

UNION

"The one who has become your husband is your Maker." Isaiah 54:5

Your first, greatest and only lasting marriage is to Christ. In heaven we will neither marry nor be given in marriage. We set our sights on the great wedding feast of the Lamb when, finally, we are fully united with our Maker. Can you imagine? If you could see and hear what heaven is seeing and hearing you would drop everything, even the person you love the most, and run to it. To be embraced by the Love that created everything. To be in union with the One who is the source of all the beauty you have ever seen or will see knowing that the majority of his beauty you will not even begin to scratch the surface on in this lifetime. We are just on the tip of our union with Christ. It is like the ocean I have talked about. Jesus is the ocean and most of us are just beginning to dip our toes at the end of the trickling wave as it washes ashore. Wait until we dive in total union at the wedding feast of the Lamb, the Maker of it all! It is there, in union with him, that we will all be united together in the song of heaven.

Why are so many Christians sad? Why so many small-minded and unforgiving? Why are so many Christians bored out of their gourd and dull as a butter knife? It is an issue of union! So many Christians have a weak union with Christ. What does it look like when you dive into the ocean that is Jesus and live in union with him? How could your mode of existence ever be sad again when you are united to the One who is constantly rejoicing over everything he has made? How could you ever again be small minded and unforgiving if you are united to the one who forgives all sin, even the most grave? How could you ever be dull as a butter knife again when the One who walked on water, calmed the storm, made the blind to see, the lame to walk and raised people from the dead- how could you be dull and bored when that "One" lives in you?

The reason we are joyless, small minded, unforgiving, bored and dull is because we have chosen ourselves over Christ. To be in union just with ourselves gives us that result. Jesus is Joy, forgiveness and constant fascination. To be united with him means to rejoice, forgive and live in constant fascination and wonder!

To be in union with him! To be in union with him! To be in union with him! (I repeat 3x in honor of the Holy Trinity. Any time you see three anywhere- think Holy Trinity!) How ya gonna get there? How to become united with Jesus? People are sacrificing their lives all the time for work, possessions, notoriety, power, championships and Olympic gold but is it leading to greater union with the One who is the Maker of it all?

The One who is our husband and Maker is in the tomb this Holy Saturday. In a few, short hours he will rise. He will rise and offer you union with him. How ya gonna get there? How are you going to dive into the ocean and never be joyless, unforgiving and dull again?

Blessed by the Best;
Fr. John



Jan 16th

Life Teen Mass

Life Night

"Dis-Stress"

Jan 28th-29th

NET Team at SJTW

Feb 13th

"Save the Date"

Feb 20th

Life Teen Mass

Feb 25th-26th

"30 Hour Famine"

7:00PM Friday– 7:00PM Saturday

NET TEAM IS COMING

Teen/Parent Retreat

Jan 28-Jan 29

All Middle & High School youth and their parents are invited to a retreat put on by the NET Team. Take time as a family to **Slow Down, Observe and Enjoy!** Let God have prime time on this weekend. Please see Janet to register or contact her at the Parish Center during the week at 503 761-8710 ext 110



Jan 16th

Life Teen Mass

Jan 28th-29th

NET Team at SJTW

Feb 5th-6th

Souper Bowl of Caring

(After each Mass)

Feb 7th

"Anywhere Man"

Feb 14th

"Game Night"

Feb 20th

Life Teen Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, Jan 17, 2011

Communion Service

Tuesday, Jan 18, 2011

+Mai Thi Nguyen

(Anna Doan)

Wednesday, Jan 19, 2011

+Pat Robison

(Mary Fromwiller)

Thursday, Jan 20, 2011

My Family

(Johanna Ternes)

Friday, Jan 21, 2011

Shirley Hergert

(Johanna Ternes)

Saturday, Jan 22, 2011

Theresa Hollan

(Carole Anne Best))

Sunday, Jan 23, 2011

8:30AM: +Al Ternes

(Johanna Ternes)

10:30AM: People of the Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Jan 17, 2011

Parish Center is Closed

7:00PM-Just Faith

Tuesday, Jan 18, 2011

9:00AM-Prayer Chain Mtg-S.R.

