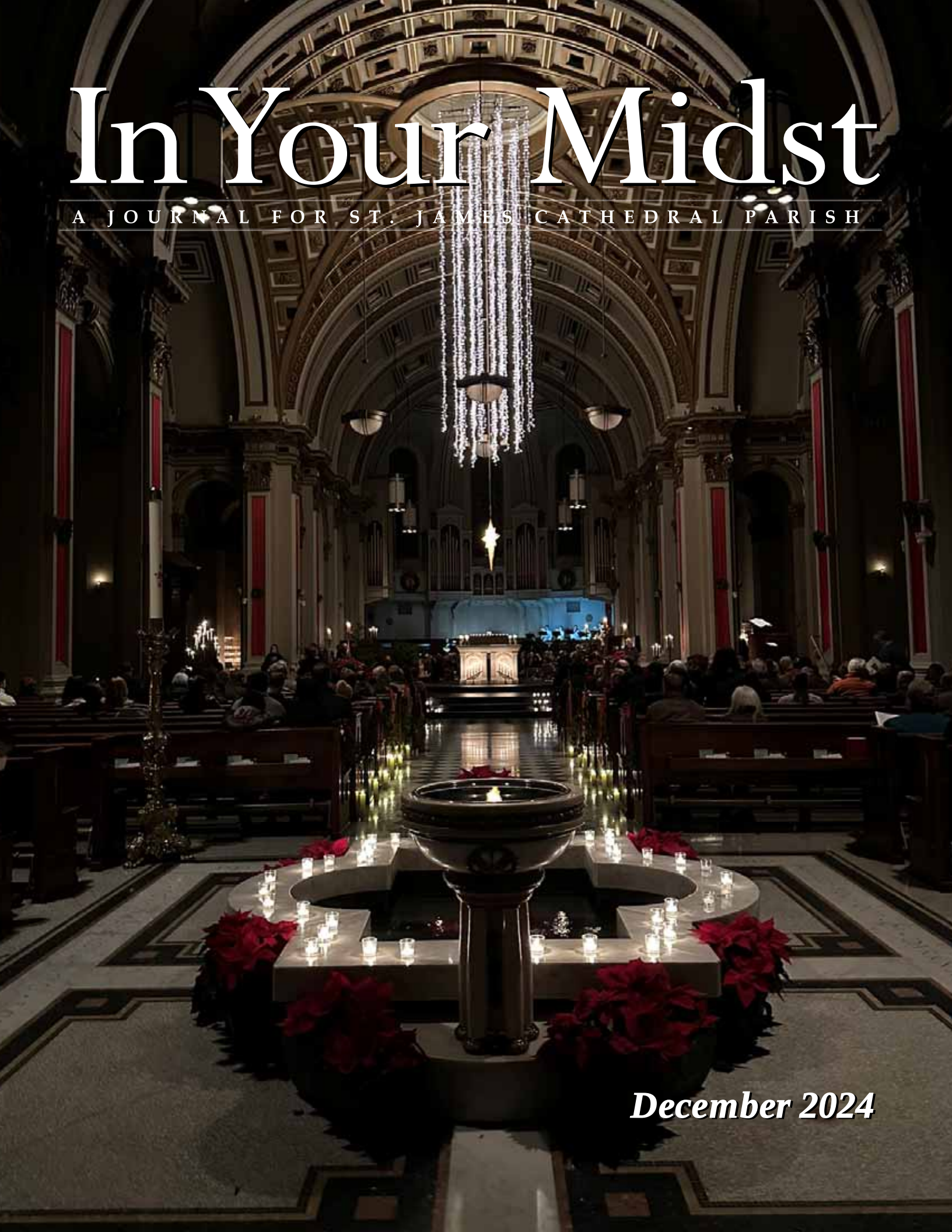
In Your Midst

A JOURNAL FOR ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL PARISH



December 2024

In Your Midst

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"I am in your midst as one who serves." From the great oculus high above the altar of St. James Cathedral, these words of Jesus communicate His abiding presence among us. This inscription gave us the name for our Journal and continues to be our guiding inspiration.

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A Year of Grace

The Archdiocese of Seattle celebrates 175 Years and a Jubilee in 2025

For all of us in the Archdiocese of Seattle, the coming year 2025 is doubly blessed. Not only is it a Jubilee year for the entire Church, but 2025 marks the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

On May 31, 1850, Pope Pius IX established the Diocese of Nesqually and named Augustin Magloire Blanchet as its first bishop. The Church in the Pacific Northwest had had a rocky start. In 1846, Bishop Blanchet had been appointed to serve in this region as Bishop of Walla Walla. Just two months after his arrival, the Whitman massacre put an end to all missionary efforts in the eastern part of what is now Washington State. The Diocese of Walla Walla was suppressed, and Blanchet was given a new diocese, named for Nesqually, a small settlement on Puget Sound. The first cathedral was in Vancouver, Washington.

From very shaky beginnings, slowly but surely, the Archdiocese of Seattle has grown and put down deep roots in the Pacific Northwest. These 175 years have been the work of countless women and men—religious and laity, bishops and priests—whose faith, sacrifice, and openness to the Spirit have handed on the legacy of faith to us. **During the coming year, we will mark this anniversary not only with a great liturgical celebration on May 31 at 11:00am in the Cathedral (mark your calendar!), but with a Season of Service throughout the Archdiocese beginning March 1**. Through prayer and worship, and through service of the poor and needy in our region, we strive to be a sign of hope for our local communities.

We have a lot to celebrate!

What is a Jubilee?

A Jubilee a special year of prayer. Jubilees are times for forgiveness, reconciliation, and pilgrimage. Jubilees have deep roots in the Jewish tradition, and continue to be a vital part of the Catholic tradition. Jubilees ordinarily take place every twenty-five years. There are also occasional "extraordinary Jubilees," like the Year of Mercy in 2016.

When does this Jubilee begin and end?

Pope Francis will formally open the Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024 and close them on January 6, 2026. Locally, our observance of the Jubilee will begin with a special Mass on December 29, 2024, at 10:00am. The Jubilee will conclude on December 28, 2025.

What is the theme of the Jubilee 2025?

During this Jubilee year, Pope Francis is calling upon all people to become Pilgrims of Hope. "Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring…. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope" (Pope Francis).

What are ways to observe the Jubilee?

During the Jubilee, millions of people are expected to make a pilgrimage to Rome to walk through the Holy Doors at one of the four major basilicas. For those unable to travel to Rome, there are many ways to observe the Jubilee. You can make a local pilgrimage to one of the designated sites in the Archdiocese of Seattle. You can also take part by performing the spiritual or corporal works of mercy.

What is the Jubilee indulgence?

The Jubilee indulgence is a traditional part of a Jubilee year. It is a plenary indulgence which can be applied either to ourselves or to our deceased loved ones. The ordinary conditions for obtaining the Jubilee indulgence are to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, and to make a pilgrimage. Those unable to travel can still obtain the Jubilee indulgence by participating in one of the spiritual or corporal works of mercy.

Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites in the Archdiocese of Seattle

Can't go to Rome? You can make a Jubilee pilgrimage closer to home by visiting the Cathedral or one of the other designated pilgrimage places in the Archdiocese—St. Joachim, Lummi; St. Peter, Suquamish; St. James, Vancouver; and Vietnamese Martyrs, Tukwila. In each location, you will find a self-guided pilgrimage leaflet including special prayers for the Jubilee. Find out more at archseattle.org/jubilee2025. ◆

The Glass Flock

Everyday ordinary, extraordinary birds

The sound of flapping wings draws my eyes upward as I walk toward the old cathedral. Looking up into the brightening Seattle sky, with its grey stratus clouds thinning to reveal freshly washed blue, I see a trio of pigeons flutter from the graceful spire to a nearby apartment building. Where other birds wing soundlessly across the skies, pigeons broadcast their entire journey, from take-off to arrival. Why? Bird experts aren't sure: to frighten off predators, or perhaps to flirt, or something more mysterious.



"Flying rats," they're often called, or "one of the most annoying things about living in a big city"—and that's from a pigeon fan. They poop on city pavements and benches and your newly cleaned car, dine on the bounteous garbage of torn fast-food bags and toddlers' snack crumbs, congregate in vast numbers on building ledges. To many, they're simply part of the drab streetscape, notable only when a nuisance.

But today, as I watch them descend from the spire, the pigeons catch the breaking sun, and their iridescent neck feathers shine, tiny sapphire and amethyst flames descending from the dappled sky.

*****

A friend mentioned recently that he'd been walking, "busy and bothered," when he encountered a random pigeon. "I've always thought of them as pretty boring birds," he said. "But just then I saw this incredible iridescence and it changed the way I view them."

Greg was reacting like a female pigeon. Those fiery colors are about attracting new attention and fresh energy, inviting intimacy. Just yesterday a loud cooing drew my attention to a neighbor's roof, where a large male pigeon bowed and bobbed and fluffed those fine feathers for a smaller female. As he shifted his plumage, his beautiful colors flashed into a sparkling array that he hoped would prove entrancing. The female's part in the dance is to evaluate whether his display calls her to this particular beckoner. As they moved closer, it seemed the answer might be yes.

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Early each Sunday morning, a long line of people streams into the cathedral's kitchen area for pancakes, scones, tea, coffee, served free for anyone who needs sustenance. Walking to the side door, I encounter more pigeons on the pavement, dining on crumbs left afterwards. I greet a guy sitting with his breakfast on the steps nearby, wrapped in a worn red and grey blanket. He looks up from his plate to smile at me and bid me good morning. Gathered at his feet, the pigeons cluck softly as they comb the pavement for morsels.

There's a corner across from the church where I often see pigeons gathered by an old apartment building. They convene beneath the stop sign, pecking at the grain someone has scattered there for them. Whoever feeds the birds is pretty regular about it. I picture a gal about my age, standing on the corner, casting seeds for her flock as they gather around her. These days we aren't supposed to feed urban pigeons, as many cities are trying hard to decrease their numbers. Yet I'm still moved by the pigeon-feeder's kindness. All around the cathedral, stone saints and apostles watch as she makes her generous offering; I imagine their chiseled features softening at her grace.

*****

Trileigh Tucker is a St. James parishioner who also sings soprano in the Cathedral Choir. After a career teaching Environmental Studies at Seattle University, she is now an author and nature artist. Trileigh is currently working on a book about birds and spirituality. Her website is naturalpresencearts.com. This essay is excerpted from a longer version published at https://panoramajournal.org/issues/issue-12-cities/cities-the-glass-flock/.

Dramatic organ music trumpets from the cathedral, scattering the pavement pigeons who add their wing-clapping timpani to the cascade of sound. I step inside the cool limestone sanctuary, where huge brilliant red, orange, and yellow streamers swoop down from the oculus Dei—the "eye of God" skylight above the big marble altar—in a blazing contrast to the calm stone tones around them. Today is Pentecost, the "fiftieth day" after Easter, which celebrates the arrival of a dramatic new energy to a group of Jesus' friends. It's an outgrowth of the Jewish festival of Shavuot, initially a harvest celebration and then a commemoration of God's promises to Noah and to Moses. The fiery colors of the streamers dominating the cathedral's great central space today evoke the dancing tongues of flame and roaring gale that galvanized the friends on that memorable day. Fire and wind: ancient symbols for divine spirit, a language understood by cultures around the world.

People stream through the aisle and side doors, taking their seats for the celebration. A lanky man mutters to himself as he shambles around the altar. Many in the sanctuary, including the priest, are wearing red, the color of passion and flame, for this occasion. Others, like me, missed the memo on liturgical color; we wear blue, green, yellow, pink.

As I wait for the service to begin, a winged form flickers outside, across the oculus, a wink in the eye of God. The high arches lining the aisles soften the murmur of conversations among the gathering congregation, so we sound like cooing pigeons who've found their way into the sacred space.

I love this cathedral partly for its medieval language: its multihued images, more than its words, are its storytellers. Pentecost's symbols for spirit may be fire and wind, but complementing these are silent figures eternally embedded in the eloquent stained-glass windows that surround me, transforming the city's light in this sacred space. What I see there, in panel after panel, are doves: soft birds with quiet voices, who bring tender care and gentle truth, the things with feathers.

For more than five thousand years, in cultures around the world, the dove has been a messenger of the divine, and she continues to shine in this old church, carrying the long tradition on her capable wings. Ahead of me in the cathedral's east apse, ablaze in the rising sun, is a panel whose thick colored glass holds a yellowish dove, flying down as her small beak carries a leafy olive branch. Below the dove in the panel is Noah, whose haggard face shows he had almost given up hope. But his eyes have softened as he stretches up his hands to receive her priceless gift.

A different panel glows in brilliant tones of blue and white, green and gold: another holy dove plunges down toward the bowed head of Jesus as he is baptized. Each of the four gospel authors, whose diverse writing styles often feature varying stories in their books, tells this one story with a common key image: the dove who is carrier of spiritual renewal. Luke, the doctor, precise in language, gives the Holy Spirit bodily form: a fluttering, breathing, live animal with heart and mind, so common in Jerusalem's city streets then and ours now. With Luke's image, I picture Jesus feeling the gracefully tapered wings brush against his cheek as tiny claws grip his skin. Spirit incarnated.

And all four writers used the Greek term *peristéra* in their descriptions. A dove, yes, but more accurately: a pigeon. They're the same species. So the white dove pictured in the cathedral's stunning stained-glass windows was more likely gray, with flashing, multicolored iridescent neck feathers. Just like the birds who hang out on the church's roof; who pepper the pavements with their droppings; who coo to the tourists, the unhoused people, and the resident software geniuses alike; who fly with clapping wings that announce their exuberant presence to anyone with ears to hear.

The glass pigeons illuminated by the morning sun in the cathedral's windows, the storied doves fluttering through the fragile pages of ancient scripture, the living birds whose feathers shimmer with dawn light outside the church this morning—all belong to a common family. These humble birds who share your city and mine have brought transcendence home to roost.

