

# SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

520 South Garfield St. Kennewick, WA 99336

Parish Office hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am to Noon, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

**Parish Office Phone** 509-586-3820  
Fax 509-586-3558

**520 S. Garfield St. Kennewick, WA 99336**

Email: [parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

Bulletin: [receptionist@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:receptionist@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

Website: [www.stjoseph-kennewick.org](http://www.stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**St. Joseph School Office** 509-586-0481  
Children's Center 509-586-1428

## WEEKEND MASSES

### MISA EL FIN DE SEMANA

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm (English)  
7:00 pm (Español)

Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 5:30 pm  
(English)

1:00 pm and 7:00 pm (Español)

## WEEKLY MASSES

### MISAS ENTRE SEMANA

Monday-Friday: 6:30am & 8:30am, Small  
Church (English)

Thursday 7:00 pm, Small Church Español)

Saturday 8:30 am, Small Church (English)

First Friday Mass 7:00 pm, Small Church  
(English)

## CONFESSIONS/CONFESIONES

Notice: Saturdays time has been updated.

Saturdays | 3:30 -5: 30 pm | Big Church

Thursdays | 6:00 - 7:00 pm | Small Church

First Friday | 6:30 -7:00 pm | Small Church

## BAPTISMS

“As a rule an adult is to be baptized in his or her parish and an infant in the parish of the parents unless a just cause suggests otherwise.” (Canon Law 587 and 2) If you are a parishioner who attends St. Joseph and would like to baptize your child in another parish, you will need a letter from the pastor of St. Joseph giving you permission to do so. If you are not a St. Joseph parishioner and want to baptize your child in this parish, you need to get permission from your pastor to baptize your child here. The parents and sponsors must attend a class before the Baptism of the child.

## PRAYER CHAIN

To put someone on the Prayer Chain:

Email [parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
or call the Parish Office at 509-586-3820

Pastor  
Parochial Vicar  
Parochial Vicar  
In Residence  
Deacons

School Principal  
Pastoral Assistant for Administration Rev. Mr. William Mich  
Receptionist Nancy T. [nancy.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.stjoseph@gmail.com)

Office Assistant  
Rel. Education Coordinators

Bookkeeper  
Music Director

## Parish Staff

Fr. Jose Herrera  
Fr. Ricardo A. Villarreal  
Fr. Christian Melendez  
Fr. Riccardo Keolker  
Mr. William Mich  
Mr. Juan Garcia  
Mr. Herman Farias  
Mr. Gustavo Valdivia  
Mr. Edilberto Sanchez  
Mr. Mike Palmieri

Maria R. [rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
Doris R. [rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
Jessie T./Melissa N.  
Nina P.



While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. LUKE 24:51

## MISSION & CORE VALUES

Our mission and sacred purpose as the parish of St. Joseph is to fully live our Catholic faith, which is rooted in Jesus Christ and the teachings of His Church, to nurture and build our parish so that every parishioner can know love, and serve God in this world and encourage others to do the same.

### *Our core values include:*

**Hope**—rooting our ministries and actions in prayer; joyfully carrying them out with competence, care and confidence in God's promise of salvation.

**Liturgy**—maintaining the highest of ministry standards to bring glory to God through the rites, ceremonies, prayers, and sacraments of the Church.

**Community**—caring about and addressing the needs of others.

**Evangelism**—telling others the good news about Jesus.

**Giving**—practicing stewardship as a way of life by sharing of our time, talents, and treasure to support the mission and ministries.

## INQUIRING ADULTS-OCIA

### *Order of Christian Initiation Of Adults*

OCIA is for all adults older than 18 years of age in need of the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and/or Confirmation. We welcome your interest in exploring the Catholic faith and invite your participation in our year-round OCIA process. Call the Parish Office for more information.

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Anointing is the proper Sacrament for those Christians whose health is seriously impaired by sickness, before surgeries, or anyone over the age of 59. Through the Sacrament of Anointing, the Church supports the sick in their struggle against illness and continues Christ's messianic work of healing. If you need the Sacrament of Anointing, please call the Parish Office.

