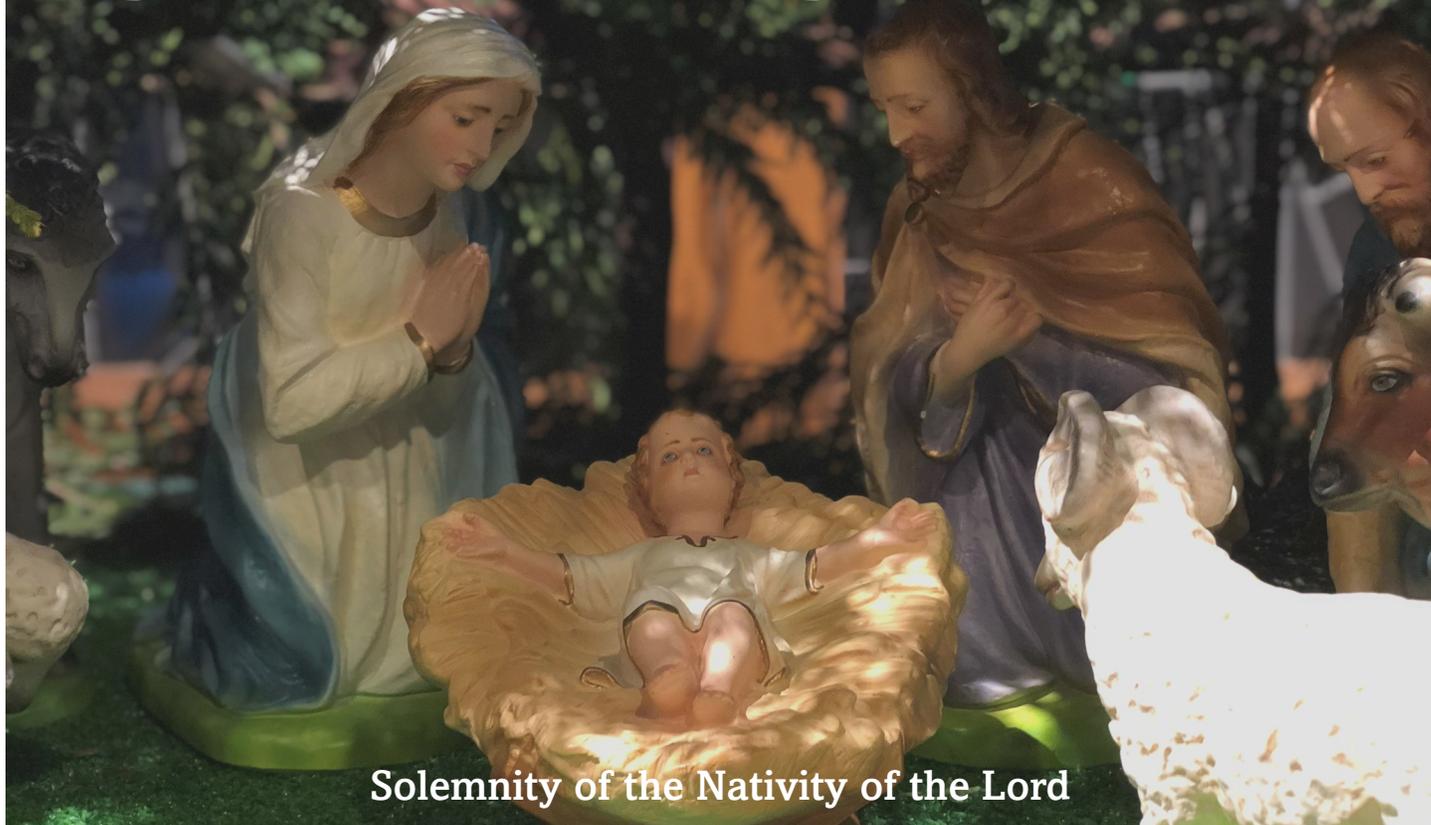


Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2022

Christmas

Vigil Mass Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 89, Acts 13:16-17, 22-25, Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight Mass Readings: Isaiah 9:1-6, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 52: 7-10

