who participated in this year's *Warm Hearts and Soles Sock Drive* for homeless men in our community. Together, we collected an amazing 2,636 pairs of socks, exceeding our goal of 2,009 pairs for this year! *A special thank you to the people from all over King County who brought 1,233 pairs of socks to the Cathedral on January 19, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, as part of the National Day of Service.*

FINDING HOPE IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES Are you facing unemployment, foreclosure or some other difficult situation? Join others on Saturday, January 31 in Cathedral Place 2nd floor, from 9:00am-10:00am, for fellowship, prayer and support. *Information*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514 or hoesterle@stjamescathedral.org.

and 21, 8:00 pm. This popular Seattle tradition returns with something new! Cathedral Resident Artists Stephen Stubbs, baroque lute and Maxine Eilander, baroque harp join the eight Cathedral choirs, 16-member Cathedral Brass, and three pipe organs in an evening of sound, light, movement, poetry and above all—MUSIC. Directed by James Savage. Jeff Robbins, lighting designer, Kitty Kavanaugh, scenic designs. Suggested donation \$25.00, students and seniors pay as able. Reserved passes available now at www.stjames-cathedral.org/music.

PART-TIME ASSISTANT BABYSITTING COORDINATOR NEEDED Applications are currently being accepted for this paid position. The job involves assisting the Babysitting Coordinator in caring for Cathedral children on Sunday mornings during the 10:00am and 12:00 Noon Masses, once a month on a Saturday morning for our Baptism Seminars, and at various other events. Averages 10-15 hours per month. *Information*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514, hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK A communal celebration of this sacrament will take place at Saint James Cathedral on Wednesday, February 11, the World Day of the Sick, a the 5:30 Mass. Father Ryan will preside. All are welcome to attend the Mass. If you would like to receive the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, or have questions, contact John Simpson, 206-274-3173 or jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org.

Learning to Love Each Other Well A Marriage Enrichment Opportunity

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, February 14 from 9:30-1:00 in the Pastoral Outreach Center Community Room! Couples are invited to a workshop to help support and enrich their marriages. Bill and Kathy Collins will be our guest presenters. Bill and Kathy have led retreats and workshops on marriage for years throughout the Archdiocese. Suggested Donation is \$10/couple with lunch provided. Babysitting services will also be provided (reservations required). *Information and registration*, Helen Oesterle, hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org, 206-382-4514.



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 our Lord. *Amen*.

St. James Cathedral/SU School of Theology and Ministry Lecture Series presents



On Pilgrimage with Saint Paul His Journeys Through Turkey

Monday, January 26, 2009 7:00pm

Cathedral Place Hall 803 Terry Avenue, Seattle Suggested donation \$10

Last spring Pope Benedict XVI dedicated a special jubilee year to the Apostle Paul, from June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009, to mark the second millennium of his birth. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople joined the pope in Rome for the opening liturgies, and both of them invited Christians to celebrate this jubilee, which includes the making of pilgrimages. Having made Pauline pilgrimages in Turkey on a number of occasions, FATHER JOHN ENDRES, SJ will share his experiences and help us follow in the footsteps of St. Paul.

FATHER JOHN ENDRES, S.J. teaches Old Testament studies at the Graduate Theological Union and the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. Raised in Tacoma, he is an Oregon Province Jesuit. He regularly teaches courses in the Psalms and in the Dead Sea Scrolls. His publications include: *A Retreat with the Psalms: Resources for Personal and Communal Prayer* (with Elizabeth Liebert, SNJM, Paulist Press, 2001), *Biblical Interpretation in the Book of Jubilees* (Catholic Biblical Association, 1987), and *Temple, Monarchy and Word of God* (Liturgical Press, 1987). A commentary on the Books of Chronicles is forthcoming (Liturgical Press). An active member of the Society of Biblical Literature, he has been president of the Catholic Biblical Association of America.

www.stjames-cathedral.org



FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP: OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVOCATE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

Our obligation to be faithful citizens is not limited to voting once every four years. As Catholics, we are called to bring our faith and values to the political dialogue about our nation's future. As new legislative sessions begin at the federal and state levels, there are several opportunities to advocate for important Catholic social principles:

- Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) is being reintroduced into the U.S. Congress. According to the U.S Conference of Catholic Bishops, FOCA would go beyond Roe v. Wade to overturn hundreds of current laws on conscience rights, informed consent, limits on tax-funded abortion, and parental involvement in minor's abortion decisions. The Archdiocese of Seattle is participating in the Fight FOCA Campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. On the weekend of February 7-8, we will have postcards available to send to members of Congress.
- Environmental Priorities Lobby Day. The St. James Environmental Justice Group will be participating in Environmental Priorities Lobby Day in Olympia on Thursday, February 19. Environmental Priorities Lobby Day is an all-day event featuring face-to-face meetings with legislators, lobbying training, issue briefings and keynote speakers. For information, contact Derek Eisel, 206-714-3454, or derek.eisel@comcast.net.
- Catholic Advocacy Day. Join St. James parishioners and the Washington State Catholic Conference for Catholic Advocacy Day in Olympia on Tuesday, February 24. This year's theme is: "Justice and Charity: Seeking the Common Good." This is also an all-day event, with issue briefings on economic justice, housing, health care and the environment, lobbying training, and face-to-face meetings with legislators. Governor Chris Gregoire has been invited to be the keynote speaker. Transportation to Olympia is provided for this day. For information, contact Patty Bowman, 206-382-4515 or pbowman@stjames-cathedral.org. To learn more about the Washington State Catholic Conference's legislative priorities, see www.thewscc.org.

The Rainbow Schools

An opportunity for St. James Cathedral children to attend a Catholic school St. Edward ♦ St. George ♦ St. Joseph ♦ St. Paul ♦ St. Therese

St. James Cathedral Parish is a contributing member of the Rainbow Schools Coalition, a program whereby several parishes without schools contribute to the support of the five Catholic Elementary Schools in the central area of the city. Our participation not only makes it possible for Catholic education to continue in this area, it also allows children from our parish to attend one of the schools at "parishioner" tuition rates.

The Cathedral parish contributes some \$200,000 annually to the Rainbow Schools. Approximately 60 of our children are presently enrolled in one or another of these fine schools. Last year, fifteen of these children received financial assistance from the Cathedral's scholarship program.



ST. GEORGE PARISH SCHOOL is a Catholic school for students in pre-school through eighth grade, and since 1921 St. George has been providing excellent education to families in and around the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle,

Washington.

The first teachers at Saint George were the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Since 1978, a primarily lay faculty and staff have operated the school, overseen by the pastor of St. George Parish. Saint George Parish shares a pastor, personnel, some fundraising events and other resources with St. Edward's and St. Paul's. St. George has more than 240 students who reflect the rich ethnic diversity of the Beacon Hill neighborhood.

www.saintgeorgeseattle.org 206-762-0656



Since its founding in 1911, St. EDWARD PARISH SCHOOL has been a beacon of hope for indigenous and immigrant families in our community. Our student body reflects the diversity of the larger community of the Puget Sound region, bringing together a

richness unequaled in single ethnic communities. St. Edward School is located at 4212 S. Mead Street in Seattle's Columbia City district.

www.saintedwardseattle.org 206-725-1774

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL is a Catholic school located on Capitol Hill in the heart of Seattle. The Jesuit priests and the sisters of Holy Names founded St. Joseph School in 1908. The school is



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

one of the largest Catholic schools in the Pacific Northwest. There are 624 students in grades kindergarten through eight. Approximately 76% of the children are Catholic. The school has a 19% minority population.

www.stjosephsea.org 206-329-3260

Founded in 1954, ST. PAUL SCHOOL is a Catholic elementary and middle school located at 10001 57th



Avenue South in Seattle. The staff and student body of more than 200 students reflect the rich racial, ethnic, socio-economic and religious diversity of the Skyway neighborhood where the school is situated.

www.seattlestpaul.org 206-725-0780

St. Therese School

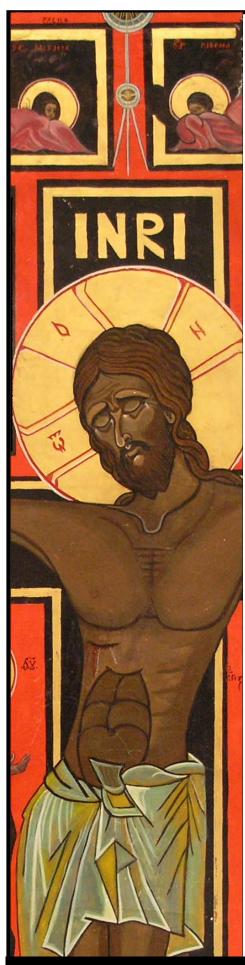
igniting minds, dreams, and faith

Founded in 1927, **ST. THERESE SCHOOL** is a Catholic elementary and middle school located in the heart of Seattle's Madrona community. The staff and student body of more than 220 students reflect the rich racial, ethnic, socio-economic and religious diversity of the community in which the school resides.

www.sttheresesseattle.org 206-324-0460

NEXT WEEK IS RAINBOW SCHOOLS WEEK

During the Coffee Hour following the 10:00am and 12 Noon Masses next Sunday, February 1, find out more about Catholic education. Representatives of each of the five Rainbow Schools will be available to answer your questions and tell you more!



