

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

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  
**Principal:** Catherine Valiant, [principal@sjske.org](mailto:principal@sjske.org)  
**Children's Center** 509-586-1428  
**Director:** Rachel Cobb, [director@sjske.org](mailto:director@sjske.org)  
School website: [www.sjske.org](http://www.sjske.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)

## CONFESSIONS

**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

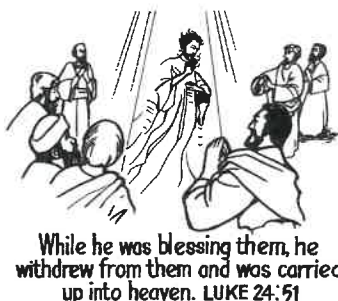
**Pastor**  
Fr. Jose Herrera

**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



## 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.

## Parish Staff

**Receptionist**  
Nancy T.  
[reception1@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:reception1@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**Office Assistants**  
Tina D.  
Rosy M.

**Religious Education Coordinators**  
Maria R.  
[rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
Nancy M.  
[rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**Bookkeepers**  
Jessica "Jessie" T.  
Sonia P.

**Music Directors**  
Bonnie L.  
Luis A.

## 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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* MATTHEW 5:16  
The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people, and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Generosity is a by-product of a grateful lifestyle. The more we recognize God's gifts, the more we want to share them. Good stewards recognize that God is working through them, and they don't put themselves above the people they have been called to help.

**Collection for February 1, 2026**

Sunday Offering	\$17,750.50
Building Fund	\$449.00
School Donations	\$705.00
Religious Education	\$740.61
Holy Day	\$56.00
St Vincent de Paul	\$500.00
First Offering	\$160.00
Miscellaneous	\$77.50
On-line Giving	\$3,652.07

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 Schierczynski, Kolton Hansford, Joanne, Armandino Gamino, 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:** 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Openings: Tuesday Midnight, 4AM . Saturday 11 am**

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.



"Prayer is a conversation with God, & the essential thing in all conversation is sincerity, in the person spoken to & in the speaker, in what is said & in the manner in which it is said. And because God is Spirit, 'the speech which He loves is the silence of love.'" (Fr. Joseph-Marie Perrin, O.P. Perfect Prayer & Adoration)

## 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



Scan QR code to request online!

**Monday, February 9**

6:30 am  
† Anibal Gonzalez

8:30 am  
† Terry Ogden

**Tuesday, February 10**

6:30 am  
† Tim Mello

8:30 am  
† Anibal Gonzalez

**Wednesday, February 11**

6:30 am  
No Intentions for this Mass

8:30 am  
No Intentions for this Mass

**Thursday, February 12**

6:30 am  
† Faustino O.Valencia

8:30 am  
No Intentions for this Mass

7:00 pm  
† Anibal Gonzalez

**Friday, February 13**

6:30 am  
No Intentions for this Mass

8:30 am  
No Intentions for this Mass

**Saturday, February 14**

8:30 am  
† Sal and Laurie Pennella

5:30 pm  
† Randy Bruce

† Bill Hyde

† Jacqueline Hyde

7:00 pm  
† Almas del Purgatorio (Poor Souls)

† Arnulfo Sanchez Ramirez

**Sunday, February 15**

9:00 am  
† Alex Lysiak

† Joseph Wendt

11:00 am  
† Louis Papez (ish)

† Ron Brashler

1:00 pm  
† Amalia Del Pozo

† Jose Jimenez Gutierrez

† Esperanza Birrueta Munguia

5:30 pm  
† Ann Morgen

7:00 pm  
† Andres Rios

† Eliodoro Flores Macias

† Herlinda Morales Aguilar

## Stations of the Cross (All Fridays during Lent) Beginning Friday, February 20

English | 6:00 pm | Big Church  
Spanish | 6:00 pm | Small Church

## St. Joseph Parish SOUP NIGHT

Join us for our first night on February 19

Each night, you'll have the opportunity to listen to parishioners share their testimonies on vocations.

Soup served after Mass in Dillon Hall

February 19, 26 March 5, 12,

NOTE: Masses before Soup Suppers will be February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 at 5:30 pm (bilingual) in the Small Church.

Free will donations will benefit

St. Vincent De Paul and Mother Theresa Meal Ministry.

Each night, Youth Group members, Quinceañeras, Confirmation students, and parents will volunteer to assist with setup, serve soups, and clean up.

## Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026

English Mass | Big Church  
6:30 am, 8:30 am, 12:05 pm, 3:30 pm

Misa en Español | Iglesia Grande | 7:00 pm

Thursdays

**Lenten Masses**

Bilingual

5:30 pm | Small Church

**February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26**

NO RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)



ST JOSEPH PARISH

# CONSECRATION DAY



**Friday, February 13:**

Introduction to the consecration, including expectations and instructions.



**Fridays, February 20- March 13:**

Book discussions.



**Thursday, March 19**

Consecration Day, featuring a bilingual Mass.



Time:

**7:00 pm**

After the Fish Fry



Where:

**Big Church – English**

**Small Church – Spanish**

Come and join the  
community as we  
consecrate ourselves  
to St. Joseph, our  
Patron!

During each meeting,  
both communities will  
gather in the Big  
Church to Pray  
together during the  
Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament

## CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

THE WONDERS OF OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER



Purchase your copies at:  
120 W 1st Ave. Kennewick  
Phone: (509) 572-3811

**BLESSED**  **FIRST**  
A Catholic  
Supply Company



# LENT 2026

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

 = a day of fasting and abstinence from meat  
 = a day of abstinence from meat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>February</b></p> <p>"Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" (<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>).</p>						
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Stay after Mass and pray for a spiritually fruitful Lent.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Pray the Morning Offering before checking your phone.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>"Peace begins with a smile" (Mother Teresa). Resolve to smile at everyone.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Pray for one specific person by name today.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Worry closes the heart. Replace it with trust, "Jesus, I trust in You."</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Even when things go wrong, be patient, starting with yourself.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Fulfill a commitment or promise you've been putting off.</p>
<p><b>1 March</b></p> <p>Read Matthew 17:1-9. Where does God want to transform your heart, prayer, and life?</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Today, pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, who always need our prayers.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Read the daily Gospel and meditate on one line that stands out to you.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Today, choose silence instead of complaining.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Pray for Christians experiencing persecution. Pray for a conversion of heart for the persecutors.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Return love for Love. Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, where He waits in love.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Avoid gossip and change the subject when it starts. If it's untrue, unkind, or confidential, don't say it.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Read John 4:5-42. Where do you go when life feels messy? What if Jesus met you there?</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>If your responsibilities permit it, choose one weekday this week to attend Daily Mass.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Practice patience intentionally with one difficult person.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Skip a meal and donate the money saved from fasting to the poor box.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>First thing today, tell God, "Thy Will be done!" — and really mean it!</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Give up a small luxury - drive-thru coffee, streaming, take-out meals - just for today for God.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Do a hidden act of service without seeking thanks.</p>
<p><b>15 Laetare Sunday</b></p> <p>The priest wears rose for the halfway point of Lent. Enjoy a small treat to celebrate.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Holy Week and Easter are busy times for parishes and ask how you can help.</p>	<p><b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b></p> <p>Pray for missionaries and catechists who, like St. Patrick, bring the faith to every corner of the world.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Experience God's mercy and attend Confession this week.</p>	<p><b>19 St. Joseph's Day</b></p> <p>Say an extra prayer for your father. Don't forget the priests — spiritual fathers.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Buy food or hygiene items for a local pantry.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Take a mini-retreat. Reserve time to silence your phone, light a candle, and be with Jesus.</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Stay after Mass and pray for the intentions of the Pope and your bishop.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Give the gift of a spiritual bouquet — a note recording prayers said for someone who needs them.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Think before you speak, especially before responding in annoyance or anger. recall the presence of God.</p>	<p><b>25 The Annunciation</b></p> <p>We celebrate Mary's "yes," which opened the way for Christ's coming. Pray the Rosary in her honor.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Set out a box and fill it with gently used items, books, or clothes. When it's full, bring it to its destination.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Abstain from recreational screen-use between 12:00pm and 3:00pm in honor of Jesus' final hours on the Cross.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Visit a church or chapel for 10 minutes of quiet if possible.</p>
<p><b>29 Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>Read Matthew 27:11-54, accompanying Jesus through His trial, Passion, and Death.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>This whole week, practice the Heroic Minute and get up the moment your alarm rings.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Say grace slowly and intentionally, with gratitude, before meals today.</p>	<p><b>1 April</b></p> <p>Today is the day, Judas plotted to betray Christ. Take time to seek forgiveness or to extend it, if needed.</p>	<p><b>2 Holy Thursday</b></p> <p>Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Thank Him for the Eucharist, the Mass, and the Priesthood.</p>	<p><b>3 Good Friday</b></p> <p>Pray the Stations of the Cross. Your presence and love today consoled Him then.</p>	<p><b>4 Holy Saturday</b></p> <p>Thank God for His blessings this Lent. Consider which practices you will continue.</p>

