

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

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

December 4, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A

Entrance Antiphon: *O people of Sion, behold the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your hearts.*

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm: *Justice shall flourish in his name, and fullness of peace for ever.*

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel Acclamation: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths, all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

Gospel: Matthew 3:4, 6

Communion Antiphon: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

A PRAYER FOR THE Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you came among us with the irresistible power of a baby, requiring both our hands and captivating our whole hearts. Help us to cast aside the sin and brokenness that we cling to, so we might be ready to hold you when you come again. Amen.



www.archtoronto.org

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

360-458-3031

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Parish Staff

360-458-3031

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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 December 5

Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

TUESDAY December 6

St. Nicholas, Bishop

Mass 9:00AM Int.: Don Sunn Church

Choir Practice 6:00PM Church

RCIA 6:30PM RE Building

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

Mass 9:00AM Int.: William Taylor Church

THURSDAY December 8

Immaculate Conception (HDO)

Mass 9:00AM St. Peter

Mass 7:00PM St. Columban

St Peter Bible Study 10:00AM St. Peter

Sunday Scripture Study 6:30PM Small Hall

FRIDAY December 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoczin

Mass 9:00AM Int.: Matthias Flom Church

Homeschool Enrichment 10:15AM RE Building

Vespers 6:30PM Church

SATURDAY December 10

Confessions 3:30PM Church

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

SUNDAY December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent Year A

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

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

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

Altar Server Training 11:45AM Church

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

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

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

Week of November 20, 2022

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$3,090.64	\$320.00
Online Giving	\$1,619.91	\$130.15
Net	(\$1,089.45)	(\$549.85)
Special Funds		
St Vincent DePaul	\$53.25	\$0.00
Sacramentals (Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)	\$7.00	\$8.25
Flowers	\$25.00	\$0.00
Building Fund	\$235.35	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$100.00	\$0.00
2 nd Collection (World Mission)	\$0.00	\$1.00
Stewardship		
Total Participation	45%	26%
Total Pledged	\$30,305.00	\$167,735.00



**Baby Bottle
 Drive
 Update
 Over
 \$2100
 Raised!**

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Baby Bottle Drive for Thurston County Prepares!

A Word from Father Thompson



One of the most distinctive positions of the Catholic Church in our age is our refusal not only of obvious atrocities against life that cry to heaven like abortion, but also of the “merely” grave and mortal sin of contraception. So much of the world has folded to pressure on this issue, even Christian groups. Indeed, a lot of ostensible Christians—strangely and incoherently, I might add—appeal to the availability of artificial contraception as a reason for why abortion is even less fathomable. Even despite the pressures put on the Church from within and without, the Catholic Church has consistently continued to proclaim that separating the unitive and procreative aspects of marital sexual activity is objectively and gravely immoral, such that those who do so with full knowledge and consent of the will are committing a mortal sin. This truth is drawn from considering the natural law and the very purpose of human sexuality and God’s design for marriage; The immorality of artificial contraception (or, in reverse, sexual activity devoid of spousal and unitive love) is unchanging and unchangeable, it is immoral always and everywhere for all human beings, not merely a “Catholic thing.” However, many think of it as a merely religious rule; even some Catholics who abide by this teaching perhaps do so with the preconceptions and language of the world regarding this issue. E.g. that contraception could solve a lot of life’s problems but “the Church says no.”

The commitment of a new child in the family is immense and will always radically change how life is lived. Efforts at contraception are not new to humanity, and every generation has wrestled with the temptation in its own way, but the convenience of modern artificial methods (not to mention their ubiquitousness in the culture) makes it a far more profound temptation in our age. That does not change its moral status, however. It remains wrong.

We all know this is an extremely hard thing to live out for a lot of people, even those who want to be faithful to the Christian faith, especially because the World’s rationale is so present and so easy to embrace or even justify. There is a lot that could be said to such people. One big one is: Would a child be so disruptive that it should be a cause to let fear dominate and distort one’s outlook toward an aspect of life that by its nature calls the spouses to extreme personal trust and vulnerability? Letting a cloud of fear hang over spousal love is an unhealthy way to live, and surely must be nerve-wracking!

