

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 (Resumes Sep. 1)

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. 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

July 30, 2023

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house; he
himself gives might and strength to his people.

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, I love your commands*

2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel Acclamation: *Blessed are you Father,
Lor dof heaven and earth; for you have revealed
to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.*

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Communion Antiphon: *Bless the Lord, O my
soul, and never forget all his benefits.*

**LORD,
I LOVE THY
COMMANDS.**

PSALM 119

Welcome to St. Columban

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

PA for Admin, Bookkeeping, & Records 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

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY July 31 **St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**
Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

TUESDAY August 1 **St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Dr**
NO DAILY MASS
Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM Church

WEDNESDAY August 2 **Sts. Eusebius & St. Peter Julian**
NO DAILY MASS

THURSDAY August 3
NO DAILY MASS
Altar Society Weekly Church Cleaning 9:30AM
Choir Practice 6:00PM Church

FRIDAY August 4 **St. John Vianney, Priest**
NO FIRST FRIDAY MASS OR DEVOTIONS

SATURDAY August 5 **Dedication of Basilica of St. Mary Major**
Confession 3:30PM Church
Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00 PM Int.: Pro Populo Church

SUNDAY August 6 **TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**
Confession 7:30-7:45AM St. Peter
Sunday Mass 8:00 AM Int.: Pro Populo St. Peter

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

Daughters of Mary Fellowship 11:45AM Parish Hall

From the Parish Office

Week of July 16, 2023

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$2,502.00	\$516.00
Online Giving	\$1,198.00	\$15.00
Net	(\$2,100.00)	(\$469.00)
Special Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
St Vincent DePaul	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sacramentals (Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)	\$20.50	\$0.00
Flowers	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Fund	\$144.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Peter's Pence	\$0.00	\$125.00



**Cross Catholic
OUTREACH**

Learn more at
crosscatholic.org



We welcomed Fr. George Kintiba, S.V.D. of Cross Catholic Outreach who spoke this weekend at all Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and religious working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

Father George Kintiba was ordained into the priesthood on July 21, 1996 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Born and raised in the DRC and Belgium, gave Fr. Kintiba a unique perspective and a heart to serve others. In his pastoral work, he has served street children, teenagers, young adults, and troubled youths. He has been an outspoken activist in his home country against social injustice. Father is a member of the Society of the Divine Word. Since his ordination, he has missioned to the United States, Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word. Fr. Kintiba went on to pursue graduate and postgraduate studies in Washington DC. Among his many educational credentials, he holds a Master of Arts in Religious Studies and History and a Ph.D. in History from Howard University, Washington DC. Presently, he is an Adjunct-professor of history at Howard University and lectures at the University of Maryland. His motto is: In all that you do in life, let Christ be GLORIFIED / Make the enemy of your soul run & be HORRIFIED / In all you are doing, do it right & the body of Christ will be EDIFIED.

On the Cover: *St Christopher Carrying the Infant Christ*, c. 1615, by Orazio Borgianni

A Word from Father Thompson



Our next Deadly Sin is Greed, which is opposed to generosity. It isn't the classical virtue—generosity—that it is opposed to, but I also think that Greed is in a way a lack of hope as well. Hope is the virtue that leads us to stretch out and await good things in the future. Greed shortens our horizon to the imminent: Like Gluttony, it devours and hoards; like Lust, it closes us in on ourselves. Greed accumulates because it does not trust the sun to rise tomorrow, so to speak.

Now, Greed can take the form of more things than excessive accumulation of money. Indeed, it is ultimately a desire for control and power, to be the masters of our own destinies and have no need of other people or other things (or at least to have all the things we need to rely on at hand and under our control). While it is prudent to plan for the future, so I am not trying to equate preparedness to meet the potential chaos of life with Greed, Greed takes this impulse too far, hoarding beyond need and making dominance over the world and others—even if only financially—as the goal of life.

