

SAINT COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christi simus, non nostri
We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST. COLUMBAN PARISH

506 First St. S. Yelm, WA 98597

360-458-3031

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00AM –2:00PM

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Website: www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

FORMED



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM

Sunday: 10:30AM

Daily Mass: Tues—Fri 9AM *except 1st Fridays

Rosary is said 30min prior to each Mass

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: Following First

Friday Devotions or by Appointment

Confession: Saturdays 3:30—4:30PM

First Friday Devotions: 6:30PM

The church may be opened upon request during office hours for private prayer.

See Calendar on Page 3 for current schedule and updates

St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. Please contact the parish office to submit a request.

St. Vincent De Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

Please leave your name, phone number, and

ST. PETER MISSION

149 Keithahn St. S, Tenino, WA 98589

For administrative assistance please contact St. Columban

Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:00 AM

Rosary is said 30min prior to Mass

Sacraments

Confession: Sundays 7:30 -7:45AM

Daily Mass (First Fridays): 9:00AM

Anointing of the Sick: by appointment

We are a Catholic faith community that seeks to place God first, to know Him, and to grow in holiness together. We strive to live the Gospel through the Eucharist, in our teaching and way of life.

A PRAYER FOR THE Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people,
even when we fail to see you.
In each and every moment that we are blessed
to recognize you here and now,
give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming.
Amen.



December 19, 2021 4th Sunday of Advent

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon: *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.*

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10

Gospel Acclamation: *Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your word.*

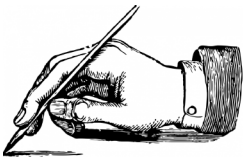
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Communion Antiphon: *Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

MASS ATTENDANCE

In obedience to the most recent guidelines from the Archdiocese, public Mass at our parish is held with the following safety measures in place.

- ◆ Masks are required at this time unless you have a medical exemption
- ◆ Seating is on a first come first served basis, if you wish to remain distanced from others you may do so at your own discretion.
- ◆ Hand Sanitizer is provided



Fr. Thompson's Reflections

Family Christmas

Nothing too lofty or (directly) theological this week, but as Christmas approaches I thought I might share something regarding finding a happy and refreshing way of approaching family celebrations of Christmas. When I was a small child, my grandparents had an expectation that their adult children would maintain the Christmas traditions of their youth, an all-night affair requiring the bulk of Christmas Eve though to Christmas morning: Gifts, pepper salad, Midnight Mass, Ravioli feast (my mother's side of the family is of Italian extraction), etc. Then, of course, there were expectations on my Dad's side of the family on Christmas Day... While It was good to spend time with family and enjoying traditions, it left my parents exhausted in a lot of ways. Plus, it meant bundling and transporting kids all around the county to fulfill all those expectations.

At some point, life got in the way and the Christmas Eve routine stopped happening. In retrospect, my mother recognized it was for the best, and we began to keep a similar tradition, but just among my immediate family in our own home. We kept doing that the rest of the time I was growing up.

When my siblings began to marry and started having their children (and I began working on Christmas), my mother decided that while our traditional Italian Ravioli feast and gift exchange was precious, she did not want Christmas to be a stressor for my siblings as it had been for her and her sisters. So, what my family has done for the past several years has been to gather all the siblings and niblings at my parents' house and keep our old family traditions, but a little early, after Sunday Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent. My siblings and their kids are then free to develop and to keep their own traditions in their own families on Christmas itself without feeling like they have to truck the kids around on the day itself to see various grandparents, aunts, and uncles when the kids just want to enjoy their gifts and the parents want to rejoice in their children.

Come to think of it, I think this approach to celebrating Christmas across generations is pretty theologically profound. My parents, in their backing off to leave Christmas free for my siblings and their children reflects that my parents really understand the nature of Matrimony. The very purpose of Matrimony is the creation of a new and autonomous family. Of course, the spouses still are and will always be connected to their family of origin, but the family they have created by the Sacrament of Matrimony deserves priority over even the parent-child bond (...this is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife...). My mom trying to strike this balance between bringing the extended family together (10 siblings, plus their spouses, plus about a dozen niblings and counting) and allowing each nuclear family to have their own lives was a very wise idea, and very much embodies the Christian theology of Matrimony.

