

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**Email: parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.orgBulletin: receptionist@stjoseph-kennewick.orgWebsite: www.stjoseph-kennewick.org**St. Joseph School Office** **509-586-0481**Principal: Catherine Valiant, principal@sjiske.org**Children's Center** **509-586-1428**Director: Rachel Cobb, director@sjiske.orgSchool website: www.sjiske.org**WEEKEND MASSES**

- **Saturday Vigil:**
 - 5:30 pm (English)
 - 7:00 pm (Spanish)
- **Sunday:**
 - 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:30 pm (English)
 - 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm (Spanish)

WEEKLY MASSES

- **Monday - Friday:**
 - 6:30 am & 8:30 am, Small Church (English)
- **Thursday:**
 - 7:00 pm, Small Church (Spanish)
- **Last Thursday of the Month:**
 - Holy Hour at 6:00 pm followed by Bilingual Mass at 7:00 pm, Small Church.
- **Saturday:**
 - 8:30 am, Small Church (English)
- **First Friday Mass:**
 - 7:00 pm, Small Church (English)

CONFESIONS

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

or call the Parish Office at 509-586-3820

Pastor

Fr. Jose Herrera

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Ricardo A. Villarreal

Fr. Christian Melendez

In Residence

Fr. Riccardo Keolker

Deacons

William Mich

Juan Garcia

Herman Farias

Gustavo Valdivia

Mike Palmieri

Pastoral Assistant for Administration

Ric Gamez

Parish Staff**Receptionist**

Nancy T.

reception1@stjoseph-kennewick.org**Office Assistants**

Tina D.

Rosy M.

Religious Education Coordinators

Maria R.

rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org

Nancy M.

rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org**Bookkeepers**

Jessica “Jessie” T.

Sonia P.

Music Directors

Bonnie L.

Luis A.



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.

STEWARSHIP MESSAGE

The Baptism of Our Lord

"John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you are coming to me?" MATTHEW 3:14
The Catholic Catechism states that "Jesus's immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will." In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him, and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Collection for January 4, 2026

Sunday Offering	\$21,900.63
Building Fund	\$907.00
School Donations	\$1,900.00
Religious Education	\$694.31
Holy Day	\$793.00
St Vincent de Paul	\$500.00
First Friday Mass	\$175.00
First Offering	\$986.00
Youth Group	\$350.00
LAEC	\$500.00
Misc	\$132.50
Online Giving	\$4,338.41

For online giving scan the QR code or visit:
<https://pushpay.com/g/stjosephkennewick>

We sincerely appreciate your continued financial support of our parish, as you are able. If you prefer to send your offering by mail, please address it to Saint Joseph Parish, 520 South Garfield Street, Kennewick, WA 99336. If you currently use offering envelopes, and you wish to transition to on-line-giving or bank bill pay, please contact the Parish Office, so we can ask the envelope publishers to quit sending you envelopes. Thank you for your generosity.

Prayers

For our Armed Forces: Christian Fraga, Ramon Vargas, Ian Dimmick, Christy Hylden, Andrew Jacobsen, Alexander Araujo, Tyson Kaas, Christian Shink, Juan Borrego, Estrella Gomez, Erick Miller, Eric Sheldon, Justin Dennis Byerly, Wyatt Beaton, Daniel Arokiam.

For our sick: Johanna Stephens, Bill Murray, 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, 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, Patty Brown, Zara Husan, Raquel Cardoza, Samuel Quintanilla, Pat McKie Szacik, Carmen Nava, Mike Draper, Peter Braun, Yolanda Quintero, Hazel Meister, Sandra Sckiercyzinski, Kolton Hansford, Joanne Armandino Gamin, Ana Espinoza, Sara and Johnny Howard, Father Kurt Hadley, Sara Melgarejo, John Lyczkowski, Lexie Day, Maria Barrientes, Randy Walker, Carina Ambriz, Tucker Shaw, Dick Petersen, Alice Holzer.

For our recently deceased: Juan Manuel Escareno Hernandez. Kindly ring us when your ailing loved one finds healing, so we may open space for others on our list of prayers for the sick.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Openings: Tuesday at Midnight.

