



ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL
The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 25, 2020

ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

WELCOME HOME! A few important notes on today's liturgy:

- + Please keep your mask/face covering on whenever you are in the Cathedral. Your mask must cover both your nose and your mouth at all times.
- + Always observe social distance of at least six feet between family groups.
- + Archbishop Etienne, Father Ryan, and other speakers will remove their mask for the spoken parts of the Mass. Whenever they do so they will remain a minimum of twelve feet (extreme social distance) away from other people.
- + Please do not move around the Cathedral before or during Mass.
- + Thank you! We can all help each other stay safe and comfortable by following these common sense guidelines.

The Introductory Rites

PRELUDE

Adagio in C Major, K. 356
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)
“Aria” from *Symphony No. 6*
Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

ENTRANCE

Surely it is God who saves me;
I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me And his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water From salvation's healing spring:
In the day of your deliverance Thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

Isaiah 12:1-6

Surely it is God who saves me
RACHEL

PENITENTIAL ACT

New Plainsong Mass
David Hurd (b. 1950)

Cantor; then ALL

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

GLORIA

Mass in Honor of St. Benedict
Robert LeBlanc (b. 1948)

ALL:

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will. We
praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we glo-ri - fy you, we give you thanks for
your great glo - ry, Lord God heav-en - ly King, O God, al-might - y Fa - ther.

*Cantor Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.*

ALL:

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men, a - - - - men.

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

Exodus 22:20-26

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 18

Michel Guimont (b. 1950)

I love you, Lord, my strength, my strength.

SECOND READING

I Thessalonians 1:5c-10

ALLELUIA

Murray

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-40

HOMILY

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne (8:00am)
Father Michael G. Ryan (all other masses)

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

ALL BOW
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
ALL STAND UPRIGHT
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

All respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

SANCTUS

Corpus Christi Mass
chant, adapt. Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

Cantor, then All:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Cantor: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Cantor, then All:

Ho - san - na in the high - est, in the high - est.

Cantor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Cantor, then All:

Ho - san - na in the high - est, in the high - est.

MYSTERY OF FAITH

chant, adapt. Proulx

Cantor, then All:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

we pro - claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

AMEN

chant, adapt. Proulx

All:

A - men, A - men, A - - - - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

AGNUS DEI

Holy Cross Mass
David Clark Isele (1946–2016)

Cantor:
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have
mer-cy on us.

ALL:
Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Please kneel following the sung Lamb of God and remain kneeling until it is time for your row to go forward for Holy Communion.

Distribution of Holy Communion

- + **Communion is given only in the hand. Hold your hand as flat as possible.**
- + **As you process forward to receive communion, and as you return to your seat, please maintain six feet of separation between family groups.**
- + **Wear your mask. Hold your hands out flat so that the minister can easily put the host on your open palm without touching your hand. (If contact is made, the EM is required to stop and sanitize her or his hands before moving on to the next household.)**
- + **After receiving Holy Communion, lower your mask with one hand, put the host in your mouth, and then put your mask back on.**
- + **Following the procession, please exit by the door nearest you. This may not be the door you came in. Maintain social distance as you leave the Cathedral and follow the directions of the ministers.**
- + **Thank you! We can all help each other stay safe and comfortable by following these common sense guidelines.**

COMMUNION

Lætabimur in salutari tuo

Mode II

We shall rejoice in your salvation,
and in the name of the Lord our God shall we place our pride.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

ANTIPHON TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (10:30am)

Salve Regina

Déodat de Séverac (1873–1921)

POSTLUDE

Fantasia in G Minor, BWV 542

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

“Allegro” from *Concerto in D Minor, BWV 596*
Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741), transcribed by Johann Sebastian Bach

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle

PASTOR

The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Reverend Alex Pablo

IN RESIDENCE

Reverend David A. Brant

PASTORAL ASSISTANT for ADMINISTRATION

Lawrence N. Brouse (206-382-4280)

FAITH FORMATION

Kathleen McCabe, Director (206-382-2018)

Brenda Bellamy, Children's Faith Formation (206-274-3108)

Rosanne Michaels, Faith Formation (206-654-4658)

Jennifer Wong, Baptism Coordinator (206-619-0816)

Theresa Van de Ven, Administrative Assistant (206-219-5822)

LITURGY

Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy (206-264-2086)

