

This Sunday we welcome **St. Michael School** Principal Mrs. **Karen Matthews, Ed.D.** She has worked in Catholic education for over thirty year. In 2007 Dr. Matthews became founding principal of St. Michael School in Snohomish. If you have a child who will be in pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I encourage you to investigate what this nearby Catholic School has to offer.

Thank you to all who participated in the **Fun Run** on April 2. Below are pictures of that event. I have some others on the “Fr. Bloom Bulletin Board” at the north entrance of the church. First place certificate went to Matt Jankowski. Austin Mitchell was a few seconds behind. Both ran the five kilometer race in under thirty minutes. It took me over an hour, even with Samwise pulling me along!

Shanden



Michael, Julie



First Place, Matt Jankowski



Below you will also see a picture from a **40 Days for Life** vigil. The campaign will conclude on Palm Sunday with a **Victory Rally** at the Knights of Columbus hall from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please consider spending an hour this week in prayer before the Everett Planned Parenthood. On my bulletin board I have posted the hours when they most need volunteers.

Martin, Amy, Erin, Cris, Erika, Fr B, Julie, Abby, Ryan, Miano, Samwise,  
Hannah, Diana, Thomas, Eryn, Schola, Ralph, Cliff, Brad



Picture by Dawn

I am delighted that we have so many young people among our volunteers. As you know, the Boy Scout group that meets weekly in our parish hall has undertaken a beautiful project – the landscaping of the **Shrine of Our Lady** between the church and hall. Below is a picture the **Scouts** on the day they put in the weed covers for flower garden around the Blessed Mother’s statue.

Scouts - putting in weed covers for Shrine of Our Lady April 2



James, Uday, Byron, Nathan, Daniel, Bobby, Mathew, Tim, Steve, Dany, Ann, Samwise

The flower garden – “**Mary’s Courtyard**” - will be centerpiece of our **Spring Clean** next Saturday (April 16). I thank James Yap for designing the garden and all those who have made contributions to this beautiful project. To accomplish other work on our grounds and building, we will need many hands. Please come and bring your gardening tools.

I am proud of all that volunteers have accomplished in the past twenty-one months, with the guidance of our Building Commission and Parish Council. As I mentioned last Sunday, we are facing some major projects that will require your Stewardship. **The most urgent issue is the renovation of our rest rooms, which are disgraceful condition.** I hope that we can address that project very soon. In addition we need to expand our parish kitchen and lay a new carpet in the classroom area of our parish hall. And along with many of you, I am dreaming that we will have a playground for our children.

The Spring Clean will prepare our buildings and grounds for Holy Week. I encourage you to also prepare spiritually for this greatest week of the year. On Wednesday evening, at 7 p.m. we will have our **Lenten**

**Penance Service.** Priests from neighboring parishes will be available for confessions in English and Spanish.

**Archbishop Sartain** will celebrate Mass at St. Mary Magdalene, Everett, for **Catholics of Snohomish County** this Monday (April 11) at 7 p.m. You might remember that the Snohomish Deanery Mass with our new archbishop got snowed out in February. The forecast for this coming Monday looks better. I encourage you to attend this important event.

A final invitation: We have our last **Soup Night** this Friday evening, April 15. Joe Hastings from Catholic Relief Services will give a presentation at 7 p.m., following soup, rosary and Way of the Cross.

And a movie recommendation: Last week I saw **Of God's and Men** with a couple of priest friends. We all felt it was one of the most powerful films we had ever seen. I highly recommend the movie for mature teens and adults.