

Fr. Matthew Oakland

"The Lord Jesus Christ, whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, guard and preserve you, that you may sanctify the Christian people and offer sacrifice to God."

These were the words that Archbishop Brunett prayed at my ordination as he blessed my hands with the Sacred Chrism oil. Priests' hands are blessed, that they might consecrate and bless. At each and every Mass, the priest blesses the bread and wine, using the words of Jesus Christ Himself. The priest also gives a blessing at the end of Mass to all the people (those who haven't left early, that is).

There are different types of blessings. There are those that are for items destined for sacred use. Back in January, I blessed my new chalice—given to me as a going away present from the people of St. Thomas Aquinas and Star of the Sea. It will be used for nothing other than sacred purposes—it has been consecrated, literally, 'set aside.' But there are also blessings which can be used for almost anything else—literally, almost anything. When God created the world, over and over again we hear that "God saw that it was very good." God gave us the goodness of the earth to reveal to us Himself, the Creator. He also gave us the goodness of the earth because He loves us, and He wants to help us along. As such, the things of this earth can be a help to us not just in material ways, but in spiritual ways as well. There are the obvious rosaries, medals, holy cards and bibles. But in the Roman Ritual there are blessings for all sorts of things which help and serve people and/or wider communities, from schools and hospitals and homes to trains, planes, boats and automobiles. While we are all familiar with blessings of meals, there are also blessings of crops and of farm animals, in particular. Four times a year, including in the days after Pentecost, the Ember Days were days set aside for the blessing of the land or of crops, thanking God for the harvest. This often included processions through the fields. The entire purpose of these blessings is that as these material things serve us in our earthly journey through life, they might also help us on our journey unto salvation. These blessings do not impart Sacramental Grace, i.e., they do not sanctify us. But they do impart actual grace, that grace for the moment that we so often need, and ensure that these things of earth assist us on our way to Heaven.

We also have to remember that while God created all things good, evil has entered the world. While the Devil has no direct power over our souls, he can act upon us and upon the things of this world through material creation. Hence, blessings also have the purpose of warding off Satan and the fallen angels. In our culture, there is much more often a tendency to curse than to bless. How often, whether in television or movies or even conversations, do we hear any number of four letter words, which wish evil upon another or commend them to hell? Curses are very much a part of our culture, which is why blessings are all the more important.

"Every baptized person is called to be a 'blessing' and to bless. Hence lay people may preside at certain blessings; the more a blessing concerns ecclesial or sacramental life, the more its administration is reserved to the ordained ministry (bishops, priests, deacons)." *Catechism of the Catholic Church 1669*

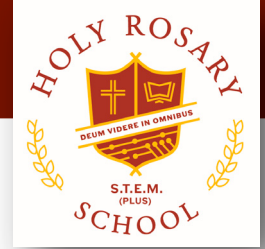
We bless ourselves every time we make the sign of the cross. Heads of tribes or families in the Old Testament were able to give blessings to their members. Parents are invited to bless their children, a part of that authority given to them. These are acts of good will, which pertain to the individual's relationship with God, and a wish or desire for another's spiritual or temporal prosperity. Priests impart blessings in the name and with the authority of the Church, speaking to her Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. Because these are actions of the Church, there are some blessings that are reserved to bishops alone (ordination of priests, for example), and still others which only the pope can impart (blessing of palliums for archbishops, for example).



An Invitation

With the approach of summer and the end of many different parish commitments based upon the academic year, my schedule becomes a little freer. I always enjoy visiting parishioners in their homes—whether several families together (like those events organized last summer after my arrival) or individual ones. Sometimes the origin of these invitations is a desire to have something blessed—like a home. Other times, the family or families would just like to get to know me a bit better in a less formal setting, giving me the opportunity to do the same. Sometimes it is in a home, other times it is at a restaurant. I also enjoy watching children's games, meets and performances as well, as my schedule allows. So, I am inviting you to invite me over! Contact Melissa in the front office to make arrangements.

Holy Rosary Catholic School—SPIRIT AND MIND *ignited*



HRS wins WOW! factor at Robotics Extravaganza!