John Marquez, Julie Sharples, sacristy (206-654-4646)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Joseph Adam, Director of Music & Cathedral Organist

Samuel Libra, Associate Cathedral Organist

Stacey Sunde, Director of Youth Music

Marjorie Bundy, Music Office Assistant

SOCIAL OUTREACH and ADVOCACY

Patrick Barredo, Director (206-382-4515); Luke Henkel (206-382-4235)

Cathedral Kitchen: Mick McHugh (Interim Director),

John Givins (206-264-2091)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

Nancy Granger, Parish Mental Health Nurse (206-382-4269)

ST. JAMES IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE

Christopher J. Koehler, Director

Patrick Suhrbier, Immigrant Legal Services

Sayuko Setvik, Tutoring Coordinator

STEWARSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

Maria Laughlin, Director (206-382-4284)

Caroline Okello, Welcome and Volunteer Coordinator (206-382-4500)

YOUTH MINISTRY

David Buchholz, Christina Buchholz, youth@stjames-cathedral.org

PARISH OFFICE

Sister Mary Slater, SNJM, Bookkeeper (206-382-4564)

Micki-Jo Palmer, Executive Assistant for Finance (206-654-4650)

Margaret Lynch, Wedding Office (206-382-4288)

Bev Mauser, Louise Mennella, Wedding Coordinators

FACILITIES and GROUNDS

Tang Nguyen, Facilities Supervisor (206-264-2087)

Alan Frasher, Gebregziabher Abay, Lino Nillas

CELEBRATIONS of the SACRAMENTS

MASS

Sundays 8:00am - 10:30am (public and livestream)

Weekdays 8:00am (livestream)

Saturdays 8:00am (livestream) & "Vigil" 5:30pm (public)

LITURGY of the HOURS

Weekdays at 12:10 pm

VESPERS and BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sundays at 4:00pm (livestream)

BAPTISM Communal celebrations are held monthly. A preparation program for parents and godparents is required. Contact Jennifer Wong for information, 206-619-0816.

MARRIAGE Registered parishioners may begin the scheduling process up to 14 months in advance. Contact Margaret Lynch, 206-382-4288 or mlynch@stjames-cathedral.org.

ANOINTING of the SICK A communal celebration is held twice yearly. In case of serious illness, impending surgery, or advanced age, please call the parish office. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick should not be delayed until the person is unconscious or in imminent danger of death. Call the parish office for information.

FUNERALS for parishioners, contact Nancy Granger, 206-382-4269

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

After-hours Emergency answering service for parishioners: 206-467-3049

804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Telephone: 206-622-3559 FAX: 206-622-5303

Website: www.stjames-cathedral.org

WELCOME, VISITORS! 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.

FOR YOUR SAFETY At each of the weekend Masses a Seattle police officer or uniformed security guard is present on the Cathedral campus.

The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 25, 2020

ON THE COVER *Love your neighbor as yourself.* Detail of the Cathedral's Great Cross. Artist unknown.

CHANGE IN SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK!

We are delighted to be able to offer an additional opportunity for in-person worship beginning next Sunday, November 1. Masses will be Saturday 5:30pm, and Sunday, **8:00am, 10:00am and 12 Noon**. Note the time change! Owing to restrictions on attendance during this time of pandemic, registration is required to attend our weekend Masses. Visit www.stjames-cathedral.org to register. *Information*, Caroline Okello, cokello@stjames-cathedral.org or 206-382-4500.

PUBLIC MASS AND ADORATION ON TUESDAYS The 8:00am Mass on Tuesdays is now open to the public. After Mass, we will have quiet Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral, with rosary at 12 Noon. No advance registration is required to come to this Mass or to participate in Adoration. All our usual Covid-19 guidelines will be observed, including face masks and social distancing. Please note that we will continue to livestream daily Mass at 8:00am for the duration of the pandemic.

VESPERS AND BENEDICTION on Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm is now open to the public. No advance registration required.

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH LIVE THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

The U.S Bishops write that, "Twenty five years ago, Pope St. John Paul II wrote that the Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' saving message to the world (*Evangelium vitae I*). In taking on human flesh, dwelling among us, and sacrificing his very life for our redemption, Christ reveals the profound dignity of every human person. This God-given dignity does not change with our stage of life, abilities, level of independence, or any other varying circumstance." Learn more and find helpful resources at <https://www.usccb.org/respectlife>.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER TO VOTE Be sure to register and learn what's on your ballot. Go to <https://votewa.gov>.