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Toward the end of Mass, the sun now streams from the south, bathing the congregation in a new glow through the stained-glass stories. I suddenly picture us from the oculus above, a bird's-eye view, our individual plumage dappled in varicolored light. We souls gathered in celebration, the vitrine doves in the windows, the pigeons outside, each person on the city streets: we are a sparkling glass flock. More than a kaleidoscope, we are a mosaic, iridescent, a set of living stories through which the light of the world flashes, rainbowed, in a call for passion and intimacy and a new kinship.

In my own search for meaning, I've been waiting for a dramatic visitation: a skyborne flash of light, a tongue of flame, a white dove. But perhaps my call will be a brush of feathers on my cheek, or the benediction of a cooing, clapping voice from above—through the everyday ordinary, extraordinary birds that spark with feathers of faceted fire. ◆

Reflections from the Synod

Caroline Okello shares stories and insights

The Summer Quarter of 2024 was much like any other, marked by my efforts to keep up with readings and assignments as I pursue a graduate degree in ministry. Then I received an email that I had been chosen to be a part of the Santa Clara University Synod Immersion trip to Rome from October 10-20, 2024, which would coincide with the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (at which our own Archbishop Etienne was a voting delegate!). To say that I was excited for this historic opportunity is an understatement—I was overjoyed beyond words!



On the rooftop of the Jesuit Curia with members of the Santa Clara Rome Delegation

This journey, for me, truly started with my faith, which I received from my late grandmother, Kathorina Akumu, and my late father, James Okello K'Otieno, making me a third-generation Catholic in my family in Kenya. It is a faith I cherish deeply, and I have proudly passed it on to my children.

The journey continued right here at St. James Cathedral when our entire community responded wholeheartedly to Pope Francis' invitation to participate in the Synod on Synodality in 2022. You may remember that in August that year, at a major Vatican Press Conference, the Synod General Rapporteur, Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, not only quoted at some length from Father Ryan's reflection on the synodal process, but also mentioned both Father Ryan and St. James Cathedral, by name! (In Rome, I got a chance to meet Cardinal Hollerich and to remind him about this—see photo!)

During many of our synodal listening sessions here at the Cathedral back in 2022, I was privileged to serve as a notetaker, or facilitator. I gained significant insight into the Synod on Synodality, which I believe was one reason I was chosen for the SCU immersion trip.

We were a total of eight students and faculty from SCU. We joined hands with thirteen other colleges around the United States under the banner of CENTERS. Together we formed an incredible community of 120 students and 30 faculty members. What struck me particularly was the diversity of our contingent, in age, race, ethnicity, countries of origin, and even religion--there was one Muslim and one Hindu student, and others who did not identify with any religion (the "Nones").

Before departure there were several Zoom orientation sessions to help us prepare as a group but also as individuals. We experienced "conversation in the spirit," listening deeply to one another. As the time drew closer to our departure, I felt a surge of excitement preparing for this historic trip alongside my peers.

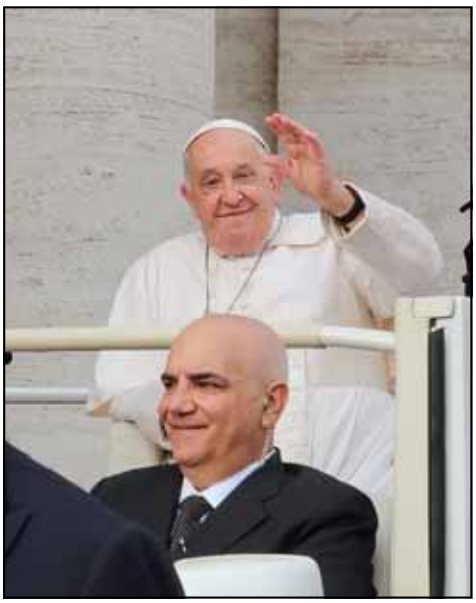
During the week-long visit to Rome, we participated in many events centered on synodality including learning and immersion experiences on the Synodal way of "journeying together." We had an opportunity to attend Sunday Mass at St. Ignatius' rooms, where the founder of the Jesuits lived and worked for almost twenty years.

The week was packed with visits to a variety of historic and sacred sites, each steeped in rich history and significance. I will simply share a few highlights that stand out for me:

- We visited the Pontifical Sanctuary of the Holy Stairs which one has to ascend on one's knees. I had brought many prayers and petitions from my friends and family, but I was also conscious that I was representing my beloved parish of St. James, the Christifideles Program, and Santa Clara. I did not waste any time! I took to my knees on the 28 steps that led to a great cross of the crucified Jesus at the top. A powerful experience!
- The Basilica of San Bartolomeo whose many chapels witness to the faith through martyrs' relics.

Caroline Okello, the Cathedral's Welcome and Volunteer Coordinator, is a currently a student in the Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries (GPPM) at Santa Clara University (SCU), through the Archdiocese of Seattle's Christifideles program for Lay Ecclesial Ministers.





With Cardinal Mario Grech (left), and Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich (center), general relators of the Synod. Right: no caption needed!

Saints of America, Asia, Africa, Madagascar, Europe Oceania, and the Middle East are remembered including those killed during the Nazi regime.

- The Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue where we had wonderful conversations with representatives of a diverse array of religions. The session was hosted by the Secretary, Father Indunil, and his team who themselves come from various parts of the world.
- The tour of Jesuit Curia took us to the roof-top with a breathtaking view of St. Peter's Basilica and the Curia garden with a beautiful statue of Jesus.
- The Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas, which supports the formation of the laity from all over the world. During dinner at the Centre, I shared a table with a Canadian student studying in Rome. She had wonderful things to say about the Centre.
- Most of our meetings were at De La Salle Institute which is a magnificent space with a rich history.

One of the highlight visits was the Papal audience, a truly awe-inspiring experience. Being in the presence of Pope Francis, just a few feet away – looking like he was waving just at me (see the photo!)--was nothing short of magical. His warm smile and genuine presence created a moment I will cherish forever.

Other than the occasional train ride, we accessed most of the places we visited by way of walking on the stone pavement, which made the week a Herculean physical effort (though I have to say, Sunday Hospitality ministry at the Cathedral prepared me for this!).

Our final day in Rome was the major event of the week – we were scheduled to meet with the Synod Secretariat at the Paul VI Hall. For some reason, I woke up feeling very emotional and at every attempt to speak, I found myself in tears for no apparent reason. I spent most of the day in silence, simply listening to everyone around me. This feeling persisted throughout the day until we made it to the Paul VI Hall at the Vatican for the Synodal session with the Synod Secretariat that evening. It was an incredible experience to be in the Paul VI Hall – the very space where the Synod convened -- truly extraordinary.

I took my place as one of the selected questioners, sitting right across from the Synod Secretariat. I was overwhelmed with feelings of excitement and nervousness. It was remarkable to witness the Secretariat's deep engagement with the questions posed. Even more impressive was their willingness to devote their time to answering each one as if it were the only question of the day. As I listened intently, I was struck with this thought: *the Church is truly listening.* My hope for the Church is that as we journey together, we also embark on a path of repair and restoration so that no one is left behind, for, "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ" (1 Cor 12:12).