Last Saturday, student representatives from the Holy Rosary Robotics elective demonstrated their creativity and programming skills at the Archdiocese Robotics Extravaganza at Seattle Prep. Fifteen elementary schools, several high schools, and the Port of Seattle were present to share and demonstrate their creativity and technical prowess. Although not a competition, the Holy Rosary elective left the Extravaganza winning the WOW factor – five teams with five mats and many more robots. We want to thank Max, Nick, Patrick, Sal, Michelle, Garrett, Quinn, Natalie, and Grace for attending, programming, creating, and demonstrating! It was quite an event.

The Robotics elective will continue for the rest of the year, programming Lego robots and also delving into some Makers creativity and construction! Please visit the school website for pictures of the event: <http://holyrosaryws.org/hrs-wins-wow-factor-at-robotics-extravaganza/>

2016-17 School Year – Accepting Applications – We will continue to accept application for the 2016-17 school year until all of our classrooms are full. For more information about the school or to apply, please contact: Kimberly Tish, ktish@holyrosaryws.org

PARISH & COMMUNITY NEWS



St. Vincent de Paul at Work

Two visitors from our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society met with a middle-aged woman who had left her boyfriend because of domestic violence. She and her 8-year-old son were living in her car. She had found a new job, and was hoping to repair her old motor home for a place to live. We gave her some food, Safeway cards for gas and groceries, a voucher for clothing from the St. Vincent thrift stores, and Target gift cards to buy school clothes for her little boy. We also contacted an interfaith network, which found a church in White Center that helped her fix up the motor home and gave her a place to park. She's determined to succeed and is very grateful for the help we provided.

Ministry to the Homebound

On May 21st Fr. Oakland will be hosting a gathering for those who might be interested in the Ministry to the Homebound. The gathering will be from 10-11am in Classroom 7A. Current ministers must attend as well. Please contact Fr. Oakland for more information @ froakland@holyrosaryseattle.org.

Don't Get A Ticket!

Just an FYI that the parking lot to the west of the church (orthodontist office) is now a pay lot. It used to be an area to park free on Sundays, but now may result in a \$43 ticket.

Spring Mini-Bazaar and Bake Sale

Providence Mount St. Vincent Auxiliary Spring Mini-Bazaar and Bake Sale will be held on Friday, May 20th from 9 am to 4pm in the main lobby (4831 35th Ave SW). New and gently used items will be for sale, as well as homemade baked goods. All proceeds benefit resident programs and services.

End of the Year Youth Group Picnic

June 5, 2016 from 5pm to 8pm on Alki beach
Come to the EOY youth group picnic! We'll have surreys/ bikes to ride, hamburgers, hotdogs, lemonade and s'mores for dessert. Please bring a side dish to share. Parents and siblings are welcome. Come prepared to eat, play, and have fun! We will have a sign-up genius sent out closer to the event date or you can RSVP to youth@holyrosaryseattle.org. Fr. Oakland is planning to be there too!

Are You Married... But Not in the Church?



Catholics who have married outside of the Catholic Church are encouraged to have their civil marriage brought into the Church. We call this a convalidation. These couples, who were no doubt well-intentioned and sincere in professing their vows outside of the Catholic Church, are not considered validly married in the eyes of the Catholic Church because Church law requires baptized Roman Catholics to marry before a bishop, priest, or deacon and two witnesses in a church, or receive permission to do otherwise. Marriage is a Sacrament for those who are baptized, and only the Church is capable of dispensing Sacraments. This process is usually not very difficult and often helps the couple live their faith more fully. All you need to do is:

- Attend a Preparation Workshop
Our next workshop will be held on Saturday, June 11 from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.
- Meet with Fr. Oakland to discuss your particular situation.
- Obtain Necessary Documents: Catholics need a recent copy of their baptismal certificate, including all notations. Baptized non-Catholics should attempt to supply proof of their baptism as well, either by certificate, letter from a parent, and/or pictures if need be. Other needed documents include: a copy of the civil marriage license, and any Declarations of Nullity if appropriate.
- Complete Paperwork: A Premarital Investigation, as well as other necessary paperwork, must be filled out. This is a testimonial that the individual is free to be married, including that they weren't previously married.
- Complete a Refoccus Marriage Enrichment Inventory: The REFOCCUS® Marriage Enrichment Inventory is a growth and enrichment tool, which can be taken by a married couple at any stage of their marital relationship.