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 pray for the parishes of North American Martyrs in Edmonds and St. Charles Borromeo in Tacoma and Burlington.

DE-ESCALATION & PERSONAL SAFETY THROUGH A TRAUMA-INFORMED LENS Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 6:30pm—8pm via Zoom. Martin Reinsel, MA, LMHC shares his vast clinical experience to help you learn de-escalation skills, and how to engage with challenging behaviors, exceptional situations and unusual circumstances. He will offer tangible approaches to Preparedness as they relate to Prevention, Intervention, and Post-intervention practices for the safety of all involved. *Registration*, Patrick Barredo 206-382-4515 or pbarredo@stjames-cathedral.org.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Catholic Community Services/Catholic Housing Services (CCS/CHS) has asked the Cathedral to provide meals for their day centers and shelters. Unopened store-bought casseroles and unopened sandwich-ingredients (bread, deli meat, vegetables and condiments) are greatly appreciated. In addition, toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps and shampoos, feminine hygiene products), canned ready-to-eat meals (ie soup or chili), cup of noodles, easy mac & cheese, K-cup coffee, cocoa and tea, individual servings of chips, crackers, granola bars and cereals have been requested. Deliver food to Cathedral Hall (803 Terry Ave.), Tuesdays, 9am to 11am. *Information*, Patrick Barredo, pbarredo@stjames-cathedral.org.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL THANKS YOU We visited a middle-aged woman who had worked just long enough at a new job to get her first raise in wages. Then she was assaulted, seriously injured and hospitalized. While off work, her employer terminated her job, saying that, when she was well enough, she could re-apply for the same position but at the original, lower salary despite her experience on the job. When she called the SVdP Helpline (206-767-6449), she had already begun the process of applying for disability benefits, compensation for crime victims and legal assistance. But, because she lost wages while recovering from the assault, she could not pay her rent. With your support, we were able to help her financially, which also reduced her stress significantly. Thank you! *Information*, Jo Ann Wiesner, 206-291-4012 or wiesnerjo@gmail.com.

CELEBRATING MOTHER CABRINI'S FEAST DAY Join a special online film screening of Lucia Mauro's 50-minute documentary, *Frances Xavier Cabrini: The People's Saint*, in honor of Mother Cabrini's Feast Day on Friday, November 13 at 7 p.m. (CST) and an encore presentation on Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m. (CST). Writer-Director Lucia Mauro will participate in a Q&A with Sister Bridget Zanin, MSC, Director of Chicago's National Shrine of St. Frances Xaiver Cabrini; composer Enzo De Rosa; and Gabriella Cabrini, a descendant of the Saint based in Italy. Viewers can choose to watch the film in English, Italian, Spanish, Polish or French. Individual tickets are \$10. For Nov. 13, RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/2HbBdIC>. For Nov. 15, RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/2T4gadR>.

FORMING CONSCiences FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP Learn more about Catholic Social Teaching and its emphasis on participation in the political process. Videos, teachings and links to resources are available on the Cathedral Outreach page: <https://www.stjames-cathedral.org/Outreach/CST.aspx>.

Musical Prayer

LIVESTREAM CONCERTS THIS WEEK All concerts are livestreamed on the Cathedral's Vimeo and Facebook pages, and archived there and on the Cathedral website. (vimeo.com/stjamescathedral and facebook.com/stjamesseattle)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 AT 7:00PM: Continuing a series of concerts from members of the Seattle Symphony, each featuring a sonata by Johannes Brahms for piano and strings paired with a complementary work from another composer, we welcome back Walter Gray, violoncello, with Joseph Adam, piano. They will present Brahms' *Sonata in F Minor, op. 99* with *Five Elegies for solo Cello* by Seattle composer Bern Herbotsheimer (1948–2016). Herbotsheimer had close ties with St. James Cathedral, and his music is used often in our liturgies.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 6:30PM: MUSICAL PRAYER IN THE CATHEDRAL Join us each Friday evening at 6:30pm as our Cathedral Musicians and friends present a half-hour of meditative music to soothe the soul and bring a quiet end to a busy week. This week's music is offered by Eliza Woodyard, soprano and Samuel Libra, organ, who will offer a program of favorites by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, including *Exsultate, jubilate* and *Laudate Dominum*.