# 2026 Open Your Heart Appeal



## Where Urgent Need Meets Mercy & Love

PREPARES is not simply a service or a charity. **It is our pro-life Catholic Church showing up.** Not at a distance. Not with conditions. But with **real-life** essential needs, compassionate accompaniment, and life-affirming mercy and love. It is our promise that no child, no mother or father in need, will walk the parenting journey alone.



"Your help means everything, especially not being judged – just loved. It's so scary to feel alone. Thank you for helping me and for telling me that I'm a good mom. You give me and my baby hope."

## A life-affirming Promise of Support

The PREPARES Ministry is a parish-based partnership with your local Catholic Charities providing families in need, free of charge and regardless of beliefs, the following:

- ♥ English and Spanish services
- ♥ Ministry expansion to all statewide parishes
- ♥ Diapers, clothing, toys, and books
- ♥ Parenting and Life Skills Classes
- ♥ Safe car seats
- ♥ One-on-one Companions
- ♥ Parent support groups
- ♥ Play groups
- ♥ Baby showers
- ♥ Referral network for medical, housing, employment, and counseling

## Please Give

**Now, more than ever, the requests for help from struggling families is growing and urgent.** Your gift today becomes the love and support that stays with a mother who feels isolated and forgotten. It becomes justice that walks with a family navigating crisis. It becomes hope that accompanies a woman choosing life despite her fear. Your generosity does more than fund a ministry – **it transforms lives and reveals the hands and heart of Christ.**

## Volunteer, Assist, or Organize

- ♥ Become a PREPARES Volunteer, Companion, or Support Group member.
- ♥ Assist in sponsoring a parish PREPARES needs drive.
- ♥ Create a clothing closet for infants and young children.
- ♥ Provide age-appropriate 'PREPARES Bags' for infants and toddlers.
- ♥ Help organize a PREPARES Ministry in your parish.

## Pray

Ask God's grace and blessing on the PREPARES families who have chosen the precious gift of life, and the parish volunteers who support this ministry.

## PREPARES STATEWIDE 2025

———— 27,218 ————  
Family Encounters  
———— 197 ————  
Participating Parishes  
———— 1,070 ————  
Volunteers  
& Companions  
———— 14 ————  
FTE Ministry Team  
Members  
———— 36 of 39 ————  
Washington Counties  
Served



Meet Our  
Families



Donate  
Now!



Learn  
More

Point your camera on the code and it will take you to PREPARES.

# Petición del 2026 Abran Sus Corazones



## Donde la Necesidad Urgente se Encuentra con la Misericordia y el Amor

PREPARES no es simplemente un servicio o una caridad. **Es nuestra Iglesia Católica pro-vida haciéndose presente.** No a distancia, ni con condiciones. Pero con necesidades esenciales **reales**, acompañamiento compasivo y misericordia y amor que afirman la vida. Prometemos que ningún niño, ninguna madre o ningún padre que lo necesite, recorrerá la jornada de la paternidad o la maternidad en soledad.



"Su ayuda significa todo, especialmente no ser juzgada – sino amada. Es horrible sentirse sola. Gracias por ayudarme y por decirme que soy una buena mamá. Ustedes me dan esperanzas a mí y a mi bebé."

## Una Promesa de Apoyo que Afirma la Vida

El Ministerio PREPARES es una asociación con Caridades Católicas de la localidad basado en la parroquia que proporciona a las familias necesitadas, libre de costo y sin importar sus creencias, lo siguiente:

- ♥ Servicios en inglés y español
- ♥ Expansión del ministerio a todas las parroquias del estado.
- ♥ Entrenamiento de Voluntarios y Acompañantes
- ♥ Clases de Crianza y Habilidades para la Vida
- ♥ Grupos de Apoyo para Madres y Padres
- ♥ Fiesta de regalos para recibir al bebé
- ♥ Pañales, ropa, juguete, y libros
- ♥ Asientos seguros para el carro.
- ♥ Acompañantes Individuales
- ♥ Grupos para jugar
- ♥ Red de referencias para servicios médicos, vivienda, empleo y asesoramiento.