Now, of course, we know that not every sexual encounter will result in a child, and married couples can prudently take advantage of biological signs and symptoms that indicate it is more or less likely, or near impossible, at a given moment. However, even for those who are using natural methods of family planning, it is important to make sure it is lived out of a truly open-to-life Christian spirit, and not merely as “Catholic contraception,” as if the dimension of begetting children is an optional extra to spousal intimacy. So many people live these days live have a general expectation that contraception is the default. Perhaps a big way to do this well would be to reject the “have you cake and eat it too” attitude that underlies the modern approach to contracepted sex, and rather truly embrace the sacrifices practicing NFP entails. Indeed, a professor of mine in seminary—who was a young married man—suggested this very thing to us: The cost of Natural Family Planning is that it requires a lot of mutual communication and work; sacrifices a certain dimension of spontaneity in the relationship; and it is also rather challenging because libidos tend to naturally spike during the most fertile times. He said that perhaps the degree spouses are willing to embrace and live the sacrifices required might be a good test of a couple’s intentions and how important spacing out or delaying, even indefinitely, the next child.

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, 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



2nd Sunday of Advent.

Advent Wreath Prayer
Light the second candle and say...

"The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:1).

God of salvation,
help us give voice to the voiceless
as we cry out in the name of your son, Jesus.
Amen.

Tuesday Dec 6th is Saint Nicholas Day

In the story of St. Nicholas, it is said that there were three poor girls that could not get married because they had no dowry, and St. Nicholas came and secretly left gold for all 3 girls at night in their shoes, which were drying by the fireplace. So the tradition of leaving out shoes to be filled with gifts was born of a generous stranger leaving secret presents for those in need. On Dec 5th, have your kiddos leave their shoes outside their bedrooms doors. Check out for gift giving ideas. <https://www.catholicicing.com/st-nicholas-day-shoe->

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.

I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Gaby Makinster 360-458-3031 x2
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Faith Formation: Grades K-12

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



- Dec 10 Reconciliation @ 3:30 Sac Prep
- 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 November, 21 children prayed 1043 prayers. Keep up the good work faithful young prayer warriors!

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 19:14*

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, December 6th at 6:30pm in the RE Building.

The topic is: Jesus and Discipleship

Understand the symbolic nature of the 12 Apostles, the way God calls individuals by name but always as a member of a people or community. The initial formation of the Church: Disciples of Christ.

Rite of Acceptance: When they make the decision to join the Church, they are accepted into the Order of Catechumens in a liturgical rite that marks the beginning of the formal period of initiation into the Church. During the catechumenate, the catechumen's faith is nurtured through celebrations of prayers and blessings, and through a course of study and formation. If a person dies while a catechumen, he or she receives a full Christian burial and is considered to have been a member of Christ's body, the Church. Keep Gerald and Tommy in your prayers

Youth Ministry & Confirmation



Chad Lucero

360-458-3031 x5

chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Sunday Scripture Study meets 9-10AM. Confirmation classes meet after Sunday Mass 11:45-1:00PM. Same dates as Elementary Faith Formation.

All Confirmation 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. Wear your best Ugly Christmas Sweater! Parents, please stick around to

help transporting your teen to and from the caroling site.

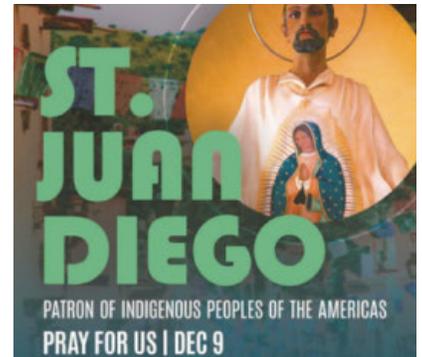
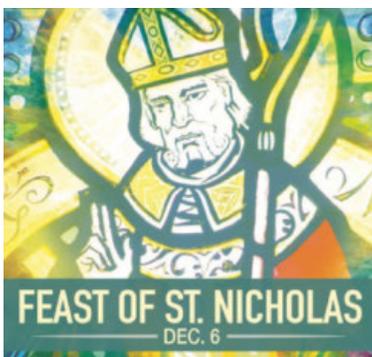
Parishioner Help Needed

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.

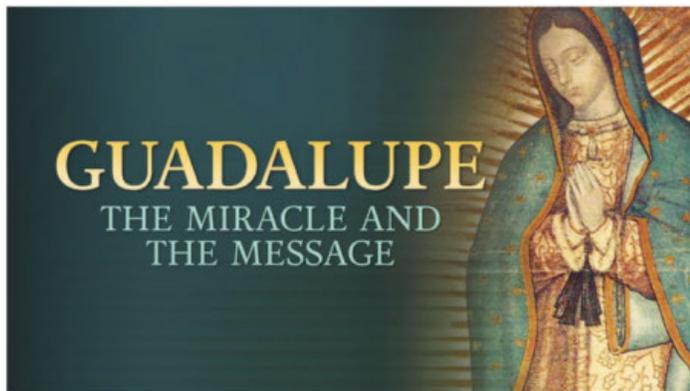


Rest with the Lord Retreat

A retreat for high school juniors and seniors to grow in prayer and discover God's will in the present moment. This retreat will have extended periods of silence for prayer and reflection, talks on prayer and discernment, and opportunities to connect with other high schoolers seeking to go deeper in their relationship with the Lord. Consider coming away to rest with the Lord and prepare your heart for Christmas. Register at archseattle.org/events/rest-with-the-lord/



FORMED The Catholic Faith. On Demand.



Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.

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



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 clean the church.



Daughters of Mary

St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA

Monthly Meeting

Dec 13th, 10:00 AM
RE Bldg.



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



Daughters of Mary

St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA

Fellowship

December 11th

following the 10:30AM Mass in the Parish Hall



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.



the liturgy of the hours

vespers



Come pray Evening Prayer
in the church

Fridays of Advent

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

Feature/In focus



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

Outside Events

YELM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 11th 7:00PM

10423 Clark Rd SE

Come and show your support for our
St. Columban Choir!

Join Archbishop Etienne
for the 25th Annual Commissioning Mass

Simbang Gabi

December 10 | 11am
St. James Cathedral

Livestream
@ArchdioceseofSeattle



Join Archbishop Etienne and Catholics from around the archdiocese for this festive, colorful and prayerful Advent celebration.

This Filipino tradition ushers in Simbang Gabi, a novena of Masses meant to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.



For more information, contact Deacon Carl Chilo at 206-382-4828

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

Celebrate

28th Anniversary Mass
to honor
**Our Lady of Guadalupe,
Mother of the
Americas**

December 3 | 12:10pm
Presided by Archbishop Etienne
St. James Cathedral





360-458-2255

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

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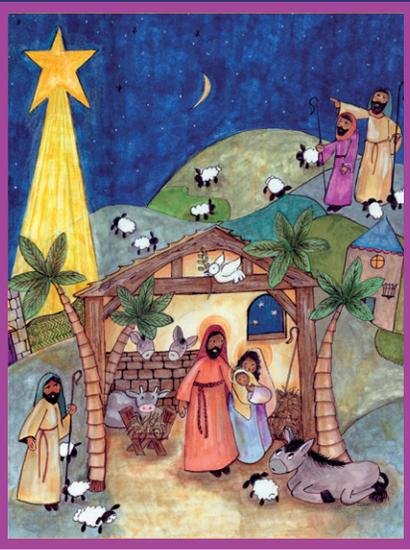


For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Columban, Yelm, WA

A 4C 05-1744

CCS/CHS 2022 APPEAL FOR THE POOR



THANK YOU
TO PARISHES AND SUPPORTERS WHO
LIGHT THE PATHWAY TO HOPE
FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NEIGHBORS SERVED
BY 180 CCS/CHS PROGRAMS IN
WESTERN WASHINGTON

2022 CCS/CHS SOUTHWEST PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Opening Christmas Eve last year, **Bertha's One**, a shelter for women, couples, and other people over 55, added 62 shelter beds in Vancouver. **Bertha's Too** provided additional shelter to 32 previously homeless individuals one month later. Through August, Bertha's shelters successfully transitioned 34 clients into permanent housing.
- ★ **CCS** relocated clients from the downtown **Olympia Mitigation Site** to **Quince Street Village** in Olympia, increasing the number of chronically homeless individuals served from 45 to 100, and moving them from tents to powered and heated tiny homes.
- ★ **CCS Community Kitchen** provides stable, nutritious food access for primarily unhoused people in Olympia. On average this year 2,000 more meals have been served each month, than in 2021.
- ★ **CCS** successfully completed a Pierce County pilot housing program in partnership with the City of Puyallup, providing 20+ adults with shelter and critical services 24/7.
- ★ As COVID-19 restrictions lifted, **CCS Volunteer Services** welcomed 182 volunteers who provided 35,404 hours of service to 626 clients in a variety of programs.
- ★ **CCS Foster Care** program expanded their services to the greater Vancouver area to serve children who are temporarily unable to live with their parents.
- ★ **CCS Supportive Services for Veteran Families** successfully provided rapid rehousing and case management for 162 veteran families experiencing homelessness.
- ★ **CCS Unaccompanied Children** program serves youth who are eligible to resolve their legal status. Four family reunifications across multiple states have taken place. **CCS** staff express the joy of "watching them receive their status and transition to greater success by becoming our countries newest Americans."
- ★ **CCS SW Latino Network Builder**, Isabel Cisneros Rueda and her Women's Justice Circle received the Thea Bowman Award from the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) for bringing mental health resources and support in the Latino community. The Circle created the first annual Caminar para Sanar (Walk to Heal) to de-stigmatize mental health within the Latino community in Gray's Harbor.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES

OF WESTERN WASHINGTON
CCSWW.ORG



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES

LIGHTING PATHWAYS TO HOPE ACROSS WESTERN WASHINGTON

PREPARES (PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT)

The PREPARES ministry is a parish-based partnership with CCS that offers vulnerable families a promise of support and assistance from pregnancy to their child's fifth birthday. Vital needs provided include volunteer companionship, food, clothing, diapers, parenting classes, and supportive social services. In 2021 PREPARES distributed 240,000 diapers to over 2,000 children, age three and younger. Learn more at preparesforlife.org

COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN

CCS/CHS is a leader in the Communities of Concern Commission, a statewide coalition of leaders from Black, Indigenous & Communities of Color in urban and rural areas that are disproportionately affected by poverty and have yet to fully benefit from the economic growth so apparent in many areas of Washington State.

IMMIGRATION

CCS/CHS Network Builder, José Ortiz, was the Keynote Speaker at the Sixth Annual Archdiocesan Immigration Summit which highlighted the mental health, advocacy, legal issues, and refugee sponsorship within immigrant communities.

SYNODAL LISTENING SESSIONS

CCS/CHS facilitated 13 listening sessions for clients, staff, and community partners as part of the Archdiocese of Seattle consultative process for Pope Francis' global synod.

LONG TERM CARE (LTC)

CCS Long Term Care compelling advocacy efforts influenced the Washington State Health Care Authority to make the "most significant anti-poverty change in Long Term Care in many years," raising the personal needs allowance for clients from 100% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 300% of FPL.

Based on a successful pilot program at CCS Nativity House shelter where LTC provided personal care services to guests with functional disabilities, the legislature funded a statewide expansion with oversight provided by LTC.

FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Two CCS clinicians were deployed to provide mental health support to the Catholic Charities team helping families following the tragedy in Uvalde, TX.

Locally, the Washington Council on Behavioral Health named CCS Family Behavioral Health as one of six agencies best qualified to become a teaching clinic for our state's strained mental health system.



5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER:

Serve meals, help seniors, and more at ccsww.org/volunteer

ADVOCATE:

Be a champion for those in need! Contact your local Network Builders: Nick Leider at NickL@ccsww.org or Isabel Cisneros Rueda at IsabelCR@ccsww.org

DONATE:

Make a gift of cash, stock, or crypto, or leave a legacy gift through your estate at ccsww.org/donate

STAY INFORMED:

Sign up for a monthly CCS/CHS update at ccsww.org/join-us

SHARE ON SOCIALS:

For more frequent updates, follow us on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram @ccsww**



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

The gift of silence is increasingly hard to find these days. Take 15 minutes of silence with your family in silence to rest with the Lord.



The average American home has 11 devices connected to the internet. Many of those devices are always on and always working to capture our attention. Our digital age makes it harder to find silence.

That's why families should take advantage of this beautiful Advent season to create space for silence in their homes by taking 15 minutes each day of silence. At first, we might feel distressed without the noise to which we have become accustomed. But, with time, that gift of silence will open our hearts to the depth of God's love for us.

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 11:1-10

The lion shall lie down with the lamb.

Psalms 72

Justice shall flourish in his time.

Romans 15: 4-9

May God encourage you to think in harmony with one another.

Matthew 3:1-12

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

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 Fr. Justin Ryan's video reflection with your children. Ask them:

- Can you think of a time that you found silence to be a gift?
- How do you think we could create more space for silence in our home?

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



Photo: Adobe Stock



Check out Fr. Justin Ryan's reflection on "Silence" and other resources on Archdiocese of Seattle's webpage, **Advent: the Ultimate Gift.**

Check out the Office of Marriage and Family Life's resources for **Managing Technology and Making Space for God in our homes.**

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://www.athomewithfaith.org>



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



John the Baptist appeared...saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord.*

- Mt 3:1a, 2-3b

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2022

- Sunday:** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
- Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