The Adoration Chapel is open to visitors. Please consider accepting the invitation to sign up for regular weekly hours.

Please call to obtain personal codes for entry.

Carol at 509-582-5011 or, for Spanish, call Sandra at 509-802-8716.

"Behold the One of Whom John said: 'I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.'" As we gaze upon our Eucharistic Lord, let us repeat with John and say the same, "I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God."

Welcome to our Parish Community!

If you're new to St. Joseph, we extend a warm welcome to you—whether you've traveled from another part of the country, from around the globe or simply from a different parish. Your presence enriches our liturgical celebrations in a wonderful way. If you wish to join our Catholic community, please complete a registration form available on our website.

MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 12

6:30 am
† Gregoria Meraz Sanchez

8:30 am
† Ann Morgen

Tuesday, January 13

6:30 am
† Gregoria Meraz Sanchez

8:30 am
† Joe Gallegos, Sr.

Wednesday, January 14

6:30 am
† Gregoria Meraz Sanchez

8:30 am
† Jere Lysiak

Thursday, January 15

6:30 am
† Amalia Del Pozo

8:30 am
† Rose Daily

7:00 pm
† Esther M. Gamin (Birthday)

Friday, January 16

6:30 am
† Gregoria Meraz Sanchez

8:30 am
† Josie Paz (Birthday)

† Apolinar Saso

Saturday, January 17

8:30 am
No Intentions for this Mass

5:30 pm
† Veronica Ybanez

7:00 pm
† Javier Huerta

† Gregoria Meraz Sanchez

Sunday, January 18

9:00 am
† Delgado Family, Friends

David Barr Children

† William F. Buckley

11:00 am
Kailey (Healing)

1:00 pm
† Gabriel Macias

5:30 pm
No Intentions for this Mass

7:00 pm
† Andres Rios

† Jose Jimenez Gutierrez



Scan QR code

Join us for the Walk for Life!

Saturday, January 17

11:30 am

Stand with us as we witness to the dignity of every human life.

Let us walk in faith, hope, and unity as we pray for a culture that protects and cherishes life.



We encourage all youth, especially Confirmation and Quinceañera students, to create a sign to bring to the walk. You will be granted service hours for making a sign and for participating in the walk. To participate, please sign up using the Sign Up Genius QR code.

Encounter Christ in the Eucharist

St Joseph Vocation Ministry warmly invites you to a bilingual monthly Holy Hour in prayer for an increase in vocations. Join us on the last Thursday of each month at 6 pm in the Small Church. Adoration will be followed by a bilingual Mass at 7 pm. Please note that on all other Thursdays, the 7 pm Masses will be in Spanish.

Next Holy Hour is January 29!



The Parish Office will be closed on
Monday, January 19, 2026
We will resume our regular hours on
Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2026

St. Joseph Parish
Fr. Jose Herrera, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Genevieve of Paris

Born in 422, in Nanterre, France, St. Genevieve consecrated herself to God when she was fifteen. She became known for her charity and gift of prophecy. She predicted Paris would be spared from attack by the Huns and led the people in fasting and prayer. Paris was spared. When King Childeric and his son Clovis I conquered Paris, Genevieve convinced Childeric to release his captives. She became a trusted advisor to Clovis, who converted to Christianity.

The Jesus Prayer

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus, reminding the faithful of the power and reverence due to His Name: "At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). A fitting prayer for this month is the Jesus Prayer, long cherished in Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Simple yet profound, this prayer can be repeated throughout the day. Prayed attentively, it deepens love and reverence for Christ, invokes His saving grace, and helps cultivate a steady spirit of prayer, humility, and interior peace.

"The things that we love tell us what we are." St. Thomas Aquinas

Turning our hearts back to God

Converting our hearts back to God begins with an honest pause – not a dramatic moment, but a decision to look at our lives as they really are. What shapes our days? What gets our best energy, our first thoughts, our deepest trust? Whatever holds that place is, in practice, what we put first.