## MARRIAGE

Please contact the priest of the parish where you want to celebrate your wedding ceremony to discuss your situation and set the date in the parish calendar. Do this at least six months prior to the day you are planning to marry.

## FUNERALS

Death is something that awaits all of us and our loved ones. Yet we often avoid thinking about it. Please let the Parish Office know how we can help with the farewell to your beloved family member.

## Stewardship Message

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Collection for *November 19 & 26, 2023*

Sunday Offerings	\$29,928.31
Building Fund	\$1,248.00
School Donations	\$2,579.73
Thanksgiving	\$1,779.53
Music repairs	\$1,000.00
San Vicente	\$100.00

**Prayers:** For our Armed Forces at home and overseas including **Christian Fraga, Steven Hahn, Ramon Vargas, Ian Dimmick, Christy Hylden, Andrew Jacobsen, Alexander Araujo, Tyson Kaas, Christian Shink, Juan Borrego, Estrella Gomez, Erick Miller, Eric Sheldon, and Justin Dennis Byerly.** For our sick including **Drew Schreiber, Gil Gloria, Elaine Himes, Lois and Rick Rutherford, Jan Billings, Rory Valdes, Silvia Rodriguez, Kathleen Barone, Monica Moore, Lourdes Nelson, Jessica Floeter, Billy Sickles, Nestor Barba, Elizabeth Torres, Kim Davis, Kathy Ramirez, Bill Roe, Donna Whitehead, John Curran, Bob and Mary Ross, Alberto Carranza, Danika Whitsett, Father Tom Long, Jerry Mikkelsen, Kelly Freeman, Gus Perez, Jim Nicacio, Arlene Callahan, Dominic Nicacio, Luca Nicacio, Phyllis Pelletier, Nancy Park, Marlene Madrigal, Sherri McKie, Hugo Garcia, Vanessa Nicacio, Carol Smith, Pat Leskovar, Tony Wise, Patty Brown, Armando Rodriguez, Jose Del Angel, Zara Husan, Raquel Cardoza, Samuel Quintanilla, Pat McKie Szacik, Carmen Nava, Mike Draper, Peter Braun, Yolanda Quintero, Hazel Meister, Ernie Skwierczynski, Kendra Skwierczynski, Kolton Hansford, Jeannine Soehnlein, Debbie Lord, Joanne, Judy Kirk, and all parishioners with health problems and for those from our community who have passed away recently, especially the families of **Mary Raekes & Maria Reyes**. Please call when your ill family member gets better, so we can make room for others on the list of prayers for the sick.**

ADORATION CHAPEL

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



**Openings:**

**MON. 2 am**  
**TUES. 1 pm**  
**THUR. 4 am**  
**FRI. 8 am,**

The Adoration Chapel is open to visitors. Please call: Carol, 509-582-5011, or, en español, Delmi, 509-528-8896, to obtain a personal code for entry.

**"Hidden God, devoutly I adore Thee, truly present beneath these veils: all my heart subdues itself before Thee, since all before Thee faints and fails." (Adoro Te Devote)**

The Knights of Columbus will have a membership drive after all Masses on December 16 and 17. For more information, please contact Deacon Bill at the Parish Office.

## Welcome to our Parish Community!

If you are new to St. Joseph, we welcome you – whether you have come here from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish. You have helped us celebrate the liturgy in a beautiful way. If you would like to become part of our Catholic community, please fill out a registration form available on our website. Welcome!

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

December 4-10



### Monday, December 4

6:30 am  
 † Bernard James Loftus  
 8:30 am  
 Amy & Dustin Lamb (Anniversary)  
 7:00 pm - OLG Mass  
 No intentions for this Mass

### Tuesday, December 5

6:30 am  
 † Elaine Loftus  
 8:30 am  
 Mateo Ledesma  
 7:00 pm - OLG Mass  
 No intentions for this Mass

### Wednesday, December 6

6:30 am  
 Christina De Leon - Bernal (B-day)  
 8:30 am  
 † Tayler Young  
 7:00 pm - OLG Mass  
 No intentions for this Mass

### Thursday, December 7

6:30 am  
 † The De Leon & Tirol Family  
 8:30 am  
 † Mary Houston  
 7:00 pm  
 No intentions

