

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle



St. Columban Church

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Daily Mass 9:00 AM (Tuesday-Friday, Except First Fridays)

Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 6:30 PM

Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Baptism & Wedding Preparation

Contact the Parish Office

St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM | First Friday Mass 9:00 AM

Confessions Sunday 7:30-7:45 AM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

Parish Office Hours at St. Columban Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

November 27, 2022

1st Sunday of Advent Year A

Entrance Antiphon: *To you I lift up my soul, O my God. In you I have trusted, let me not be put to shame.*

1st Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Responsorial Psalm: *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

2nd Reading: Romans 13: 11-14

Gospel Acclamation: *Show us Lord your love, and grant us your salvation.*

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Communion Antiphon: *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.*

A PRAYER FOR THE First Sunday of Advent

God of light and life,
give us hope as we wait
for your coming again.
When we are tempted
to be grateful to have found you
while others are lost,
send us out into the darkness
in search of those
who need you most.
Amen.



Parish Staff

360-458-3031

Fr. Brian Thompson Priest Administrator
frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext 6

Jennifer Langham PA for Admin, Liturgy, and Music
jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 1

Holly Dodd PA for Admin, Bookkeeping, & Records
holly@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 4

Gabriela Makinster Elementary & Adult Faith Formation
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org *habla Español* Ext. 2

Chad Lucero Youth Ministry
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 3

Steve Slater St. Columban Maintenance
steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino St. Peter Maintenance

St. Columban Parish Pastoral Council

Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf

St. Peter Advisory Commission

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston

stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

St. Columban Parish Finance Council

Joseph Judge (St Columban)

Mari Evans (St Peter)

Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

MONDAY November 28

Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

TUESDAY November 29

Mass 9:00 AM *Int.: Reagan Walker Bell* Church

Daughters of Mary 10:00 AM RE Building

Choir Practice 6:00PM Church

Advent Choir Practice 6:30PM-7:45PM Church

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day 6:30-PM

Midnight Mass 7:15PM

RCIA 6:30PM RE Building

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY November 30

St. Andrew, Apostle

Mass 9:00 AM *Int.: Jessenia Makinster* Church

THURSDAY December 1

Mass 9:00 AM *Int.: Mort Kimball* Church

St Peter Bible Study 10:00 AM St. Peter

St Columban Bible Study 6:30 PM RE Building

FRIDAY December 2

First Friday Mass 9:00 AM *Int.: Patricia Meyer RIP* St. Peter

Homeschool Enrichment 10:15 AM RE Building

Vespers 6:30PM Church

SATURDAY December 3

Confessions 3:30 PM Church

Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00 PM *Int.: Pro Populo* Church

SUNDAY December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A

Confession 7:30-7:45 AM St. Peter

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM *Int.: Pro Populo* St. Peter

Sunday Mass 10:30 AM *Int.: Pro Populo* Church

Faith Formation (Grades K-5) 9:00-10:15 AM RE Building

Youth Bible Study (Grades 6-12) 9:00-10:15 AM Small Hall

Confirmation Preparation 11:45-1:00 PM RE Building

Financial Stewardship Week of November 13, 2022

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$2,572.58	\$970.00
Online Giving	\$1,913.20	\$15.00
Net	(\$1,314.22)	(\$15.00)

Special Funds

St Vincent DePaul	\$69.41	\$0.00
Sacramentals (Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)	\$67.00	\$16.00
Flowers	\$350.00	\$20.00
Building Fund	\$47.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$0.00	\$0.00
2 nd Collection (none)	\$0.00	\$0.00

Stewardship

Families Participating	24%	36%
Total Received	\$160,505.00	\$27,565



Make Your Pledge Online!



A Word from Father Thompson



As I had mentioned several times before, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is not the only liturgical prayer that the church has each day. Throughout the day, the Church prays the Liturgy of the Hours (AKA the Divine Office or Breviary), which punctuate the day with up to 7 times of prayer (I say 5 of them, although it's really 3 as I combine some of them together, as one may do), each consisting of a series of Psalms and canticles that are drawn from the same scriptural sources as the Responsorial at Mass (i.e. hymns/poems in the Bible), short readings, and petitions to God on behalf of and for the Church. The Psalms and canticles, which make up the bulk of the Office, are so chock full of beauty and the full range of human emotion, they are very touching and beautiful.