Putting God first starts with intention. We make room for Him by removing what crowds Him out. A few minutes of prayer before reaching for a phone. A short passage of Scripture read slowly instead of rushed. These small choices retrain the heart. They remind us to whom we belong.

Repentance is part of the return, but it is not about shame. It is about direction. To repent means to turn. We admit where we've drifted and choose a better path. God does not demand perfection before welcoming us back. He asks for honesty and willingness.

Trust follows close behind. Many of us profess trust in God but still rely

on our own control. Putting Him first means surrendering outcomes we cannot manage anyway. It means praying not only for help, but for guidance, even when the answer may change our plans.

Faith moves us to action. When we

"Do not let the past disturb you. Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy." St. Teresa of Calcutta

align our choices with God's teachings, our hearts follow. Faith leads to action. Forgive when necessary. Serving when it is inconvenient. Giving when it feels risky. These actions reshape our priorities.

Community matters. Worship, shared prayer, and accountability keep our hearts oriented toward God when we are tempted to drift.

Turning back to God is rarely instantaneous. It is daily, deliberate, and deeply personal. Each step taken toward Him strengthens the heart's true center.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Blessing ourselves with holy water when entering a Catholic church recalls the ritual washings of the Old Testament, through which the Jews purified themselves before approaching God in the Temple. St. John the Baptist built on this tradition by using water as a sign of repentance and conversion.

Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water?

Today, this gesture reminds us of our Baptism and renews our commitment to live the Faith. As a sacramental, holy water disposes us to receive God's grace, strengthens us against temptation, and, with proper repentance, helps remit venial sins.

New Year, new habits build change that lasts

Starting and maintaining New Year's resolutions can be difficult for the same reason cultivating virtue is difficult: both require forming new habits. Perseverance rarely comes from sheer willpower alone. Practical strategies, supported by grace, make growth more sustainable.

Begin with achievable goals. Set yourself up for early success by practicing self-denial in small, manageable ways. Learning to say no in minor matters builds the discipline needed to resist greater temptations later.

Replace, rather than simply remove. It is often easier to abandon an unhealthy habit when it is substituted with a better one. Just as swapping potato chips for pretzels can make dietary

changes more attainable, uprooting vice is aided by cultivating the opposing virtue. Greed is weakened by generosity.

Seek accountability. A trusted friend, exercise partner, or prayer companion can provide encouragement and consistency for change. Knowing someone is watching makes it more difficult to give up when motivation fades.

Above all, rely on grace. God invites us to call upon Him, especially in moments of weakness, often marked by anger or anxiety, fatigue, hunger, or sadness. In those moments, turn to the Holy Spirit for strength and consolation, trusting the Lord's promise: *"The Lord will fight for you; you have only to keep still"* (Exodus 14:14).

from **S**cripture

Matthew 4:12-23, Discipleship is the greatest adventure

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about Him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). Hearing the invitation to know Jesus better and follow Him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing deeds. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, won countless souls for Heaven, and suffered many

hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – friends of God. Jesus Christ invites each of us, in particular, to know and follow Him. While few of us are called to leave everything behind, we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still give our "Yes." Pursuing authentic holiness isn't boring but a great adventure!

Feasts & Celebrations

January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also acknowledge Jesus as true God and true Man. Mary's title highlights God's humility, in that God chose to come to us through Mary, as a vulnerable newborn. This year, it is a holy day of obligation.

January 5 – St. John Neumann (1860). The first American bishop to be canonized was born in the present-day Czech Republic in 1811. St. John traveled to New York as a missionary before becoming bishop of Philadelphia. He built up the Catholic school system and established diocesan

schools. He also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.

January 11 – The Baptism of the Lord (1st Century). Jesus began His public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was to be baptized to *"fulfill all righteousness"* (Matthew 3:15). This was also when God reveals Jesus as His *"beloved Son"* (Matthew 3:17).

January 13 – St. Hilary of Poitiers (367). St. Hilary converted to Christianity as a young man and was elected bishop around 350. St. Hilary spent most of his office battling the Arian heresy, which denied the Divinity of Christ. He was exiled to Phrygia. He spent his four-year exile writing and teaching against Arianism until the emperor begged him to return home.