We have been for a long time and despite recent failures still are the wealthiest and most successful nation in the history of the world. Even most of our relatively poorer people are very wealthy compared to the absolutely impoverished—or even working-class—people of many other countries; there is a reason many people take such profound risks and are willing even to break laws to live and work here. We have money, we have cultural and military and political power. This reality comes with a duty to generosity, because without that virtue, Greed can be a real temptation for us, even for those of us who individually are not particularly wealthy by American standards.

So what do we do? At the very least, we should foster detachment. I once had a car stolen, for example, and while it was frustrating and I wanted it back, obviously, there was something freeing in being able to say “oh well, it is just stuff.” A second thing we could do is to increase our dedication to the contrary virtue of Generosity, not only to loosen the tightness of our grasp on our time and money and possessions by giving to those in need or worthy causes, not only because it expands our vision to consider the needs of others, but also because it helps us free ourselves from that distrust of the future and lack of hope that I spoke of above. This is also why we give of our substance rather than our excess; a billionaire can give massive amounts of money in a Greedy way (seeking to leverage power or influence policy or be seen a certain way in the public eye), but the widow's mite is much more easily given in a spirit of true generosity.

In Christ,

F. Thompson

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, Mary Taylor, Dan & Jeanine Kavanaugh, Vivienne Hayden, Eitan Hadayo, Tracy Slater, Stan Villadelgado, Pam Henslee, Fr. James Quinlan

The Deceased

Forrest Slater

Extraordinary Intentions

- + All those in harm's way, especially those experiencing natural disasters and terrorism.
- + 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.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS July 2023: For a Eucharistic life We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

August 2023: For World Youth Day We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Faith Formation

MEETING CHRIST: EXPLORING THE LITURGY

CONCLUDING RITES (Part 5 of 5)

The Eucharist and the Poor

Following communion, we pray quietly or sing a hymn of praise. This time is for us to reflect on what has happened at Mass: something both awesome and familiar. A mystery we cannot fathom has come very near to us; in the Eucharist, we touch and receive something as familiar as bread and wine, something as mysterious as God.

The Eucharist is many things: daily bread, food for the journey, pledge of eternal life, the Body and Blood of Christ. The Eucharist is the meeting-place of earth and heaven, the Incarnation present, here and now. "The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours" (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, 236).

And there is more. The Eucharist calls us to live according to Christ's law of love, and thus the Eucharist calls us not only to be transformed but to be agents of transformation in the world. The recent Popes have all put great emphasis on this aspect of Eucharist. "We cannot delude ourselves," said St. John Paul II in announcing the Year of the Eucharist in 2004: "by our mutual love and, in particular, by our concern for those in need we will be recognized as true followers of Christ. This will be the criterion by which the authenticity of our Eucharistic celebrations is judged" (*Mane Nobiscum*

Domine, 24). Pope Benedict XVI echoed these words: "A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented" (*Deus Caritas Est*, 14). There are no two ways about it: the Eucharist commits us to the poor.

Long ago, St. Paul wrote to the Christian community at Corinth, where class divisions were evident even in the way they celebrated the Eucharist. "When you meet in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's supper, for in eating, each one goes ahead with his own supper, and one goes hungry while another gets drunk.... What can I say to you? In this matter I do not praise you" (I Corinthians 11:18-22).

The Eucharist and Transformation

Pope Francis has repeatedly emphasized that the Eucharist "is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak" (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 47). If we waited to go to Communion until we had achieved some purity or perfection, we would likely have to avoid the sacrament altogether. That would be like waiting until our symptoms disappeared to take the prescription the doctor gave us! The Eucharist is not the reward of our labors, but food for the journey. In the Prayer after Communion at every Mass, the priest asks for the fruits of the Eucharist—and there are many.

Among other things, the Eucharist...

...increases our union with Christ

...separates us from sin

...wipes away venial sins

...preserves us from future mortal sin

...brings about the Unity of the Mystical Body

...commits us to the poor

...brings about the unity of Christians



Sometimes, we put limits on the Eucharist, thinking of it as purely "spiritual," impacting our personal relationship with God, but not much else. But the Eucharist is never "mine"; the Eucharist is always "ours." By its very nature, Eucharist is communal, touching all our relationships—with God, with each other, with those we know and love and those we struggle to love.