Morning Mass Readings: Isaiah 62:11-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:15-20

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us, his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

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

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

360-458-3031

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

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)

Calendar & Mass Intentions

MONDAY December 26 St. Stephen, the First Martyr

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

TUESDAY December 27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

NO DAILY MASS

Choir Practice 6:00PM Church

RCIA 6:30PM RE Building

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

NO DAILY MASS

THURSDAY December 29 St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

NO DAILY MASS

St Peter Bible Study 10:00 AM St. Peter

Sunday Scripture Study 6:30 PM Small Hall

FRIDAY December 30 The Holy Family

NO DAILY MASS

SATURDAY December 31

Confessions 3:30 PM Church

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

New Years Eve Prayer & Reflection 11PM Church

SUNDAY January 1 Mary, Mother of God

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

NO Elementary Faith Formation, Youth Scripture Study, or Confirmation Classes

Week of December 11, 2022

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$3,080.00	\$1,252.78
Online Giving	\$2,014.67	\$15.00
Net	(\$705.33)	\$267.78
Special Funds		
St Vincent DePaul	\$290.11	\$0.00
Sacramentals (Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)	\$18.00	\$14.00
Flowers	\$424.79	\$25.00
Building Fund	\$119.53	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$0.00	\$150.00
2 nd Collection (name)	\$0.00	\$0.00



A Word from Father Thompson



One of the more interesting components of our liturgical calendar are 2 periods of 8 days that follow are two biggest Holidays of the year, Christmas and Easter. These periods of 8 days are called octaves (for obvious reasons). The Easter Octave is privileged in such a way that it takes precedence over absolutely everything; from Easter vigil to Divine Mercy Sunday the Resurrection is exclusively celebrated every day of that week. The Christmas Octave works a little bit differently, it does not simply continue the joyful Mass of Christmas but instead consists in part of a series of feast days of saints that were specially chosen to follow Christmas Day because they emphasize the varied ways that one can be a witness to the joy and hope the world has in Jesus Christ.



The first of these feasts, the 26th of December, is the feast of Saint Stephen the Deacon and the First Christian Martyr. He was, as a famous catechetical image notes, a martyr (Greek for witness) in will and in deed. This is because he faced persecution in the face of opposition, hostility, and eventually was killed for his profession of Jesus Christ. On the 27th, is the feast of Saint John the Apostle, who is venerated as a martyr in will but not in deed. John is the only one of the apostles who did not meet a violent end, but died of old age. Traditionally this has been understood as a reflection of the fact that the other apostles ran away when Jesus was arrested and taken to be

crucified, but John bravely accompanied Mary to the foot of the Cross, giving his martyr's witness without the shedding of his own blood. Next, on the 28th, is the feast of the Holy Innocents, those babies who were massacred by King Herod in an attempt to kill Jesus in the cradle; They are martyrs in deed but not in will because they died for Jesus Christ not knowing that they were doing so. On the 29th is St Thomas Beckett, an optional and less ancient addition to the post Christmas celebrations, a martyr killed for holding to and dispensing God's truth and justice even against worldly power. The rest of the days of the Christmas octave are, like at Easter, a continuation of the feast of Christmas itself. One oddity this year is that the Feast of the Holy Family, which usually occurs on whatever Sunday occurs before Mary Mother of God on the octave day of Christmas (January 1st), is moved back to the 30th of December this year since the Sunday after Christmas is January 1st and already taken by the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.