**Q
&
A**

Why is the feast of the Epiphany important?

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated this year on January 4, is important because it celebrates the public revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior of the whole world. The word epiphany means "manifestation" or "revealing."

Originally, the feast commemorated the visit of the Magi, wise men from the East, who followed the star to Bethlehem. In honoring the Magi, the Church proclaims that salvation is universal and that Gentiles are fully included in God's plan.

Traditionally, Epiphany also encompasses two other key moments of revelation: Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan and His first miracle at the wedding at Cana. At His Baptism, the Father's voice and the descent of the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus as God's Son. At Cana, Jesus manifests His divine power publicly for the first time. Together, these events reveal who Jesus truly is.

Epiphany calls us to respond as the Magi did: to seek Christ, to worship Him, and to offer Him our lives. It reminds us that faith is not meant to be hidden, but proclaimed.

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 - Revised*)



CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

El Católico de Washington Central
Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

JANUARY 2024

January Events Call For 'End to Abortion, Greater Respect for All Human Life'

By Christine Corbett Conklin

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is encouraging us to pray in January "for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life in post-Roe America." A **nationwide prayer vigil is set for January 22 - January 23**, marking the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, which was later overturned. (usccb.org for more details)

The Diocese of Yakima will hold its annual **Masses for Life on Sunday, January 4**, at St. Paul Cathedral. The English Mass will be at 11 a.m. and the Spanish Mass at 1 p.m.

All are welcome to join the Tri-Cities Students for Life in a Stand for Life at 1 p.m., Saturday, January 17 on the sidewalk in front of the Holiday Inn on George Washington Way in Richland.



Hundreds of people joined in the 2024 Walk for Life in Yakima.

Catholics from throughout Central Washington will come together to stand up for life at the annual **Yakima Walk for Life scheduled for 1 p.m., Saturday, January 24**. Participants will meet in front of Grace of Christ Church, **at the corner of Yakima Avenue and South 8th Avenue**. Pro-life resource materials for you to share with others will be available at the **Pro-Life**

Coalition of Central Washington table in the foyer of the church.

Young people between the ages of 13 and college age are invited to come and meet local Students for Life and learn about the year-round education and programs.

Learn how people of all ages can make a difference!

Although many think abortion is no longer an issue, Roe vs. Wade was overturned in 2022, U.S. statistics available in 2024 are staggering. The Guttmacher Institute says that "an estimated 1,038,000 abortions were provided without total bans in 2024." These

"represent an undercount in the total number of abortions occurring in the United States, as they do not include abortions performed by clinicians" nor "data on self-managed abortions," the Institute says.

The Diocese of Yakima Says Farewell to Msgr. Perron Auve, 1936-2025

A Funeral Mass was held December 4 at St. Paul Cathedral for Monsignor Perron Auve, 89, a senior priest of the Diocese of Yakima. Monsignor Auve died November 23 at Trios Southridge Hospital in Kennewick.

Born in Yakima to Eugene and Alice (Devaney) Auve, he attended St. Paul School in Yakima, St. Edward Seminary and St. Thomas Seminary, both in Kenmore. He was ordained a priest in 1962 by Most Reverend Joseph Dougherty.

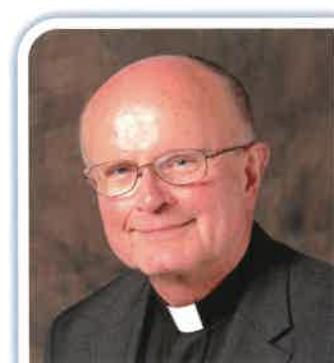
Through the years, Monsignor Auve was an assistant priest at Holy Family Parish and a teacher at Central Catholic High School, both in Yakima, as well as a teacher at St. Peter the Apostle Seminary in Cowiche. He later was headmaster at Central Catholic; assistant administrator and principal at Carroll High School; and pastor of St. Peter Parish in Cowiche.