## Por favor Haga una Donación

**Ahora, más que nunca, la solicitud de ayuda para las familias con dificultades es cada vez mayor y más urgente.** Su donación de hoy se convierte en el amor y el apoyo que acompaña a una madre que se siente aislada y olvidada. Se convierte en justicia que acompaña a una familia que atraviesa una crisis. Se convierte en la esperanza que acompaña a una mujer que escogió la vida a pesar de su miedo. Su generosidad hace más que sufragar un ministerio – **transforma las vidas y revela las manos y corazón de Cristo.**

## Ofrezcase como Voluntario, Ayudante, u Organizador

- ♥ Sea un Voluntario, Acompañante, o miembro del Grupo de Apoyo.
- ♥ Ayude a patrocinar una campaña de PREPARES para las necesidades parroquiales.
- ♥ Organice un armario de ropa para bebés y niños pequeños.
- ♥ Proporcione 'bolsas de PREPARES' adecuadas a la edad para bebés y niños pequeños.
- ♥ Ayude a organizar un Ministerio de PREPARES en su parroquia.

## Ore

Pidamos las gracias y bendiciones de Dios para las familias de PREPARES que han escogido el precioso regalo de la vida, y por los voluntarios parroquiales que apoyan este ministerio.

## PREPARES AL NIVEL ESTATAL 2025

———— 27,218 ————  
Familias Encontradas

———— 197 ————  
Parroquias Participantess

———— 1,070 ————  
Voluntarios Y Acompañantes

———— 14 ————  
FTE Miembros del Equipo del Ministerio

———— 36 o 39 ————  
Condados de Washington Servidos



Conozca a  
Nuestras  
Familias



¡Done  
Ahora!



Infórmese  
Más

Apunte su cámara al código y le llevará a PREPARES.





Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2026

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

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Onesimus

Born in Phrygia, St. Onesimus was enslaved to Philemon of Colossae in present-day Turkey. He encountered St. Paul during the apostle's imprisonment in Rome, where Onesimus had fled after stealing from his master. Moved by Paul's witness, he repented, was baptized, and later gained his freedom. Onesimus became a trusted companion and co-worker of St. Paul and was eventually martyred for the faith during the persecutions under Emperor Domitian.

### God's Valentine to us

If God sent a Valentine, it might sound something like this: *"My darling child"* (Jeremiah 31:20), *"You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you"* (Isaiah 43:4). *"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love"* (John 15:9). *"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends..."* (John 15:13-14). *"Do you love me?"* (John 21:16) That makes the Bible the world's longest love letter.

*"God is not the enemy of our freedom but its ground. That is something we ought to relearn in these days. Only love that is almighty can ground a joy that is free from anxiety."* Pope Benedict XVI

## "What do you seek?" (John 1:38)

Have you ever felt restless or quietly dissatisfied, sensing that something in your life needs changing? Lent offers that opportunity. It is a spiritual reset, inviting us to reorient our hearts toward Christ, the true source of peace, joy, purpose, and meaning. Here are practical ways to deepen your encounter with God and His love this Lent.

**Faith is relational, not informational.** The first disciples were not content with simply hearing about Jesus. They wanted to be with Him and to know Him personally. Christ extends that same invitation to us today. We respond by making room for Him through prayer and meditation, regular participation in Mass, and time with Scripture, not as duties to complete, but as ways of choosing a living relationship with the One who loves us most.

**Choose trust over control.** "Let Him lead and guide you," Pope Leo has urged. God's invitation to deeper friendship is renewed each day, and Lent is a privileged time to respond with intention. Begin each morning by

offering your day to God, placing your work, relationships, and uncertainties in His hands. This simple act of trust opens the door to genuine freedom.

**Share what you have received.** A true encounter with God naturally leads to what Pope Leo called "missionary

*"If you sense the Lord calling you, do not be afraid...He alone knows the deepest, perhaps hidden, longings of your heart — the path that will lead you to true fulfillment."* (Pope Leo XIV)

zeal," the desire to share with others what we have received. After meeting Christ, St. Andrew simply brought his brother, Simon Peter, to Him. Likewise, sharing your faith is often as simple as an honest conversation with a friend about the source of your hope. You are not persuading or performing; you are inviting someone you care about to meet the Friend who has changed your life.