EMAIL SCAM In the past few months, there have been reports of parishioners and parish staff receiving emails claiming to be from their parish priest, and requesting that the recipient send gift cards or initiate wire transfers. Someone is setting up fake email addresses using the pastor's name. Please be aware that this is a scam. When in doubt whether a communication is legitimate, please call! *Information*, Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284.

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA Be sure to follow the Cathedral on social media for up-to-date information about ongoing events in the life of the Cathedral! On Instagram: [@stjamescathedral](https://www.instagram.com/stjamescathedral). On Facebook and Twitter: [@stjamesseattle](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesseattle). Did you know the Cathedral has a podcast? Father Ryan's homilies are available on iTunes. Just search "St. James Cathedral, Seattle" on Apple podcasts. And of course, you can always visit the Cathedral website at www.stjames-cathedral.org for up to date information on Cathedral happenings. *If you aren't getting our weekly e-newsletters, be sure to check your spam folder and add St. James to your "safe senders" list!*

Year of the Eucharist



"On hearing the words The Body of Christ, you reply, Amen. Be in fact a member of Christ's body for your affirmation, Amen, to ring true" (St. Augustine). *What does it mean for me to receive the Body of Christ? What does it mean for me to become a member of Christ's body?*



Meeting Jesus Again

...or maybe for the first time

An on-line evening of reflection
with Ron Ryan

Wednesday, October 28 - 6:30 pm

Many of us know a lot about Jesus, yet we may not feel like we have a "relationship" with him. How can we experience our faith as something that goes beyond an intellectual belief, to touch our hearts and lives? Join Ron Ryan for an evening of reflection to help us translate what we "know" about Jesus into actually "knowing" him.

Ron Ryan, D. Min., served in full-time lay ecclesial ministry in various parish and catechetical roles for over 40 years.

**To register and receive Zoom invitation, contact Maria Laughlin,
mlaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org.**



UNITED FOR GOOD

Gathering in Silence to Quell the Darkness

Interfaith Prayer | Sunday, November 1, 2020 | 6:30 pm

LIVESTREAM <https://vimeo.com/event/344850>

In this time of trial and struggle, as we confront challenges to our health, our civil society, and our body politic, we are at a crossroads of conscience. And though the voices of vitriol and extremism often resound loudly, it is the quiet resolve, the reasoned discussion, and the judicious wisdom of the good, the undaunted, and the hopeful that will see us through this crisis.

In the spirit of silent prayer and reflection that is too often obscured by the static of cynicism, local religious leaders will gather in Seattle's St. James Cathedral at this unprecedented time. All are invited to join in this brief interfaith service of quiet reflection via livestream. On the cusp of the exercise of our most essential civil right, we ask you to embrace this moment of contemplation and connection, as we affirm the principles that transcend our differences, and the common cause that will bind the wounds of this Great Nation.

AN INTERFAITH EVENT CO-SPONSORED BY SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL, TEMPLE DE HIRSCH SINAI, FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL, CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREATER SEATTLE



Solemn Mass of All Souls

Monday, November 2, 2020 | 7:00pm

It is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin. (2 Maccabees 12:45-46)

On November 2, the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, we pray for all our beloved dead. In a special way, during this year's Requiem Mass, we will pray for all who have died during the pandemic, more than 220,000 of them in our own country. Given the restrictions on gathering and music at this time, this will be a much simpler celebration than usual, but still beautiful! Attendance is limited to 200. The Mass will be livestreamed for those who are unable to come in person.

