

We are a patriotic people

We are in love with America, and we believe in its democratic values. We love our neighbors and support the government. At the same time, we know our first loyalty is to God and to humankind -- we try to distinguish carefully between patriotism and idolatry.

We are a church of the people

Catholicism was started by a poor carpenter and a motley crew of twelve -- many of them poor fisherman. We have never lost our bond with working people. We formed the craft guilds in the Middle Ages and were indispensable in founding labor unions as well as safe labor laws in America. We have a grand tradition of the Catholic social gospel. Eleven of the twelve proposals in the Church's "Social Reconstruction" document became part of the New Deal over sixty years ago. We continue to help the poor in hospitals, schools, shelters, and food banks, throughout America and the world.

So -- what's wrong with us?

God is not finished working on us. We are applying our ancient faith to the modern world. Prodded by the Holy Spirit, we are searching for God's will in such areas as the function of authority, the role of women, our role in a consumer society, moral and ethical relativism. What is RIGHT with us is our continued presence as God's people, seeking to preserve the faith and values received from Jesus.

*Come and see
We invite you back home*

Contact Christine McKenna
christine@stmadsophie.org

and

Take a look at what is coming up

Come and See Open Houses

February 3, February 23,
March 9 and March 23

**Beginning April 6, ten weekly evenings
addressing:**

- your questions
- faith journeys
- relationship with our Creator
- recognizing the Savior
- Incarnation and Resurrection
 - what Catholics believe
 - the Mass
 - Catholic practices
- forgiveness and reconciliation
 - the Trinity

God loves you.....

We miss you.....

Welcome home !!!



Catholics Coming Home



St. Madeleine Sophie Parish
4400-130th Place SE
Bellevue, WA 98006
(425) 747-6770

Catholics: who are we?

We are your neighbors.

We live throughout this area and our world: nearly 25 percent of Americans are Catholic, and our international Catholic family numbers over one billion.

We are a mixed bag

Our membership includes Mother Teresa and Al Capone. We are smart and not-so-smart, rich and poor -- people of all races and nationalities. One wit defined Catholicism as "Here comes everybody."

We are Christians

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, God in the flesh. We believe that Jesus lived and died to save us from sin -- our separation from God -- and rose to gain us eternal life.

We are the People of God

We believe all people are the children of God. As Catholic Christians, we trace our spiritual heritage and identity through the saints of all centuries to Jesus and back to Abraham.

We are the Body of Christ.

It is not only that Jesus is our Lord and Savior and brother. It is not only that we are his disciples and friends. We also believe that, since Jesus rose from the dead he is now connected to us spiritually through his Holy Spirit. We are

his hands on earth. This union is called the "mystical body" of which Christ is the head.

We are very real, earthly, human people

We believe that, because God came to earth to save the world, the earth itself is "Christ-alized." The world is good, life is good and people are good. But of course we know that people fail. People sin. We believe that sin is forgiven, entirely wiped out, not just overlooked. Jesus gives us the Way to redemption.

We are a sacramental people

Our formal Sacraments are special signs of God's grace and presence. And so we celebrate this graceful presence in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Marriage, Ministry and Healing in Christ. Jesus is the most important sign of the Creator: God in the flesh, the Blessed Sacrament.

We also believe that God is present to us in powerful ways throughout our existence, in the world and in our inner lives, moving us to love and wisdom. We find wonder as we open our eyes and ears.

We are a heavenly people

No, far from perfect, but moving toward and actually living eternal life. With other Christians, we believe in everlasting life even after death. We view heaven as a joyous existence. We believe that all creation and all people are bound for glory.

We are a people of tradition

We trace our origin as human beings back to Eve. We look to the wisdom of scripture and the experience of humanity with God through the centuries. This gives us respect for the past, openness to the future, and hope in the present. We value the wisdom of the ages for guidance in our time and our place. We need not face each question as if we have learned nothing from the experience of God's presence in the world since the beginning.

We are a people of values

We believe, with St. Paul, in holding on to all that is true and good. We believe that some values never go out of style. Those we guard precious. At the same time, God continues to reveal God's wisdom and we learn, we continually learn, as we maintain eyes to see, ears to hear.

We are a people of life

We are convinced that Jesus came to give us life to the fullest and that God alone is in charge of life. We are absolutely opposed to the destruction of life at either end of its spectrum, and insist on the right to a certain quality and dignity of life in between. We pledge ourselves to fight the life-denying forces in a "culture of death."