Clergy and religious are required to pray the Office daily, but the Second Vatican Council earnestly recommended this prayer to each and every Christian. I know that when I mentioned this in the past, those who did try the Liturgy of the Hours—at least to some degree or at least every once in a while—have enjoyed it. For myself, I started saying Morning and Evening prayer during the lent of my senior year of high school, and haven't stopped since, adding on the Office of Readings—a longer prayer that can be said any time of day and which includes biblical readings closer to the length to those at Mass and writings of saints, Mid-day Prayer, and Night prayer over the course of the years (again, now, as a priest, I must say 5 of the Hours: Office of Readings AKA Matins, Morning prayer/Lauds, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer/Vespers, and Night Prayer/Compline). Matins, Lauds, and Vespers take 10-15 minutes each, and Midday and Compline take 5 or less. They help sanctify time and keep God close, as well as inscribing in our memories what are among the most beautiful parts of Scripture: the Psalms and Canticles.

I very much recommend the Liturgy of the Hours to you and your families if you want to grow in your relationship with God this coming Liturgical year. Now, The book form of the Hours is pretty bulky, and while there are abbreviated versions which forgo some content (usually the feasts of saints, Matins, Midday, Compline), it is also quite easy to just get a phone or tablet app (which is what I usually use) that give you everything conveniently (iBreviary and DivineOffice.org are 2 very good ones). I recommend DivineOffice.org (either the website or their app), as the prayers are available as audio recordings alongside the text (an aid to learning if you are new at it, and/or convenience if you pray while you commute or exercise. As we begin this new Church year, I would like to once more encourage you to bring the Liturgy of the Hours into your religious life; I cannot recommend the Hours enough.

In Christ,

Remember in Your Prayers

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

The Sick and Homebound

Jessica Nash, Paul Hennigan,
Mary Taylor, Robert Fisher, Jerry Vosberg,
John Gallwas

The Deceased

Leroy Herrera

Extraordinary Intentions

- + All those in harm's way, for the people of Ukraine
- + All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name to this list or request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office. All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes.

St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. To join contact the parish office.

Elementary Faith Formation

Gabriela Makinster

360-458-3031 x2

gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org



8 practical ways to get ready for Advent with your children.

1. Get or make an Advent wreath.
2. Bless your Advent wreath.
3. Set up a Nativity Scene
4. Bless your Nativity Scene
5. Create an Advent tree.
6. Make a Jesse Tree.
7. Keep an Advent calendar.
8. Celebrate the Feasts that are held in Advent.

More information can be found at <https://teachingcatholickids.com/8-practical-ways-to-get-ready-for-advent/>

Save the Date

First Reconciliation is scheduled for Saturday December 10th at 3:30 p.m. Please pray that God's Mercy envelopes their little hearts. Remove all sense of fear and give them Joy!

Faith Formation

All K-5 classes meet before Mass from 9AM-10:15AM on Sundays.

- Dec 4th Class
- Dec 11th Class
- Dec 18th NO Class
- Dec 25th NO Class
- Jan 1st NO Class



Children's Prayers

In our k-5 program, for the month of October, 13 children prayed 6637 prayers. Keep up the good work faithful young prayer warriors!

"The Lord will surely grant abundance; our land will yield its increase."

-Psalm 85:13

RCIA & Adult Faith Formation



RCIA is open to all adult learners and those seeking the Sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation.

The next class is Tuesday, November 29th at 6:30pm in the Religious Education Building.

The topic is Prayer

Deepen our understand of prayer, know that there are a variety of ways of praying; understand something of their style of prayer.

Save the Date

Rite of Acceptance is Scheduled for Sunday Dec 4th at the 10:30 am Mass.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.



Youth Ministry & Confirmation

Chad Lucero

360-458-3031 x3

chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org



Confirmation Program Update

Starting this Sunday, all students must sign-in for Sunday Mass; sign-in sheet is posted in the Narthex.

Rockin' around the Jesse Tree

Join us for our next monthly YM Saturday mini-retreat on December 17 at 9am-3pm for Grades 6-12. We will be Christmas Caroling, learning about the Jesse Tree and having an Advent Party. Parents, please stick around to help drive your teen to and from the caroling site.

