



Holy Rosary Church  
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Edmonds, Washington

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Pastor

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School Principal

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Pre-school/Elementary/  
Jr. High

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Music

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Gifts & Blessings Editor

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John Russell

(Love continued from page 1)

Passionate exciting marriages are not a stage of infatuation that you grow out of but a stage of mature conjugal spirituality that you grow into. *Living in Love* is a practical application of Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* emphasizing that the human person, mind, body and soul, is completely integrated. As John Paul II says, it is the physical reality of our lives that leads us to God."

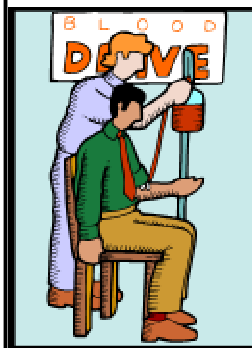
MORE DELIGHTFUL is your love  
than wine! The Song of Songs 1:2

Pan and Bob Smith attended the Holy Rosary retreat. "This was outstanding and had a huge impact on us," said Pan, "The whole concept is focused on God. The emphasis is on masculine and feminine gifts and how they interact. It gives you tools to grow closer. The candle-light dinner on Saturday night was such a treat. We are so appreciative to Judy and Bruce for bringing this program to Holy Rosary!"

The follow-up to the retreat is a "skills" course called *Living in Love Every Day*, a small group program that takes place in homes. *Living in Love Every Day* offers a comprehensive program of practical, relevant tools that help couples continue to grow in love. The other offshoot will be a parish program that matches a married couple who is living in love with an engaged couple who is preparing for marriage. The seven session *Preparing to Live in Love* program has been amazingly effective with modern, young couples. They realize that the Church has something wonderfully helpful for them, and they are coming back to and into the church as a result. If you have any questions about the program, please email Bruce and Judy at [bhwjsw@comcast.net](mailto:bhwjsw@comcast.net) or call them at 425-771-9003. The next opportunity to experience *Living in Love* will be early in February 2011.

(Continued from Mike on page 3)

"He's constantly working at bringing people together to find win-win outcomes," Geyer said, adding that she misses Strong at the blood center.



What's his most important professional accomplishment?

That's a tough question to answer, he said.

"I have been fortunate to have had many opportunities in a variety of fields," Strong said. "To have received four lifetime achievement awards from four different professional associations is definitely something to be proud of. Each of these relate to somewhat different aspects so it's hard to choose one."

He's busy, no doubt. Strong and his wife, Sunny, have friends worldwide. They've traveled extensively. They still love the Edmonds area. And then there's the attraction to music, which

is common among physicians.

Strong recalls sitting with a group of medical students during his education and discovering that most of them had a penchant for music. The connection between the math it takes to become a physician and the math of music is well established, Strong said.

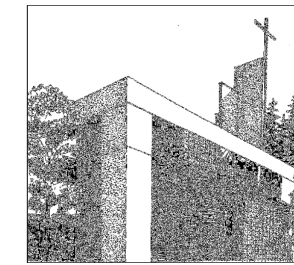
He learned to play the trumpet in the third grade, but that didn't always fit with the 11 a.m. choir, "They needed a guitar, and since I could read music I made the move," he said, adding that he taught himself.

"I've had the opportunity since retirement to learn how to play it better," Strong said. "There's plenty of room for improvement and I'm playing in an Irish band as well, learning some new music."

Holy Rosary Parish  
PO Box 206  
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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

## Focus on Marriage Living in Love

With marriage a major focus of ministry this year at Holy Rosary, we were blessed to have Judy and Bruce White bring *Living in Love*, an exciting new program of marriage education and empowerment, to the parish in September. Bruce and Judy participated in the first *Living in Love* retreat on the west coast in April at St John Vianney Parish in Kirkland. They left that retreat "believing in our hearts that this was the best marriage support program," according to Judy.

"When we came out of there, we were blown away, literally blown away," said Judy. "It presents a wonderful opportunity to create a marriage-based community. We're so excited!" Fred and Anne Janssen, friends of the White's, had met the authors of the program, Kathy and Ron Feher, at the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) Conference in St Paul in June 2009 and invited them to bring the retreat workshop to the Seattle area.

Ron and Kathy, parishioners at St Thomas of Villanova parish in suburban Philadelphia, developed *Living in Love* with Fr. Chuck Gallagher, S.J., twenty years ago but it has only recently spread nationally. "It's 'parish-based,' taking place in parish facilities, so it's wonderfully convenient, and it's non-residential, so it's very affordable," Ron explained. "It's a back-to-basics approach. Everyone knows that there is a difference between loving and being 'in love.' We help couples to believe that it is possible to live 'in love' no matter how young or old, no matter how long they have been married, and we give them the practical strategies to make that dream a reality. Couples can handle the day-do-day stresses of life so much better if they are living 'in love' consistently.

by John Russell



Bruce and Judy White

(Continued at Love on page 4)

## Upcoming Events

Fall Festival  
Widow/Widowers Dinner  
Holiday Fair

Blood Drive  
Giving Tree  
Christmas Poinsettia Program  
Penance Service

Friday, October 29, 6:00—10:00 p.m. in the gym  
Saturday, November 6, after mass in the School Hall  
Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. &  
Sunday, Nov. 14, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the School Hall  
Sunday, November 21, 8:30 a.m.- noon and 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Begins November 26  
Plants will be delivered December 6 and 7  
Monday, December 20, 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

### Icons of Genesis

by John Russell

A naked young woman sits pertly in a tree admiring an apple, listening to a great snake whisper in her ear sweet words extolling the wisdom to be gained by eating the forbidden fruit. A man on the ground eagerly reaches up to take a bite.