In Christ,

Fr Thompson

Financial Stewardship

Weekly Offering

	<u>St. Columban</u>	<u>St. Peter</u>
Weekly Goal	\$5,762	\$712
December 5	\$3,991	\$810

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

CALLED TO SERVE as CHRIST

As of: November 15, 2021

3 Year Goal for St. Columban: \$307,368
Total Pledged: \$116,169 38% of Goal

3 Year Goal for St. Peter: \$54,327
Total Pledged: \$26,897 50% of Goal

Christmas Mass Schedule

Caroling begins 30min prior to each Mass

Christmas Eve

5:00PM Christmas Eve Mass
St. Peter (Tenino)

7:30 PM Children's Mass
St. Columban
(w/ Incense & Youth Readers)

12:00AM Midnight Mass
St. Columban
(w/ Incense, Latin, & Candlelight)

Christmas Day

9:00AM St. Columban
(w/Incense)

PARISH STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Brian Thompson, Ext.6	<i>Priest Administrator</i> frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Patricia Selsor, Ext.2	<i>Bookkeeper</i> pat@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Holly Dodd	<i>Bookkeeper (In Training)</i> holly@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Katie Hennigan, Ext. 3	<i>Faith Formation</i> katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Jennifer Langham Ext. 5	<i>Music, Liturgy & Admin Support</i> jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Steven Slater,	<i>St. Columban Maintenance</i> steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Gilberto Espino	<i>St. Peter Maintenance</i> gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org

SAINT COLUMBAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Judith Cusick (Chairperson),
Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier,
Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf
parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

SAINT PETER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson),
Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz,
Bob Bacon, Diane Weston,
stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Faith Formation



Please contact the parish office for more information, the latest updates, and schedule changes.

December 20 Rosary Prayer Group
7:00PM Kimball's Ranch

December 21 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban
+ *In Memory of: Rose Kimball RIP*
6:30PM Spanish Prayer Group
Parish Hall

December 22 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban
+ *In Memory of: David Kimball RIP*

December 23 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban
+ *Intentions of: Monika Siegemund*

Parish Office Closed

Bible Study
10:00AM St. Peter (Tenino)
6:30PM St. Columban
RE Bldg. Rm. 103

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00PM **Mass @ St. Peter**
7:30PM **Children's Mass***
St. Columban

12:00AM **Midnight Mass***
St. Columban

**Caroling starts 30min prior to Mass*

December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
9:00AM Mass at St. Columban

NO CONFESSION
NO 5PM VIGIL MASS
Enjoy this time with family & friends

December 26 Holy Family
ST. PETER MISSION TENINO
7:30-7:45AM Confession
8:00AM Mass

ST. COLUMBAN
10:30AM Mass
NO Religious Ed or Confirmation Classes

CHILDREN'S PRAYERS



For the month of November, an average of 7 children in our Faith Formation program prayed an average

of 645 prayers every week. Keep up the good work faithful young prayer warriors! We are looking forward to seeing those numbers get bigger for December!

"When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger." -Luke 2:15-16

Faith Formation: Grades K-12

- K-5 Sundays from 9-10:15AM
- Confirmation Classes on Sundays from 12-1:15PM

Please see the parish website for a complete class schedule



NO RCIA this week or next week. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you back on January 4 at 6:30pm in Rm 103 of the Faith Formation Building.

RCIA is open to all adult learners including, but not limited to, those seeking sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). Please contact Katie Hennigan in the Faith Formation office for additional information.
katie@saintcolumbanvelm.org
360-458-3031x3

PARISH MINISTRIES

For more information or to sign-up to volunteer with any of these ministries, please contact the parish office.