This trip was everything I dreamed it would be, but so much more. As I mentioned, the trip took us to magnificent sites, steeped in history and culture, where I felt the presence of the divine in every corner. I had countless conversations with a diverse array of individuals that further enriched my experience and nurtured my spiritual growth, as each exchange was a gift from God -- something I will cherish forever! The overall experience was nothing short of extraordinary, and a true blessing. To God be all glory! ◆

St. Vincent de Paul in your midst

A brief history and reflections by parishioners

You may have seen us heading out from the Pastoral Outreach Center in pairs—Saint Vincent de Paul volunteers with rent vouchers and a notebook full of resources. It might be a rainy evening in November, or a sunny day in summer. No matter the weather, we are making home visits—the backbone of our mission since it was started in 1833 by a Parisian student, Frederic Ozanam, and a handful of friends responding to calls to show the works of the Catholic Church. Ozanam acted in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac (1633) founders of Daughters of Charity whose primary purpose was to honor Christ by serving him corporally and spiritually in the persons of the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the young, and others in need. (*Manual of the Society of SVdP*)

Worldwide, SVdP is present in over 150 countries. The SVdP conference was established here at St. James Cathedral in 1921. Thanks to the support of Father Ryan and the generous donations of you, the parishioners, nearly 1,000 people were helped last year. Here at St James, we focus on helping with rent, beds, and information about other resources. We find that giving a portion of back rent helps keep neighbors from eviction, so we see our mission as helping keep people in their homes. Our territory ranges from Pioneer Square to Capitol Hill.

You may see us sitting next to you at Mass. Our current group is made up of 23 members and three inquirers ranging in age from their 20s to 80s. One member, Joseph Roberts, provided training for new Vincentians for ten years. He describes it as family-like—from new members exploring their place in the Catholic community to older members passing down the lore.

Michele Ferguson, our longest serving volunteer, says, “I started just after moving to Seattle in 1990. Within 3 weeks, I was hooked.” Michele is the keeper of our history and culture, especially the stories that explain the reasons behind decisions or procedures. Her prodigious memory includes the names and faces of neighbors she met years ago, showing that they have truly been seen. This is the essence of the home visit—listening and respecting our neighbor’s dignity.

Martha Crites is the Secretary of the St James Cathedral-Bl Rosalie Rendu conference of SVdP. We welcome new inquirers! For more information contact Blake Steller 907-244-6683 or blsteller@gmail.com.



Michelle Power and Peter Burns confer before heading out on a home visit.

A number of Vincentians mentioned how SVdP gives perspective to their own lives. Our current president, Blake Steller, also started volunteering soon after moving to Seattle.

“As a young person with many dreams and aspirations, I often stress myself out with tasks and obligations,” Blake says. “But after a round of home visits...I realize my problems aren’t so big at all.”

Blake also mentions that “Jesus calls us to the margins. There are so many people in need in our community, and I feel that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a wonderful way to put our faith into action.”

When asked to reflect on their experiences with SVdP, many members mentioned putting faith into action. Ken Goddard says, “What appealed to me most was that I'd be doing things to help our neighbors, not just going to meetings to discuss what needs doing. Later on, I found this in the Rule.”

The Vincentian vocation is the intimate desire to participate personally and directly in helping the needy by person-to-person contact and by the gift of one's heart and friendship.

The Rule, created in 1835, was inspired by St Vincent de Paul himself, who based his guide on the lived experience of service. Practical sections have been updated, but the spirit of *faith into action* has guided the Society worldwide since its inception.

Joseph Roberts notes that Vincentians do not reach down to help others, we meet them as equals. Nicole Osby-Evans, a new member who was baptized at Easter Vigil, says the home visit shows this.



Cathedral Vincentians. Front: Michelle Power, JoAnn Wiesner, Martha Crites, Andrea Stuber, Michele Ferguson, Nicole Osby-Evans. Back: Ken Goddard, Blake Steller, Joseph Roberts, Bob Clifford, Susan Picht, James Hale, Matthew Kopf.

"On the surface SVdP offers assistance to our neighbors in need, but the experience is much more…I believe our visits show that there are people who see them and care about their wellbeing. As a volunteer," Nicole reflects, "I gain even more from the experience. I am amazed by our neighbors' resilience, generosity, and hope despite their hardships. The stories that they share stay with me long after the visit and challenge me to reflect on the way that I show up in the world and present my faith. I keep all those I visit in my prayers and also, pray that I too can have their strength."

Some members were inspired to serve because they received help from SVdP in the past. Peter Burns shared that he received rent help from SVdP 20 years ago. In a recent training for new volunteers, he learned how common that was. Many spoke about how their service was based on a desire to give back to SVdP.

Our Conference comes together for meetings that are a mixture of business, prayer and community. Saint Vincent called for accountability in service and today's Conference takes this seriously. We carefully steward donations with awareness that fostering dependence does not help. We seek to find a way to help the many, not just the few. But meetings include more than the transactional aspects of helping. Each begins with a reflection on scripture. We then close in a prayer which includes all the neighbors we have met.

James Hale is a new member of the Catholic Church and of SVdP. He says, "I went through the Rite of Reception in June and immediately got involved with SVdP. I don't think my faith would have grown so strongly and so quickly if I had not done so. As a Catholic I feel a deep responsibility to help others… I get the most out of visits where we sit down and learn about somebody's life, aspirations, hopes and dreams." James continues, "The biggest surprise for me has been building new friendships within our SVdP community. I didn't realize what a large part of the mission that was, and it has been a joy."

Bob Clifford, member since 2013, sums it up. "I have come to realize in stark and real experiences, the difficulty many of our neighbors endure right here in Seattle. I have come away humbled by the grace with which many handle their difficult circumstances, and often ask myself how I would react if it were me… I am proud of SVdP. Many times, during visits we hear our neighbor say, 'I called all the other agencies, and you guys were the only ones to call back and help.'—We are in your midst to serve." ◆

Living Missionary Discipleship

Reflections on a Civil Rights Pilgrimage

Over the centuries, many have undertaken pilgrimages to grow closer to God. I too decided to make my own spiritual journey. Last June, I joined with sixteen representatives of Catholic communities and ministries in the Archdiocese of Seattle to embark on a Civil Rights Pilgrimage to explore the intersections of faith and social justice. By traveling to the heart of the Civil Rights Movement in the Deep South, we were immersed in the stories of racial injustice and the ongoing work towards rectifying the sins of structural racism.



Participants in the Civil Rights Pilgrimage

Our Pilgrimage began on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. It was Juneteenth, the federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States after the Civil War, and recently established in the wake of the murders of Black Americans including George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Our group was comprised of parish and Archdiocesan staff, educators, advocates and professed religious, hailing from many different ethnicities and cultures, also diverse in our political and economic backgrounds. Our one commonality was and still is the belief that we are brothers and sisters through the Body of Christ.

