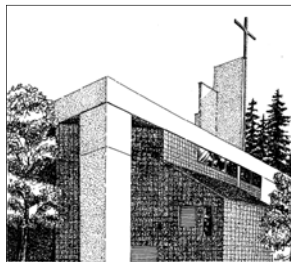


Holy Rosary Parish  
PO Box 206  
Edmonds WA 98020

Volume 7, Issue 1

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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*

## Guiding the Ship of School

By Jim Haley

Any new skipper needs to imprint his or her personality whether taking the helm of a team, a business or a school.

Sue Venable, principal of Holy Rosary for a little more than a year, has done that.

The lodestar of her piloting at Holy Rosary School can be summed up in the four words that have been ingrained in the 248 students, staff and the children's parents: be respectful, kind, responsible and safe.

"The emphasis has been on promoting a positive school environment," she said. "These are our expectations." Every area of the school is important, she said, including the classroom, playground, lunch room and hallways. Everyone is expected to adhere to the meaning of those four words at all times.

How does she do that? Sue quickly whips out a chart with the four words, along with numerous sub headings for each. "What does respect look like in the classroom," she asks, then dives into the sub heads. "Being a good listener, caring for and encouraging each other, respect for property." In the hallways, it might be a matter of walking so others can pass, or in the lunchroom just talking quietly, according to the detailed chart. "We've mapped out all these things more specifically on this chart," she said. At the beginning of the school year she went around to all the classes to talk about what all those things are. The staff also emphasizes them.

"We narrow these things down and get real specific about how we treat each other, how we can be kind, how we use responsibility and how we are safe. All these things are important to all of us to make sure we're in a good positive learning environment."

*(Guiding the Ship from p. 1)*

*(Continued at Guiding the Ship p. 4)*



Claire Goza helps Mrs. Venable officially open the 2013-2014 school year. Photo by Norbert Hertl

## Upcoming Events

Knights of Columbus Crab Feed	Saturday, January 25, 6:00 p.m. in the Pastoral Center
Catholic Schools Week	January 26 through 31
School Open House	Sunday, January 26, noon—2:00 p.m.
Lenten Family Morning	Sunday, Feb. 23, School Hall, 10:00—11:30 a.m., noon—1:30 p.m.
School Auction	Saturday, March 1, 6:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday	March 5
Easter	April 20



# Advent at Holy Rosary



Clockwise from top left: Fr. Haydock with the Giving Tree (Norbert Hertl); Browsing the Holiday Fair (Norbert Hertl); Angels at the RE Christmas Pageant (Deidre Roberts); Elves at the School Christmas Concert (Lisa Budnick); Tiffany and Lorie set up the crèche (John Russell); Ginny and Sig Weiss taking poinsettias to shut-ins (Eileen Niven). Center: Larry Lenz, Heather Rees and Hilda Ordenez decorate the Pastoral Center tree (Norbert Hertl).



## In Service to One, In Service to All

By Jim Haley

You certainly could call them the go-to guys for the parish and the pastor.

They also are one of the biggest sources of fund raising and charitable giving at Holy Rosary.

The Holy Rosary Knights of Columbus organization, 102 men strong, is always ready to pitch in when the parish or Fr. Haydock need a hand. The frequently visible group, often sporting name tags at church or collecting for some good work or another, is looking for a few more good men. That includes any good catholic age 18 or older who is interested in doing something good for the parish community and the community at large.

The group went on a recruitment drive in the fall, handing out brochures hoping to attract new blood. Recruitment efforts are mounted at least once a year.

“We’re looking for someone who is interested in serving the parish and actually interested in participating in the activities we do,” said Kurt Johnson, a former Grand Knight (as the lead Knight is called.)

You might be most familiar with the Knights’ monthly breakfasts, a primary method of raising money. This year’s budget is more than \$48,000, all money that will go to one worthy need or another.

“Holy Rosary would be a different parish without their involvement,” Fr. Haydock said. “They strengthen the fellowship among parishioners, which is very important. Also, the parish would need to pay for the many services they provide.” He said the local Knights are a “very hard working group of men serving parish needs.”

The local parish council, called the Mother Teresa Council 12591, was established in 1999 under the urging of Romy Ablao, German Milnar and John Williams.