### Friday, December 8

6:30 am, 8:30 am  
 12:05 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm - Holy Day - Immaculate Conception  
 No intentions for these Masses

### Saturday, December 9

8:30 am  
 † Sal & Laurie Penella  
 5:30 pm  
 Jerry Long (Living)  
 † Sue Maddox  
 7:00 pm  
 † Agustin Martinez Mojica  
 † Antonio y Consuelo Garcia

† Nicolás y Consuelo Manzanares

### Sunday, December 10

9:00 am  
 † Jadwiga Mosio  
 † Margaret Lord  
 11:00 am  
 No intentions for this Mass  
 1:00 pm  
 † Fieles difuntos  
 5:30 pm  
 No intentions for this Mass  
 7:00 pm  
 No intentions for this Mass

## Sunday Breakfast



The Knights of Columbus invite you to join them for breakfast in Dillon Hall after the morning Masses **December 10.**

## Advent Penance Services

Wed, Dec. 13	Holy Spirit 6:30 pm	7409 W. Clearwater Kennewick
Fri, Dec. 15	Sacred Heart 6:30 pm	1905 Highland Dr., Prosser
Mon, Dec. 18	Christ the King 6:30 pm	1111 Stevens Dr., Richland
Tues, Dec. 19	Saint Joseph 6:30 pm	520 S. Garfield St Kennewick
Wed, Dec. 20	St. Frances Cabrini 6:30 pm	1000 Horne Dr. Benton City

# 2023 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>3</b> December. Light the first violet candle in your Advent wreath and pray with today's Gospel, <i>Mark 13:33-37.</i></p>	<p><b>4</b> Choose a way you can grow closer to Christ in Advent: more mental prayer, penance, almsgiving, Sacraments.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Display the stable for the Nativity Scene. Add figures gradually throughout Advent.</p>	<p><b>6</b> St. Nicholas of Myra Perform a simple act of kindness for someone today in honor of this generous saint.</p>	<p><b>7</b> On the Memorial of Saint Ambrose, bishop and teacher, pray for all clergy in the Church.</p>	<p><b>8</b> The Immaculate Conception of Mary Celebrate by attending Mass and praying a Rosary for our country.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Prepare heart and soul to welcome Christ. Make an examination of conscience and attend Confession.</p>
<p><b>10</b> Light the second violet candle and meditate on <i>Mark 1:1-8.</i></p>	<p><b>11</b> Offer a small sacrifice out of love for Jesus, who offered Himself up for love of you.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pray for all pregnant women and thank God for the gift of new life.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Advent is a busy time for parishes. Call or email your parish office and ask how you can serve.</p>	<p><b>14</b> In prayer, forgive someone who has hurt you. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS or <a href="http://www.catholicrelief.org">www.catholicrelief.org</a>) to see how you can contribute.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Las Posadas begins today honoring Mary's and Joseph's search for shelter. Gather friends and go caroling.</p>
<p><b>17</b> <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Pray with <i>John 1:6-9, 19-28.</i></p>	<p><b>18</b> Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Feed the hungry. Look for someone who is physically hungry or hungry for human kindness.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Review your "Advent resolutions" and renew your commitment to them.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Spend time before the Blessed Sacrament today to ready your heart for the arrival of the King.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Reflect on how your relationship with Christ grew this Advent. Thank Him for the graces you received.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Make an effort to see everyone with loving eyes today.</p>
<p><b>24</b> The fourth week of Advent lasts only one day. Meditate on the great news the angel brought (see <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>).</p>	<p><b>25</b> <i>Rejoice!</i> Place the Christ Child in the manger. Go to Mass today and rejoice!</p>	<p><i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</i></p>				



# *Infant Baptisms*

2024



Thank you for choosing life! The Lord has blessed you with the gift of a child, and now you have made the important decision to have your child baptized in the Catholic Church.

Baptisms at our parish are celebrated in groups on the third Saturday of the month (except for Lent and Advent).

Before a date is set, all paperwork must be completed and turned in with required documents (at the same time) one month prior.