Daughters of Mary
St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA

January 11 Monthly Meeting
10:00AM Parish Hall



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 17152

January 19 Council Meeting
6:00PM Parish Hall



St. Vincent de Paul

January 20 Monthly Meeting
7:00PM Parish Hall



St. Peter's Circle

January 11 Monthly Meeting
9:30AM St. Peter Mission/Tenino



ALTAR SOCIETY

Cleaning the Church
Every Thursday after Daily Mass

In Our Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sister and those who have asked for our prayers:

Joseph Waters

Jessica Nash

Maria Luisa Fregoso

Paul Hennigan

Pam Henslee

Don Troyer

Mary Taylor

Monika Siegemund

Mandy Wolfe & Baby Wyatt

Brenda Collins

Nina Regalado

Lindy Parse

+ All those in harm's way.

+ For all those affected by the Coronavirus and for all first responders and caregivers.

Rest In Peace

Nina Robinson

All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name please contact the parish office.

All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes.

Bonus Bulletin Content!

To save on printing, some extra bulletin content will now be exclusively found in the online edition of our bulletin, which is also emailed weekly to parishioners. Sign up at flocknote.com/saintcolumbanvelm or visit our website saintcolumbanvelm.org

Thanks to our advertisers listed on the back of this bulletin! They make this publication available to the Parish at no cost to us.



SERVICE ACADEMY & ROTC
INFORMATIONAL
★ **FORUM** ★

DECEMBER 21, 2021
7-8 PM



VIRTUAL EVENT

SCHOOL & PARISH FAMILIES WELCOME!

Come hear from Catholic School alumni that have gone on to attend one of the five US Service Academies (West Point, Naval Academy, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Academy, Merchant Marine Academy) and ROTC programs throughout the country.

Ask questions, learn about the admissions process, and hear all about their experience.



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

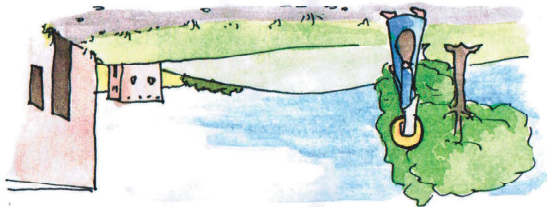
Register here:

www.mycatholicsschool.org/info-forum/

Mary Visits Elizabeth

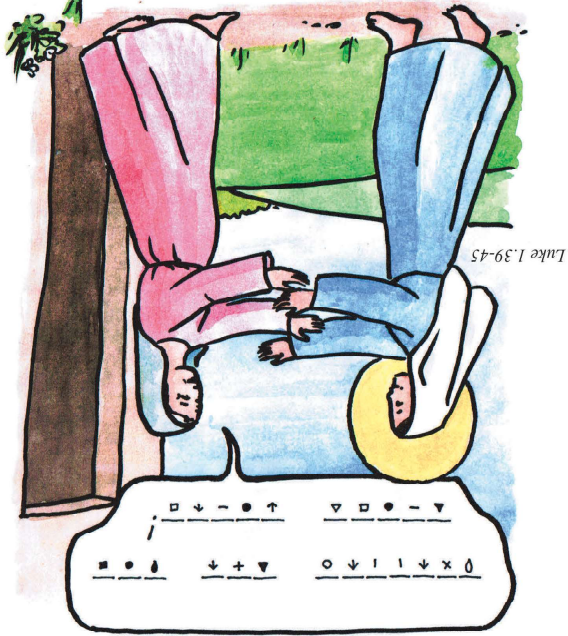
How well do you know the story of the Visitation?
See if you can figure out which are true and which are false!

1. Mary was expecting baby Jesus when she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. True or False?
2. Elizabeth was married to Jeremiah. True or False?
3. Elizabeth was a bit sad when she saw Mary. True or False?
4. When Elizabeth heard Mary, her baby inside her jumped. True or False?
5. Elizabeth's baby was Saint John the Baptist. True or False?
6. Mary had to tell Elizabeth that she was going to have a baby because Elizabeth didn't know. True or False?
7. Elizabeth knew that Mary's baby was the Messiah. True or False?