In Christ,

F. Thompson



CHRISTMAS 12/25 FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN 12/26 FEAST OF SAINT JOHN 12/27 FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS 12/28 SAINT THOMAS BECKET 12/29



..... FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 12/30 SOLEMNITY OF MARY 1/1 EPIPHANY 1/8 FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 1/9

Learn more about the feasts and solemnities of the Christmas Season at archseattle.org/Christmas



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, Robert Fisher, Mary Taylor,
John Gallwas

The Deceased

Paul Hennigan

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



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



- Partridge in a pear tree- Jesus on the cross
- Two turtle doves- the old and new testaments of the Bible
- Three French hens- the 3 theological virtues from 1 Corinthians 13:13- Faith, Hope, and Love
- Four calling birds- the 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Five golden rings- the Pentateuch (or first five books of the old Testament) Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Six geese a laying- the 6 days of creation (before God rested)
- Seven swans a swimming- the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord)
- Eight maids a milking- the 8 beatitudes given to us by Jesus during his sermon on the mount.
- Nine ladies dancing- the 9 fruits of the spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22-23 (although Catholics do have 12 fruits of the Spirit total, and the other 3 are found in the Catechism)
- Ten lords a leaping- the 10 Commandments
- Eleven pipers piping- the 11 faithful apostles
- Twelve drummers drumming- the 12 points of faith from the Apostles' Creed

It is said that starting in the 16th century in England Catholics were being persecuted and it was illegal to practice the faith. So the "12 days of Christmas" song was written as a secret code to help teach children their Catechism. What an awesome way to teach Catholic kids about the Catechism. Here is a list of the Catholic symbols as they go with the 12 days of Christmas song.

Please visit Catholic Icing (link on FB) for some fun activities to do during the 12 days of Christmas

RCIA & Adult Faith Formation



RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is open to all adult learners and those seeking the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation.

There will be no class on Tuesday Dec 27.

Save the Date Rite of Election is scheduled for
Wednesday, March 1 (of the First Week of Lent) 7:00 PM Sacred Heart, Lacey with Archbishop Etienne

Youth Ministry & Confirmation



Classes resume January 8: Sunday Scripture Study meets 9:15-10AM. Confirmation classes meet after 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. **POC:** Chad Lucero chad@saintcolumbnayelm.org

All teens Grades 6-12, take a break and join us for our next Youth Ministry Saturday mini-retreat, January 21, 9am-2pm. Lunch is provided.

A YOUTH CONFERENCE LIKE NO OTHER

IGNITE YOUR TORCH is a high school Catholic youth conference in which "on fire" religious (e.g. monks/brothers, nuns/sisters, priests) seek to Ignite the faith of teens through engaging talks, small group discussion, workshops as well as personal interaction at recreation, meals and just hanging out. It is an opportunity to make new friendships in Christ, to receive the sacraments, to meet and talk to young priests and religious, and to worship, pray, learn, and recreate together. *Ignite Your Torch* is Eucharistic-centered, devoted to Our Blessed Mother, catechetical in nature, and teaches youth practical ways to build up the culture of life.

July 6-9, 2023, University of Portland
For more information go to ignitenw.org



Youth in our area now receive the Sacrament of Confirmation as early as the 7th Grade!

For new students contact us to enroll your teen to begin Sacramental Preparation classes starting next school year.

Understand Your Catholic Faith with The Catechism in a Year Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

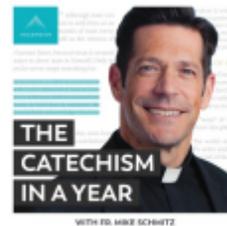
By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

Get the FREE Reading Plan!

Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan!

www.ascensionpress.com/ciy



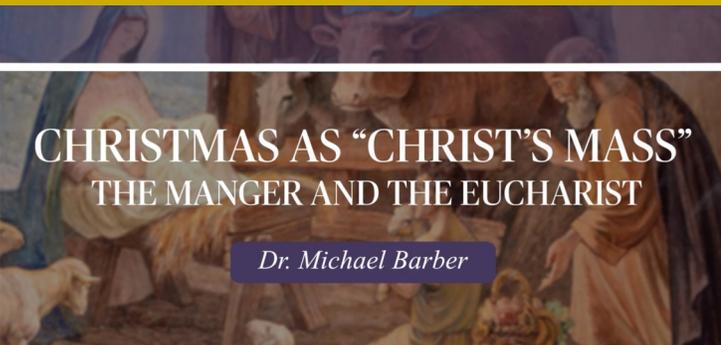
Did you know? (CCC, paragraph 223)

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by *creating a home* where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for *education in the virtues*. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery - the pre-conditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the "material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones." Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. By knowing how to acknowledge their own failings to their children, parents will be better able to guide and correct them:

He who loves his son will not spare the rod. He who disciplines his son will profit by him.