Of his many other titles, Monsignor Auve served as co-pastor of Holy Family;

Chancellor and then Vicar General of the Diocese of Yakima; receiving his title of Monsignor in 1966 from Pope John Paul II. He was Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese for a time; served on the board of the Washington State Catholic Conference; edited the *Central Washington Catholic*; and was spiritual director for REACH Youth Ministry.

Other duties included being in residence at St. Paul Cathedral; serving as Pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Ellensburg; time at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon as a spiritual director and pastoral theology professor; and, from 2007 to 2019, being Pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick.

He also served as director of ongoing priestly formation for the Yakima Diocese.



Monsignor Perron Auve

Following a battle with cancer in 2019, Monsignor moved to Parkview in Kennewick. He continued his participation in the charismatic renewal community, was a member of Praise, a charismatic Christian community, and was dedicated to the Caritas fraternity of St. Paul.

Monsignor is survived by his wife, Mary, and his sister, Mary Fontaine of Richland, and numerous relatives.

Burial was in the Priests' Calvary Cemetery in Yakima. Memorial services in his name may be made to the Retirement Fund or Seminarian Fund of the Diocese of Yakima, 1012th Ave., Yakima, WA 98902.

Please pray for the repose of Monsignor Auve and all of our other deceased clergy and religious.

Message from Bishop Tyson

nds:
y New Year!
nnual Diocese of Yakima Mass
ways lands on Epiphany Sunday.
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bread is served on the Feast of
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kima in past weeks. She is the
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irgin is visibly pregnant. She's



Bishop Tyson led a Guadalupe procession in downtown Yakima.

the first indicator of the coming of God as a baby.
Epiphany, the Presentation of the Lord – and permit me to add – the ancient Santo Niño celebrations maintained and uplifted by our Filipino Catholics, festively ground our reverence of the life of every child born and unborn.
Certainly we can be grateful for the reversal of Roe vs. Wade and the protection of the life of the unborn from surgical abortions. But in the aftermath of this Supreme Court decision, the actual number of abortions has increased – not decreased. This is due to the wide availability of mifepristone and similar medications that allow for chemically induced abortions. Many abortions – if not most – occur today this way. And

A Prayer for Life

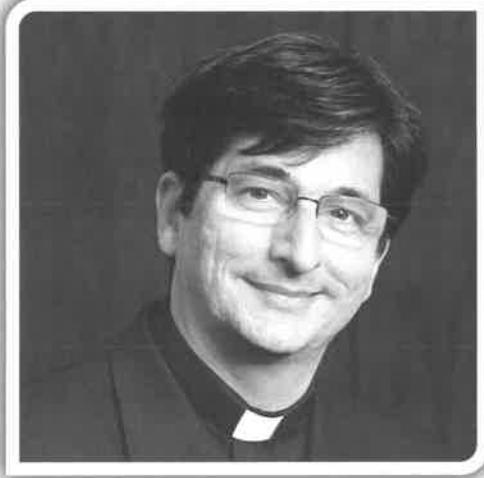
Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen. – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

If you have been abused or victimized by a member of the Catholic clergy, please believe in the power of hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

The Diocese of Yakima has a sexual abuse hotline for those who wish to report some incident concerning as regards a bishop, priest, deacon or diocesan employee or volunteer. (888) 276-4490.



Bishop Joseph Tyson

these options enjoy wide bipartisan support from those in public life, including the current administration.

But this is why we uplift PREPARES, the singular initiative of our Washington State bishops that assists women and their families to walk the journey of life from the first moment of conception to the child's fifth birthday.

It's why we relish the centuries-long traditions of colorful street processions and all-night vigils before the image of the pregnant Mary on the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. It's why we bless our candles on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, even as we eat wonderful tamales.

The Servant of God, Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, often suggested that the world will be converted by beauty. She herself repented of an abortion she had before she joined the Catholic Church.

I am so grateful for the many ways so many of you refuse to allow the question of abortion to be reduced to politics. I am grateful for the way we bring joy to life through the accompaniment we provide through PREPARES, through our beautiful Marian liturgies and processions especially this time of year, through the many ways you nurture your Faith and see that indeed "God comes as a baby!"

