



Holy Rosary Church
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Edmonds, Washington

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Pastor

Sue Venable
School Principal

John Russell
Parish Administrator
Gifts & Blessings Editor

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Faith Formation
Preschool and Elementary

Eileen Niven
Outreach

Susan Olmos
Music

Tony Vasinda
Youth Ministry

Photographers
John Peters (Multicultural
lunch)
Greg Hatch (K of C breakfast)
Kate Scott (Youth Migrant
Project)
John Russell—other photos

Managing Our Debt

by John Russell

We have been enjoying our new Pastoral Center for over six months now. The schedule to host Coffee 'nd after mass is full. The Knights of Columbus have had large crowds for their breakfasts, the multi-cultural luncheon was a huge success, and everyone is enjoying the dinners we have hosted.

However – and here's the bad news – we still have to pay for our new building. As we reported in Gifts and Blessings in July 2011, the Archdiocese approved a loan for a maximum of \$3.6 million with a requirement that we pay it down to \$2.4 million by June 30, 2013.



Multi-cultural lunch

Currently our indebtedness is at \$3.5 million for the Pastoral Center. We also have the remaining school debt of \$297,000. Our payment on the school loan is \$12,735 per month. The payment on the Pastoral Center loan will be about \$33,300 per month.

Please consider a Christmas gift to help pay down the debt.



Knights of Columbus breakfast

(Outreach, continued from page 1)

handle the ministry," Niven said. For example, Edna Lemeshko conducts a weekly rosary and communion service at Edmonds Landing, and Carole Nowak brings the Eucharist weekly to Sunrise Senior Living, both assisted-living facilities. There are also services weekly at Aldercrest Health and Rehab Center and Prestige Care and Rehabilitation. About a dozen people are involved altogether, including substitutes for times when regular volunteers are out of town.

And then there are the home bound – those who are recovering from an illness or surgery, or maybe someone living in an adult group home. Delivering the Eucharist to these folks is a one-on-one experience, Niven said.

Often, Niven will go herself the first time, sort of an introductory visit, if she doesn't know the person. After that, one of 35 - 40 volunteers will respond weekly bringing the Eucharist.

Volunteers are advised to use common sense in staying just a few minutes or making it a longer visit.

"There is no formula" for that, she said. Often, volunteers and the recipients develop deep and longstanding relationships, she added.

Many times a relative or friend of the person will call the parish asking for a visit. Sometimes Niven will just hear about a parishioner who is laid up and will call asking if that person feels up to it or wants communion brought to the home or rehabilitation facility.

Although many of the outreach volunteers have been involved for many years, recruiting new faces is not easy. Fr. Haydock will sometimes announce a need at daily mass. It's the kind of service that needs ministers who are available during the daytime.

Niven said some people will just sign up during the annual stewardship drive asking people to give time, talent and treasure back to the church and church community. "They are very important ministries," she said. "They are the heart and core of our church." Niven meets with the volunteers as a group once a year in an attempt to thank them. "We are trying to say 'thank you' to them and they are saying it's a total pleasure to be involved in the ministry."

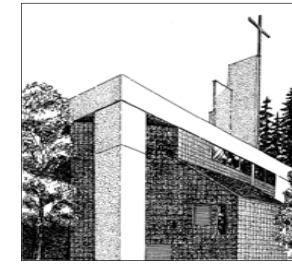


Ministers for the homebound prepare for Communion service at Aldercrest.

Holy Rosary Parish
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GIFTS & BLESSINGS

OUR
MISSION
*Led by the
Holy Spirit and
nourished by the
Eucharist,
Holy Rosary
Roman Catholic
Parish strives to be
a welcoming
servant community.
We celebrate the
goodness of God's
unconditional love
through worship,
education and
service.*

*The Pastoral Council
October 17, 2007*

Outreach Ministries

by Jim Haley

By giving a little bit of time and effort each month, several dozen Holy Rosary parishioners are getting back a lot more in the form of spiritual fulfillment.

They are the people who participate in the parish outreach ministries, bringing the Eucharist or performing Rosary services for the home-bound, patients in hospitals and those living in nursing homes or assisted-living facilities.

"Most of the people involved are truly dedicated to the ministry," said Eileen Niven, pastoral assistant for outreach. "They visit at least once a week, and if you are to talk to them they would tell you that they are receiving back way more than what they are giving."

There's some work involved volunteering for this job, though. Visiting the sick and bringing the Eucharist is not something that can be done at the drop of a hat.

Anyone volunteering for work with children or vulnerable adults must undergo an archdiocesan background check and complete the archdiocesan safe environment program. In addition, the ten or so volunteers who regularly go to the Swedish Hospital Edmonds campus must take hospital training and make sure they are healthy, including taking blood tests and immunizations. Holy Rosary volunteers take communion to Catholic hospital patients who request it on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. Volunteers from St. Thomas More and St. Pius X visit the hospital the rest of the week.

Niven is working with the hospital chaplain to iron out some difficulties in reaching Catholics in the hospital due to federal privacy laws. Under the law, the hospital cannot give out a list of Catholic patients without the patient's permission.

Where there are several Catholics in a nursing home or assisted-living facility, volunteers conduct communion services. "There's a dedicated group of four to six volunteers who faithfully

(Continued at Outreach on page 4)



Praying the Rosary at Edmonds Landing

Upcoming Events

Fall Festival

Living in Love Retreat for Married Couples

Widow/Widowers Dinner

Holiday Fair

Penance Service

Oct 26, 6:00—9:00 p.m., in the gym

October 26 and 27—see holyrosaryedmonds.org for details

November 3 in the Pastoral Center after 5:00 p.m. Mass

Saturday, November 17, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. &

Sunday, November 18, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the gym

Thursday, December 19, 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Welcome to Sue and Gary!