This is, of course, the familiar story of Adam and Eve, here illustrated as an icon by our own Sue Gill Rose, who joined us about two years ago all the way from Louisiana. "Adam and Eve" is one of a series of icons that currently numbers ten but will eventually be twelve, all dealing with the book of Genesis.

Why Genesis? "It was our book last year in Anne Wermus' bible study group. That group has been such a fabulous experience. The intellectual stimulation is so gratifying. There's a great diversity of opinion, and the respect these women have for each other is just so wonderful. There is just so much to draw on from Genesis."



And why icons? "They're a real puzzle to compose. You have a 14"x14" square with a circle. Inside the circle you need to fit an odd number of elements. There can't be too many or it gets cluttered. I tried to do something with Jacob and Esau, for instance, but it didn't work."

What's your favorite? "I like 'Joseph and the Dream Coat' and 'Rebecca and the Servant'. Jacob had sent his servant back home to Ur to find a wife from among his people. The servant, at a loss for how to do this, prays to God that the first young woman to offer to pull water from the well for not only him but also for his camels should be the one. Rebecca was the answer to his prayer.

You can see these icons at [suegillrose.com](http://suegillrose.com).

THEY SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, "Here comes that master dreamer! Come on, let us kill him and throw him into the well. We shall then see what comes of his dreams!" Genesis 37:19-20

### Forming the Faith of Children

by Mary Hupf

Our Faith Formation program is well underway. Our very enthusiastic and creative group of volunteer catechists has begun sharing their faith and love of God with our students. These catechists received a blessing and were commissioned at Mass on Catechetical Sunday, September 19.

Our program offers classes on Sunday mornings for **3 year-olds, 4 year-olds and Kindergarteners** during the 9:00 Mass. Between the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses, public school students in **grades 1 through 6** come for catechesis. In the **Good News Liturgy** during the 9:00 Mass, all parish children in grades 1 through 5 can hear the gospel presented at age-appropriate levels. These children join their parents at the Offertory of the Mass.

All Junior High (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade) in the parish are welcome to join our **Jr High Youth Ministry** group, which meets on Sunday afternoons 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the School Hall

If you have any questions about any of our programs,

please contact me at 425-977-4542 or [maryh@holynosaryedmonds.org](mailto:maryh@holynosaryedmonds.org).

### An Invitation From the High School Group

by Katie Niven

One of the biggest lessons from high school youth group I will take away is the sense of community. Every Sunday night getting together with a wonderful group of teens and sharing faith, food, and laughter was just a perfect feeling of community. When we helped with the mug project during Christmas time, it was an awesome feeling that we, as a community, could come together and produce something that really helped people less fortunate than us. I'd like to invite all parish teens to join us at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass with youth group to follow.

### Doing God's Work in the World: Mike Strong and Tissue Banking

By Jim Haley

When the Contemporary Choir tunes up for the 11 a.m. mass, it's likely Mike Strong will be there strumming his guitar and singing his praises to the Lord.



If he's not, chances are Dr. D. Michael Strong is someplace else in the United States or on another continent spreading the gospel of tissue preservation or blood banking -- processes that enhance the chance

of patients leading longer and better lives.

For the last quarter century, Strong has been a fixture at the 11 a.m. mass, when his work doesn't have him someplace else.

"Mike says he's been through five music directors, which is probably right," said current music director Susan Olmos. "Mike also plays trumpet occasionally and has a nice tenor voice. You are right in saying that he is a stalwart, one of our rocks."

His profession and travels, however, have prevented him from being at Holy Rosary all the time, although as his career winds down he finds it easier to attend the church's 11 a.m. mass, where he also practices a little humility.

"I definitely enjoy the playing and I think it does add to the mass," Strong said. "When one is playing, the focus is on getting the right cords and singing at the same time. Susan (Olmos) expects perfection and I'm not there yet."

Strong, 69, is the former chief operating officer of the Puget Sound Blood Center. He retired in 2007, but retirement didn't keep him from spreading his knowledge.

"I have been fortunate to be in a position to initiate some important projects that benefit patients," Strong said. "At the time of my retirement, some of these had only been started and my incentive was to see them come to fruition."

These projects have to deal with patient safety and "the reduction of errors and accidents related to transfusion and transplantation. Our health care system has a lot of

deficiencies and, in some areas, we are behind the rest of the developed nations."

Strong is a Gonzaga graduate, and he received his PhD from The Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He served 20 years in the Navy, where he was involved in transplantation, tissue and blood banking and the start of the National Marrow Donor Program at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

While at the Puget Sound Blood Center, he was a founder of the Northwest Tissue Center.

He has served on advisory committees for the Federal Drug Administration, National Institute of Health, International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organization.

He has taught or lectured on six continents, including most of the countries in Asia and many in Europe.

**The next Holy Rosary blood drive is set for Nov. 21 during and after Sunday masses.**

"As a result, I am fairly well known and get requests to assist in projects," Strong said. "The last two years, I have been a consultant with the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) working on solving the problems of traceability of organs and tissues."

His Navy background has led him to continue developing combat casualty therapies and Strong said he's now working as a consultant for a company in Portland that is developing freeze-dried plasma.

Among other accolades, Strong is the recipient of four lifetime achievement awards from such organizations as the AATB (formerly American Association of Tissue Banks) and America's Blood Centers.

He's known internationally as an expert on cryopreservation, a process that preserves tissues, such as skin or bone, so they can be transplanted.

"He's notorious in setting high standards for programs to transfer and preserve tissue," said Maria Elena Geyer, a former colleague and executive vice president of marketing and community relations at the Puget Sound Blood Center.

*Continued at Mike on p.4*