Our encounter with the history of racial injustice began at the Whitney Plantation, outside of New Orleans; it operated as recently as 1975. Today, it stands as a museum focused entirely on the lives of enslaved people. We then journeyed to Montgomery, Alabama, home of Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative. We prayed at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, explored our nation's history of racial injustice at the Legacy Museum, and immersed ourselves in the art and artifacts of enslaved people at the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park situated along the Alabama River where tens of thousands of people were trafficked. We stood vigil at a Montgomery bus stop, in deep appreciation of Rosa Parks and her work to dismantle oppressive structures. In Selma, Alabama, we honored Civil Rights leaders at the Brown Chapel AME Church and walked in their footsteps as we freely crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We returned to New Orleans, taking in the Lower Ninth Ward, whose residents are still clearly devastated by 2005's Hurricane Katrina. Our journey concluded at the former St. Louis Hotel, which had sold coffee in the morning, alcohol at night, and enslaved people six days a week.

In the months since the Pilgrimage, I continue to be disturbed by what I encountered. An image with which I constantly struggle is that of the apostle Peter, who is forewarned by Jesus, "[Y]ou will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go" (John 21.18). Tens of thousands of men, women and children were forcibly led where they did not want to go, separated from their homelands, and trafficked in a foreign country. Pope Francis warns, in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, of an "economic model that does not hesitate to exploit, discard and even kill human beings. While one part of humanity lives in opulence, another part sees its own dignity denied, scorned or trampled upon, and its fundamental rights discarded or violated" (22).

Economics drove the prominence of chattel slavery. Cheap labor allowed for greater profits. Those who toiled were not free to live their lives. Families were separated at their master's whim. Abuse of all kinds was freely exercised. For centuries, the dignity of enslaved persons had been denigrated, and sadly today, we continue to see the effects of that trauma in

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Whitney Plantation (left); National Memorial for Peace and Justice (center), Freedom Monument Sculpture Park (right).

today's many instances of racial injustice.

At last month's All Saints Day and All Souls Day Masses, we celebrated the lives of holy men and women. It is not lost upon me that the work I do in social outreach and advocacy at St. James Cathedral stands on the shoulders of many who have gone before us, including such seminal figures as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis. We cannot forget the work of others who also bravely promoted justice, like Amelia Boynton, a Selma activist committed to ensuring the rights of African Americans to vote. As we look ahead to the Christmas season, we will celebrate the Holy Innocents, put to death by authorities afraid of losing their political power. May we remember all the thousands of people of previous generations who sacrificed their lives so that the rights and dignity of all people are respected.

This Pilgrimage was both a time to lament and to rejoice. Particularly in Louisiana, the complicity of the Catholic Church in the perpetuation of chattel slavery brought great unease within my pilgrim cohort. The Church is a holy institution, but it is comprised of flawed humans who struggle to bring the Reign of God to its fullness. A blessing of the Church is that we are given a baptismal mandate to be prophets to the world, shining God's light upon those areas hidden in the dark. Racial injustice is not merely about the color of people's skin. It is the intersection of generational poverty, educational deprivation, and the failures of the political justice and detention system, amongst other factors. The Catholic Social Teaching theme of Solidarity, as promoted by our U.S. bishops, teaches that "We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. … Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict."

In response to this Civil Rights Pilgrimage, I hear echoes of my moral theology professor, "Fish gotta swim. Birds gotta fly. Christians gotta build the Kingdom of God." We lift up all those who have suffered, exemplified so beautifully at the National Monument to Freedom's memorial wall, which raises up to the heavens more than 100,000 names representing millions of Black families. We heed Pope Francis, who recognizes that the cure for the disease of a throwaway culture, which diminishes the value of human life, is the culture of encounter, in which we recognize all people as our sisters and brothers. We atone for sins such as the Doctrine of Discovery by striving for racial solidarity through initiatives at St. James Cathedral, the South Seattle Deanery and the Archdiocese of Seattle.

As people of faith, may we live into Advent's prophetic themes of hope and expectation, of a world where racial injustice and its myriad intersecting causes are vanquished, where encounter, reconciliation and the Body of Christ unite all people to one another and to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. ◆

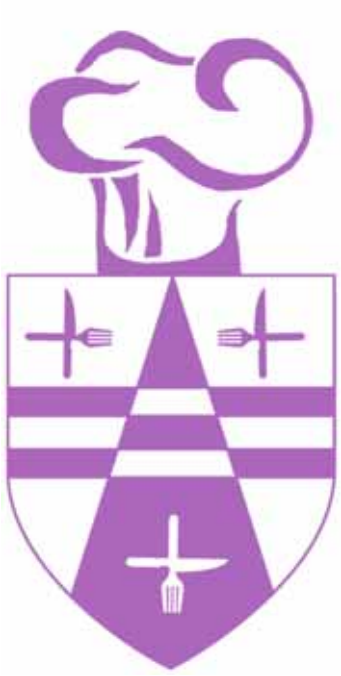
Comfort Food

A reflection on the Cathedral Kitchen

It's been nearly fifty years since the Cathedral Kitchen opened its doors on First Hill. The names and the faces of the guests and servers who make up this community have changed over the years, but the mission has not changed. The Cathedral Kitchen is there to serve a hot, nutritious meal every weeknight to those who need it. It's the heart and soul of the Cathedral's outreach to the poor.

The Cathedral Kitchen is not a soup kitchen, it's not a feeding line. The Cathedral Kitchen is *comfort food*, food that makes our guests feel loved and cared for.

Every weeknight, a different team under the direction of a head cook delights in preparing a meal. The volunteers look forward to coming, and they get pretty attached to "their day." They love the work, they love the camaraderie, they love the mission, and they love the guests. As Mick McHugh, Director of the Cathedral Kitchen, says: "It's a beautiful thing to see!"



SAVE THE DATE The Cathedral Kitchen celebrates 50 years of ministry with a special dinner celebration on February 22, 2025. Keep an eye on the bulletin for details!

Thursdays are Pagliacci Pizza nights. For years now, Pagliacci Pizza has provided pizza every Thursday night for our 150 guests. Talk about comfort food! One guest posted a Google review recently which says it better than I could: "This is a place you can get dinner Monday thru Friday from 4pm to about 4:30 pm. Thursday is pizza night, so if you ever find yourself hungry, broke and bare cupboards then head on down. I recently got laid off from work so going to the church to eat is sometimes the only meal I get. I'm grateful for St James. A big shout out to all the volunteers that feed the homeless and the hungry." That's a 5-star review!

Marty is the chef on Wednesdays. She enjoys the challenge of planning a meal for 150 people from a few staples and what is available from the daily gleaning. A favorite is Chicken Alfredo. The guests love it. And Marty loves it because she can "hide vegetables" in it!

Silvana, head cook on Tuesdays, speaks for so many of our volunteers when she says: "I feel privileged to be a part of this ministry, to work with such an amazing team and to have the opportunity to cook for such a large group of people and see them take the load off and share a meal in the dining room…. it's the best. My time in the kitchen feels like a vocation and I derive great joy from it. One of the highlights of my week!"

It's comfort food, but it's so much more. Let me share one "good news" story that has unfolded over this past year.

A family of five—mom, dad, and three young children--showed up one evening just as the kitchen was closing up for the night. They had nothing--no place to go. Nothing to eat. Nowhere to sleep that night.