If you are interesting in bringing your marriage into the church and would like to begin the process, please contact Sherry Smith (sherry@holynosaryseattle.org).

Pentecost

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..."

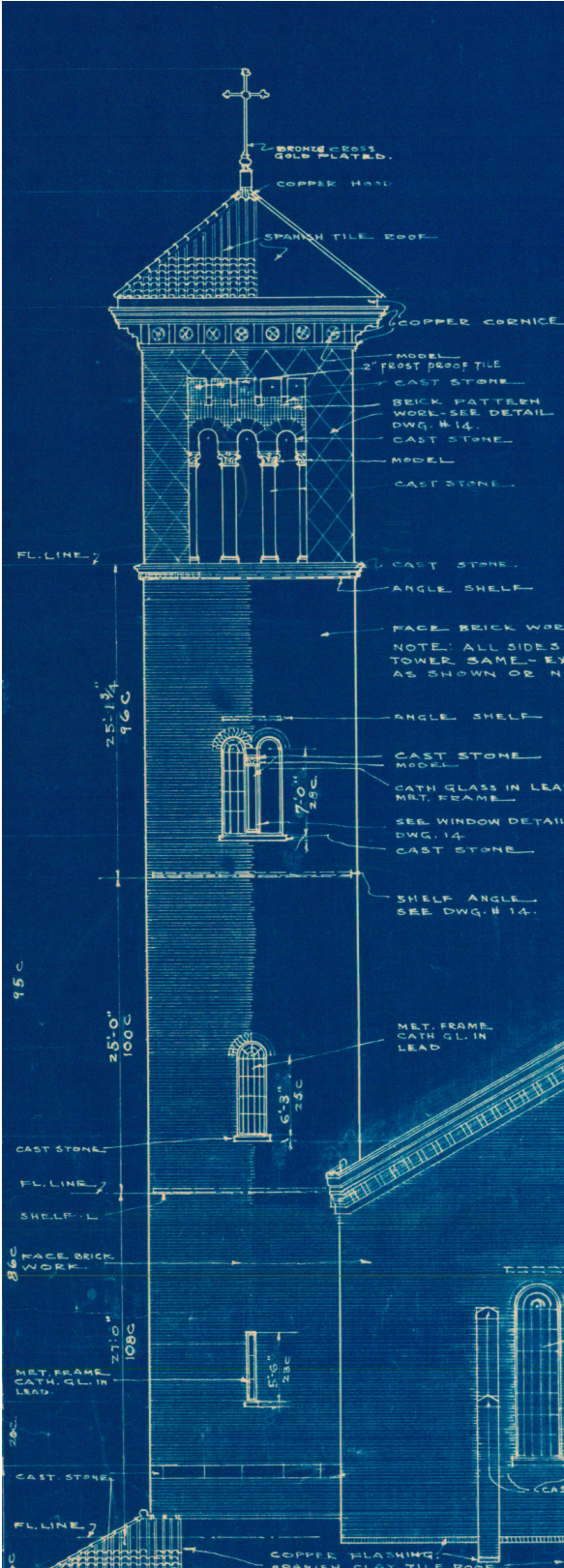
As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost this weekend, it is well to recall the gifts of the Spirit that came to us in baptism and were consciously conferred when we were confirmed. The following is a thumbnail sketch of the gifts taken from the book, Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit by Thomas Keating. Thank you to Margaret Whetham for the paraphrasing. This article is a reprint from previous years.