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

Central Washington Catholic

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Email: robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org

The Catholic 'Saints of Winter' Set A Good Example For All

Which saints whose feast days are celebrated during Winter can you recognize? Answers follow at the end.

January 1. Regarded as the greatest of all saints, this woman played a pivotal role in the history of our salvation. She was visited by the Angel Gabriel before becoming a mother.

- a. Eve
- b. Elizabeth
- c. Mary

January 18. This saint, born in 1242, was the daughter of a king. At an early age she entered a convent. Instead of asking for special favors, she did the hardest work and most menial of jobs, helping the poor and the very ill. Her hard work, fasting and long prayer contributed to death.

- a. St. Teresa of Avila
- b. St. Helen
- c. St. Margaret of Hungary

January 26. A friend of St. Paul, this saint joined Paul on missionary travels. He went to Thessalonica to check on persecuted Christians and encourage them. After being imprisoned, he went to Ephesus and became bishop. He died by stoning for opposing a pagan festival.

- a. St. Timothy
- b. St. Jude
- c. St. Mark

February 1. A patron saint of Ireland, this young woman is believed to have been born into slavery. She was known for purity, as a child being able to drink only the milk from a white



cow. She gave much to the poor. The King of Leinster saw her goodness and obtained her freedom. She founded a monastery, and organized a religious community for women and a school of art.

- a. St. Maeve
- b. St. Brigid
- c. St. Eileen

February 3. This saint, who died in 316, was a bishop who encouraged his people to be spiritually and physically healthy. Living for a time as a hermit, he was allegedly accepted by wild animals. He saved a young child's life by freeing a fish bone caught in the child's throat.

To this day, he is honored during blessing of the throats.

- a. St. Bernard
- b. St. Basil
- c. St. Blaise

February 5. This saint, born in 231, is a venerated virgin martyr. At an early age, she dedicated her life to God. A man of high ranking wanted to force her to marry him, so he had her imprisoned, tortured and tried to starve her. She remained true to God, finally dying about 251.

- a. St. Agatha
- b. St. Clare
- c. St. Philomena

February 14. This third-century Roman saint is said to have become a bishop; performed at least one miracle, restoring a child's

sight; and been arrested for trying to convert people to the Christian faith. In another version of his life, he is said to have been imprisoned for marrying Christian couples. He is recognized this day of love and devotion.

- a. St. Cosmos
- b. St. Valentine
- c. St. Constantine

February 23. This saint, a disciple of St. John, listened to the apostles talk of their experiences with Jesus and became part of the next generation of Christian leaders, however, he had challenges when the eyewitnesses had died. In the midst of heresies and controversies, he chose to imitate the life of Jesus. When he refused to deny his Christian faith, he was martyred.

- a. St. Stephen
- b. St. Joshua
- c. St. Polycarp

February 23, St. Polycarp
February 14, St. Valentine
February 5, St. Blaise; February 1, St. Brigid; February 26, St. Margaret of Hungary; January 18, St. Margaret of Hungary; January 1, Mary; January 18, St. Margaret of Hungary; January 26, St. Blaise; February 14, St. Valentine; February 3, St. Brigid; February 23, St. Polycarp

Questions based on information from catholic.com and franciscanmedia.org

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ember Christ's Compassion, Show It to Others, Pope Says

glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Nativity scene and the Christmas tree are signs of faith and hope, Pope Leo XIV



Pope Leo XIV stops to pray in front of the Nativity scene in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican Dec. 15, 2025.

(CNS photo/Vatican Media)

“We
iminate
from our hearts.”

Pope was speaking Dec. 15 at a meeting with the government officials, artisans and donors responsible for providing the Christmas decorations in the Paul VI Audience Hall and in St. Peter's

Pope thanked the Costa Rican artist who created the Nativ-

ity scene for the audience hall, titled “Nacimiento Gaudium.” Created by Paula Sáenz Soto, it features a pregnant Virgin Mary and 28,000 colored ribbons, each representing a life saved from abortion thanks to the prayers and support provided to many mothers in difficulty by Catholic organizations, according to a press

release by the Vatican City State's governing office.