Register to attend the Mass of All Souls here:
<https://conta.cc/2T9I0oQ>

St. James Cathedral, Seattle

Grief Support Group



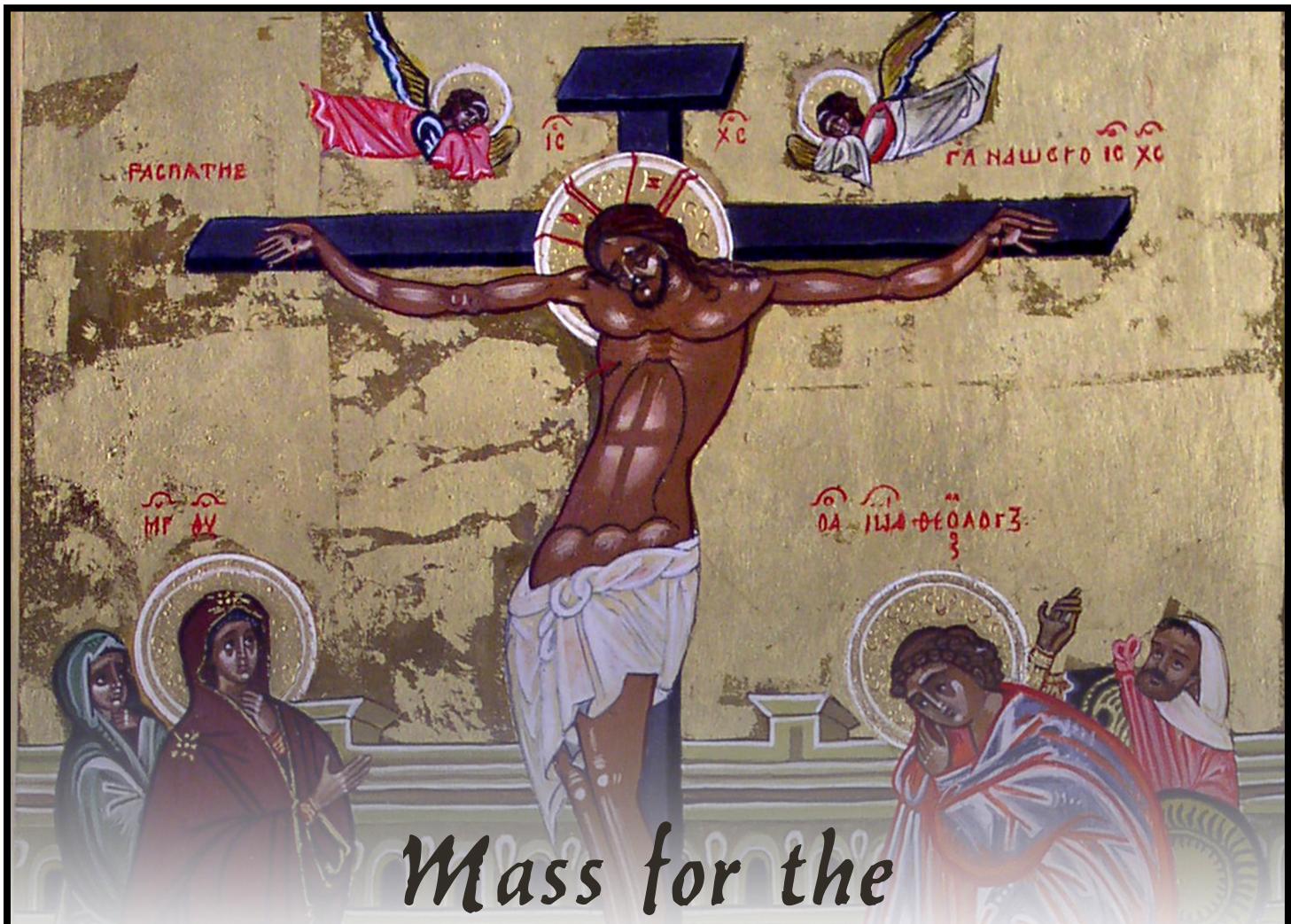
**Tuesdays, November 10—December 22, 2020
6:30pm-8:00pm, on ZOOM**

Are you grieving the death of someone close to you?
Grief and loss can have a significant impact on our lives
long after the death of the person we love.

The grieving process has no timeline and is unique to each individual,
but meeting with others who are going through a similar experience
can provide support and help us cope.

You are invited to join this 8-week grief support group
facilitated by St. James Cathedral Staff Nancy Granger
and Rosanne Michaels

*Information and registration, Rosanne Michaels, 206-790-1519
or rmichaels@stjames-cathedral.org*



Mass for the Deceased Homeless

You are invited to gather at St. James Cathedral on
Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 5:30 pm

for Mass in memory of the homeless men and women who died in shelters,
hospitals, on the streets or by violence in our community this past year.

Registration is required: <https://conta.cc/3clitMy>

The Mass will also be livestreamed on the Cathedral's Facebook and Vimeo pages.

Please join us to honor their memory, to celebrate their lives,
and to pray for them. Father Ryan will preside at the Mass.