This Lent, let renewal take root. Choose presence, trust, and generosity, and allow God to do the rest.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics give up meat on Fridays in Lent?

Abstaining from meat on Fridays in Lent is not merely a rule, but a reverent sacrifice rooted in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on Good Friday. By giving up something we enjoy but do not need, we unite a small, bodily sacrifice to His offering on the Cross.

This "prayer of the body" strengthens the prayer of the soul, training our hearts in discipline and gratitude. It keeps our focus on Christ and serves as a quiet, outward sign of faith. For the same reasons, the Church encourages Friday penance throughout the year.

## When things go wrong, choose charity

When difficulties arise, our instinct is often to complain, assign blame, or turn inward with harsh self-criticism. These reactions rarely solve the problem. More often, they weaken charity, cloud judgment, and strain relationships. A more constructive response is to choose kindness deliberately, in thought, speech, and action.

**Practice kindness in thought:** When self-pity, resentment, comparison, or harsh self-judgment appear, treat them as temptations rather than truths. Pause and redirect your thinking. Replace them with a steady reminder such as, "This is difficult, but I can respond well." Offer yourself the same patience you would give a friend.

**Practice kindness in speech:** Before speaking, ask whether

your words will help or simply vent frustration. If you would not say something to or about someone you love, refrain. When emotions run high, bring your complaints to prayer first. Naming them before God can bring clarity and restraint.

**Practice kindness in action:** Focus on what you can do rather than what you cannot control. Choose one concrete act of goodwill: express gratitude, offer help, listen attentively, or perform a small, unnoticed kindness. These simple actions restore perspective and soften difficult moments.

Responding with kindness does not ignore problems. It creates the conditions for peace, clearer judgment, and constructive action to take root.

### from Scripture

#### Matthew 4:1-11, He chose us

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the Devil. First, Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. Jesus showed us that spiritual needs come first, and to entrust both to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from the temple roof, forcing God's hand. Again, Jesus refused: serving God means doing things God's way.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. While horrible, it

promised a "painless" way to save the world. Jesus rejected it, choosing the Cross because it was the only way to save us. He chose us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

The season of Lent is a powerful opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in love. We can take comfort knowing Jesus faced the same temptations we do and conquered them. If we stay close to Jesus, He will lead us to victory.

### Q & A

#### What to do with dryness in prayer

**A** God never leaves us, yet our experience of prayer can ebb and flow. There are times of joy and peace, and others marked by dryness and difficulty. While dry seasons can be discouraging, that is often when our faith can grow the most. Don't avoid them, but live them well.

**Ask why.** Dryness in prayer can point to areas that need attention. Chronic stress, lack of rest, constant busyness, excessive screen time, or unresolved sin can weaken our attentiveness to God. Examine your habits and ask what may be interfering with prayer.

**Remember the good times.** When times are tough, memory sustains love. Follow Mary's example, who *"kept all these things, pondering them in her heart"* (Luke 2:19). Recall the ways God has acted in your life. Remembering His faithfulness restores confidence.

**Renew your "yes" daily.** Mary's consent to God's will was a daily surrender, even amid suffering. Resist the temptation to abandon prayer. Each day, echo her words: *"Let it be done unto me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38).

### Feasts & Celebrations

**February 5 – St. Agatha (c.251).** Born to a noble Sicilian family, St. Agatha dedicated herself to God at the age of fifteen. The governor Quintianus was determined to marry her and threatened her if she refused him. She kept her vow despite torture, and imprisonment. God sent her a vision of St. Peter to comfort her, heal her, and fill her dungeon with heavenly light.

**February 18 – Ash Wednesday.** The first day of Lent. The ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead in the shape of a Cross, as a sign of penance. It's

also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

**February 22 – St. Margaret of Cortona (1297).** St. Margaret's conversion came after the sudden death of the man she was having an affair with. Shaken, she repented and became a Franciscan tertiary. She founded a hospital and an order of Tertiary sisters — *le Poverelle* — to operate it.

**February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter.** Today marks St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See, the "seat" of authority, in Rome. We thank God for His Church and pray for its holy preservation.

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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)





## A NOTE FROM SERRA CLUB OF THE TRI CITIES

"Jesus said to His disciples: 'You are the light of the world...Your light must shine before others, so that they might see your deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.'" (from Matthew 5:13-16) Be the light that leads people to glorify God by being a priest, permanent deacon, brother, or sister.  
**February 7, 2026** is World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. Please pray for all priests, brothers, and sisters who are members of religious orders. May their tribe increase!