Parishioner Help Needed

We need volunteers to help provide food for our teens on monthly YM Saturdays. We are anticipating needing food for roughly 15 people and meals will need to be prepared and dropped off by 11 am on the date you sign up for. Sharing a meal together is an important part of building fellowship within this ministry! Please consider signing up.

Confused about the Sunday Readings?

Scripture Study meets Sundays 9-10am in the Small Hall when classes are in session.

Don't be late!

All Confirmation classes meet after Mass from 11:45-1:00PM, same dates as Elementary classes.

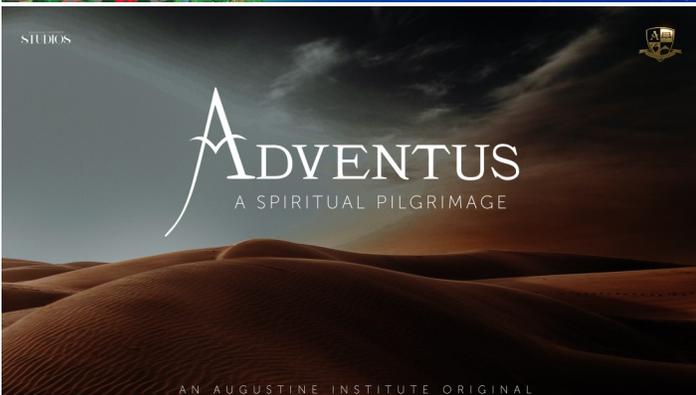
Did you know?

Preparation for Confirmation in our Archdiocese now starts in the 6th grade with reception at the end of the 7th grade year. All older teens may also enroll with reception of Confirmation at the end of their second year of preparation. Teens needing First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will first be enrolled into First year Confirmation and will prepare and receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion during the second year of Confirmation prep.

You're missing out.

If you're a high schooler and go to our church, come over to YM Saturday or meet us before Sunday Mass and get to know your community. Chances are you need a break from the stresses of school, your job, and extracurriculars. Give Jesus a chance.

FORMED™ The Catholic Faith. On Demand.



Brother Francis Daily Advent Videos for Children

Each day during Advent Brother Francis leads us on a daily journey in this special seasonal celebration of the coming of the Lord! Featuring meditations, prayers, and suggested activities to keep our focus on Christ this Christmas.

Look for the Advent header on FORMED to view these each day. Videos are available in English and Spanish.

Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.

Our parish pays for a subscription to FORMED.org, a streaming service, allowing you to register for FREE:

1. Visit formed.org/signup
2. Enter our parish zip or name
3. Enter your name and email
4. Enjoy and share with others in our local community!



After you sign up, download the free FORMED app from App Store or Google Play.

Parish News & Events



Please contact Jennifer at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with our various parish groups: 360-458-3031 x1 jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Ministries



Altar Society

Meets every Thursday
after Daily Mass to



Daughters of Mary

St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA

Monthly Meeting

Dec 13th, 10:00 AM
RE Bldg.

daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org



Knights of Columbus

Next Council Meeting

Dec. 21st 5:30PM Church
6PM Hall

kofc17152@saintcolumbanyelm.org



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly Meeting

December 15th 7PM
Parish Hall



St. Peter's Circle

St. Peter Mission Tenino
Meets Bi-monthly

Next Meeting

January 10th 9:30 AM



FLOCKNOTE

WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS

a part of
our Flock!

TEXT

[SAINTCOLUMBANYELM](https://www.saintcolumbanyelm.org)

TO 84576



YELM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



December 11th 7:00PM

10423 Clark Rd SE

Come and show your support for our
St. Columban Choir at this free event!

the liturgy of the hours

vespers



Come pray Evening Prayer
in the church

Fridays of Advent

December
2, 9, 16 & 23
6:00 PM



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of MARY

Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America

Thursday, December 8 (Holy Day of Obligation)

Mass 9:00 AM St. Peter | 7:00 PM St. Columban

Featured Item of the Week



The Daughters of Mary Giving Tree

The Daughters of Mary are collecting gift cards to be donated to our St. Vincent de Paul ministry for those in need of assistance this Christmas. Choose a star from the Giving Tree and **return it to the church by December 11th**.