Blessed and Sent

The word "Mass" derives from the Latin words for the dismissal, the very last part of the Mass. *Ite, missa est*. Go, you are sent. It is ironic, perhaps, that the entire liturgy came to be known by its last word, and yet it is appropriate as well. Because ultimately, the Eucharist is not an escape from the world;

"Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me." - Suscipe prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola +1556

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

students Kindergarten thru 5th Grade. Sacramental prep begins in 1st Grade with First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion being received in the 2nd Grade. Youth Ministry activities are open for all students 6th–12 grade. Confirmation prep begins in 6th grade with the reception of Confirmation in 7th grade. –Gaby

All classes for K-12 Faith Formation begin in the Fall. I will be in the narthex after Sunday Mass on August 6 and 13 for any families that would like to register. There will be Elementary Religious Education classes for all

the Eucharist is ordered towards the transformation of the world. At the end of Mass, we are sent forth, not to clear the pews, but to fill the world – to carry the Gospel into the places it can reach only through us.

The Spirit of the Liturgy

The liturgy we celebrate is the place of encounter with the risen Christ. This is as close as we can get to him in this life. In the liturgy, we hear his word, we see his gestures, we touch and taste his risen presence in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. The liturgy is not theoretical. “The Liturgy is done with things that are the exact opposite of spiritual abstractions: bread, wine, oil, water, fragrances, fire, ashes, rock, fabrics, colours, body, words, sounds, silences, gestures, space, movement, action, order, time, light” (Pope Francis). The liturgy is the continuation of the incarnation of Christ.

As we began this series, we reflected on the phrase “the spirit of the liturgy,” which appears several times in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council. What, then, is the spirit of the liturgy? The spirit of the liturgy is wonder and awe, humility and joy, in the presence of God. The spirit of the liturgy is listening and response, gift and offering. The spirit of the liturgy is thanksgiving, memory, communion, and mission. The spirit of the liturgy is transformation. May we all become more deeply imbued with the spirit of the liturgy.

—Corinna Laughlin, *Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy*

A Prayer after Mass

Lord Jesus Christ, you welcomed sinners and dined with them. Today, you invited me to your table, not because I am worthy but because of the greatness of your love. Through the liturgy, I have heard your Word, seen your gestures, and tasted your divine Presence in the Bread of Life. May my participation in this mystery help me to

pattern my life on yours, to empty myself of self and serve you in others until I gather once more with this beloved family of yours around the table of life. Amen.

MEETING CHRIST: EXPLORING THE LITURGY is a 5-part series of articles provided by the Archdiocese of Seattle

Questions of the Week

Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Readings

First Reading: “Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested.” (1 Kgs 3:11-12)

The young King Solomon asked the Lord in prayer for a wise and discerning heart, and it was granted to him. What gift would you ask from the Lord?

Second Reading: *For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.* (Rom 8:29)

St. Paul teaches the believers in Rome that God calls us “according to his purpose.” Do you have a sense your purpose in life? If so, what is it?

Gospel: “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” (Mt 13:44)

Jesus offers several kingdom of heaven parables to the disciples: buried treasure and fine pearls (a priceless discovery) and the large catch of fish (an invitation to all). With these parables, what do you think Jesus is teaching us about the kingdom of heaven?

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

Catholic Media Recommendations for Everyone

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Our parish pays for a subscription to FORMED.org, a streaming service from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius press. Go to formed.org/signup and enter our parish name to redeem your FREE membership. Once logged-in access these suggestions at watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed



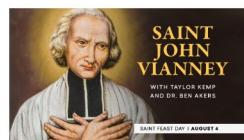
Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

The Augustine Institute presents a beautiful meditation on the Stations of the Cross by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, narrated by Dr. Christopher Blum. This prayerful reflection is accompanied by the Schola Cantorum, chanting the traditional Catholic hymn Stabat Mater to aid your prayer.