- **Wisdom** helps us see everything in life as part of the divine plan. We perceive the divine presence at work even in pain.
- **Understanding** gives us insights into truths of faith, e.g. we may have a spiritual impression of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. We also have a realistic view of our own weakness.
- **Knowledge** leads us to see things as they really are, to see that nothing but God will satisfy my deepest longing for happiness. This gift helps us to see which values of our culture or social group are not God's values.
- **Counsel** is prudence taken to spiritual heights. It shows us how to behave, especially in the details of life. It helps us develop a state of mind where our spiritual will is constantly turned to God.
- **Piety or Reverence** helps us to see God in others as companions rather than competitors on our life journey, to have meekness in bearing others' faults.
- **Fortitude** gives us strength to continue and the energy to overcome huge obstacles. It keeps us faithful to the small duties in daily life.
- **Awe or Fear of the Lord** installs in us a fear of offending God, not because we dread punishment, but because we know we're LOVED. It strengthens us to follow our conscience and do the right thing.



HOLY ROSARY BELL TOWER PROJECT

The bell tower is an iconic part of our parish church. Rising 125 feet into the air, like the Church itself it is a sign and symbol of the presence of God in the midst of our community here in West Seattle. It can be seen rising up above the landscape—from an overhead flight, Interstate 5, and perhaps even from your own neighborhood. Each and every day, the chimes ring out, and can be heard near and far. But our bell tower is in need of renovation.



Phase 1: The Water Leak—\$15,000

For the last two years the bell tower has been leaking. This is the simplest project of the three, and plans are in process to complete it in the summer of 2016. Left unaddressed, the water will cause structural problems—destabilizing masonry and/or causing the metal to rust.

Phase 2: Unreinforced Masonry—\$150,000

The top 1/5th of the tower is unreinforced masonry—the walls are nothing other than the bricks and the mortar. In an earthquake, because there are no metal rods, diagonal bracing, etc., the walls are much more likely to bow and collapse. The City of Seattle is currently finalizing policies which will mandate that all such structures undergo structural upgrades. This is a real safety concern—to the building itself, any other buildings it might fall on, as well as the people in and around them.

Phase 3: Tuck-pointing—\$150,000

The mortar between the bricks slowly erodes over time due to the rain, the wind and the sun. Sometimes it even cracks and bits fall out. Water intrusion inside the bricks themselves leads to structural problems. The mortar on the south and west faces of the bell tower needs to be repointed and the bricks resealed to help make the work last longer. Completing Phases 2 and 3 at the same time would reduce costs of equipment rental. Similarly, if the two faces are done at the same time, the cost would come down some as well.

Total Necessary Structural Upgrades: \$315,000

Total Facilities Reserve Savings: \$206,640

ACA Rebate Goal: \$110,000 +

(It is not wise to use all of our Facilities Reserve savings.)

Last Year's Rebate: \$22,857

Phase 4: Lighting—\$90,000-\$205,000

Imagine if our Bell Tower not only rang out during the day, but also shone in the darkness of the night, a true beacon of light. There are some different options available. We could light the inside so that it shines out. We could also light the sides, and for the biggest effect, add detail lighting for the ledges, arches and columns. This is not a safety project, as are the first three phases, but since some of the necessary equipment would already be on site, it is an opportune time should the funds be donated. Our parish church would become a visible beacon in the night.



Sunday, May 15, 2016

Coffee and Donuts after Mass today

Monday, May 16

7:45 AM	Word & Communion Service Church
7:00 PM	Adult Scripture Study Parish Center Reception Room
7:00 PM	Baptism Prep 7B

Tuesday, May 17

7:45 AM	Daily Mass Church
After Mass	Tuesday AM Coffee & Donuts Reception Rm
2:00 PM	School Mass Church
5:30 PM	Confession Church
6:30 PM	Voices for Life Room 203
6:30 PM	Finance Parish Office Basement
6:45 PM	Handbell Practice Chapel
7:30 PM	Sanctuary Choir Practice Church

Wednesday, May 18

7:45 AM	Daily Mass Church
8:30 AM	Adult Scripture Study Reception Rm
6:00 PM	Women's Spirituality Group Parish Office Basement
7:00 PM	Contemporary Choir Practice Church
7:00 PM	RCIA Parish Office Conference Room
7:30 PM	Walking With Purpose Reception Rm, Rm 203