Please choose gift cards from major multi-purpose stores such as **Walmart**, **Fred Meyer**, or **SAFEWAY** so that families can purchase what they need, whether food or gifts.

Please pin your star to the gift card or write the amount on the gift card and place them in the basket during the collection at Mass or drop them by the parish office.

Families in need can sign up for assistance by contacting our St. Vincent de Paul ministry at 360-458-1904.



Outside Events

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST

December 3, 2022 | 9am-12:15pm



Scan the QR Code to Register for the HSPT by November 28th!



live your best life in love

an in-person marriage encounter experience

The Marriage Encounter experience is a heart haven that helps you listen, share and connect more deeply. There's no group discussion. It's just about the two of you learning to be the best, most loving and thriving couple you can be.

Feb 17-19, 2023 at Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center, Federal Way, WA

Apply at: wwme.org

Questions?

Jeff and Sandy Cornell
360 930-2321

jeff.sandy.cornell@wwme.org

Other Locations and dates:
Jan 13-15, 2023 Beaverton, OR
Mar 10-12, 2023 Spokane, WA
May 19-21, 2023 Seattle WA



Be Strong. Fear Not.

Finding Hope in the Midst of Challenging Times
Silent Retreat

Led by Fr. Jim Northrop

December 9-11, 2022



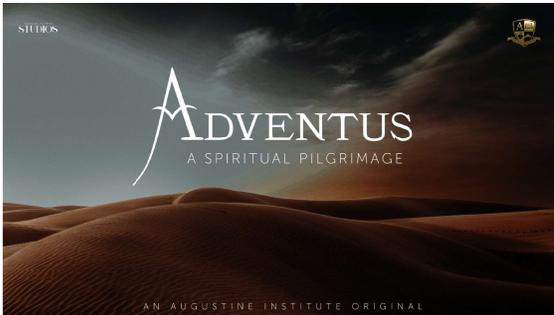
safeTALK: A Suicide Prevention Workshop

Tuesday, November 29 | 9am - 12:30pm

Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center
4700 SW Dash Point Rd, Federal Way, WA

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of November 27, 2022



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



Advent through the Centuries

Dr. Bronwen McShea, an Associate Professor at the Augustine Institute, shares an exciting and thorough presentation on the celebration of Advent throughout the centuries.



Making Advent Great for Kids

Advent is a time where we seek to grow in intimacy and relationship with the Lord. But this does not have to only be for adults! Join Dr. Tim Gray and Paul McCusker as they discuss different ways you can make Advent great for your kids.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

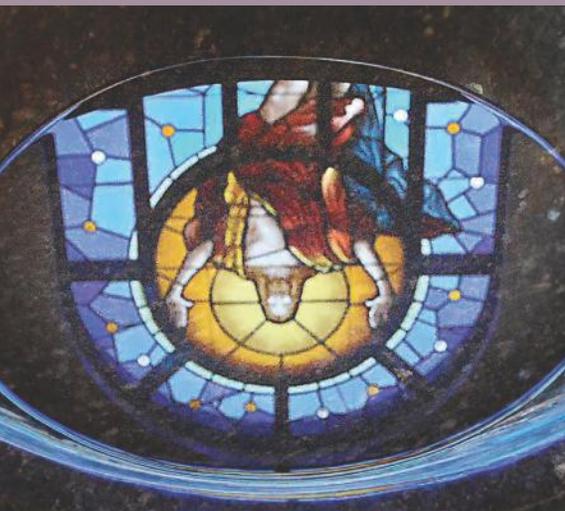
Reflect
November 27, 2022
1st Sunday of Advent

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

Advent is a time to be awake, waiting with hope for Jesus.

Take time to reflect upon the promise of Jesus' return and truly celebrate this beautiful season.



During this first week of Advent, Archbishop Etienne is asking all of us to take time to reflect. In the same way that St. Paul told the Romans that now is the time to awake from sleep, it's a good idea for us to be awake to the spiritual realities of our time.

As Bishop Schuster tells us in his reflection, violet, the liturgical color of Advent, reminds us of the night sky just before the dawn. We wait and hope for Jesus' return just as ancient people waited for the dawn. Let's use this time of Advent to reflect upon the ultimate gift of Jesus.

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.