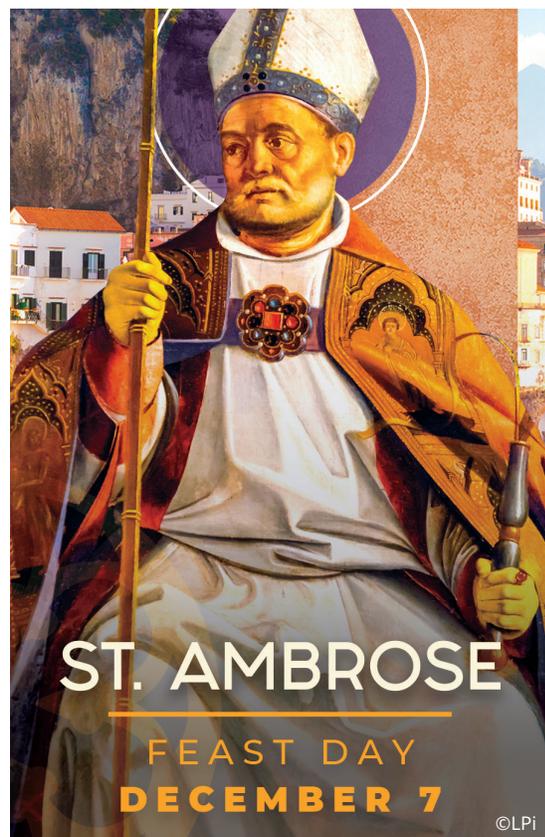
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2022

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent; St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday:** St. Nicholas, Bishop
- Wednesday:** St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Friday:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin
- Saturday:** Our Lady of Loreto
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent; St. Damasus I, Pope

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

The God in whom we believe is “the God of endurance and encouragement.” Have you ever thought about God in those terms? Our sight can become limited by the concerns of the world and our individual lives. We can look to the past and see what is happening in the present, but the future is primarily left to our imaginations. God has a clear vision for the future. It is one where the “wolf shall be a guest of the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.” It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one. We can see the complete picture of life in God. We see what we may be, what may come, and who we can become. Preparing the way for the Lord means moving beyond the limitations of ideology, time, space, preference, and self-focused concern so that we can see as God sees. God will give us what we need to endure whatever comes, and the encouragement we need to get where we can be.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

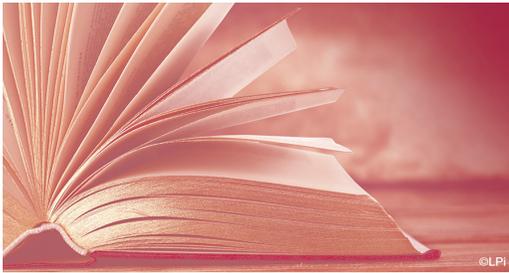
Saint Ambrose was born to an aristocratic Roman Christian family in 339 in what is now Trier, Germany. One popular legend tells of a swarm of bees alighting on the infant Ambrose's face and leaving behind a drop of honey which his father took as a sign that Ambrose would be an eloquent speaker with a 'honeyed tongue.'

Ambrose was educated in law and rhetoric in Rome. Like his father, he went into public service and was made governor of Liguria and Emilia about 373. In the second year of his governorship, he went to moderate the election of the bishop of Milan because the heretical Arians were challenging the succession. Unbaptized and untrained in theology, Ambrose was called by popular acclamation to be bishop. Though he attempted to flee, he was found and within a week he was baptized, ordained, and consecrated bishop on December 7, 374.

As bishop Ambrose studied scripture and the writings of Church fathers, he gave his property and wealth to the poor, and became an impactful orator, hymn writer, and renowned teacher. He highly praised consecrated virginity, likely influenced by his sister who took the veil. A contemporary with St. Martin of Tours, he also defended the faith against the Arian heresy (which questioned Christ's divinity), and against the state. Ambrose required Emperor Theodosius do public penance after the massacre of Thessalonica. His classic education contributed to his writing and sermons which attracted and converted Saint Augustine of Hippo who Saint Ambrose baptized.

Saint Ambrose is one of four original doctors of the Church. He died in 397 in Milan, Italy. His remains can be seen today at the Basilica di Sant'Ambrogio, where he lays with Saint Gervasius and Saint Protasus.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Not by appearance shall he judge,
nor by hearsay shall he decide,
but he shall judge the poor with justice,
and decide aright for the land's afflicted.
(Is 11:3-4)



PSALM

Justice shall flourish in his time, and
fullness of peace for ever. (Ps 72)



SECOND READING

Welcome one another, then, as Christ
welcomed you,
for the glory of God. (Rom 15:7)



GOSPEL

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in
the desert of Judea
and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom
of heaven is at hand!" (Mt 3:1-2)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

At sixty years of age, Maria and Paul had a beautiful life. High school sweethearts, they had four children, five grandchildren, a successful business, good friends and a fabulous beach house. They felt very blessed. Their strong faith in God saw them through some difficult challenges. Without warning, Paul died suddenly. Maria was devastated. Why did God do this? Why did God allow this to happen? An indescribable depth of sadness weighed heavily upon her heart. She felt betrayed by the God she thought was looking out for her. She was overwhelmed by despair. Have you ever experienced such incredible and deafening sadness? Where is God in all of the pain?