Thursday, May 19

7:45 AM	Daily Mass Church
5:00 PM	Wedding Rehearsal Church
6:00 PM	Wedding Rehearsal Church
6:00 PM	Children's RCIA Room 203
7:00 PM	RCIA Reception Rm

Friday, May 20

7:45 AM	Daily Mass Church
9:00 AM	Walking With Purpose Reception Rm
5:30 PM	Dabek/Bowker Wedding Church
7:00 PM	Friday Night Men's AA Reception Rm

Saturday, May 21

7:00 AM	Men's Group Reception Rm
8:30 AM	Daily Mass Church
10:00 AM	Croatia Director's Grp Reception Rm
10:00 AM	Baptism Prep 7B, Church
10:00 AM	Homebound Ministry Info Meeting 7A
11:00 AM	Charismatic Prayer Group Chapel
2:00 PM	Delorie/Rivet Wedding Church
4:00 PM	Choir Practice Parish Center Chapel
5:00 PM	8th Grade Baccalaureate Mass Church

Up Next

May

21 Homebound Ministry Gathering

June

5 End of the year Youth Group Picnic at Alki
10 Last day of school for Holy Rosary

Donations were made in honor of the First Communion of

Cameron Foisy, Ana Geraghty, Lillian Lyons
and the baptism of *Gemma Kay Tito*

Fr. Mallahan Endowment Fund:

*In memory of Joseph Hengtgen, Katie Thorburn,
William Guppy*

Mass Intentions for Next Week:

May 17: Ivan Picinich, RIP
May 18: Agnes Toth, RIP
May 19: Don Hass, RIP
May 20: Rob Bowker & Lindsey Dabek
May 21: Billy Dehmer, RIP (8:30am)
Duane Contratto, RIP (5pm)
May 22: Holy Rosary Community (8:30am)
Maxine "Dolly" Hass (10:30am)

Last Week's Collection:

May 8 Collection: \$34,349
May 8 Budgeted: \$28,534

PARISH DIRECTORY....dial 206-937-1488 and enter an extension

Baptism: Contact Deyette Swegle at least two months in advance of your requested baptism date.

Marriage: Contact Sherry Smith six months in advance of your requested wedding date.

Funerals: Contact the Parish Office

Becoming Catholic: Contact JoAnn Tobin

PASTOR: Fr. Matthew Oakland

ADMINISTRATION: Gary Samaniego (gsamaniego@holyrosaryseattle.org), ext. 213

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: JoAnn Tobin (jtobin@holyrosaryseattle.org), ext. 203

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Jennifer Wong (jwong@holyrosaryseattle.org), ext. 214

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: (Baptism & Young Families): Deyette Swegle (dswegle@holyrosaryseattle.org), ext. 251

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: (1st Sacraments, Children & Youth): Sister Stella (srstella@holyrosaryseattle.org), ext. 252

LITURGY & MUSIC COORDINATOR: Paul Dolejsi (pdolejsi@holyrosaryseattle.org), (935-8353)

MARRIAGE & TRIBUNAL ADVOCACY: Sherry Smith (sherry@holyrosaryseattle.org), ext. 210

PARISH & SCHOOL BOOKKEEPER: Rufina Miller (rmiller@holyrosaryseattle.org), ext. 211

ADMIN ASSISTANT & PRIVATE EVENTS: Melissa Tuthill (mtuthill@holyrosaryseattle.org), ext. 200

PLANT MANAGER: Scott Stoefen (sstoefen@holyrosaryws.org), ext. 215

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: George Hofbauer (ghofbauer@holyrosaryws.org), ext. 218

TECHNOLOGY, BULLETIN & PARISH WEB SITE: Sherry Smith (sherry@holyrosaryseattle.org), ext. 210

8:30 CHOIR DIRECTOR: Bob Ingalls (bingalls@holyrosaryseattle.org)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: ext. 300

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER: ext. 301

YOUNG ADULTS: youngadults@holyrosaryseattle.org

YOUTH MINISTRY: youth@holyrosaryseattle.org

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