Ignatius of Loyola

This film brings to life the story of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. Often called “The Saint of Second Chances,” St. Ignatius was transformed from a self-obsessed sinner to a loyal and passionate soldier-saint.



Saint John Vianney | Catholic Saints

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they discuss St. John Vianney, the Cure d’Ars and patron saint of parish priests.

Parish Ministries & Events

Whether you are new to the parish or have been here for many years, we encourage you to share your time, talents and treasures in support of the mission of our parish community.

Contact Jennifer Langham at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with a group: 360-458-3031x1 / jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org



The Annual Parish Picnic is coming up! Get to know the many groups that serve our community. A representative from each group will be present in the Parish Hall during the Picnic.



Altar Society

A team of talented parishioners beautifully maintain and clean the Church every Thursday after Daily Mass.



Daughters of Mary

In the spirit of Mary our Mother, we strive to be attentive to the spiritual and corporal needs of our pastor, parish, and community through service and prayer.



Open to all women of the parish, we assist with parish activities and provide outreach in a variety of ways. Current initiatives include *Cards of Comfort*, where letters and notes of encouragement are collected and delivered to residents of various retirement homes and the most vulnerable in our community, and the *Seven Sisters* prayer apostolate.

Daughters of Mary members meet in-person or over Zoom on the last Tuesday of every month at 6PM in the Parish Hall and host a monthly fellowship after Sunday Mass.

Faith Formation

Volunteer parishioners help teach all grades of students as well as sacramental preparation classes for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and for Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Training and support for new and returning catechists is provided.

Homebound Ministry

Ministers are trained to bring Holy Communion to those who cannot physically attend Mass due to health constraints, servicing local care facilities and private residences in our area.

Liturgical Ministries

The laity assist with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass through various roles. Ordinarily, attendance of Sunday Mass and union of one's prayers to that of the priest and the Church during the Mass fulfills this role. Parishioners with certain talents also can volunteer as Greeters, Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and members of the Choir (*Music Ministry*) to assist our community in our Sunday worship. Additionally, boys who have already received their First Holy Communion are trained to become Altar Servers. All these roles help the greater Body of Christ at our church.



Knights of Columbus Council 17152 & Assembly 3947

We are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism and to the defense of the priesthood.

Council 17152 hosts the annual Coats for Kids Car Show every summer, which raises



money for winter coats. The Council also spearheads several social dinners and monthly breakfasts happening throughout the year. All men of the parish are welcome to join! Council meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month. The Assembly meets the Monday preceding the council meeting.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 to help impoverished people living in the slums of Paris, France. Our chapter is composed of parishioners who provide assistance and prayerful healing to those in need in our community. Members meet weekly and monitor the helpline. For assistance please leave a voicemail at (360) 458-1904.



Prayer Groups

A couple parishioner-led prayer groups meet weekly: the Monday Prayer Group meets in the Church at 7:00 PM and the Spanish Prayer Group meets Tuesdays in the Hall at 6:30 PM. The Spanish Prayer Group also hosts Las Mañanitas in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe every year.

Winter Clothes Closet

Parishioners donate gently-used clothing for distribution to the community October thru March. Its mission is "To provide warm clothing to those in need, no questions asked."

Did you mark your calendars? Join us on August 13 for the picnic!

Outside Notices & Events



The Intersection of Faith, Spirituality & Peer Support

Archdiocese of Seattle's Mental Health Ministry

This month's Wellness Wednesday topic will be:
A brief overview of peer support and our speakers' approaches to it. We will also hear how faith and spirituality play an important role in peer support.

Register for this virtual gathering at archseattle.org/wellness.

Wellness Wednesdays virtual events are held online on Zoom and take place on the first Wednesday of the month.

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

7:00PM - 8:30PM

Featured Speakers:
Cole Devlin
Gabe Hamilton



Holy Family School is a private Catholic school located in Lacey.

Holy Family is known for its outstanding student body, skilled staff, and welcoming community approach. We are committed to helping students grow emotionally, spiritually, physically, and intellectually. Students benefit from a 10-1 student-teacher ratio.