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

FORMED The Catholic Faith. On Demand.



Christmas as Christ's Mass by Dr. Michael Barber
Dr. Michael Barber explains the extraordinary connection between Christmas and the Eucharist, coining the great solemnity as "Christ's Mass."

See the link on our Parish Facebook page

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 Ministries & 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

Winter Clothes Closet

Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 PM
Parish Hall

Free winter clothes to anyone in need, no questions asked!

Clothing donations may be made before or after Mass, during hours of operation, or by contacting the Parish Office.

Coffee Hours Fellowship
January 8
following the 10:30AM Mass in the Parish Hall



Join us in the Parish Hall for Breakfast
Sunday January 22
after the 10:30AM Mass



Altar Society

Meets every Thursday after Daily Mass to clean the church.



Daughters of Mary

St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA

Monthly Meeting

Jan 10, 10:00 AM RE Bldg.
daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Join us for Parish Events happening all throughout the year

Daughters of Mary Coffee Hour (Monthly)

KofC Breakfast (Monthly)

Parish Picnic & Ministry Fair (August)

Oktoberfest (September)

SVdP Walk/Run for the Poor (September)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Las Mañanitas (December)

Las Posadas (December)

Lent Soup Supper (March-April)

Daughters of Mary Spring Bazaar (April)

KofC Annual Outdoor Sale (May)

KofC Annual Coats for Kids Car Show (June)



Knights of Columbus

Next Council Meeting January 18
5:30 PM Vespers in the church
6:00 PM Hall
kofc17152@saintcolumbanyelm.org



St. Peter's Circle

St. Peter Mission Tenino
Meets Bi-monthly

Next Meeting

January 10 9:30 AM



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly Meeting
January 19, 7:00 PM



Únete a nuestro grupo de Oración en Español

Martes a las 6:30 PM
en el Salón Parroquial



FLOCKNOTE

WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS

a part of our Flock!

TEXT

SAINTCOLUMBANYELM

TO 84576



OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:

saintcolumbanyelm.flocknote.com

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.



WELCOME
BACK TO
MASS

LEARN MORE AT ARCHSEATTLE.ORG/MASS

Christian, remember your dignity

From a sermon by Saint Leo the Great, pope

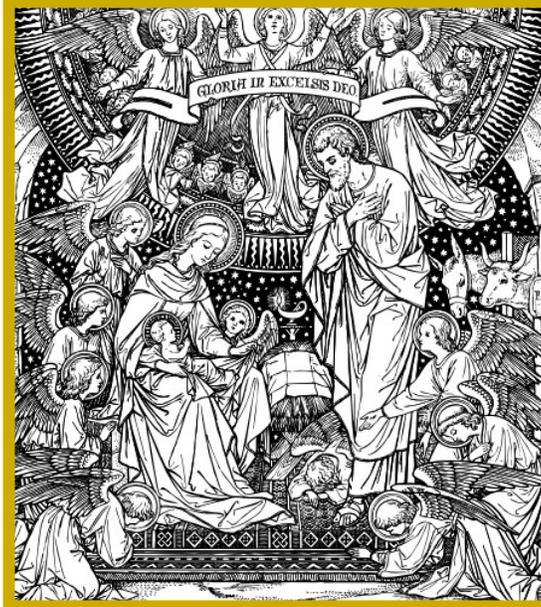
Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest*, and they proclaim *peace to men of good will* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built

from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?



Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and *when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ*, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.

Outside Events



live your best life in love

Merry Christmas! Christ is the reason for the Season. *Worldwide Marriage Encounter* can help you make your marriage Christ-centered. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: Feb 17-19 Federal Way, Jan 13-15 Beaverton, Mar 10-12, Spokane, May 19-21, Seattle.