First, our team made sure the family was fed. And when no shelter could be found for them, they made up makeshift beds for them in one of our meeting rooms. The next day, our staff started calling in resources. A year later, this family has an apartment of their own. The father has a job. And they have become a second family for Tom (one of our Kitchen staff). The kids have taken to calling him "abuelo"! Just the other day, the young boy in the family beat him in a game of chess.

I think you could say that family came to the right place that night.

It's thanks to you, thanks to your support, that we are able to make such a difference in our community. It's thanks to you that we are able to provide comfort food—and so much more.

Let me close with two more 5-star reviews from Google: "Every day they serve food at 4:00pm. It's so delicious. Come and enjoy." And this one, which may be my favorite: "If you're ever feeling down and hopeless I would recommend St. James." ◆

Father Ryan gave this talk about the Cathedral Kitchen at the Hunthausen Charity Golf Tournament this past August 28.

Día de Muertos

A special Day of the Dead Celebration at the Cathedral











The Day of the Dead altar in the Chapel this year was created by artist María Casey. This beloved tradition originated in Mexico, and is linked with the Catholic practice of prayer for the dead, especially around All Souls Day. Day of the Dead altars are prepared in many homes as well as in churches and other public settings. The traditional elements of the Day of the Dead altar include the golden cempasúchil flowers, candles, images, and calaveritas (sugar skulls), as well as a cross, and photos, favorite foods, and other remembrances of deceased loved ones. The Day of the Dead altar reminds us to pray for those who have gone before us. *Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Que las almas de los fieles difuntos, por la misericordia de Dios, descansen en paz.*

Immigrant Assistance

Profound encounters through our Immigrant Assistance Program

The St. James Cathedral community celebrates the presence of our immigrant neighbors, and recognizes the honor it is to witness their individual journeys. Since 1975, St. James Immigrant Assistance has worked to promote an inclusive society and advance justice for refugees and immigrants through education, advocacy, and by helping refugees and immigrants **to learn English**, **become citizens**, and **connect to community resources**.

Learn English

St. James' ESL tutoring offers individualized instruction tailored to people's immediate and specific needs. Also offered is citizenship instruction for students preparing to become citizens. Powered by well-trained volunteers, our program supports more than 55 active student-teacher tutoring pairs. In addition to accomplishing individual learning goals, we hear consistently of the friendships that develop between students and tutors.

Tutor Rebecca shares: "You've heard of the butterfly effect? The mere act of a butterfly moving its wings has an effect on the air in another place! The principle of 'cause and effect' applies everywhere, including tutoring. I get as much, or more, out of this tutoring endeavor than my students do! I enjoy introducing my students to a little treat I baked in the kitchen, or having coffee with my student to break up the routine where we have casual conversation and build friendships, or giving my pregnant student a baby blanket I made for her.

"If I weren't tutoring, I wouldn't be on the receiving end of a student's relative explaining something about Russian culture to me, and I wouldn't have the delight of watching my student from Afghanistan 'catch' the enthusiasm she needs to learn English and build a solid future for herself and her family here.

"With tutoring, I deepen my understanding of other cultures and the struggles of immigrants and refugees. I develop the empathy they need from me to help them. My world gets larger and my appreciation for the blessings I enjoy here in this country increases. We as tutors can diminish, if only a tiny bit, the pain and suffering in this world! All I'm doing is helping someone conjugate the verb 'to be'!!!! But tutoring is a 'big deal.' And it can profoundly affect innumerable people and places!!!!"

Valentina, a student with St. James Immigrant Assistance, tells her story:



"I have been living in the US since 2020. I have moved here from Moldova. I first came to St. James in 2020. When I started I spoke no English at all, because I studied German at school and university. The most challenging for me is communication, I feel it is challenging to easily understand what people say and clearly explain my thoughts.

"I was having lessons twice a week with one tutor. Then I had a break. Then I resumed my lessons at St James in 2023. I used the student book "Confidence and connections". I started at level 2R, now I'm at level 4R. I think I have improved my English but not good enough yet. I'll need to continue my lessons to be fluent in English. I had two tutors first, and now I have lessons twice a week with one of them. In tutoring I like that we have a book that we follow and that I have 1:1 communication with my teacher, and I can ask any questions. I enjoy our lessons and I am thankful to St James for this opportunity."

Become citizens

Applying for U.S citizenship is often confusing and stressful. The rules, exemptions, and opportunities are neither straightforward nor easily understood. St. James Immigrant Assistance provides individualized assistance and legal representation, at no cost, to applicants throughout the process including screening, collecting documentation, preparing and filing the

Erica de Klerk is the Director of the St. James Immigrant Assistance Program. If you would like to find out more or get involved, email edeklerk@stjames-cathedral.org.

application, following up on requests for further evidence, providing mock immigration interviews, and representing clients at their citizenship interviews. We also offer citizenship instruction for clients preparing to become citizens through our tutoring program. After becoming a citizen, we help new citizens understand their rights, responsibilities, and benefits. Additionally, we provide information and referral for other legal resources in the community.

"Each of our cases is unique and requires a range of support," says our Legal Services Team. "Certain clients need us to advocate around accommodations for their naturalization interview, related to health, disabilities or other barriers. Other clients come to us after unsuccessfully applying for U.S. citizenship due to needing significant support with their English. In those cases, our team tailors our services to include extensive interview preparation so clients can demonstrate comprehension of the information on their naturalization application in English, and add extra tutoring sessions to help memorize the 100 civics questions in English and pass the English reading and writing tests. This individualized support leads clients to gain confidence, reduce their stress and put their best abilities forward at their naturalization interview.

"We see how one naturalization has family-wide impact. Certain children whose parents naturalize may automatically become U.S. citizens. A U.S. citizen also has new opportunities to reunite with family members from whom they've been separated for long periods of time after coming to the U.S. Even after becoming a lawful permanent resident, years, even decades, might pass for a visa to become available for family members. However, after becoming a citizen, certain family members can join their loved ones more quickly."





Connect to community resources

St. James' Refugee Welcome and Inclusion program supports newly arrived immigrants as they resettle in our community. Volunteer teams walk alongside newcomers in identifying resources, connecting to services and navigating a new home. Within this program, the Respite Team welcomes asylum seekers. More than 100 adults and children from 12 countries have been accompanied by the Respite Team. With support from the parish community and the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, we share referral information and a Welcome Backpack, filled with essential supplies and gift cards, with newcomers.

One Respite Team Client relates: "I still have the welcome card and the gift that helped us protect ourselves from the rain and the cold weather. Legal services information provided for our immigration process, and the transit card to move around on the bus because we didn't have a car, was a big help. We were unemployed at the time and you helped us find a way to pay our rent. Thank you very much to the program and to all of you that make all of this possible."

Katie, a volunteer, notes: "It has been an honor to welcome and walk with newcomers as part of the Respite Team. Their stories are remarkable, heartrending, and inspiring. I am happy to be a small part of their journey." ◆

Annual Report to the Parish

Looking back on the fiscal year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

Each year, we publish a report on the financial condition of the parish. As you reflect on how you will support the Cathedral parish in 2025, I hope that the information contained in this report will help inform your decision. The report details not only the dollars and cents, but also some of the ministries and activities which are made possible through your support.