See holyfamilylacey.org or call us at (360) 491-7060 for further information. All for the Glory of God!
Learning for today, preparing for tomorrow.



Pope John Paul II High School

Have you considered the value of a Catholic, college-prep high school?

At Pope John Paul II High School students and families find a welcoming, faith-filled community where they are seen, heard, and belong.

Call Emily Cote at 360-438-7600 today for a personal tour where you will meet our thriving students and dynamic faculty.



Scan the QR code to learn more about JP II!



Due to the incredible support of our local parishes, business leaders, and other benefactors, generous financial assistance is available. For more information on supporting JP II students and families, contact our advancement office at advance@popejp2hseagles.org.



Project Rachel - Hope and Healing After Abortion

English: (206) 920-6413

Español: (206)-450-7814

Email projectrachel@ccsww.org.

If you are suffering from the experience of an abortion, you do not need to walk alone. Project Rachel Western Washington offers a compassionate and confidential environment for those who suffer the effects of an abortion.

Find hope and healing after abortion at Rachel's Vineyard Retreat:
English retreats - September 15-17, 2023, March 8-10, 2024 / Spanish retreats - October 27-29, 2023

Visit us at www.ccsww.org/projectrachel or fb.com/projectrachelww



"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has

and buys that field. Find the buried treasures in your marriage by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: Oct 13-15, 2023 at Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades, Federal Way, WA, Oct 6-8 Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, WA or Aug 25-27 Beaverton, OR. For more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, please visit www.wwme.org. For questions, or to find out more about a Virtual Encounter Weekend, contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321.

Calling all local high school students and college-aged young adults!

JOIN US LOCALLY FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY



Aug. 1 | Anacortes
Aug. 3 | Vancouver
Aug. 5 | Seattle

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

Please see the inserts for *Cross Catholic Outreach*, the OLPH Shrine pilgrimage and the July *Partners in the Gospel* update.



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

UPDATE

An update for parishes and parishioners on Partners in the Gospel



Current Reality Report

To help people better understand the urgent need for change, we issued the Current Reality Report last month. This report provides a snapshot of data trends across the Archdiocese of Seattle and forecasts expected changes in the future.

View the Current Reality video
[English](#), [Spanish](#) or [Vietnamese](#)

View the Current Reality Report
[English](#), [Spanish](#) or [Vietnamese](#)



Priest Days

This June, the priests continued their parish family consultation process at Priest Days. They reviewed the new maps and potential parish families based on the feedback they provided at the May 3 gathering. Together they prayed and discussed:

- the overall process
- additional changes for the potential parish family configurations
- the importance of lay leaders and staff
- how to remain centered on mission throughout this process

"What's the best use of our resources, our faith resources, our financial resources, and especially our human resources for proclaiming the Gospel?"

– Archbishop Etienne



Father Mike McDermott from St. Charles Borromeo in Tacoma shares his perspective about Partners in the Gospel. Watch in [English](#) or with [Spanish](#) subtitles.

Mark your calendars!

August – Consultation with deacons, parish and school staff, and Chancery.

Sept. 23 – Oct. 14 – Consultation with the faithful. Parishes will host sessions for input and feedback on the draft parish family configurations.

November – Oversight and Presbyteral Council will review all feedback and provide their recommendations to Archbishop Etienne for his discernment.

Early 2024 – Final parish family plan will be released.

July 2024 – Parish families, under the leadership of one pastor, will begin.

**Sign up to read the online
Partners in the Gospel UPDATE
newsletter at
archseattle.org/partners**

OUR LADY OF
PERPETUAL
HELP SHRINE
OLYMPIA, WA



JESUS CHRIST, THE BREAD OF LIFE

2023 OLPH MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

FRI, AUG 18 - SAT AUG 19

OLYMPIA, WA

Fr. Michael O'Loughlin
Byzantine Priest and Podcaster

Come join us for a weekend of prayer,
reflection, teaching, and fellowship at
Washington State's first Marian Shrine!