Space is limited, so reserve your weekend early.

For questions, or to find out more about a Virtual Encounter Weekend contact Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321 or go to www.wwme.org.



High School Placement Test

Saturday, January 14th | 9am

Does your 8th grader need to take the HSPT? Register your student for our January 14th test by visiting our website: www.popejp2hs.org! The HSPT can be shared with any school that accepts the test regardless of where it was proctored.



Led by Fr. Stephen Rowan

King Henry V
A Profile in Leadership
Shakespeare Retreat

January 27-29, 2023



RETREAT CENTER AT THE PALISADES

14 Rules for Ignatian Discernment Retreat
March 24-26, 2023



RETREAT CENTER AT THE PALISADES



Led by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 25, 2022



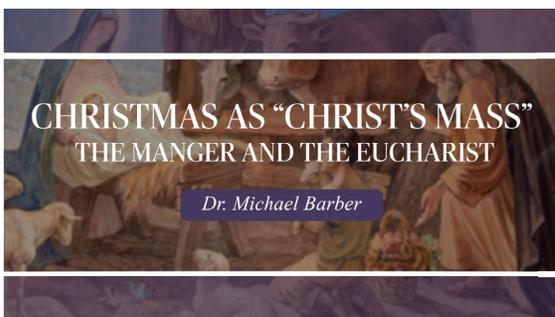
Where are You? Forgiven Episode 1

As we make resolutions for 2021, don't forget about your spiritual well-being! Watch our Forgiven series, so you can help guide friends and family to new spiritual beginnings!



FORMED Live: Who is St. Stephen

Join Dr. Gray and Dr. Barber as they discuss the life of St. Stephen, first Christian martyr and heroic leader of the early Church.



Christmas as Christ's Mass by Dr. Michael Barber

Dr. Michael Barber explains the extraordinary connection between Christmas and the Eucharist, coining the great solemnity as "Christ's Mass."

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

A traditional painting of the Nativity scene. Mary is seated in the center, holding the infant Jesus in a manger. Joseph stands behind her. To the left, a shepherd plays a flute. To the right, a man kneels in prayer. A cow and a donkey are present. The background shows a night sky with stars and a distant town.

Celebrate the Christmas Season!

December 25, 2022

Christmas

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

The Church calls us to celebrate Christmas as a season of twelve days when we reflect on Jesus' birth and appreciate the joys of family life. Check out resources provided by the Archdiocese to fully enjoy the season!

A photograph of a night sky with a bright star shining down a beam of light onto a small house in a dark landscape.

Christmas day brings so much excitement: gathering with loved ones, good food, and, of course, Christmas gifts. Let us go beyond just one day and appreciate Christmas as a season lasting 12 days.

In times when so many important things get rushed, we can follow the example of the Holy Family who paused after the birth of Jesus to appreciate God's gift of Jesus in their life. Rather than taking down the Christmas decorations immediately, take time to explain what some of them mean to you. If possible, take time away from work to be with your children when they are on break. Go visit with family. Let's recover the wisdom of our faith and celebrate the entirety of this season.

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 52:7-10

All the Earth shall behold the salvation of God.

Psalm 98

The Lord has made his salvation known.

Hebrews 1:1-6

God speaks to us through his Son.

John 1:1-18

Jesus is God's word made flesh dwelling among us.