Isaiah 2:1-5

Come, let us climb the the Lord's mountain.

Psalms 122

Let us go to the house of the Lord.

Romans 13:11-14

Now is the time to awake from sleep.

Matthew 24:37-44

Be prepared for Jesus' return.

At Home with Faith

Talk

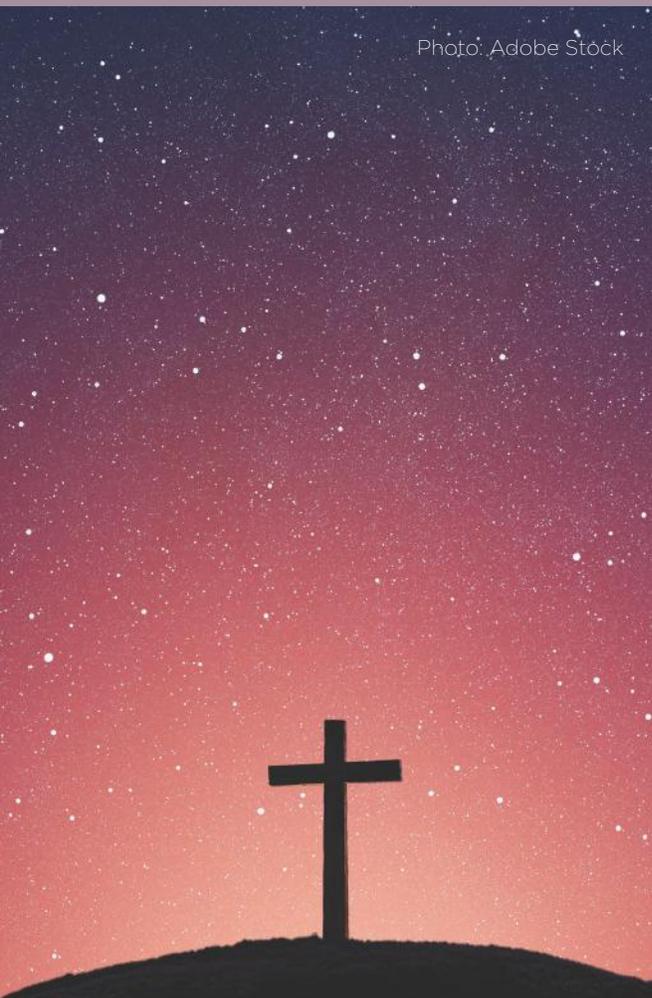
Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Take a moment to watch Bishop Schuster's video reflection with your children. Ask them:

- What did you think about what Bishop Schuster's sharing of the reason for violet being the color of Advent? That it's the color of the night sky just before the dawn.
- Does it surprise you that we are waiting for Jesus to return again? What does it feel like to think that he is coming back?
- Where do you think a good place to wait for Jesus would be? This can be a very good reminder to pray and celebrate Mass while waiting for Jesus' return.

Find more Advent prayer resources at <https://archseattle.org/Advent/>

Photo: Adobe Stock



Watch this week's Advent reflection by Bishop Schuster:

Bishop Schuster's Video Reflection on "Reflection"
<https://archseattle.org/Advent/>

Check out Bishop Schuster's weekly reflection on "Reflection" and other resources on Archdiocese of Seattle's Advent the Ultimate Gift webpage.

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://www.athomewithfaith.org>



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” - Mt 24:40-42

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, 2022

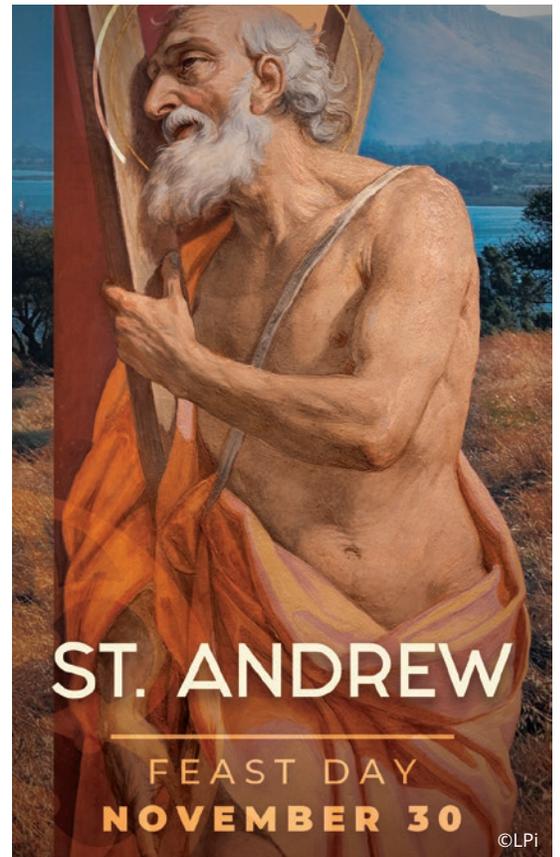
- Sunday:** Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
- Monday:** Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22
- Thursday:** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday:** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Next Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, 2022