Fully Eastern & Faithfully Catholic!

PRAY
EAT
LIVE!



All
Ages

9730 Yelm Highway SE
Olympia, WA 98513

REGISTER TODAY!

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stgeorgeolympia.org

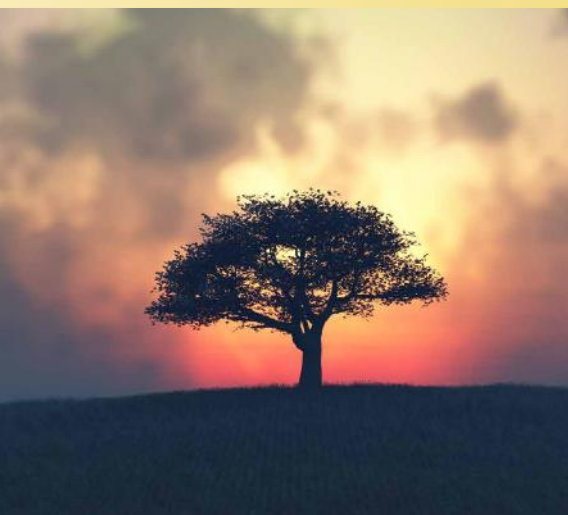
"The light of the East has illumined the universal Church..." - Pope St. John Paul II



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

Scripture reminds us that the kingdom of heaven can spring forth from even the smallest beginnings. The seeds of faith that we plant today can one day grow and bear great fruit.



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.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants." (Matthew 13:31-32)

We all have a role in passing along the faith, whether as parents, teachers, or friends. It doesn't always feel like our efforts are making a difference, and it's natural to wonder sometimes if we're trying in vain.

Scripture reminds us to always have hope. Great faith can spring forth from even the smallest seeds. God sees our attempts to share our faith, and his grace multiplies our efforts beyond our imagination. Let us trust in his abundant love and mercy.

Wisdom 12:13,16-19

"You taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are righteous must be kind."

Psalms 86:5-6,9-10,15-1

"Lord, you are good and forgiving."

Romans 8:26-27

"And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit."

Matthew 13:24-43 (shorter form: Matthew 13:24-30)

Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven through parables.

At Home with **Faith**

Talk

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

"No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest."

(Matthew 13:29-30) Sometimes, we make the mistake of judging others or ourselves prematurely. When someone acts in a way that conflicts with how we've taught them, we might feel frustrated and even give up on them. When we don't see results from our efforts at evangelization, we might be too quick to assume we have failed. Scripture reminds us that only God knows how the story ends, so we must trust in his judgment and not our own.

What are some situations in your life when you felt like you couldn't do much to help another? How did this experience make you feel? How did your emotions influence the choices you made? Now looking back at this experience, reflect on the parable of the mustard seed. How does this parable shift the way you view that experience?

Below is a prayer by Thomas Merton from his book, "Thoughts in Solitude." This is a wonderful prayer acknowledging that we do not have all the answers, but that God is always leading us if we commit ourselves to him wholeheartedly in all that we do.

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

"The Merton Prayer" from Thoughts in Solitude by Thomas Merton

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SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” - Mt 13:44

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Because you have asked for this—
not for a long life for yourself,
nor for riches,
nor for the life of your enemies,
but for understanding so that you may know what is
right—
I do as you requested." (1 Kgs 3:11-12)

Psalm:

Lord, I love your commands. (Ps 119)

Second Reading:

For those he foreknew he also predestined
to be conformed to the image of his Son,
so that he might be the firstborn
among many brothers and sisters. (Rom 8:29)

Gospel:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a
field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and
buys that field." (Mt 13:44)

