

FROM FR. JOHN:

SOON IN HEAVEN

“He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them” Mark 9:2, 3

I received an email from a college student who signed off by writing “Soon in heaven”. I was deeply intrigued by the phrase almost instantaneously. It was and is great food for thought. When we are young and healthy we can think death is a long way off and we can live life according to our own terms. For myself, I know that I am healthy and I do not have a terminal illness that makes death imminent for me. But that does not mean that death is not imminent for me. Today could be the day that death comes knocking. If it did, my choice for or against heaven would be made clear. The word “soon” reminds me that my life on earth is fragile and could end any day so I better be ready to be judged by God. Now is when I choose salvation, God and heaven - not after I die.

“Soon in heaven” means that the up to 100 or so years I can live on earth is a very short time compared to eternity. We will all be dead in 100 years. Then what? It helps me to prioritize my values. Is having money or a nice house or powerful name, putting a ball through the cylinder or carrying one across the goal line, going to the big name school or getting the “right” job, really important to the salvation God offers us? The big name school is called life and Jesus is the master teacher. The subject is heavenly love and we will soon know if we have learned it when we die! And even if we live 60 more years from today, compared to eternity, death is imminent for each of us.

“Soon in heaven” gives me hope! Today we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration. Jesus takes Peter, James and John up on the mountain and shows them the glory of heaven that they have been born into this world for. His clothes became dazzling white as he was transfigured before them, such that no fuller on earth could have bleached them. Yes, no man could be the source of heavenly glory as shown by the miraculous change of Jesus’ appearance and the clothes of Jesus, which no fuller on earth could bleach. Only Jesus, through His obedience to the Father, can offer us the hope of heaven which is the deepest desire of our souls.

I recently visited a woman lying in her bed dying. As her son and I held her hands she looked at us and said, “Don’t worry about me, someone is taking care of me.” I knew that “someone” was Jesus. She had no fear. Jesus was with her and she had an undeniable peace and confidence that she was going to heaven. She had chosen Jesus and heavenly glory throughout her life. I saw in her the transfiguration and I believe she will soon be in heaven. What portrait will we portray as we die? May our dying experience be like hers for we all hope to “soon be in heaven.”

Fr. John



Fr. John's New Book - It is almost here! The title is: "**More of You Through Prayer.**" God-willing, there will a book signing after all the Masses the weekend of October 3rd and 4th.

RCIA and Confirmation: Our first meeting for those interested in becoming Catholic and high-schoolers interested in being Confirmed is set for Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 PM in the church. Call the Parish Center to sign up **NOW at 503-761-8710.** Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 7, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Michelle Frank

(Joe Bowen)

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

+Paul Tran

The Tran Family

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Roger & Sue Frank

(Joe Bowen)

Friday, September 11, 2009

+Kyle Linhart, Jr.

(Rosemary Linhart)

Saturday, September 12, 2009

5:00 PM-+Marie Pham Y

(Nam Tran Family)

Sunday, September 13, 2009

8:30 AM- +Kyle Linhart, Jr.

(Rosemary Linhart)

10:30 AM-People of the Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, September 7, 2009

Office Closed-Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

10:00 AM-Altar Guild mtg-S.R.

7:00 PM-Choir Practice

7:00 PM-KOC mtg-S.R.

Friday, September 11, 2009

4:00PM-Homeless Outreach

Thank You from Gregg Bronsema

*Thank YOU beloved St. Joseph the Worker family for your kind send off to Mount Angel Seminary. I was overwhelmed by your profound love and support. The many cards, gifts, and hugs truly sent me off with a positive note for the great task. What a wonderful blessing you are!
Gregg Bronsema*

Altar Guild News: It's that time again! Our annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale is November 14th.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 8th. This will be a big planning meeting. Come and join us in making this a huge success. We have lots of fun planning and doing this Bazaar. Join in the fun!!!

Care Ministry

The Prayer Chain will begin meeting again the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We will meet Tuesday, September 15th from 9:00-10ish 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 book The Art of Affirmation. Don't forget to bring your appreciation book also. 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.

Prayer Group Returns!

On **Thursday, September 10th**, the Prayer Group is returning. We will meet in the **Social Room at 7:00 PM**. ALL are welcome to join us for prayer and fellowship! Hope to see you there!

Back to Prayer Night and Community Pot Luck!

Back To Prayer Night returns, **Thursday, September 24th, 2009!** With our special guest speaker **Sharon Standley**.

Please come and be inspired! And don't forget to bring something yummy to share at the pot luck! The evening will begin in the church at **7:00 PM** followed by the pot luck in the Social Room. Hope to see you there!



Faith Formation Classes begin on Sunday, October 4th.

Registration will be in the school hallway following both Masses on Sunday, September 13th. **Save \$5 on tuition by registering on or before Sunday, September 13th.**



Weekly Contributions

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 6,686.29

Over/Under: - 345.71

SEEKING: Young adults(21+) for our High School Youth Ministry Core Team. Be a part of helping our youth grow in their faith. Be energized by sharing your faith with the teens. To learn more about being on the Core Team contact: Janet @ 503-761-8710

Youth Group Registration:

September 13th High School Youth Group is open to all 9th-12th graders. High School meets Sunday evenings 7:00-8:30 PM.

Jr High Youth Group is for all 7th-8th graders.

NEW TIME: Sunday 9:00-10:00 AM

The **LOOP** ladies are planning to hold an all Parish Baby Shower for the Pregnancy Resource Center in Gresham. This center helps 300 to 400 young girls each month, from our community, to avoid abortions and get started with basic supplies for their new babies. We feel this is a very worthy cause to support and hope you'll be able to come, enjoy some fellowship and do a good deed by donating some new baby items for the cause. There are only certain items that the center can accept, so a list will be available in the Narthex. The shower will be September 13th after the 10:30 AM Mass in the Social Room. You may contact Claire Clow if you need more information. 503-804-0980.

Homeless Outreach: On Friday, September 11th we will host the dinner served at the Sunnyside Coffee House. We will be feeding around 200 people and will need volunteers to help us prepare dinner and serve the guests. We have a great time and welcome you to come and join us. We start preparing the food at 4:00 PM and serve the dinner at 6:00 PM. Please call Jan at 503-254-2212 for more information. The soup kitchen is located at SE 35th & Yamhill (off 39th between Hawthorne and Belmont).