At Home with Faith

Talk

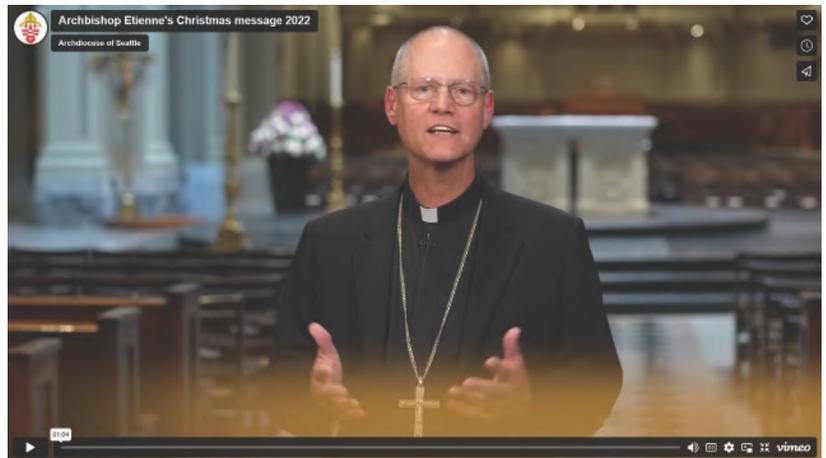
Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Take a moment to look over the Christmas decorations that you set up for the Christmas season. Then, use that moment as an opportunity to tell your child something about what these decorations mean to you. Deacon Eric Paige shares about his own favorite Christmas decoration:

“One of my favorites is a manger scene or crèche that my mother bought when she traveled to Germany with my grandmother. It reminds me of the deep faith of my grandmother and how celebrating Christmas makes me feel closer to her.”

Take a little time to share a similar story with your family.

Celebrate the Christmas season with us! Visit <https://archseattle.org/Christmas/>



Check out the Archdiocese of Seattle’s “Celebrate the Feasts and Solemnities of the Christmas Season” webpage:

<https://archseattle.org/christmas/>

Watch Archbishop Etienne’s Christmas message for 2022:

<https://vimeo.com/772533013/86f49c7ac8>

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://www.athomewithfaith.org>



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



The time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. - Lk 2:6b-7

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2022

- Sunday:** *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/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 [3]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
- Friday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
- Next Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

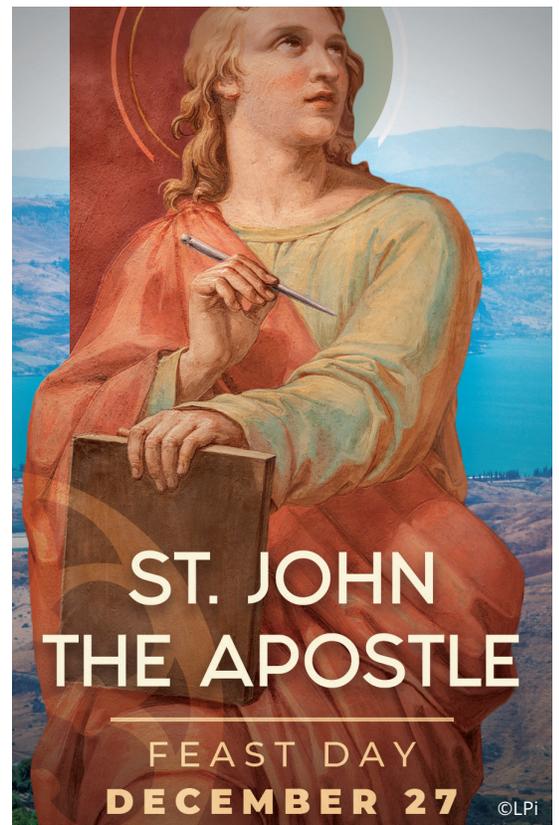
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2022

- Sunday:** The Nativity of the Lord
- Monday:** St. Stephen, First Martyr
- Tuesday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Wednesday:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Thursday:** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
- Friday:** Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Saturday:** St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
- Next Sunday:** Mary, The Holy Mother of God, National Migration Week, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the twinkling lights, the beautifully adorned trees, or the exchanged gifts. It is revealed when we find God along the way of our lives, especially when we feel displaced, desperate, and alone. Fleeing from their home, Joseph and Mary cautiously made their way through the uncertain, complex, and dark paths to a longed-for place of safety and welcome. Not sure where to lay their heads, they created makeshift preparations for the birth of their child, the Son of God. God, who always was, is, and will be, without beginning or end is the one constant in life who sees us through difficult and scary times. Jesus is the light, which enlightens everyone, and comes into the world to show us the truth. It is joyful good news that calms our fears and allows us to go forth into the nighttime of our lives, courageously. This is the meaning of Christmas. We are never lost or alone. God is with us, loving us and leading us where we need to be.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" — they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Saint John the Apostle is traditionally thought to be the author of the fifth Gospel, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. However, there has been some debate among scholars from antiquity to the present. Tradition also gives him the title Beloved Disciple and John's Gospel sees him seated next to Jesus at the last supper and the one to whom Jesus gives the care of Mary at the crucifixion.

Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

Most accounts agree that after his exile and the Assumption of Mary he returned to Ephesus where he died sometime after 98, during the reign of the Emperor Trajan.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
(Is 9:5)



PSALM

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.
(Ps 96)



SECOND READING

Beloved:
The grace of God has appeared, saving
all. (Ti 2:11)



GOSPEL

“Do not be afraid;
for behold, I proclaim to you good
news of great joy
that will be for all the people.
For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you who is
Christ and Lord.” (Lk 2:10-11)

*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

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas!

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Being the Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It’s our job to show them.

— 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 we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

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!

The time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

- Lk 2:6b-7

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

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Isaiah prophesied of God's promise to send "a child to us" who will be "a great light" and bring us "abundant joy and great rejoicing." How will you show to others today your joy at the birth of Jesus?

Second Reading

Paul teaches Titus that Jesus is "the grace of God" who has come to save all people. In response, we believers are called "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age." What makes this challenging to do in our time?

Gospel Reading

We hear Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. Luke tells us how the message of the angel of the Lord frightened the shepherds. In response, the angel said, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people ..." How will your family celebrate today the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Messiah?



CHRISTMAS





*Today our
Savior is born,*

CHRIST THE LORD.

LUKE 2:11

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

- Lk 2:10-12

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

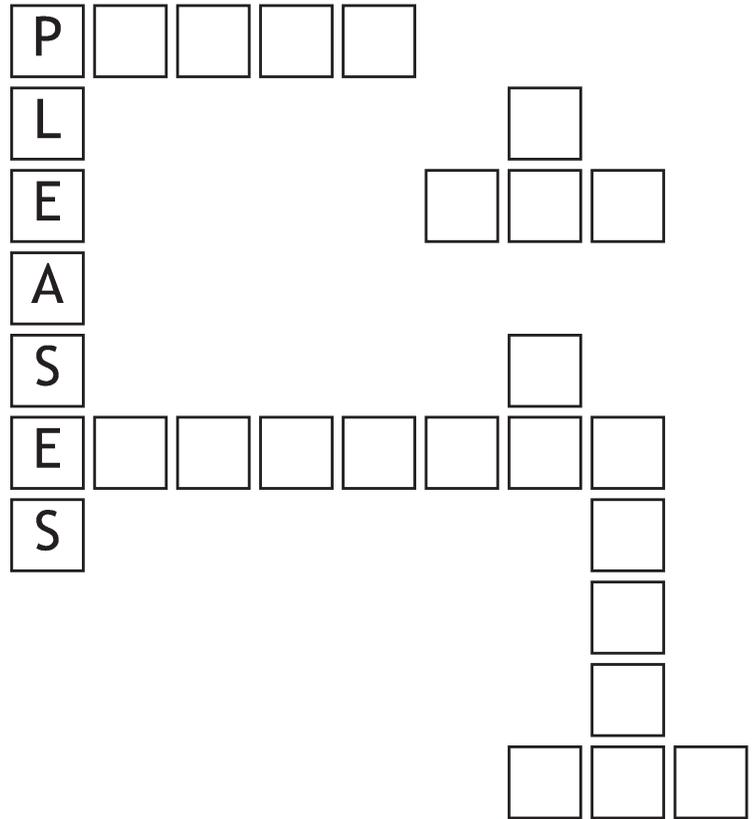
©LPI

KIDS CORNER

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Peace on earth to everyone who
pleases God.