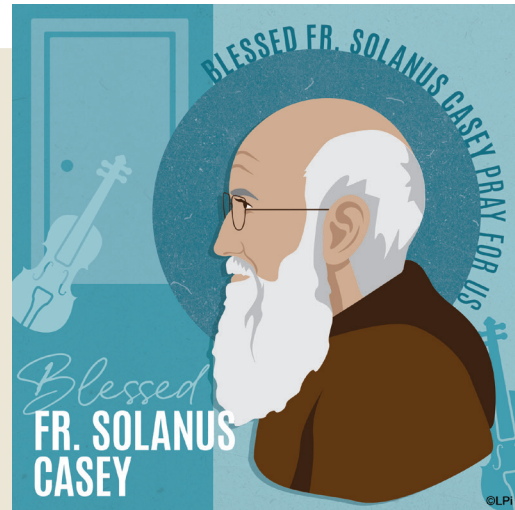
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Following Christ will take everything we have.
Are we ready to give it all? At the end of our
lives, let us hope we can say truthfully that we
sold all we had in order to purchase the field
which contained the great treasure.

Observances for the week of July 30, 2023

- Sunday:** 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Tuesday: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday: St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest
Friday: St. John Vianney, Priest
Saturday: The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
Next Sunday: The Transfiguration of the Lord



Saint of the week

Blessed Fr. Solanus Casey would have up to 200 people a day visit him for prayer and counseling while he worked as a doorkeeper at his various postings. He also co-founded the Capuchin Soup Kitchen during the Great Depression. It still serves people in Detroit to this day.

Prayer

"Let us, therefore, not weaken. Let us hope when darkness seems to surround us. Let us thank Him at all times and under whatever circumstances. Thank Him for our creation and our existence. Thank Him for everything — for His plans in the past, that by our sins and our want of appreciation, have so often frustrated — and that He so often found necessary to change. Let us thank Him for all His plans for the future — for trials and humiliations as well as great joy and consolations; for sickness and whatever death He may deign to plan; and with the inspired Psalmist let us call all the creatures of the universe to help us praise and adore Him Who is the Divine Beginning and the everlasting Good — the Alpha and the Omega."

(Prayer Source: An exhortation by Fr. Solanus Casey)

Readings for the week of July 30, 2023

Sunday:

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 (97a)/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Monday:

Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday:

Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday:

Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46

Thursday:

Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53

Friday:

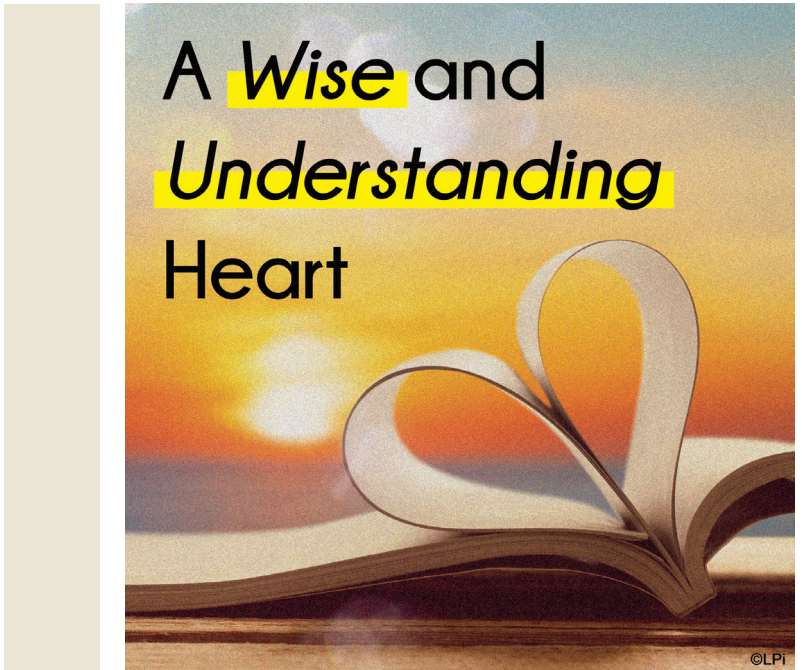
Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday:

Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday:

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Our culture seems more polarized and divided than ever. Into this wounded situation, our Catholic faith has a healing remedy to offer: the gift of wisdom. When the Lord offers to give King Solomon anything the monarch desires, he requests “an understanding heart” (1 Kings 3:9). In his polarized situation, the King doesn’t ask for power to defeat his enemies. He asks for a wise and understanding heart to judge right from wrong. This wisdom is elevated and fulfilled in Jesus who teaches us to bring forth “both the new and the old” (Matthew 13:52).