The now worldwide organization originated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century in New Haven, Conn, where enclaves of Catholics often had dangerous jobs such as police or firefighting work. When a man died on the job, the original Knights contributed to the care and livelihood of his family. The idea, former Grand Knight Ron Johnson said, was that a parish community could take care of its own.

Current Grand Knight Ron Carr, a convert and a former Baptist deacon from Texas, said he didn’t know much about the Knights when he joined the Church. He and his wife visited several churches after he moved to this area and settled on Holy Rosary because he liked Fr. Haydock. “All of a sudden I started hearing about (the Knights),” Carr said, and he was looking for a way to involve himself in the parish. “I asked about it and before I knew it I was signing my name.”

The group holds monthly meetings, and members pay \$36 a year in dues. Everyone has special interests, and the Knights have enough activities so that there is one for almost everyone.

It could be just taking donations for relief of weather-ravaged folks in the Philippines, maybe putting on the December Santa breakfast, taking care of the grounds around the Parish Center, or organizing the annual Matt Talbot dinner for the needy in Seattle. Holy Rosary Knights have donated to a pregnancy center in Lynnwood, the MS Helping Hands store in Edmonds, the local food bank and Coats for Kids.

“We are charged with conducting service activities in five different areas, including support of church families, youth, vocations, our own fraternity, and patriotism,” Ron Johnson said. “We encourage those who are busy with other projects in the parish or their families to join even if they don’t have time for many of our activities.”

Men with a variety of skills are sought. Just look for the Knight name tag at church, Kurt Johnson said. Sit down with that person over coffee and discuss interests, he said. Joining is a great way to become involved in the parish and the community at large, Carr said.



The Knights prepare Thanksgiving dinner at the Matt Talbot Center in Seattle.

Photo by John Peters



Santa gets a hug at Santa Breakfast 2012.

Photo by Greg Hatch



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Eileen Niven  
John Peters

John Russell

How does this translate to education? “Students, when they feel safe and they’re being respected, they will be able to learn. If not, they are not enjoying school and they’re not going to learn,” Sue said. “So these things need to be in place in order for children to be successful in a school environment.”

Don’t doubt her word. Sue spent 37 years in education as a teacher and administrator. Her work and tenure as principal at College Place Elementary in the Edmonds School District won a state award. She came out of retirement in 2012 to take the Holy Rosary job.

Her four-word emphasis was employed at College Place, but its application here is more detailed with all

the examples on the chart that define how, for example, one should be respectful or safe. When she arrived at Holy Rosary, the staff felt the four words really needed to be spelled out. “They wanted it consistent throughout,” she said, and she maintains it has helped the ability of students to learn.

Now the teachers have detail to back up what they are saying in case of a problem. Having all the detail in place allows Sue to counsel a student who might not be doing the right thing. Sometimes when she goes into a classroom, children will confess to her that they have transgressed in one way or another. “They realize it,” she said.

Sue also is proud that she has been able to do community building. “The whole parenting community is enthusiastic, involved and excited,” she said, based on the feedback she gets. The school Parent Association, which plans events and fundraisers, is stronger than ever, she said.

Parents agree. Liz Schimp, who has four children in the school, has seen increased enthusiasm. So has Michelle Chia, mother of another Holy Rosary student. More parents are active in the Parent Association, Michelle said. Whenever Sue needs something, parents are more eager to come in and help. “I think since she’s been here, there’s a lot more involvement of the parents,” Michelle said.

Something is working. Enrollment increased by around 50 students in the 2013-2014 academic year.

In December staff members of the Pacific Science Center were at the school teaching the children about astronomy, a program financed by a Parent Association fundraiser. Sue spent a lot of her budget on a new math curriculum. The school auction last spring provided money for some new desks and chairs as well as microscopes used in science classes. The school also has a new website linked to the parish website.

And then there’s the personal touch. The principal’s office is decorated with positive signs and messages like “Let your Spirit Soar.” Or “Inspire.” She keeps thank you notes from students at the ready near her desk. “It is very special these students would take the time to write these thank you notes and their comments were very thoughtful,” Sue said. Moreover, she’s having fun. “I’m having a great time. I love it!” she said. “I’m helping these students feel good about learning and being excited about being here in school. What’s important is we are meeting students’ needs and they are learning and successful.”



Julia Causbie investigates strobe effects at the Pacific Science Center Day.  
Photo by Norbert Hertl



Nico Mennano and Jared Smith explore robotics.  
Photo by Norbert Hertl

