January 24, 2021
The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule
Mon—Fri      8:15am
Wednesday    2:15pm (school Mass)
Saturday     5:30pm
Sunday       8:00, 9:30, 11:15am
Holy Days    8:15am, 7:00pm

Reconciliation
Friday       8:45-9:30am
Saturday     4:00-5:00pm

Parish Office
503.643.9528
www.h-t.org
Mon—Thur    8:00-4:30pm
Friday       8:00-2:00pm

School Office
503.644.5748
www.htsch.org
Monday—Friday 8:00-3:30pm

Community Outreach Office
503.641.1842
www.h-t.org/outreach
Tues, Wed, Fri 10:00-12:30pm

Photo by Ed Cleary

13715 SW Walker Road | Beaverton, OR 97005-1017
503.643.9528 | www.h-t.org | parish@h-t.org
I am writing this prior to Inauguration Day and am praying for peace in our country! This weekend I am speaking directly into the anxiety and fear that has gripped so many people — about social and political unrest, COVID, and our changing world. I am far from immune to it! Social media, news, and conversations can all ramp it up even more.

As followers of Jesus, in the midst of all the uncertainties and insecurities surrounding us, I want to remind all of us about the security and certainty we have in Him! I take time daily — and I mean literally every day — to release the anxiety that creeps in and can so easily rob me of living fully and trustfully. Here are two simple parts of that, summarized in the phrase “Letting Go and Letting God”:

First, “letting go”. For me this includes identifying my current anxieties, fears, doubts, resentments, or dreads — naming them, inviting Jesus into them, releasing them to him consciously and deliberately. Often this includes letting go of expectations — that others act in a certain way, that life will go the way I planned, that I get my own way, that life is fair, or that I can control stuff. All of this allows me to release the grip, sometimes “white knuckle” grip, that tenses me up.

Second, “letting God” reaffirms that God is in charge, that he is personally involved in my life, that in Him I have authentic hope and purpose. Letting God means an active kind of surrender — not a shirking of my own responsibilities. It reminds me that God’s timing is perfect and his plans can be trusted absolutely. Words from St. Teresa (yep, I know I am repeating this — as I do in my own life almost daily!) say it well:

Be not afraid; be not disturbed. All is passing; God does not change. Patience attains all. One who holds onto God lacks nothing. God alone is enough.

I urge you to soak in this daily for your own well-being, and also because it is such a vital part of witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ!

If you have not signed up for our weekly newsletter, go to our website and do so. It comes out via email on Friday and includes easy links to the daily reflections given by our staff, the previous weekend’s homily, and ongoing current events in the parish. Currently we have over 800 people viewing it weekly. Sign-up for weekend Masses is continuing as well. Currently we can have somewhere around 250 people in the church with safe social distancing. What a wonderful change from earlier restrictions. We continue to adhere to all best practices to keep everyone safe, including masks, distancing, sanitizing, and upgraded ventilation and filtering system.

Blessings to Ellie Driessen and Caleb Fitz, who were baptized this weekend!

Last week, funeral services were held for Jeff Ginter. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.

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**Scripture Readings**

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<td>2 Tm 1:1–8</td>
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<td>Heb 11:1–2, 8–19</td>
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<td>Heb 10:19–25</td>
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<td>Mk 4:21–25</td>
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**Mass Intentions**

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<td>8:00am</td>
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<td>+Teresa &amp; +Rosita Martinez</td>
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<td>9:30am</td>
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<td>+Sr. Margaret Anne “Peg” O’Connor, R.S.M.</td>
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<td>+Long Nguyen</td>
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<td>Birthday Blessings to Kristine A. Escobedo and +Kathy Miller</td>
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<td>+Joe Dooney and +Ann Hooson</td>
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Greetings :) It feels like the right time to move 20 cents (pair o' dime shift, get it?).

I’ve gotten some form of this question a lot recently: “What was there before God?” The most recent version came from a first grader: “How was God created?” The difficulty in answering these questions comes primarily from our lack of ability to conceive of anything outside of time, and the conversation that ensues often makes my head hurt. So if you don’t want your head to hurt, stop reading now!

Short answers: There was nothing before God, and God was not created. Literally no-thing existed before God. But even the word “before” causes problems, because it implies that God moves through time in such a way that there can be before or after for God. God doesn’t move through time in the same way created creatures move through time. God created time. God can’t be within something he created. God is outside of time, which is the literal meaning of “eternal.”

So, the question “what was there before God” falls apart completely. The word “before” implies something about God which isn’t true. God simply exists, without beginning or end.

The question “How was God created” has similar problems. It implies that God was created, which implies that something created God. Which again implies something before God or greater than God in either time or level of being. Yet if such a something existed, it would be greater than God, and would itself have to be God. But then what created that something? Something else even more prior, and even greater? This line of thought stretches infinitely unless we accept the existence of an uncreated creator. God cannot have been created, just as God cannot be within time.

Our ability to understand God is limited by our human capacities. Any time we think we have come to grasp who God is, we are deceiving ourselves. Any time we believe that God is somehow in our image rather than the other way around, we succumb to pride. God is greater, and whenever we learn more and more and know him more and more, we always realize that there’s infinitely more to learn and know.