“I thank the Costa Rican artist who, together with the message of peace at Christmas, also wanted to launch an appeal for the protection of life from the moment of conception,” Pope Leo said.

“The Nativity scene and the Christmas tree are signs of faith and

hope,” he said to all those present. “Let the tenderness of the child Jesus illuminate our lives. Let God's love, like the branches of an evergreen tree, remain fervent in us.”

The Pope thanked those from a small town in the northern autonomous province of Bolzano who donated the 82-foot-tall Norway spruce weighing 8.8 tons that was to be lit in a special ceremony Dec. 15 when the large Nativity scene in the square would be unveiled.

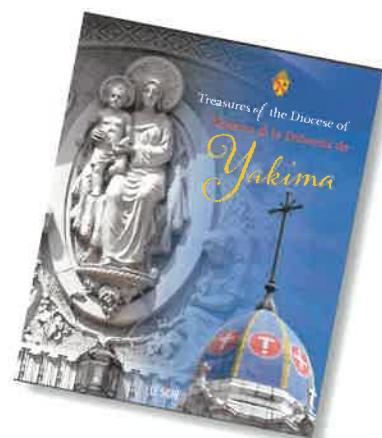
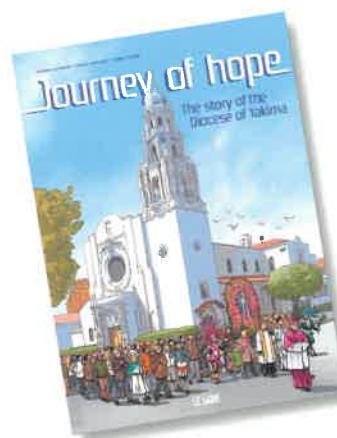
“For pilgrims from all over the world who will gather in St. Peter's Square, the Nativity scene will remind them that God draws close to humanity, becomes one of us, entering our history in the smallness of a child,” the Pope said.

When Pope Leo met Dec. 13 with hundreds of people acting in a living Nativity scene being held at Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major, he said the creche “is an important sign: it reminds us that we are part of a wondrous adventure of salvation in which we are never alone.”

“Spread this message and keep this tradition alive. They are a gift of light for our world, which so badly needs to be able to continue to hope,” he said.

versary Books Have Arrived!

oks for the celebration in 2026 of the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Yakima were delivered to parishes in the Diocese the week before Christmas. Bishop Joseph Tyson commissioned a pictorial history of the Diocese, along with a graphic novel. Check with your local parish about their availability for purchase, making a donation. “I hope you will enjoy reading them and reflecting on the many images of our parishes and institutions,” Bishop Tyson said.



PARES Program Recaps Highlights Of The Past Year

king back over the past year, Saucedo Cavazos, program director, shared highlights from the PREPARES program in Central Washington.

In Spring, they launched a faith formation project within PREPARES Play & Learn group, with the generosity of Catholic Charities. This opportunity was also possible through the support and

partnership of the Diocese of Yakima. The pilot is already strengthening the spiritual connection among families and volunteers.

In November, PREPARES volunteers gathered for a spiritual retreat honoring Bishop Joseph Tyson's vision for PREPARES. Led by Ellen Tomaszek and Michele Towne, the retreat drew from St. Ignatius' spiritual exercises, offering volunteers time

to pray, rest, and reconnect with the heart of their ministry. The retreat deeply affirmed the sacred work of our family companions who walk alongside families facing significant challenges.

In a data snapshot, PREPARES staff said that they have had 290 volunteers; and served 4,820 families, including 341 families through events, 572 families through group offerings, 334 new babies and 3,757 families with urgent needs.

A NOTE FROM SERRA CLUB OF THE TRI CITIES

"This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased." (from Matthew 3: 13-17) You too are loved by God, the Father. Do you have a calling to follow the Son of God as a priest, permanent deacon, brother, or sister?