## **TO REGISTER FOR A BAPTISM**

- Pick up a registration packet at the Parish Office during office hours.
- With your registration packet, provide a copy of your infant's birth certificate (must be a legal copy from the state, not a certificate from the hospital).
- Godparents must submit copies of their Confirmation certificates and identification card.
- If you choose to have two Godparents, they must be one male and one female. You may choose to have only one godparent as well. Complete guidelines included in the registration packet.
- Parents and Godparents must attend the Baptism class in person.
- Suggested donation of \$50.00 per child (non refundable).

If you are not a parishioner and want to baptize your child in this parish, you will need a letter from your parish pastor granting permission for your child to be baptized at St. Joseph Parish.

If the child is older than 7 years, he/she will need to be registered in the Religious Education program (2-year program). Registrations will begin in May.

**NEXT BAPTISM DATES: JANUARY 20 | MAY 18**



**Filipino-American Association Christmas Party**  
Traditional Food • Show • Santa Claus • Cultural Show • DJ

Saturday, December 9, 2023  
Dillon Hall | 5:30 pm

All proceeds collected will go to St. Joseph Parish.

5 years & Under free  
6 - 12 years \$15.00  
13-64 years \$30.00  
65 years and older \$20.00

To purchase tickets and for more information, please call Lito at 509-727-2391.

# December

# 2023

## Mass Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 am Mass - Big Church (English)                      11:00 am Mass - Big Church (English)                      1:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)                      5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English)                      6:00 pm Rosary - Small Church</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      6:00 pm Rosary - Big Church (Spanish)                      7:00 pm OLG Mass - Big Church (Spanish)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      6:00 pm Rosary - Big Church (Spanish)                      7:00 pm OLG Mass - Big Church (Spanish)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      6:00 pm Rosary - Big Church (Spanish)                      7:00 pm OLG Mass - Big Church (Spanish)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      6:00 pm Rosary - Big Church                      7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Holy Day                      6:30 am Mass - Big Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Big Church (English)                      12:05 pm, 5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English)                      6:00 pm Rosary - Small Church (Spanish)                      7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      3:30 pm Confession - Big Church (Bilingual)                      5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English)                      6:00 pm Rosary - Small Church (Spanish)                      7:00 pm Mass - Small Church (Spanish)</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 am Mass - Big Church (English)                      11:00 am Mass - Big Church (English)                      1:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)                      5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English)                      6:00 pm Rosary - Big Church (Spanish)                      7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      6:00 pm Rosary - Big Church (Spanish)                      7:00 pm OLG Mass - Big Church (Spanish)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 am OLG Mass - Big Church (Spanish)                      6:00 am OLG Mass - Big Church (Spanish)                      6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      *6:30 pm Confessions - Holy Spirit Parish - Kennewick</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      6:00 pm Confession - Small Church (Bilingual)                      7:00 pm Mass - Small Church (Spanish)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      8:30 am Mass - Big Church (English)                      *6:30 pm Confessions - Sacred Heart Parish - Prosser</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)                      3:30 pm Confession - Big Church (Bilingual)                      5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English)                      7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)</p>

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am Mass - Big Church (English) 11:00 am Mass - Big Church (English) 1:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish) 5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English) 7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) *6:30 pm Confessions – Christ the King Parish – Richland	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) *6:30 pm Confession - Big Church (Bilingual)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) *6:30 pm Confessions – Saint Francis Cabrini Parish- Benton City	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 6:00 pm Confession - Small Church (Bilingual) 7:00 pm Mass - Small Church (Spanish)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Big Church (English) 7:00 pm 1st Friday Mass - Small Church (English)	8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 3:30 pm Confession - Big Church (Bilingual) 5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English) 7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)
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9:00 am Mass - Big Church (English) 11:00 am Mass - Big Church (English) 1:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish) 5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English) 7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)	9:00 am Mass - Big Church (English) 11:00 am Mass - Big Church (Spanish)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 6:00 pm Confession - Small Church (Bilingual) 7:00 pm Mass - Small Church (Spanish)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Big Church (English)	8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 3:30 pm Confession - Big Church (Bilingual) 5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English) 7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:00 am Mass - Big Church (English) 11:00 am Mass - Big Church (English) 1:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish) 5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English) 7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)	9:00 am Mass - Small Church (English) 11:00 am Mass - Small Church (Spanish)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 6:00 pm Confession - Small Church (Bilingual) 7:00 pm Mass - Small Church (Spanish)	6:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 8:30 am Mass - Big Church (English) 7:00 pm 1st Friday Mass - Small Church (English)	8:30 am Mass - Small Church (English) 3:30 pm Confession - Big Church (Bilingual) 5:30 pm Mass - Big Church (English) 7:00 pm Mass - Big Church (Spanish)