The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021

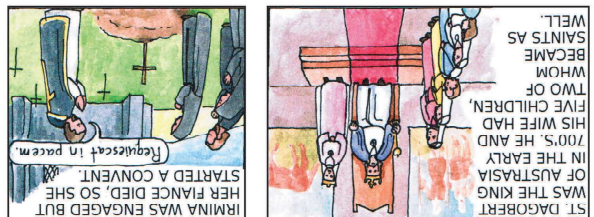


Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah.
What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her?
Use the code to find out!
A B D E G L M N O R S U W Y
▲ ○ ◊ ▼ ▲ X - □ + i ● + ▽ ↑

Saints Adela and Irmina

December 24



IRMINA AND ADELA WERE BOTH PRINCESSES, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY WERE SPOILED AND SELFISH. THEIR GOOD PARENTS RAISED THEM TO LOVE GOD. WE CAN LEARN FROM THEIR EXAMPLE THAT FAMILIES CAN HELP EACH OTHER TO BECOME HOLY PEOPLE. HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR FAMILY?

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

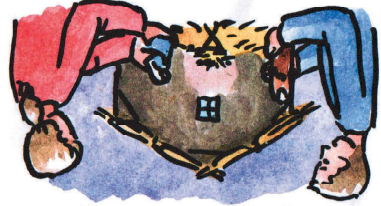
Christmas is Almost Here!
Now it's only a week until Jesus' birthday! Are you all ready for it? If you have an Advent wreath then this is the week that all the candles will be lit. Jesus is coming soon, so the light should be getting very bright!



Do you have a Christmas tree? Do you know what it represents? A long time ago people used to have plays at Christmas time about how Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit from the tree, and how Jesus was born to save us from that sin. So a Christmas tree is there to remind us of why Jesus came.



Does your family have a nativity scene? It should be all ready for Christmas, but the Baby Jesus doesn't get put in the manger until Christmas Eve.



Answer to front page puzzle: Blessed are you among women!
Answer to True or False: 1.true, 2.false, 3.false, 4.true, 5.true, 6.false, 7.true.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

December 19, 2021

WATCH

CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY

Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

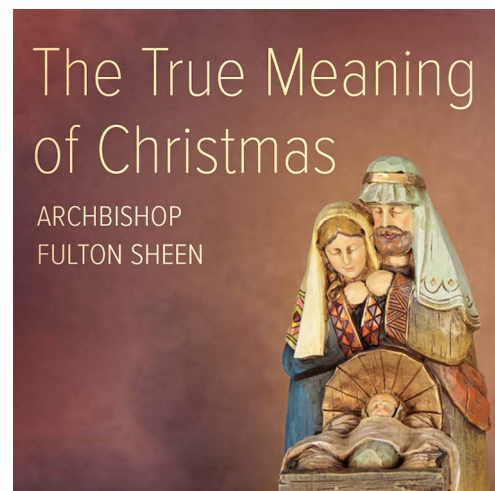
Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.

LEARN

LISTEN

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS BY FULTON SHEEN

This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

The Visitation account in this Sunday’s Gospel provides a great inspiration for praying the Rosary. As we approach Christmas in this 4th week of Advent, take time to pray the Joyful mysteries with your family.



Photo: Adobe Stock

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don’t have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

Hearing Luke’s account of Mary’s visitation to Elizabeth in this Sunday’s Gospel provides a very helpful illustration of how the Rosary is rooted in Scripture. In fact, praying the mysteries of the Rosary is a very effective way to immerse ourselves in the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

The Joyful mysteries of the Rosary provide a particularly helpful way to pray in this final week of Advent:

- **Annunciation:** the Archangel Gabriel tells Mary she will give birth to Jesus.
- **Visitation:** Mary visits Elizabeth.
- **Nativity:** Jesus is born!
- **Presentation:** Mary and Joseph give thanks for Jesus in the Temple.
- **Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple.**

Take time as a family to pray these mysteries of the Rosary together.