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, our total parish income was $7,191,867.

- Sunday and holy day collections (46%)
- Various gifts, grants, and bequests (36%)
- Business income (including land lease, fundraisers, Cathedral Bookstore) (18%)

Total expenses for the year were $6,303,104.

- Salaries, benefits and other personnel-related expenses (54%)
- Parish assessment by the Archdiocese (5%)
- Our annual support of four central area Catholic schools and parish scholarships for Rainbow Schools and high schools (4%)
- Supplies, operating costs for the maintenance and improvement of the Cathedral, other parish buildings, and grounds, etc. (37%)

This left us with a surplus in 2023-2024 of $888,764.

You will notice that this surplus is much higher than what we projected at this time last year, and is almost entirely owing to a number of exceptionally generous bequests we received during the past year. These bequests go into our reserves and help offset unexpected costs. Please remember to pray for all our beloved dead and in a special way for those who have remembered the Cathedral in their estate planning. It really is an incredible gift.

If you look at the projected budget for 2024-2025, you'll see that we anticipate a small deficit in the current fiscal year. This deficit may grow because the budget below does not take into account a salary adjustment which may be implemented in the new year. A salary review is currently underway by our Finance Council, looking both at internal equity and keeping staff compensation in line with Archdiocesan guidelines. It's good for you to know that our Finance Council, consisting of nine of your fellow parishioners, meets monthly to monitor the finances of the parish

Income and Expense	Projected 2023-2024	Actual 2023-2024	Projected 2024-2025
Sunday and Holy Day Collections	$3,120,000	$3,291,401	$3,302,000
Bequests	194,000	1,017,875	190,400
Other gifts, grants, ACA rebate	890,250	1,200,718	910,852
Restricted donations	12,000	309,301	82,456
Columbarium income	100,000	90,188	80,000
Business income (*land lease, bookstore, fundraisers)*	1,096,284	1,282,384	1,312,458
Total Income	**$5,412,534**	**$7,191,867**	**$5,878,166**
Staff salaries and benefits	$2,835,946	$3,373,590	$3,251,844
Supplies (*including postage & printing)*	405,974	507,417	508,036
Operations and Maintenance	240,000	188,105	167,500
Capital Expense*	50,000	142,982	0
Contracted Services (*includes insurance premiums, police officers, service contracts, and contract musicians)*	580,830	683,672	524,161
Business Expenses (*including bookstore and fundraising expense, hospitality, donations to others)*	213,250	470,234	294,807
Utilities, vehicles	340,800	364,392	387,172
Archdiocesan assessment	190,100	321,729	429,148
Rainbow Schools and Scholarships	244,597	250,983	315,384
Total Expense	**$5,101,497**	**$6,303,104**	**$5,878,052**
Surplus (Deficit)	**$311,036**	**$888,764**	**($114)**

**Due to changes in Archdiocesan guidelines, capital expenses are now recorded as improvements on the balance sheet and are exempt from the Archdiocesan assessment.*

and to advise me on financial matters. I am deeply grateful to them for the way they share their time and expertise.

Our Life as a Parish, 2023-2024

We are a vibrant and diverse parish with 2,464 registered households, comprising 4,894 individual members. Our parishioners come from across Western Washington, from as far south as Olympia and as far north as Mount Vernon. Hundreds of volunteers are involved in dozens of parish ministries. This past year, some 928 individuals volunteered in some capacity at the Cathedral.

This year, 848 households made Sacrificial Giving pledges to the parish, and 1,210 made contributions in the course of the year.

During the past fiscal year, more than 700 Sunday and regular daily liturgies were celebrated, not counting special liturgies for Holy Days, the Sacred Triduum, and ecumenical and interfaith services. We livestream Mass every day and twice on Sunday. Nearly 200 households from across the country join every morning in the daily livestream Mass, and on Sundays we are joined by an average of 450 between the 8:00am and 10:00am Masses!

Fifty-nine children and nine adults were baptized; six people baptized in other Christian traditions made their Profession of Faith and were received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Twenty-eight confirmations were celebrated, and 33 children received their First Holy Communion. During the year 19 weddings and 32 funerals were celebrated.

Liturgy, Music, and Special Events

Mass attendance has greatly increased. It has been good to see so many of returning to in-person worship during the past year as we continue to recover from the pandemic. In addition, the Cathedral has been blessed to welcome visitors from around the world, especially during the summer months.

As the Cathedral Church, we are privileged to host special events which gather Catholics from across Western Washington, including Rites of Election, the Chrism Mass, Ordinations to the Priesthood, our annual celebration of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Madre de las Americas, and Simbang Gabi. The Cathedral also hosted Baccalaureate Masses for O'Dea High School, Holy Names Academy, Seattle Preparatory School, and Seattle University.

In September, 2023, a synodal gathering brought young adults together with the Archbishop for prayer and conversation. Later that week, Archbishop Etienne, who was appointed a delegate to the Synod in Rome, celebrated a special Mass of the Holy Spirit.

At the 2023 Mass for Deceased Homeless, we remembered 410 people who died on the streets in the past year, a staggering and heartbreaking number.

In February, after extensive consultation that lasted several months, final Parish Family configurations of Partners in the Gospel were announced. St. James Cathedral became one parish family with Immaculate Conception, Central District, and Christ Our Hope, downtown as of July 1, 2024.

During the Sacred Triduum, we were privileged to welcome Father Ricky Manalo, a Paulist priest from New York City, to preach on the Seven Last Words during the traditional Tre Ore service on Good Friday.

Outreach, Pastoral Care, and Faith Formation

The Cathedral Kitchen, now in its 49th year, serves an average of 150 people of all ages and races a hot, nutritious meal, lovingly prepared in the Cathedral Hall each weeknight—around 40,000 meals a year. The Sunday Early Breakfast continues to feed 70-80 people every Sunday morning. In addition, our Cathedral Kitchen Garden is thriving at Madison and Terry. And the Solanus Casey Center, our drop-in and referral center, a joint ministry with Catholic Community Services, helps hundreds of people find the services they need, whether housing, transportation, or meals.

The St. James Immigrant Assistance Program has continued to grow and to develop new outreach to immigrants and refugees in our midst. Our Mental Health and Wellness Ministry offered a variety of services, including prayer ministry, grief support, educational events, and social activities.

Many homebound parishioners received communion in their homes each week, allowing them to remain connected to the liturgical life of St. James, and many more connected with the Cathedral via livestream. Cathedral parishioners took communion to patients at Harborview Hospital each week.

Our Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation programs are thriving under the leadership of Tami Kowal, who joined the team in July, 2023. About 100 Cathedral children participated in Sunday School classes, offered September through June.

Other offerings included small group study for Lent, Bible Study, book groups, retreats, and much more.