Ultimately this means that heaven can’t be boring, because we will always be learning and knowing more and growing closer to an infinite God who is Love itself :)

Outdoor Dining at school! For greater social distancing and safety, we have opened an outdoor lunch room. 2nd grade students were the first to use it. Here are some of our favorite name suggestions: The Holy Place, St. Peter’s Square, The HT Plaza, and Titan Tent.
As we continue into 2021, I see that shaking the dust of 2020 off our feet didn’t banish the craziness of last year. If anything, it’s gotten worse. I have given up watching the news...mostly, and every time I venture back I am sorry that I did!

Sadly, the world doesn’t have the answers I need. We are in the middle of a world that is in a global conflict of good and evil, and God is allowing the upheaval to reveal His truth. You’ve noticed, haven’t you?

One huge source of solace and support for me has been Renewal Ministries (renewalministries.net). The recent reflection by Peter Herbeck, “Facing Tribulation in the World”, was just what I needed to be reminded of. Jesus told us there would be times like this. Herbeck confirms that God has placed us here at this time in history. Could it be that He, God, made us with a part to play?

Jesus says that we are called to be “salt and light,” to be illumination and flavor for those around us. Let’s be faithful beacons of hope as followers of Jesus Christ affirming what we believe to those who need to hear it. Watch Herbeck’s reflection (youtube.com/ watch?v=7lOmjfW7M4w) and take courage in our faith and in Jesus, our savior, who has things under control. +
Chapter Four: “A Heart Open to the Whole World”

“Let us realize that as our minds and hearts narrow, the less capable we become of understanding the world around us.”

Until the conditions which force people to migrate are resolved globally, writes Pope Francis, our faith-based response to migrant people should be to “welcome, protect, promote, and integrate” them as our neighbors. Embracing them with solidarity and solicitude is key.

Bishop Mark J. Seitz laments that when we Americans are unable to walk in the shoes of the migrants fleeing their own lands, we view them not as neighbors, but instead as aliens and illegals. We fail to see their right to support their families and protect them from violence and malnutrition. The Bishop encourages us to let scripture, the Golden Rule, and God’s commandment of love guide us.

The Holy Family were refugees forced to flee their homeland. Our Lord Jesus reminds us that when we “welcome the stranger” we welcome Him. America has a strong tradition of welcoming refugees. This coincides with our traditional Catholic teaching and supports sound U.S. foreign policy priorities abroad. How do you feel called to cultivate a “heart open to the whole world”?

Respect Life Ministry
Gloria Bernard – 503.579.2562 – globernard2@gmail.com

On January 16th, Oregon’s largest and oldest abortion provider, Lovejoy Surgicenter, permanently closed its doors! Cancellation of appointments and turnover of staff had been high. The building is outdated and badly ventilated and they can no longer sustain their business. Thank you to the thousands of faithful people who have stood vigil on the sidewalk over the years, praying and holding hands for others in need within the community.

40 Days for Life Spring Campaign: Feb. 17 – Mar. 28
✔️ 2/13, 5:30pm – Opening Mass with Archbishop Sample at St. Rose of Lima (2727 NE 54th Ave.)
✔️ Prayer Vigil at Beaverton Planned Parenthood (12220 SW 1st St.) begins 2/17; vigil hours are 7:00am to 7:00pm, Monday through Saturday
✔️ 2/20, 10:00am – Opening Rally at Beaverton Planned Parenthood (12220 SW 1st St.)

Health Ministry
Debbie Gray – 503.524.5365 – debbie.a.m.gray@gmail.com

The Medicare Advantage open enrollment period for beneficiaries with an existing plan runs until March 31st! Oregon’s SHIBA program is available to help beneficiaries understand their options. To find free, local help, visit dcbspage.org/SHIBALOCAL or call 800.722.4134 to speak to a state-certified Medicare counselor.

You might remember several years ago we had a house close by that we called the Ministry House. We did some great things with it including helping multiple families who were struggling with homelessness and providing temporary housing for newly arrived refugees. After multiple years, we decided that we were not fully utilizing this amazing gift and worked to find an organization that would. As is always the case, the Holy Spirit led us to the right organization: L’Arche Portland.

Since their purchase of the house, they have done an extensive remodel and have moved several members into the space. We remain in touch with them and, prior to COVID, several of you regularly spent time with them. Holy Trinity remains in touch and provides support when we can; most recently was at Thanksgiving when we provided funding for dinners at the three houses they have. Last week I received a thank you card from them that read:

Dear Holy Trinity,

Thank you so much for donating groceries so each of the houses could have a special Thanksgiving. The meal was so enjoyed by the homes. Core members and assistants were so grateful for your gift and presence in our community!

I hope you all had a relaxing and happy holiday season. Sincere thanks again for all that you do for L’Arche Portland and beyond!

Cheers!

So many ways to assist others and you are always there. Thank you so much for all that each of you does.

Speaking of helping others, many of you have been asking about the emergency food boxes because you pick them up for others in need within the community. We know the program will be restarted soon, but, as of this writing still do not have an exact date. I anticipate that our next distribution at Foursquare will be on January 28th. Please check our website for updates.
Have you signed up for HT e-News? Our weekly newsletter, emailed on Fridays, includes a message from Fr. Dave, the latest announcements from the parish, and is a one-stop shop for links to the week’s video reflections from staff, the latest bulletin, and the worship aid for the coming weekend’s Mass. The sign-up form is on our homepage: www.h-t.org.
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