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent
- Wednesday:** St. Andrew, Apostle
- Saturday:** St. Francis Xavier, Priest
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent; St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

Whether it is the surgeon performing an operation or the pilot directing a flight, one expects them to be alert. When we entrust our lives to someone, we presume that they will attend to them with the utmost care and vigilance. If we have this expectation of others, why would we not have it of ourselves? Our lives are precious vessels on an eternal journey. We can only stay afloat and on the course because of God's love and mercy. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. God's word transforms all that it touches, even a lukewarm heart. Let us seek God's grace this Advent season so that we can walk more fully in His light. Then, finding ourselves more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful, we will be eager and well prepared to meet our Lord when He comes. Why would we not want to be ready, awake, and watchful for the One we have waited for so long?



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Andrew was a fisherman in Galilee, along with his brother, Peter, when they were called by Jesus to leave their boat and become fishers of men. John's Gospel also places him as a follower of John the Baptist before he came to be one of Jesus' twelve Disciples. Beyond the scant references in the Gospels, not much is known of Saint Andrew's life.

According to Christian tradition Saint Andrew, like many of his fellow Disciples, went out into Greece and Turkey to preach the Good News. A 4th century account of the saint's life tells of his martyrdom by crucifixion in Patras. Medieval accounts describe the cross used as X-shaped because Andrew said he was not worthy to die on the same style of cross as Jesus.

Famously, Saint Andrew is the patron Saint of Scotland, the country's flag bearing the X-shaped cross associated with him. Legends claim that the saint either traveled to Scotland to spread the Gospel or that his relics were brought there by St. Regulus who had a vision telling him to take the bones to the end of the earth. Regulus set out and was shipwrecked on the coast of Scotland. Today relics of St. Andrew which had been held by the Vatican are now at a shrine in Patras.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
one nation shall not raise the sword
against another,
nor shall they train for war again. (Is 2:4)



PSALM

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)



SECOND READING

It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.
For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed;
the night is advanced, the day is at hand. (Rom 13:11-12)



GOSPEL

"Therefore, stay awake!
For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Mt 24:42)

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

We can embrace and relish each moment of our lives as a sacred sacrament or nonchalantly and robotically attend to what life presents. We have our feet in two worlds. One is holy and sacred, and the other is profane and secular. Which one has the greater claim on us? To what do we devote most of our energy? We can easily be consumed with the particular demands and essentials of daily life: family, work, obligations, and the like, that we don't really notice anything more than what is right before us. We become masters at "doing" and neglect our need to "savor." Jesus reminds his friends that "as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away."

While certain things require our daily attention, we cannot become so consumed with them that we fail to see the larger picture of what is coming. For the Christian, Advent is the time to pause, reflect, and savor. It is a time to see life as a sacrament of the moment and not just an investment in secular interests, pleasures, and personal obligations. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can quickly wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. Whatever we can do this Advent season to be more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful will serve us well. It will make us eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when he comes. It is for certain that he will come.

Who made me? What is my purpose? What will happen to me when I die? These are pivotal questions that, in life's busyness, we hardly find time to ask and answer. They define who we are, and the answers we provide serve as guideposts and anchors in the seas of our lives. Advent is the perfect time to make friends with our souls. It is a time to perk ourselves up, open our eyes, ears, and hearts and seek God's presence in the simple moments of our lives. God is with us. Ask God to grant you a deeper appreciation for His presence and the gift of attentiveness.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Being Surprised by Christ

Some people hate surprise parties. There are those who are uncomfortable with a last-minute vacation or even an unexpected travel upgrade. If it wasn't part of the plan, it's a cause for consternation.