Micah 5:1-4

From Bethlehem will come the ruler of Israel.

Psalm 80

Lord let us see your face and we will be saved.

Hebrews 10:5-10

We were saved by Christ’s offering.

Luke 1:39-45

Blessed are you among women.

At Home with Faith

Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Check out Archbishop Etienne's weekly reflection on Advent and other resources on the Advent: Draw Near to Christ webpage.

Pray the Joyful mysteries of the Rosary with your family:

- **Practice first:** If you don't have experience praying the Rosary, no worries. Now is a great time to start. Check out this online guide from Word on Fire for step-by-step instructions.
- **Grab a Rosary:** There's a good chance you have rosaries available at home. If you don't, your parish is likely to have some on hand.
- **Start in an age-appropriate way:** If your children don't have experience with the Rosary, start out one mystery and decade a day. The Joyful mysteries are good place to start in Advent and praying a decade as a family each night this week is a great way to prepare for Christmas.
- **Consider a rosary as a Christmas gift:** In the event that your children don't have a Rosary, now you have an idea for an inexpensive but very thoughtful Christmas gift!



Family prayer is a special way of expressing and strengthening this paschal faith.

For more on the Year of the Family, visit <https://archseattle.org/yof>

"Family prayer is a special way of expressing and strengthening this paschal faith. A few minutes can be found each day to come together before the living God, to tell him our worries, to ask for the needs of our family, to pray for someone experiencing difficulty, to ask for help in showing love, to give thanks for life and for its blessings, and to ask Our Lady to protect us beneath her maternal mantle. With a few simple words, this moment of prayer can do immense good for our families."

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) #318

Pope Francis commissioned a special online Rosary eBook for the Year of the Family. [Click this link](#) to get a free online copy of this beautiful resource. The eBook includes quotes from Amoris Laetitia and watercolor paintings.

For instructions in how to pray the Rosary, check out these helpful guides from [Word on Fire](#), the [USCCB](#) or the [Vatican](#).

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>

Fourth Sunday in Advent

IN THESE FINAL DAYS OF ADVENT,
CONSIDER GATHERING AS A
FAMILY AROUND YOUR HOME
NATIVITY SCENE TO SAY A
BLESSING TOGETHER.

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. Who made heaven and earth.

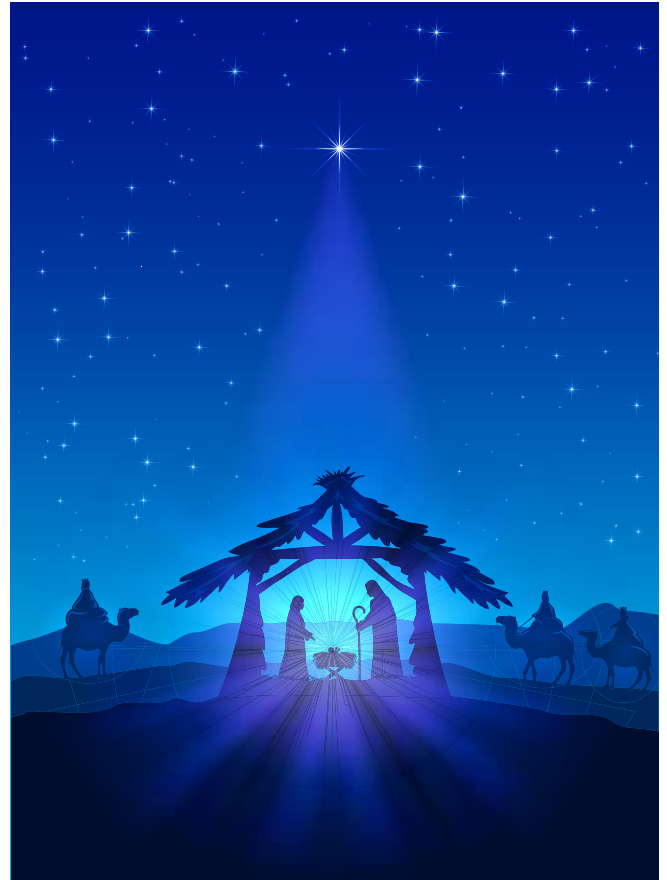
One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, [Luke 2:1](#) (lines 1-8) or [Isaiah 7:10](#) (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.