Discalced Carmelite Seculars



"Make me ever more recollected, more silent, and more submissive to Your Divine action, more alert to receive Your delicate touches. Draw me into the inmost depths of my heart where You dwell, O sweet Divine Guest, and teach me to 'watch continually in prayer.'" ~Fr. Gabreil of St. Mary Magdalene, OCD

Is God calling you into deeper communion with Himself? Are you feeling drawn into deeper prayer? If you would like to find out more about the life and vocation of a Discalced Carmelite Secular, call Wendy Nuxoll at 509-551-0013.

YOU ARE INVITED
February 7, 2026

St Joseph Dillon Hall
Get in on the Glitz!

www.auctria.event/2026ArtWine Scan the QR code to visit the event's website



Catholic Communication Campaign

Next week our special collection supports the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Please prayerfully consider supporting the collection this year. Half of the collected funds stay right here and the other half supports the communication activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and some projects across the United States and abroad. To support the national efforts of CCC with an online donation, please use this QR code or visit igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CCC. You can also find envelopes in the foyer of the Big Church. Feel free to drop them off at the Parish Office or place them in the collection baskets. Thank you for your support!



Holy
Baptism

2026 Sacrament of Baptism for Infants and Children under Age 7

Deadline: To reserve the dates listed below, the baptismal registration process and all necessary paperwork **MUST** be completed at least one month in advance. For detailed information, please contact the Parish Office.

Upcoming Baptisms: May 16, and July 18

Note: No Baptisms will be held in February, March, April, or June.

Baptism Class:

Attendance in pre-Baptism classes is mandatory for all parents and Godparents. Once parents have registered, the dates for the in-person classes will be scheduled.

Godparents: If there are two Godparents, one must be male and the other must be female. Godparents should be practicing Catholics, at least 16 years old, and must have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

Parishioner living near 10th and Olympia needs weekly ride to the Saturday 5:30 pm Mass. If you can help, or need additional information, please call Deacon Bill at 509-539-2412.

Traveling Vocations Crucifixes

Courtesy of 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.

1/11	Hector Fabiola
1/18	Mark and Mary Ann Showalter
1/25	Kyle and Cindy Meyer
2/1	David and Alexandria Barr
2/8	Bob and Tina Daily

With questions or to sign up, please contact Elizabeth Robas, 509-591-1339, or Irma Valdivia, 509-366-4422.

SEDER REENACTMENT

Do you really know what happened at the Last Supper? You've heard the story. Now experience the event that changed your lives. Tickets will be limited to ensure proper seating and cover cost. Sales will begin on the weekend of February 15 and 16.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | DILLON HALL
DOORS OPEN 5:30 pm | DINNER 6:00 pm
\$20 PER PERSON

The Seder plate will include wine (21+), grape juice, unleavened bread and bitter herbs, served according to the ritual. Dinner will be served halfway through the reenactment.

This event requires audience participation in the Seder to enhance individual understanding of the events preceding the Passion of Christ.

Scan the QR code for volunteer hour opportunities.



Fill a bottle. Change a life.

Remember the baby bottle you picked up last week? Keep filling it with coins, cash, or checks payable to Hope Medical. If you didn't get a bottle, there are some available to pick up in the Parish Office and in the church vestibule.



We Encourage You to Make a Pledge Today

It's not too late to make your pledges! We warmly encourage you to step forward and commit today. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated donors and those new supporters who have committed to the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal. Your donation plays a crucial role in supporting the many ministries of the Diocese of Yakima. To donate online, please visit www.yakimadiocese.org or scan the QR code.



SJS Family Winter Ball

Date: January 23, 2026 | Time: 6 PM to 8 PM
Entrance fee: By donation

Enjoy pizza and various food items for purchase. Proceeds will support future SJS PTO events, including Teacher Appreciation Week.

Would you like to volunteer for this event? Reach out via email at SJSPTO@SJSKE.ORG.

Sunday Liturgy Reflection | 9:15 am on Wednesdays FaceBook Live

The PPPs and Sunday Liturgy Reflection outline emails, along with the live sessions hosted by Fr. Riccardo Keolker on Wednesdays, will take a brief hiatus and will resume on January 21, 2026.

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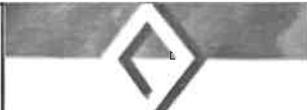
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