We often want God to fix things or intervene and change nature's course. When He doesn't act as we desire, it shakes our faith. We do not always understand or appreciate why things happen as they do. There is much that is beyond our control. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and Jesus is the way to God. There is something more going on in life than what we can see with human eyes. We are on a sacred path, and God is with us. God is with us in our confusion, suffering, doubts, and intense sadness. Jesus announced God's vision for humanity and taught people to see God and themselves for who they are. There is a way through and beyond all hardship and suffering. God does not abandon us.

God has a clear vision for the future, both for us individually and for our world. It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one and the "wolf shall be a guest of the lamb." God is not indifferent. He is the God of "endurance and encouragement." In God, we see what we may be, what may come and who we can become. When Maria opened herself to God's creative presence, she learned to trust. She began to realize that she could endure more than she had imagined. She also discovered a spark of encouragement, bringing her through the sadness to where she could be. In retrospect, Maria knew that God's reassuring presence was with her.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

How Much Is Enough?

I've got some great news for some of you: Jesus Christ doesn't care what name you bear. He doesn't care where you were born, and he doesn't care what your family tree looks like. He doesn't care where you grew up or where you went to school.

I've also got some bad news for some of you: See above.

It's so easy to take our salvation for granted. The mercy of God makes it so. Look at John the Baptist — he was pouring water on everybody who wanted it. Everybody but one group: those who expected it. Those who thought it was a given because of who they were, because of what they were. Those who had no intention of doing the work of repentance.

Sometimes, because God is so faithful, we make the mistake of forgetting that He is also just.

I am baptized, we think. I made my First Communion, and I was Confirmed. That's enough.

I went to Catholic school. I know all the Ten Commandments and I can tell you anything you want to know about the Popes. That's enough.

I'm on parish council. I put money in the basket, and I volunteer. That's enough.

None of it is enough. It would never be enough. And before we look upon the Pharisees and Sadducees with too much judgment, we need to remember: the work of repentance is ongoing. It is a process that we must commit to within ourselves, continuously.

God is the missing element to this equation. He is the one who raises children to Abraham from the stones. If we rely only on our own abilities, our own merits, our own offerings, it will never be enough.

— 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:

Why do Catholics make the sign of the cross?

Answer:

The sign of the cross is a devotional practice that dates back to the first Apostles. When making the sign of the cross, we remember Jesus Christ who died for us and also bear witness to the fact that we belong to him and are called to share the Good News to all the world. At our Baptism, we were signed with a cross and marked for Christ. That mark remains on us throughout the entirety of our lives. We remind ourselves of that mark every time we make the same gesture over our bodies. We also remind ourselves that to be a Christian means we are to “put on Christ” and be Christ for a world that needs to know him. In a way, this devotional gesture covers us with Christ so that others may see him in us.

Catholics are not the only ones who make the sign of the cross. Orthodox, Lutheran, and Anglicans are examples of other Christians who maintain this same ancient tradition.

LITURGICAL LIFE

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John the Baptist appeared...saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

A voice of one crying out in the desert,

Prepare the way of the Lord.

- Mt 3:1a, 2-3b

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

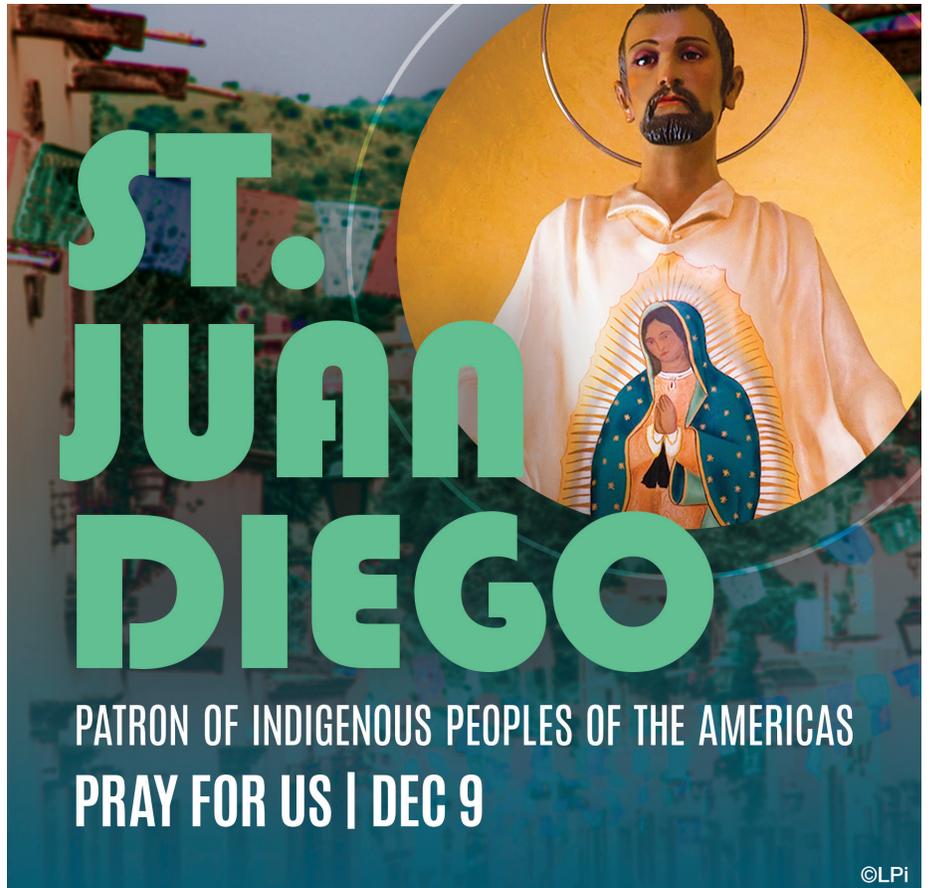
About two hundred years after the death of King David, the prophet Isaiah in around 760 BC prophesied the arrival of a new and ideal 'King David' ("a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse") that would bring about peace among people and animals. How can any of us today help make this promised future a reality?