By Jim Haley

One is an award-winning educator with 41 years of experience teaching kids and administering staff.

The other is an accomplished facilities manager and designer who helped corporations expand scores of new facilities.

Both are new faces seen on the Holy Rosary campus this year.-- and they were hired by Fr. Kenneth Haycock to be on the parish staff.

If you haven't done so already, meet Sue Venable, a longtime parishioner, who took over last month as school principal.

And the new person directing the upkeep of parish buildings and grounds is Gary McConaghy, the new facilities manager.

Venable replaces Kathy Carr, who retired last school year after 14 years in charge of the school. Sue came out of a two-year retirement when she heard of the opening.

The job, she said, "was calling my name."

She spent 26 years as a teacher, nine as a school principal and six as an Edmonds School District administrator. But she wasn't ready to quit education, particularly at Holy Rosary.

"I would say I am very community oriented and this community is a very welcoming, caring and loving community," Sue said of the parish.

Carr had already established high standards for academic achievement, with emphasis on science, music, technology and language, as well as a Christian approach to life.

The new principal set right to work making sure the student body and staff were aware of four watchwords she brought from her broad experience. She insists these guiding principles be followed: Respect, kindness, responsibility and safety. Sue went into each classroom in early September to talk to students about her expectations, and to discuss examples of how one could show respect, be kind, take responsibility and foster safety for everyone.

"We really put a lot of emphasis on our positive school environment so everyone understands that these are the expectations here," Sue said. "How we treat each other, care about each other is very important in creating a good learning environment."

"When children are in a caring and supportive environment," Sue said, "they are going to learn."

She previously was principal at College Place Elementary in the Edmonds district, and in 1999 she earned the KCTS Golden Apple Award for outstanding leadership.

There's been some fun on campus, too.

The first week of school, the children and staff participated in an "opening ceremony," much like that of the Olympic Games, but with the teachers doing the competing, school student leaders doing the announcing. At the close of the year, Sue said something akin to an Olympic-style "closing ceremony" will be planned.

In the Pastoral Center, Gary McConaghy is the new person in charge of the campus buildings and grounds. Gary, a 35 - year resident of Edmonds, replaces Dave Johnson, who will now work on special projects for the pastor. Both will report directly to Fr. Haydock.

Gary has most recently worked as a corporate design consultant.



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Youth Migrant Project

By Jim Haley

Many of the Holy Rosary youth who ventured into the Skagit Valley in late June had an "eye opening" experience. Forty-three of them, ages 13 to 17, participated in the 2012 Youth Migrant Project – a program geared to show young people how to be compassionate and at the same time teaching them that all people are brothers and sisters.

"The goal was to go out into the Skagit Valley area and allow the kids to experience solidarity with the migrant population," Holy Rosary Youth Minister Tony Vasinda said.

None of the Holy Rosary youth wanted to live under even the best living conditions that the migrants had, Tony said.

Holy Rosary is one of a half dozen parishes participating in the project a week at a time over the summer months.

The project started in 1985 in Lynden when someone noticed that migrant infants and pre-school children were left alone while their parents worked in the fields. At first it was simply a day-care activity, which expanded when the project moved to the Skagit Valley in 1993.

Parish youth continue to serve in day-care centers, work at the food bank center, visit migrant camps providing donations from Holy Rosary and interact with the migrants.

The youth were accompanied by 10 adult chaperones, including Holy Rosary Spanish teacher Kate Scott, and the Holy Rosary teens were given the chance to bone up on their conversational Spanish. This was the 14th year Holy Rosary has participated in the program and the largest group that has come from this parish.

What was particularly "eye-opening" for some was experiencing the living conditions of some of the migrants, Vasinda said.

The youth did a little of the same kind of field work at a couple of farms, they helped out at a federal lunch program for the migrant children, and they worked at the food-clothing bank. Three migrant camps were visited, and the teens saw a variety of living conditions, including large families crowded into small spaces.

None of the Holy Rosary youth wanted to live under even the best living conditions that the migrants had, Vasinda said. There were games with the migrants, a fiesta and a mass.

The main goal of the Youth Migrant Project is for the kids to engage in another culture and to find Christ there, Vasinda said. Moreover, there was an understanding "that their lives impact our lives, and our lives impact them. We're all connected."



(Continued from page 2)

His career includes overseeing the construction and management of new facilities for corporations such as Car Toys as well as the development of drug and department stores throughout the West.

His resume is eye catching. It boasts a record of directing and coordinating all aspects of more than 450 corporate expansion projects, start to finish.

He also has an extensive background in facilities management and planning. He was recently accredited as a LEED associate, specializing in the construction and operation of energy-efficient buildings.

"This position is challenging and important to me. I'm excited to have the opportunity to apply my background and contribute to the school and parish community. The staff is a joy to work with, and there are a number of ways I believe I will be of help."

One of them will be to monitor and assess the energy efficiency of the campus buildings. Another is overseeing all of the facility needs and requirements. For example, Gary recently toured the grounds with the Pastoral Center builder to examine some of the newly planted trees that are dying. They will be replaced.

Also on his short list is securing automated external defibrillators, electronic devices that can diagnose potentially life-threatening cardiac problems and shock a heart into an effective rhythm. What's more, he wants to make sure there are plenty of people around who are trained to use them.

One of Gary's goals is to monitor and assess the energy efficiency of the campus buildings.