Getty Images

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
R/. Amen.

—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." - Lk 1:41-42

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

- Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
- Monday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
- Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
- Friday:** *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
- Saturday:** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

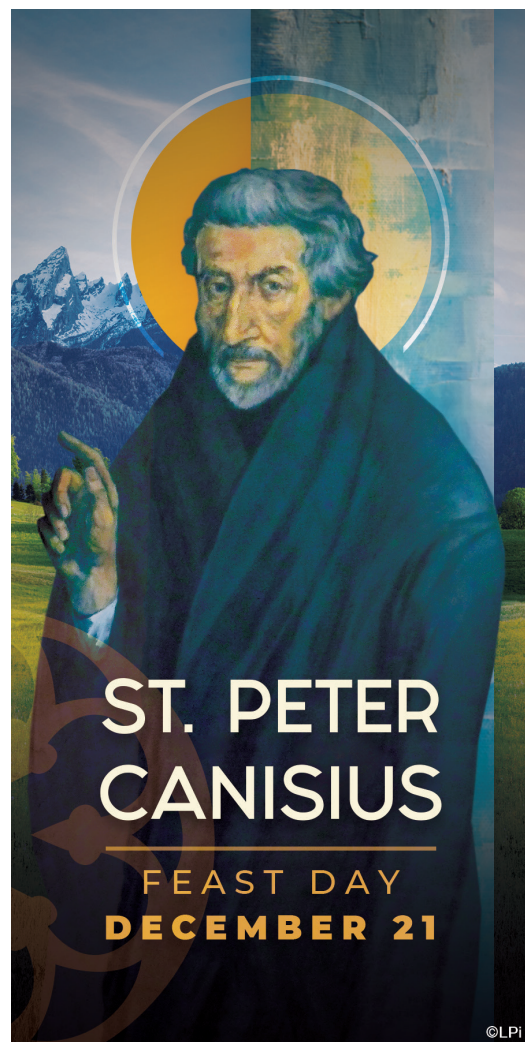
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent
- Tuesday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Friday:** Christmas Eve
- Saturday:** The Nativity of the Lord
- Next Sunday:** The Holy Family

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the
clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel.
(Mi 5:1)



PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see
your face and we shall be saved.
(Ps 80)



SECOND READING

"Then I said, 'As is written of me
in the scroll,
behold, I come to do your will,
O God.'" (Heb 10:7)



GOSPEL

"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of
your womb.
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should
come to me?" (Lk 1:42-43)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm
Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,
1997, International Commission on English in the
Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

Answer:

Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

LITURGICAL LIFE

**Support
Local
Business.**

**Shop our Bulletin
Advertisers Today!**

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS

Our advertisers need your help during these difficult times!

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!

“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

- Lk 1:43-45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Micah prophesied a Messiah (“ruler”) would come through the line of David (“Bethlehem-Ephrathah”) and bring peace and harmony. In what ways does the upcoming birth of Christ bring you comfort?

Second Reading

As the season of Advent draws to a close, the author of Hebrews reminds us that as disciples of Christ, we must strive to do God's will above all else. How do you stay focused on such an important task?

Gospel Reading

Luke is the only Evangelist to record the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth and only a portion of their conversation was preserved. What else do you imagine they talked about?



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT





LORD,
MAKE US
TURN
TO YOU.