Second Reading

Paul taught the Roman Christians that being a welcoming and unified community of Jewish and Gentile believers was one way to glorify God. Do you think your group of friends are welcoming to others?

Gospel Reading

John the Baptist taught the people that repenting of sins and producing "good fruit" was essential for preparing for the kingdom of heaven. What good works are you doing for your family and friends as we continue through the season of Advent?



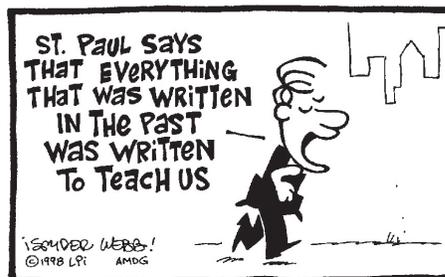
ST. JUAN DIEGO

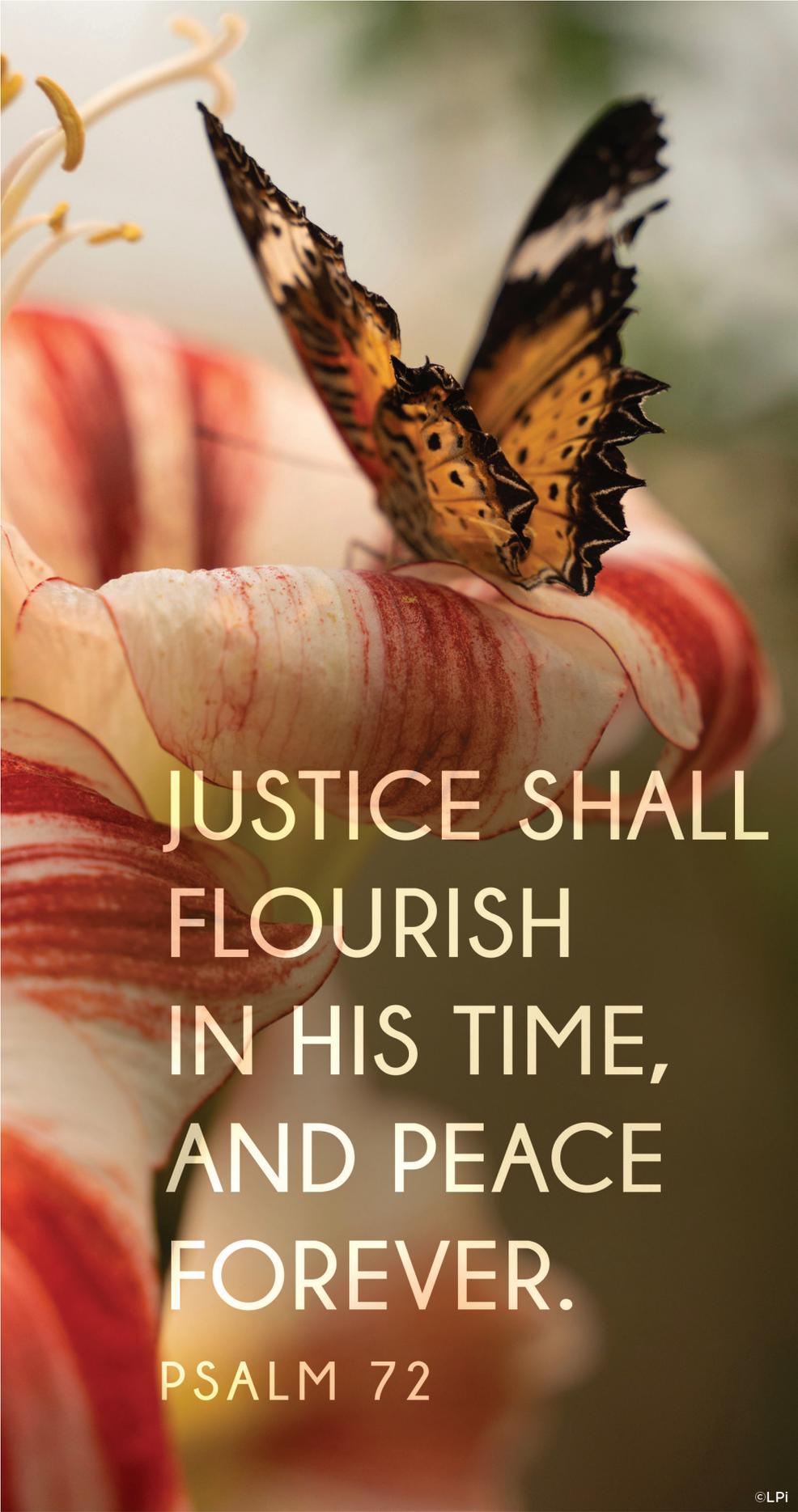
PATRON OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS

PRAY FOR US | DEC 9

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2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT





JUSTICE SHALL
FLOURISH
IN HIS TIME,
AND PEACE
FOREVER.

PSALM 72

*John wore
clothing made of
camel's hair and
had a leather
belt around his
waist. His food
was locusts
and wild honey.
At that time
Jerusalem, all
Judea, and the
whole region
around the
Jordan were
going out to him
and were being
baptized by him
in the Jordan
River as they
acknowledged
their sins.*

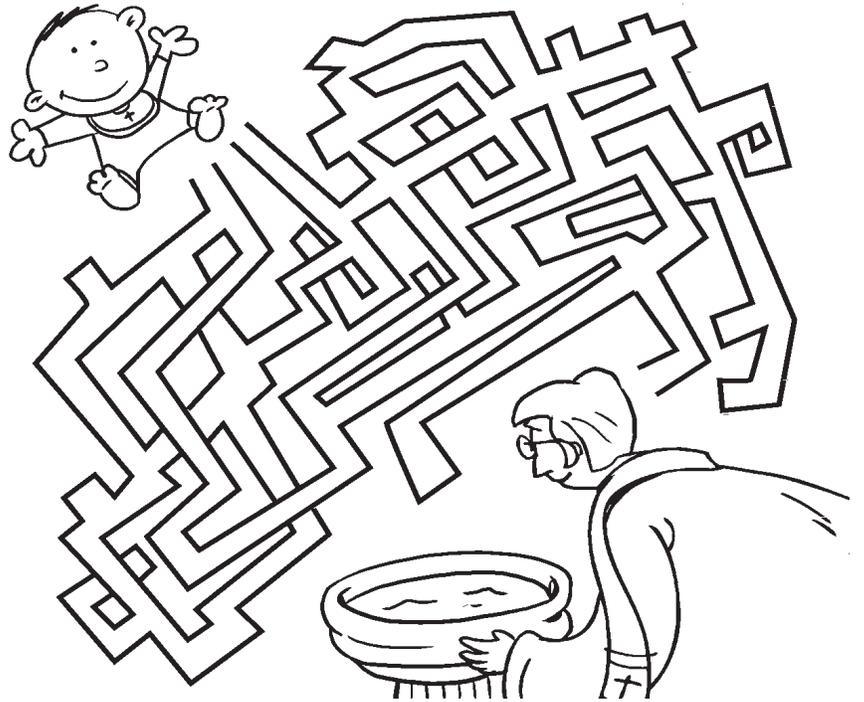
- Mt 3:4-6

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KIDS CORNER

Help the baby find his way to the priest for her baptism



READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

SHARING THE GOSPEL

John the Baptist taught people to get ready for Jesus. He told them to change their lives. John helped many people wash away all their mistakes and bad choices. He washed away all their cheating, lying, fighting, and stealing. Once they were clean, John wanted them to see that living God's way is so much better. John told the people not only to clean their bodies, but to show that they love God by the way that they live.

PRAYER

Dear God, help my words and my choices to show that I love you.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Write a prayer to God, asking him to help you stop doing those things, and start being honest, giving and kind.