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2023

**St. Joseph Parish**  
Fr. Jose Herrera, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Edmund Campion

Born to a Catholic family in 16th century England,

St. Edmund left a brilliant academic career at Oxford to become a



Jesuit missionary – a death sentence, since Catholics were being heavily persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. He traveled around, secretly ministering the Sacraments to English Catholics, until he was betrayed by an informer and arrested. Despite efforts to persuade or threaten him, St. Edmund remained true to his faith. He was martyred with two companions at Tyburn.

### Mary's "Yes"

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave all of us free will to allow us to make our own choices. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) is eternity with her Son.

*"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him"*  
(Luke 2:40).



## A "Christ-centered" Christmas is a joyful one

For Catholics, the weeks leading up to Christmas are a sacred time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. For a joy-filled Christmas, try these ideas:

**Encourage joyful anticipation.** As disciples of Jesus, it is our role to help others to believe and hope in the power of God to change the world as He transforms hearts and minds. *"But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me"* (Micah 7:7). Look for opportunities to share your confidence in His love.

**Focus on prayer.** Become an Advent prayer intercessor praying for every

soul to come home to God, especially at this time of peace. Ask that that He gives everyone the grace to live a new life reflecting glory on the Messiah.

**Serve.** Pope Francis said during Advent, "We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass, but let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?" The pope said we should

continuously ask God what we should do to contribute to the good of the Church and society. We can do "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others. He suggested visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception?"

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a special grace, was preserved from original and personal sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the



Mother of God. This grace bore immeasurable fruit for all of us in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. On December 8 – a Holy Day of Obligation – we ask Mary to pray for us, so we, too, receive Jesus into our hearts with a faithful love like hers.

# Have a peaceful, Merry Christmas!

Do you aim for an idyllic Christmas celebration complete with a warm fire, joyful music, and tinsel-covered tree? For many of us, Christmas comes at the end of weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and is wrought with family tensions, obligations, and exhaustion. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your Christmas celebration:

**Be realistic.** It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.



**Soothe the beast.** Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for your celebration. Pick your favorite holy hymns to put yourself in the Christmas frame of mind.

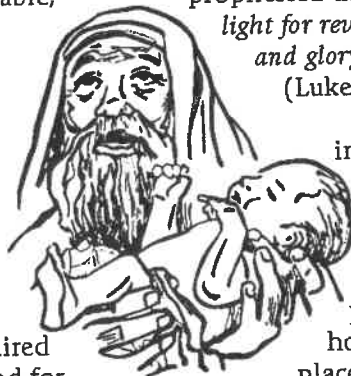
**Reach out.** Want to make your own problems seem small? Take on someone else's. Do at least one good Christmas deed for someone needy.

**Seek the eternal.** Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remind yourself of what is most important about Christmas.

## from Scripture

### Luke 2:22-40, Encountering God in the ordinary

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable, and His family was quite ordinary. In fact, when it was time to present Jesus in the temple, His parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb, and instead made the offering of the poor - two pigeons. As faithful Jews, they did all that was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.



Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be "*a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel*" (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be happy with Him forever.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized Him as the Messiah.

## Q & A How can I make Christmas joy last?

The Church's real Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord. By celebrating the whole season, you can make your Christmas joy last long after you've taken down the tree. Here are some highlights of the season:



**Feast of the Holy Family, December 31.** Gather for a meal with loved ones, or contact out-of-town friends or family.

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1.** Dedicate a Rosary to the Blessed Mother, asking her to help you grow in love and trust.