All of this was made possible by your generous contributions. We want you to know that, under the oversight of the Cathedral's Finance Council, there has been careful stewardship of the financial resources of the parish. We look forward to accomplishing even more with your support and with the help of God's grace in the coming year. ◆

Cathedral Almanac

Snapshots of life at St. James Cathedral, July 2024-December 2024

July 2024

1. **Partners in the Gospel** became a reality. In a letter marking this day, for which we have been preparing for the past eighteen months, Archbishop Etienne wrote: "Today marks a milestone in the history of the Archdiocese of Seattle as we begin the implementation phase of our Partners in the Gospel strategic pastoral planning effort. This effort was designed to reorganize the structure of our parishes so that we can make more effective use of our resources — the people, the infrastructure, the finances, and more — to better achieve our Catholic mission."

11. As part of the **Summer Organ Series**, Bryan Anderson presented a concert Cathedral. The summer organ series is quite popular, with each recital followed by a festive ice cream reception in the Cathedral Courtyard.

21. **The Feast of St. James.** From Father Ryan's homily for today: "it's not about glory, is it? It's about service. And that's what we've made of this place: a community of people whose first name is St. James and whose middle name is service. The words up there over our altar have, in many ways, become our parish motto, and they say it all. They are Jesus' own words, and they became James' words, and now they have become our words: I am in your midst as one who serves."

25. The newly-combined Housing Advocacy Committee of St. James Cathedral and St. Joseph Parish offered **Who is My Neighbor? A Novena of Mercy for Fair and Just Housing in Seattle and King County,** praying in communion with the saints and holy men and women of the Catholic Church, for our unhoused sisters and brothers, and to learn about the issues contributing to the housing crisis.







Above: The St. James puppet makes his annual appearance on the Feast of St. James. **Center**: Parishioners from our new parish family join for dinner and a tour, July 25. **Bottom**: Hunthausen Golf Tournament, August 26.

25. The Cathedral hosted the first of three welcome events for members of our new **parish family**. Parishioners and leaders from both Immaculate Conception and Christ Our Hope shared a meal and a tour of the Cathedral.

August.

9. Archbishop Etienne presided at a **Mass for Peace** on the anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki.

12-16. It was a delight to welcome around fifty young people to this year's **Choir Camp**. The theme was *Lift Every Voice*.

22. **Christ Our Hope** hosted a welcome event for the parish family.

26. The **Hunthausen Charity Golf Tournament**, co-sponsored by Pagliacci Pizza, was a tremendous success, netting $221,228 for the Cathedral's outreach ministries—our biggest year ever.

September

7. **Prophets of Hope**: Reflecting God's Light for Challenging Political Times. Caroline Okello led this retreat sponsored by the Cathedral's Life, Peace, and Justice Commission, kicking off a series in preparation for the election.

12. **Immaculate Conception** hosted a welcome event for the parish family, another friendly and relaxed event including a shared meal and a tour of the beautiful church.

14. The **Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance** was a powerful moment of prayer and remembrance.

15. **Children's Faith Formation** launched its 2024-2025 year.

19. Seattle University President **Eduardo Peñalver** continued our series preparing for the election, presenting on the topic of *Catholics as Politically*

Homeless? His remarkable talk was later published in *Commonweal* Magazine.
25. **An Evening of Prayer with Refugees** was a powerful occasion to hear the testimonies of refugees and to pray for and with them as part of the
28. The **PREPARES Mass** with Bishop Schuster marked ten years of the statewide program to help mothers and young children in need.
30. Jean Welch Hill, the Executive Director of the Washington State Catholic Conference, rounded out the series with **Being Catholic in the Public Square**.

October

8. John Simpson offered a four-week Bible study on **Amos: God's Messenger of Justice** at Immaculate Conception and at the Cathedral.
26. Bishop Frank Schuster presided at our annual Mass on the anniversary of the canonization of **St. Kateri Tekakwitha**, a wonderful celebration and an opportunity to give thanks for the faith and the presence of our indigenous sisters and brothers.







Above: Choir Camp morning prayer, August. **Center**: Seattle University President Eduardo Peñalver, September 19.
Bottom: Mass for the Deceased Homeless, November 7.

November

1. This year, the Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Joseph Adam, performed **Mozart's sublime Requiem** in the context of the Solemn Mass of All Souls. It was wonderful to see the Cathedral packed for this extraordinarily beautiful Mass.
2. **Dia de Muertos**—Day of the Dead. A special collaboration with the Archdiocese of Seattle and Orquestra Northwest filled the Cathedral for a one-of-a-kind concert. *See the photos on page 13 of this journal!*
3. As **Election Day** approached, Father Ryan reflected in his homily: "Feelings of sadness, anger, or outrage – perhaps all three – are one thing. We wouldn't be human if we didn't have feelings, after all. But if our feelings end up blinding us to the good in others – and to the God in others – then we will have lost not only an election, we will have lost our hold on the very heart of our Christian faith: love for God and love for neighbor. Those must be our anchor, our hope, our way forward."
3. Children joined in a special procession at the conclusion of the Noon Mass, carrying images of deceased family members (and pets!) to place on the Day of the Dead Altar in the Chapel. After the 10:00am and Noon Masses, we welcomed representatives of the four Rainbow Schools and of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School at our annual Catholic Schools Fair.
4. The Cathedral co-sponsored with Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral a prayer titled ***United We Stand***: *An Interreligious Prayer Vigil on the Eve of Elections*. Hundreds gathered on the eve of Election Day to pray and reflect. Father Ryan concluded the service with these words: "in the days to come, we will find a way to live together as Americans, find ways to work together, to struggle together, to survive together; we will look for ways to bury our hatchets and our hatreds; ways to look for the good in those who don't think like us, ways to forgive their excesses even as we challenge their certainties; ways to understand their anger, ways to try to heal their hurts even as we deal with our own. My friends, no matter what tomorrow brings, we have our work cut out for us. And we have light to bring. And make no mistake: light will win. Light will win!"
7. At our annual **Mass for the Deceased Homeless**, we remembered by name and prayed for the 359 men, women, and children who died on our streets in the past year. May they rest in peace!
9. The annual Multicultural **Celebration of Our Saints** brings together representatives of many cultural communities across the Archdiocese of Seattle, to celebrate the gifts each brings to this local Church.
28. It is a wonderful tradition to gather for Mass on the morning of **Thanksgiving Day**. The gifts procession is a highlight of the celebration, as parishioners bring forward bags and boxes of food items to the poor, encircling the altar.

December

8. On this Sunday, Immaculate Conception Parish celebrated its **120th anniversary**. Built in 1904, Immaculate is the oldest Catholic church in Seattle, three years older than St. James Cathedral. ◆

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Christmas at your Cathedral

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

4:30pm NOTE TIME!
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—VIGIL MASS
The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan,
Presider & Homilist

9:00pm CAROL SERVICE

10:00pm *
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—MASS DURING THE NIGHT
The Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne,
Archbishop of Seattle, Presider & Homilist

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

8:00am *
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Father Ryan, Presider & Homilist

10:00am *
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Father Ryan, Presider & Homilist

12 Noon
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Archbishop Etienne, Presider & Homilist

4:00pm
SOLEMN VESPERS OF CHRISTMAS
Father Ryan, Presider

5:30pm
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Father Ryan, Presider & Homilist

*Masses indicated with * will be livestreamed.*
Visit the Cathedral website for details.