### *Discalced Carmelite Seculars*



"We don't have to be discouraged about anything – weakness, failure, sin, or suffering. We can trust that God will make us a saint if we choose to take one small step forward every day." ~St. Therese of Lisieux, 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 or email

Wendy Nuxoll at 509-551-0013 or [nuxoll4@charter.net](mailto:nuxoll4@charter.net).

**March 1** marks the joyous occasion of

**Fr. Tian Melendez's BIRTHDAY.** To extend your heartfelt wishes for a "Happy Birthday," please feel free to send or bring cards to the Parish Office.



### JOIN THE ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CHOIR!

Calling the young Church to join the Youth Choir (grades 6-12) on Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:15 pm in the Big Church. Call the Parish Office to sign up or use the Youth Group Sign-up Genius link. <https://linktr.ee/youth06.stjoseph>.

**Young Adults** (ages 18-28) are invited to join us at our outings, gatherings, and other events to grow in faith and fellowship with other young adults in our parish. All 18-year-olds who wish to participate in young adult activities must no longer be in high school.

Join our weekly Bible study! Bring a Bible. (If you forget yours or don't have one, we can let you borrow one of ours. Join other young adults as we break open the Word. We currently meet on Saturdays at the Parish Office (second floor) from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm.



### Sunday Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join them for breakfast in Dillon Hall after the morning Masses on Sunday, February 8.

### Life Nights (YOUTH GROUP)

All sixth through twelfth grade students are welcome to join us on Friday evenings for Youth Group (Life Nights) from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Parish Office (second floor). There is no cost for any youth to attend. If you have any questions, please reach out via email [youth06.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:youth06.stjoseph@gmail.com) or call 509-302-3244.

Life Teen is an international Catholic youth ministry catechesis, which seeks to lead teens closer to Christ. Life Teen is 100% Catholic using the Catechism and Scripture coupled with personal testimony to engage youth to grow deeper in their faith.

### Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

**February 20 and 27**

Dillon Hall

Meal served from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm

#### Great Menu:

Deep Fried Fish, Clam Chowder,  
Baked Potatoes, Coleslaw, French Fries, Corn, Rolls,  
Hot and Cold Beverage  
Adults \$15

Teens (13-17) \$13

Youth (5-12) \$11

Seniors (55 and over) \$13

Takeout Meals \$13

Youth (5-17) \$11



## 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. 2/8 Bob and Tina Daily  
3/1 Delma and David

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 for sale at the Parish Office or at the end of Mass in the foyer this weekend.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | DILLON HALL**  
**DOORS OPEN 5:30 pm | DINNER 6:00 pm**  
**\$15 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.

### Sacrament Reception Dates 2026

#### OCIA and OCIC

Easter Vigil Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation  
April 4, 2026

• 8:00 pm, Big Church  
(Bilingual)

#### Confirmation OCIA (Adults)

Sunday, April 12, 2026  
9:00 am, Big Church  
(English)

#### Confirmation OCIA (Adults)

Sunday, April 12, 2026  
1:00 pm, Big Church  
(Spanish)

#### Confirmation OCIC

Saturday, May 23, 2026  
Noon, HAPO Center, Pasco —  
Bilingual

#### First Communion

Saturday, April 25, 2026  
• 10:00 am, Big Church  
(Spanish)

#### First Communion

Saturday, May 2, 2026  
• 10:00 am, Big Church (English)

The Parish Office will be closed for Presidents' Day  
Monday, February 16, 2026

Christ the King Invites You to

### *The Daughter of the King Winter Formal Dance*

Join us for a delightful evening for dads, daughters, and special guests!

**Date:** February 28, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Location:** 1111 Stevens Drive

Richland, WA 99354- Christ the King School Gym

**Cost:** \$50 per family

For more info visit <https://www.ckparish.org/> or call 509-946-1675

### St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph Conference

SVDP extends heartfelt thanks to all parishioners who contributed. We are delighted to report that we received a total of \$14,177 in donations, including a generous lump sum of \$12,000 from one donor, which will be distributed throughout the year. This support will aid many neighbors in need. January was busy, with 50 visits and \$5,709 spent on assistance. The community's prayers and support are appreciated. Thank you and God bless.



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