The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

A communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will take place at St. James Cathedral on Wednesday, February 11, the World Day of the Sick, at the 5:30pm Mass. Father Ryan will preside. All are welcome to attend the Mass. If you would like to receive the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick during the Mass, or have questions, please contact John Simpson, Pastoral Care Minister, at 206-274-3173, or e-mail jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org.

What is the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Like the sacrament of reconciliation (confession), it is a sacrament of healing.

The Anointing of the Sick has its roots in the healing mission of Christ, who "came to heal the whole person, body and soul" (*US Catholic Catechism for Adults*, p. 251). Jesus' word and his very touch brought healing and life to the sick and afflicted.

From its very beginnings, the Church has continued Christ's ministry of healing. "Is anyone among you sick?" the apostle James asked in the first century. "He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven." (James 5: 14-15)

Our understanding of this sacrament has changed with time. In the early Church it was seen as a sacrament of healing, but later it came to be known as "Extreme Unction" – literally, "last anointing" – and was not administered until death was imminent.

With the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the Church has returned to the more ancient practice with regard to this sacrament.

Who can receive this sacrament?

Catholics, both children and adults, who are *seriously ill*, facing surgery, or experiencing the weakness that comes with old age should seek this sacrament.

What happens during the Rite of Anointing?

The Rite of Anointing can be celebrated in the context of Mass or separately, as part of a Liturgy of the Word or even in connection with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Ideally, the sacrament is celebrated in the presence of a community – whether in a church setting with the parish community, or in a smaller community of family, friends, or caregivers, in a home, hospital, or other institution.

The rite itself is quite simple. The priest welcomes the sick person and those present. A penitential rite and opening prayer are prayed, and the scriptures are shared.

After a brief homily, the Liturgy of Anointing begins. The priest leads a litany in which all pray for the healing and forgiveness of the sick person, as well as for doctors, nurses, and caregivers. Then, in silence, the priest lays his hands on the head of the sick person, an ancient gesture of prayer that is used in connection with many of the sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holv Orders.



After the laying on of hands, the sick person is anointed with the Oil of the Sick (pure olive oil, blessed each year by the Archbishop at the Chrism Mass). The sick person is anointed on the forehead and then on the hands, and simple words accompany the anointing: "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up." A concluding prayer follows, and if the sacrament takes place in the context of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist continues as usual.

What are the effects of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?

The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults explains: "When the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God's will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is not physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age." The spiritual fruits of the sacrament are many:

 Union of the sick person to the passion of Christ. For Christians, suffering is not useless, nor is it devoid of meaning. Rather, Christ's suffering on the Cross gives meaning to our suffering, which can be a source of grace for ourselves and for the Church. As St. Paul said.

"I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church" (Colossians 1: 24). Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago echoed this sentiment when he was dving of cancer. "In an age like our own," he wrote, "marked in part by the quest for instant relief from suffering, it takes special courage to stand on Calvary. Uniting our suffering with that of

Jesus, we receive strength and courage, a new lease on life, and undaunted hope for the future."

- Giving the sick person the strength, peace, and courage to endure the sufferings of illness or old age.
- Imparting the forgiveness of sins.
- Providing restoration of health, in accord with God's will.
- Helping the sick person to prepare for passing over to eternal life.

What happened to "last rites"?

We no longer use the terms "last rites" or "extreme unction" in speaking of the Church's prayer with the dying. But even though the terms are no longer used, the Church retains her ancient custom of preparing people for death and praying with and over them in their last moments.

In addition to the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the dying should receive Viaticum if they are able. Literally "food for the journey," Viaticum is the last Holy Communion of the dying person. While only a priest or bishop may confer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, a deacon or lay minister may give Viaticum and pray the Church's prayers for the dying when no priest is available.

Prepared by Helen Oesterle and Corinna Laughlin, St. James Cathedral