**Epiphany, January 7.** The example of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing Him with the world. This is our chance to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

**The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8.** Baptism is our entry into the Kingdom. Take time this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**December 3 - First Sunday in Advent.** We anticipate Christ's birth and His coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

**December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531).** The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked St. Juan to carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his *tilma*, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

**December 15 - St. Maria di Rosa (1855).** Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula was renowned for holiness, generosity, and concern for the sick. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840. She took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa di Rosa.

**December 27 - St. John the Beloved (1st Century).** As an apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. Scholars believe he is the "beloved disciple" who sat by Jesus at the Last Supper in John's Gospel.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)



## A NOTE FROM SERRA CLUB OF TRI CITIES

"Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay and You our potter: we are all the work of Your hand." (Isaiah 64: 7) You were made in God's image, to serve Him and your brothers and sisters. Consider service to Him as a priest, permanent deacon, brother, or sister.



Ultreya  
Monday, December 4, 2023  
Christ the King Parish

A Rosary will begin at 6:30 pm and the meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Please come and bring a friend, neighbor, or anyone else. A good time will be had by all. Regards. God Bless!



The Knights of Columbus Council 8179 is sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, **December 5, from noon to 5:00 pm** in Dillon Hall. Make an appointment at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767.

The Knights of Columbus will be selling fresh noble fir Christmas trees in the parking lot at St. Joseph's until they run out.



We will be open on **Saturdays and Sundays** from 9 am to 7 pm and on **weekdays** from 3 pm to 7 pm.

Get your trees early! We sold them all last year and expect to run out again this year.

### Cursillo Weekend

A Cursillo weekend is a short course in our Catholic faith with a community of fellow Catholics. Cursillo offers a simple method to develop and maintain a Christian life in the everyday world.

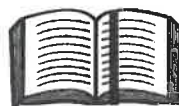
**April 4-7 for men**  
**April 11-14 for women**

If you are interested in attending or if you have any questions about Cursillo, please contact; Dan Sisk at 509-946-2264 or [cursillo@yakimadiocese.net](mailto:cursillo@yakimadiocese.net)

We encourage you to take advantage of this resource that St. Joseph Parish has been offering for many years: FORMED! It's easy and free to start enjoying. Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org) and click on sign up; then select "I belong to a Parish" and type in our zip code and select St. Joseph Parish. Type your name and e-mail address. Once logged in, scroll down until you find "December liturgical calendar" or enter the link below



<https://watch.formed.org/december-liturgical-calendar>



## SUNDAY LITURGY REFLECTION

By Fr. Riccardo Keolker

Wednesday at 9:15 am  
in the Parish Office,  
second floor, rooms A  
and B or on Facebook.

### Traveling Vocations Crucifixes

Courtesy of the Serra Club of the Tri Cities, St. Joseph Parish has two Traveling Vocations Crucifixes—one at the 9:00 am Mass and one at the 1:00 pm Mass. Sign up to take a crucifix (box includes the crucifix, rosary, and prayer cards) home for one week and pray for vocations—all vocations, but especially vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Vowed Religious Life. We pray that more men and women will hear God's call and say yes. Remember, without priests, we would not have access to the Holy Eucharist and other sacraments.

12/3 Maria Elmore  
12/10 Julie & Larry Tharp

With questions or to sign up, contact Celine Petersen, 509-582-8738, or Irma Valdivia, 509-366-4422.

### December 8, 2023 The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation

Big Church  
Masses in English  
6:30 am, 8:30 am,  
12:05 pm, 5:30 pm  
Mass in Spanish  
7:00 pm

For more than 70 years, Catholic Charities has been reaching out in love to help those most in need. Motivated by Christ's love, Catholic Charities works to bring hope to adults, families, children, youth, and elders throughout Central Washington. Please consider a gift to the Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities. To learn more about the Catholic Charities network of services, visit [www.hopetolife.org](http://www.hopetolife.org).



Knights of Columbus will be in the foyer in the Big Church selling religious-themed *Keep Christ in Christmas* Cards after the weekend Masses through December 11 or until sold out.

**Grade: 8-12**  
**Day: Fridays**  
(For more information, check our social media post)

**Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30pm**



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