7:00PM-Choir Practice

Friday, Jan 21, 2011

5:00PM-Scrapbooking S.R.

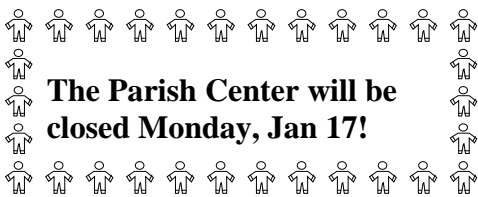
Saturday, Jan 22, 2011

6:00AM-3:00PM Blood Drive S.R.

4:00PM-Confessions-Church

Sunday, Jan 23, 2011

9:00AM-Faith Formation



The Parish Center will be closed Monday, Jan 17!



LOOP Ladies Tea February 19 at 1:00PM. Our speaker this year is Joanie Quinn. Joanie is a forty-something,

goofy mom who turns her stay-at-home chaos into hilarious tales for all to enjoy. Tickets are \$18 and are on sale after all the masses. Get your ticket soon, they are sure to sell fast.

Portland's March for Life:



Portland's March will take place on Saturday, January 22, 2011 on MLK Jr. Blvd. in NE Portland. The march

will start two blocks north of Alberta and will end at N. Williams and Beech St. The march will start at noon, but please come early to park and get a place in the march. The march is only one mile and transportation will be available to take people back to the start. Please visit pdx4life.org or call 503-334-6183

Back to Prayer Night

Please come join us on **February 24th, 2011** for our first BTPN of 2011!



Our Guest Speaker will be **Beloved Larry Loumena**. Come and listen as he shares his spiritual journey with all of us! The evening will begin at **7:00PM** in the church. This will be a **community pot luck** so please bring something to share if you can! Hope to see you there!

Upcoming retreats at Spirit Center at the Monastery of St. Gertrude in Cottonwood, Idaho:

"To Have and To Hold", Feb. 11-13. Couples will pray together and be blessings for one another, exploring differences, challenges, possibilities and service. Includes presentations, reflection, prayer and discussion.

"Building the Reign of God", Feb. 25-27. Teaching his disciples, Jesus prepared a banquet for strangers and outcasts. Join Pat McCormick in exploring: How do we feed the hungry today?

For more information or to register, contact the Spirituality Ministry Team at Spirit Center Phone: 208-962-2000 E-mail: retreat@stgertrudes.org • Web: www.Spirit-Center.org

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Budget amount: \$ 7,032.00

Amount collected: \$ 7,418.70

Over/under: + \$ 366.70

Open House at St John the Baptist School in Milwaukie.

Please join us for our annual Open House on Sunday, Jan 30th from 8:00AM to 12:00PM All are welcome to visit and tour our blue ribbon school. Our principal, faculty and staff, parents, and students will be accessible to speak with you. Application packets will be readily available that will include information on the 2011-2012 Tuition Schedule and financial assistance. We look forward to discussing the many benefits and opportunities our school has to offer. St. John the Baptist is located 2 blocks off of McLoughlin Blvd. in downtown Milwaukie.

WOWS Lunch Jan 25th: This is a social activity open to all widows, widowers and those who are single for any reason. We will enjoy a 1:00PM lunch at the 4th Street Ale House in Gresham. We will have the bus, holding the first 14 callers, at the parish ready to leave at 12:30. The bus ride is \$2. For reservations please call me, Becky, at 761-8710x106 by Tues. the 18th.

The Prayer Chain will meet Tuesday Jan.18 from 9:00AM-10ish in the Social room of the Church. Anyone from the parish is invited to attend and join us as we pray for those who are ill and have requested prayer support. We will continue our new book Let in the Light -facing hard stuff with hope, Chap. 12. If you are new to the parish and would like to join us, please come we share books well. There will be refreshments following the meeting.

LOOP Scrapbooking/Craft Nite



Will be held on Friday, January 21st at 6:00 PM in the Social Room. Bring your scrapbooking or any other crafts and a snack to share. Everyone is welcome!