SHARING THE GOSPEL

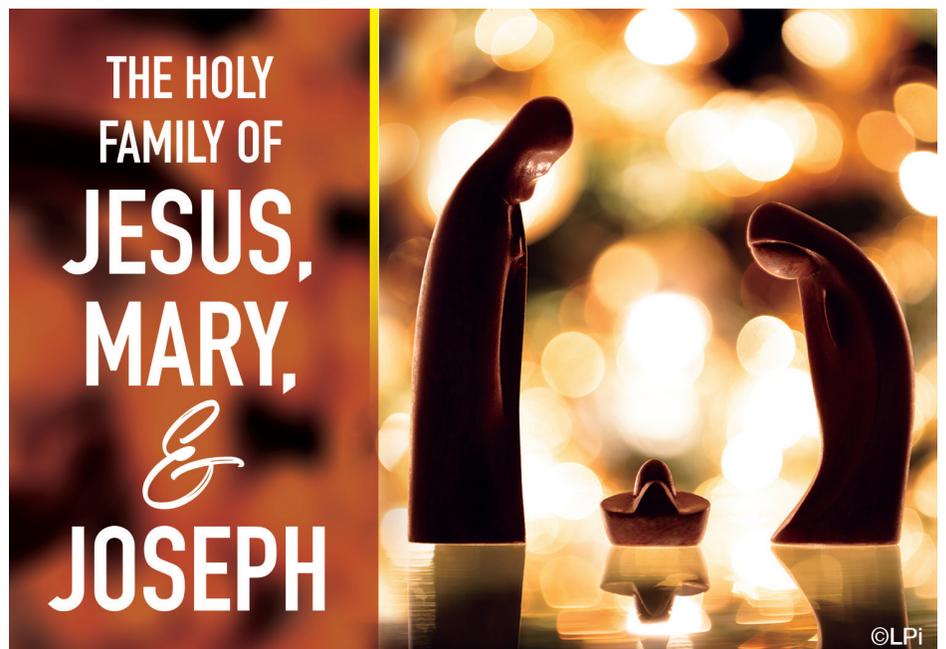
Long ago, God promised to send a Savior into the world. So when Jesus was finally born in Bethlehem, the angels praised God. The angels shared God's great news with the shepherds, so they could find Jesus and praise God, too.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus into the world. I want to praise you like the angels did.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

You can praise God like the angels did. Go Christmas caroling together as a family. Sing all of your favorite songs together.





360-458-2255

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

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Steve Swenson

sswenson@4LPi.com

(800) 950-9952 x5815

Valley Water Solutions

Filtrations, Pumps & Well Service

360-915-8360 - store

360-359-1016 - Dave Cell

209 Yelm Ave. E. Yelm, WA 98597

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



SafeStreets

833-287-3502

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



FREE
AD DESIGN
with purchase
of this space

CALL
800-950-9952



CAPITAL
HEATING & COOLING

Delivering Comfort Since 1937

Lacey, WA

capitalheatingandcooling.com

(360) 491-7450

RE/MAX



REALTY SOUTH
Chrissy DeHan

Broker - Parishioner

Specializing in Yelm Area
buyers and sellers

(360) 789-4093

ChrissyDeHan@gmail.com

www.chrissyhomes.com



NEVER MISS OUR BULLETIN!

SUBSCRIBE

Have our bulletin
emailed to you
every week.



Visit www.parishesonline.com



CHURCH SUPPLIES & FURNISHINGS

CANDLES ✦ BOOKS ✦ BIBLES

RELIGIOUS GIFTS & DECOR

STATUARY ✦ JEWELRY ✦ ROSARIES

SACRAMENTAL & SEASONAL ITEMS

& SO MUCH MORE!

5201 4th Avenue South

Seattle, WA 98108

(206) 622-3100

Visit us Online!

kaufers.shop

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!

Instantly create and
purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO



4lpi.com/adcreator



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

St. Columban, Yelm, WA

A 4C 05-1744