All are welcome to bring winter hats, gloves, and scarves
to be distributed to those in need. *Because of the pandemic,
there will not be a reception following the Mass.*

St. James Cathedral is located at 9th and Marion on First Hill in Downtown Seattle.
Information, Patrick Barredo, 206-382-4515 or pbarredo@stjames-cathedral.org



SERVING MOMS IN NEED LIVING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

On March 25, 2020, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, the Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). This prophetic document, written by a great saint of our time, Pope John Paul II, reaffirmed the Church's constant teaching on the value and inviolability of every human life.

In this encyclical, the Holy Father explains that the Gospel of Life is at the *heart* of Jesus' saving message to the world. Through the Incarnation of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, reflecting his glory and his imprint. We are therefore called to "respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person's life."¹

Evangelium vitae highlights the special and particular role of women in bearing the gift of life to the world. Pope John Paul II offers heartfelt thanks to these "heroic mothers," who, placing their trust in God, "devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves."²

Pope John Paul II also outlines the many challenges that expectant mothers may face, including lack of support from the father, financial strains, concerns about her own health or that of her child, and pressures from family and friends. The Holy Father recognizes that an "unborn child is totally entrusted to the protection and care of the woman carrying him or her in the womb."³ For

this reason, it is particularly important that the Church come alongside mothers, offering them encouragement, assistance, and support.

Through Christ, we have received the gift of the Gospel of Life in its fullness. As members of the Church, we are the *people of life and for life*. It is our duty to proclaim the truth of the Gospel of Life to the world, for "*to proclaim Jesus is itself to proclaim life.*"⁴ Pope John Paul II tasked us with building a culture of life to combat the forces at work in the culture of death. He challenged us:

With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth.⁵

In honor of *Evangelium vitae*'s 25th anniversary and in answer to Pope John Paul II's call, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities launched a nationwide effort beginning March 25, 2020 entitled, ***Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service***. Parishes, through the support of their bishops and pastors, are invited to join this effort to increase the Church's outreach and support to pregnant women facing difficult or unexpected pregnancies. This special anniversary year provides the Church with an opportunity to assess, expand, and better communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need.

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in

our parishes and our neighborhoods, but in desperation, they are turning to other places for help. We know the needs and challenges can be immense for women in difficult pregnancies, especially women in poverty, and the sources for help may not be apparent to those most needing support. Women facing challenging pregnancies should see the Church as a place where they can find help, especially with its extensive social services dedicated to meeting the needs of people in crisis.

Through the *Year of Service* the Church is being asked to respond to Pope John Paul II's call and honestly assess the pastoral and practical assistance that it currently provides to pregnant moms and families in need and how effective it is in communicating such help.

Pope John Paul II wrote that,

"gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of man impel us to share [the Gospel of Life] with everyone."⁶

He said we need to bring this message "to the heart of every man and woman and to make it penetrate every part of society."⁷ By reaching out to lovingly support and care for pregnant women and their children, we witness to the sanctity of every human person, in every stage and every circumstance.

Evangelium vitae emphasizes that, "where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable... We need then to 'show care' for all life and for the life of everyone."⁸ Pope John Paul II highlights the incredible history of service and charity that the Church has provided throughout the centuries to those abandoned and forgotten by society. He urges that "every Christian community, with a renewed sense of responsibility, must continue to write this history."⁹

We are called to reverence and love every human person as ourselves. It is our responsibility to care for and protect human life, especially the lives of the most vulnerable among us. *Evangelium vitae* teaches us that "the task of accepting and serving life involves everyone; and this task must be fulfilled above all towards life when it is at its weakest."¹⁰

Pope John Paul II wrote, "the Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel."¹¹ The Gospel of Jesus is the Gospel of Life, and to love Jesus is to love and serve life. As followers of Christ, may we strive to continually respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable entrusted to us by God.

For this *Year of Service*, the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities is providing educational, pastoral, and action-oriented resources to help parishes go to the peripheries and bring hope and help to mothers in need. Through the combined efforts of parishes nationwide, we hope to move closer to the day when every pregnant mother in need knows where to turn for help, and abortion is unthinkable. Visit WalkingWithMoms.com to learn more and to pledge to prayerfully walk with mothers in need.

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1 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), 81.

2 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 86.

3 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 58.

4 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 80.

5 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 95.

6 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 80.

7 *Ibid.*

8 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 87.

9 *Ibid.*

10 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 43.

11 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 2.



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