PSALM 80

*When
Elizabeth
heard Mary's
greeting, the
infant leaped
in her womb,
and Elizabeth,
filled with the
Holy Spirit,
cried out in a
loud voice and
said, "Blessed
are you among
women, and
blessed is the
fruit of your
womb."*

- Lk 1:41-42

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

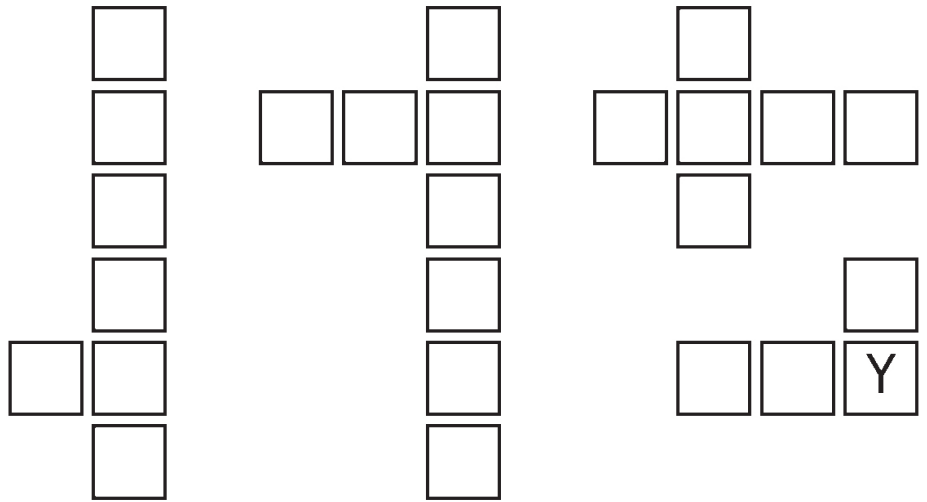
©LPI

KIDS CORNER

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

Fit the following words from today's gospel into the empty squares below.

The infant in my womb leaped for joy.



SHARING THE GOSPEL

Mary couldn't wait to visit her much older cousin, Elizabeth, up in the hills of Judea.

Both of them were expecting babies. Each of them knew that the birth of her child was a special event that could only happen because they trusted God. Your own mother trusted that God would give you life in this world. Both Mary and Elizabeth watched their children grow up to do good things. You can grow up to do good things too, if you trust in God.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, help me to trust you and to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

You belong to a larger family than just the people in your home. See how many of your relatives you can name before you visit them at Christmas. When you do see them, wish them "Merry Christmas!"





360-458-2255

"Thursday Nights All You Can Eat Beer Battered Fish & Chips w/Cole Slaw \$11.99" 210 NE 103rd Ave •Yelm

Scott's Extreme Forage Harvesting Hay Kingdom

Round Bales & Haylage Fertilizing Livestock Hauling Delivery Available



Contact John or Gennaro John-Scott@comcast.net Cell: 206-805-9279 Cell: 360-888-4311

11715 Penny Dr SE, Yelm WA 98597

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact Rob Witte to place an ad today!

rwwite@4LPi.com

or (800) 950-9952 x2501



RE/MAX REALTY SOUTH

Specializing in Yelm Area buyers and sellers

Brandi Rademacher ASR, ABR, CDPE

253.224.6663 cell

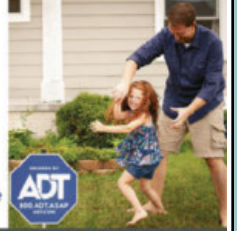


WWW.BRANDIHOMES.COM

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary Flood Detection Fire Safety Carbon Monoxide



Authorized Provider

SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



Valley Water Solutions

Filtrations, Pumps & Well Service

360-915-8360 - store

360-359-1016 - Dave Cell

209 Yelm Ave. E. Yelm, WA 98597

WE'RE HIRING

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Work-Life Balance Paid Training Full-Time with Benefits Some Travel Serve Your Community



Contact us at careers@4lpi.com www.4lpi.com/careers

NEVER MISS A BULLETIN !

Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com



We've Missed You!

Welcome Back to Mass



Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Columban, Yelm, WA

A 4C 05-1744