There is a temptation to view these folks as curmudgeonly — sticks in the mud, obsessed with predictability. But I think if we're being honest, there's a little bit of the surprise-averse in all of us.

Deep within the very heart of the element of surprise is a kernel of shock. And shock, in the moment, can feel similar to trauma. If we reflect on the most traumatic occurrences of our lives — a loss, an accident, a calamity — it is likely that we will say this: "It was the shock more than anything that got to me." Grief or fear, those feelings were overwhelming as well, but they came later. In the first moment, all we knew was we were going about our lives on one path until we were thrust on a different one and then the whole future changed.

This is the natural rhythm of our life here on earth. We never know what is coming — which is to say, in a beautiful way, we always know what is coming. More importantly, we know Who is coming.

Like the early riser who sets the "pre-alarm" (the one on which he knows he's going to hit snooze just to take the edge off the disappointment of waking up), we are always being given a heads-up in Scripture. From the earliest prophecies of the Messiah to Jesus' reminders in the Gospel to the very last words of Revelations, God has communicated to His stewards: You know the time. The time is now. We are called to constant vigilance, perpetual renewal, steadfast accountability.

In the end, the coming of Christ may be the only event in history that was a surprise, but not a shock — and so it will only be beautiful, even for those who hate surprise parties.

— 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:

The Church teaches that, through our baptism, we are made priest, prophet, and king like Christ. What does it mean for us to be prophets in the world today?

Answer:

We are indeed sharers in the threefold mission of Christ. We live our "kingship" when we serve others in justice, work for the common good in society, and overcome sin in our own lives. Our "priestly" mission is lived when we unite our lives to Christ's sacrifice on the cross, offering them up as a gift of love. We are also called to be prophets. Our lives may not look like Isaiah and Jeremiah of old — and perhaps desert living and locust eating like St. John the Baptist might feel out of reach — but this doesn't nullify our invitation and obligation.

As baptized Christians, we have accepted the Gospel in faith. We're also called to proclaim the Gospel as well. This may mean by giving Christ-centered advice to another person or defending truth when it's threatened. It also means living our faith in deeds.

St. John Paul II writes that we are "called to allow the newness and the power of the Gospel to shine out every day in [our] family and social life" (On the Lay Members of Christ's Faithful, 14). A prophet points to a higher truth beyond himself or herself. We live prophetically when we treat others as Christ treated people and when we arrange our schedule to prioritize those to whom we have the greatest obligation, including our families, as well as the poor and vulnerable around us. We live prophetically when we think critically about the culture around us and we allow our faith to inform our public life.

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“Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”

- Mt 24:40-42

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

The prophet Isaiah foresaw a time when all nations would unite in peace over their common belief and worship of Israel's God. What do you think a world totally at peace looks like?

Second Reading

Paul taught the believers in Rome that salvation and the end of time were closely connected. Thus, he encouraged avoiding immoral behavior such as drunkenness, promiscuity, envy, or jealousy. What motivates you to live a moral life?

Gospel Reading

Jesus taught his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return to earth, so “be prepared” at all times. As we begin the season of Advent, how might you be better prepared for welcoming Jesus into your life?



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT





Let us
rejoice
in the
house
of the
Lord.

PSALM 122

*“Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”
- Mt 24:43-44*

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KIDS CORNER

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

NOAH
EATING
DRINKING

MARRIED
FLOOD
TOGETHER

TAKEN
LEFT
READY

S T B F L O O D E O
N O A H N Y U R M G
U G R D O D T K A N
O E A T I N G W R H
N T Y A U R L O R L
W H I K L C M H I M
O E N E R S E V E L
D R I N K I N G D E
N O W H N T H I E F
I S R E A D Y C O T

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Remember that when God told Noah to build an ark, his neighbors laughed at him. Then one day God sent the flood. Only Noah's family was saved because they listened to God, and they were ready. Jesus has already told you that one day he will come back. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be ready. When you read Bible stories, listen carefully. Love God like Noah did, and learn to do what God asks.

PRAYER

Dear God, help me to love you and to be ready for Jesus.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.





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