

Dear friends in Christ,
This weekend I return from vacation and will be at the churches in the Snoqualmie Valley: St. Anthony and Holy Innocents. For reflection this week, I am featuring excerpts from a homily of Pope Leo at Mass for the blessing of the Tower of Jesus Christ at the great Basilica of Sagrada Familia:

“WE ARE THE LIVING STONES”

....This church is a single building made of many stones. A house that grows steadily over the years following a single plan. We are all the living stones of this edifice, which has Christ as its foundation and crowning glory, its beginning and end. Much more than a monument, the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia remains a work in progress today, reminding us that the Christian life is always a journey, because it is a project that God is carrying out....

In this regard, we hold dear in our hearts the words the Lord addressed to King David: “Are you the one to build me a house to live in?” (2 Sam 7:5). On the contrary, “the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house” (v. 11). With this passage, Scripture teaches us that it is not we who make a dwelling for God, as if he were simply one thing among others or part of a whole greater than himself. Rather, it is God who makes a place for us, and the place he gives us is his own heart: the place of the Son, for us who were strangers; the place of the Beloved, for us who are sinners.

This desire of his is fulfilled through Jesus; we can then understand the meaning of what we heard in the Gospel, when the Lord says to the Pharisees: “you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he” (Jn 8:24). These are strong words, which are by no means intended as threats or blackmail. They are an invitation to salvation — that is, a call to freedom extended by Christ, who desires for us the ultimate, eternal good. When faced with the threat of evil, the Lord is always with us, always on our side. “I am:” this is the Most Holy Name that God shared with Moses from the burning bush, revealing his unshakable faithfulness. As God made man, he becomes for us Emmanuel, the source of grace and forgiveness, of salvation and new life. Dear brothers and sisters, we cannot believe in Jesus and promote war. We cannot believe in Jesus and kill the innocent. We cannot believe in Jesus and abandon those who suffer, those who weep, those who flee from misery.

Tonight, then, let us remember that la Creu de Crist, which crowns this Basilica, és la Creu dels últims who become the first, of sinners who become saints, of the dead who will rise again. The three facades of the Sagrada Familia bear witness to this: the First becomes the last for us at the Nativity; through his sacrifice, he redeems us through his Passion; his death gives us eternal life, making us sharers in divine glory. As we admire the tower of Jesus Christ, we lift our gaze toward him, toward the One who alone reveals to us the truth about God and the truth about ourselves. By looking at Christ, we can see the world with renewed eyes: the tower of the cross then becomes a banner of charity, for God loves us

in this way, transforming an instrument of death into a sign of hope. In Jesus’ cross, our faith reaches its summit, as professed by the inscription found at the base of the spire: “Tu solus Sanctus, Tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus.” This cross shines by day, reflecting the sunlight, and shines by night, illuminating the city like a lighthouse overlooking the Mediterranean.



Yes, the light of Christ shines in the darkness, even though the darkness has not received it (cf. Jn 1:5, 11). Yet this rejection does not mean that God’s love is lacking: “When you have lifted up the Son of Man,” says the Lord, “then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me” (Jn 8:28). It is necessary to pass through the passion of the crucified One to be enlightened by the glory of the risen One, for from the beginning, the Father teaches us to give our lives, and the Son, who receives life from him, gives it to all through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is precisely why the cross is the radiant sign of his love.

It is faith that shapes the stones and gives meaning to the edifice we inhabit together. In our prayer, therefore, we discover the original bond between all things and God, the Creator of heaven and earth. He is the Artist who has imprinted his splendor upon the cosmos. Created in his image, humanity responds to God’s work with its own ingenuity: this is how the artist transforms talent into praise and creativity into a testimony to the Creator himself. As an architect inspired by faith, the venerable Antoni Gaudí designed this place with the desire to narrate the mysteries of the Lord’s life. In this way, he has proposed to us a spiritual pilgrimage, leading to an encounter with Christ who for our sake was born, died and rose again...

Dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of this church inspires us to learn ever more from our Master and Lord the art of living according to his Gospel. As we lift our gaze toward him, the crucified and risen One, let us commit ourselves to lifting up those who lie in the dust (cf. 1 Sam 2:8). And let us show in this way that the Sagrada Familia is the tallest church in the world, not so as to stand out in worldly rankings, but rather to guide the steps of the People of God who make their pilgrimage in this land of Catalonia, with the Cross illuminating their path, like a lamp burning brightly as we await the return of the Bridegroom. POPE LEO XIV

Many thanks to Fr. Raphael and Fr. Williams who have been covering for me while I have been away. I am so very grateful to them and to our wonderful parish staffs for their great work and pastoral care. This week we say farewell to Fr. Williams, and Fr. Raphael leaves on July 28 for India for the next month. He will return on August 28. I will be covering the parishes with just weekend help, so please be patient with me during this time. Many thanks!

Blessings on your week!
Fr. Johnson

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

ST JUDE Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9AM-4PM, Friday 9AM-12PM

Mon July 27	Tuesday July 28	Wednesday July 29	Thursday July 30	Friday July 31	Saturday August 1	Sunday August 2
No Daily Mass 10:00am Women of Faith 11:00am Funeral Mass for David Stecher		8:30am Confessions 9:00am Daily Mass 7:00pm House of Prayer	No Daily Mass 12:15pm Steps to Freedom 1:00pm Rosary Cenacle	9:00am Daily Mass 9:30am - 9:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	3:30pm Confessions 5:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass	9:00am Sunday Mass 11:00am Sunday Mass

HOLY INNOCENTS Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9AM-4PM, Friday 9AM-12PM

Mon July 27	Tuesday July 28	Wednesday July 29	Thursday July 30	Friday July 31	Saturday August 1	Sunday August 2
	No Daily Mass 3:00-6:30pm Food Pantry Open	10:00am-12:00noon Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Funeral Mass for George Weinert No 6pm Daily Mass	9:00am Daily Mass	No Daily Mass 6-6:45pm Confessions 6-8pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	5:30 - 8:30pm Vino with a View	8:00am Sunday Mass 10:30am Sunday Mass

ST ANTHONY Office Hours: July 28, 2026 Tuesday 10AM-12PM

Tuesday July 28	Wednesday July 29	Thursday July 30	Friday July 31	Saturday August 1
6:00pm Adoration & Rosary	7:30-9:30pm AA Meeting	6:00pm Bible Study		5:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

- Holy Innocents: King County Crisis line at 211
- St. Jude SVdP: Helpline assistance: 206-767-6449
- To learn more or to join the ministry contact:
 - Connie Dunn at Holy Innocents: connie@conniedunn.com
 - Diane Murphy at St Jude: svdp@stjude-redmond.org
- To donate furniture or household items email: svdpfurniture@stjude-redmond.org

PARISH FAMILY FINANCIAL UPDATES

HOLY INNOCENTS YEAR TO DATE 2026 - 2027



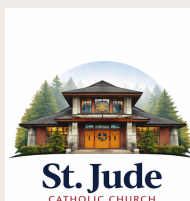
OPERATIONS

Actual \$25,325
Goal \$28,846
Ahead/(Behind) (\$3,521)

BUILDING

Actual \$13,916
Goal \$16,754
Ahead/(Behind) (\$2,838)

ST JUDE YEAR TO DATE SUNDAY COLLECTIONS TO JULY 19, 2026



St Jude

Actual \$53,540
Goal \$50,550
Ahead/(Behind) \$2,990

SAFE PARKING AT ST JUDE

Safe Parking Helpline: 425-658-4982
safeparking@stjude-redmond.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Holy Innocents:
Contact George Doty 360-668-2224
Dotyga@aol.com
St Jude:
knightsofcolumbus@stjude-redmond.org