In our fractured society, we Christians should stop pining for political power to crush our perceived enemies. That often just makes things worse. Rather, it’s much more useful to beg for the grace of true wisdom which transcends both sides of the aisle. This places us in a fresh position from which we can help our culture see what is true and good all across the ideological spectrum. Sometimes we’ll look like liberals (e.g., in our love for the poor and marginalized) and other times like conservatives (e.g., in our sexual ethics and views on religious freedom). Because this wisdom is free from ideological narrowness, it will help to heal these painful fractures. Lord Jesus, this week, pour into us your healing wisdom.

— Father John Muir



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Falling Action and the Field

In my freshman year of high school, I was fairly miserable at identifying the five essential elements of plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution).

To this day, the only reason I remember anything about them at all is because my English teacher used episodes of Scooby Doo to illustrate the different elements. Falling action vs. climax is where I got tripped up, the two are similar, and only discernible if you examine them relative to each other.

Every Scooby Doo episode has a big dramatic sequence (the climax) where the ghost/monster/zombie chases The Gang through the haunted mansion. The falling action is what comes immediately after: searching for her glasses that she lost during the chase, Velma bumps into a pulley wheel disguised behind a tapestry and realizes the ghost/monster/zombie is actually the janitor in a costume, hooked up to an elaborate cable system jerry-rigged throughout the mansion. Meddling kids.

I confused the two because, to me, they are *both* equally dramatic: the chase and the fallout.

It occurs to me that, if you look at the course of salvation history, we are living in the falling action, not the climax. Take the parable of the treasure in the field: we have found the treasure. But we haven't yet bought the field.

I often make the mistake of thinking I am still lost in the climax, searching for the truth. But I know exactly where the truth is.

What I need to be concerned with is this: am I doing what I need to do to buy the field?

"Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them. The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple." — Psalm 119

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do priests kiss the altar at the start of Mass?

Answer:

Our churches and chapels are filled with symbols. We might think of the more common symbols (like the crucifix, statues, stained-glass windows, vestment color and altar cloths) as well as major symbols (such as the paschal candle and the baptismal font). But there are some things that we can take for granted in our sacred spaces, because unfortunately, they seem to just be part of the building, including three of the main symbols of our liturgy: the ambo (lectern), the chair for the priest celebrant, and the altar.

These three objects are placed in a specially designated area called the sanctuary. They are the places where the Word of God is proclaimed, where the priest prays and presides at the celebration, and where the bread and wine are offered by the priest during the Eucharistic Prayer. Although each of these objects is sacred because of the role they play in our worship, the altar holds a special place. In a document containing the rules and instructions for the Mass — the "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" — we read: "The altar on which the Sacrifice of the Cross is made present under sacramental signs is also the table of the Lord to which the People of God is called together to participate in the Mass, as well as the center of the thanksgiving that is accomplished throughout the Eucharist" (no. 296).

One of the ways that we recognize the importance of the altar is when the priest and deacon kiss the altar at the beginning of Mass. Kissing is an ancient act of devotion. Remember, we also kiss the cross on Good Friday, and the deacon or priest kisses the "Book of the Gospels" after the Gospel is proclaimed. This act of devotion reminds us that the altar is a symbol of Jesus, the "living stone" (see 1 Peter 2:4), the foundation stone of our faith. It is a symbol gesture, but it is a powerful reminder of the One on whom our faith is built and in whose name we gather as the "household of faith" (see Galatians 6:10).

To learn more, see the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" (no. 1382-1383).

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

- Mt 13:44

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

The young King Solomon asked the Lord in prayer for a wise and discerning heart, and it was granted to him. What gift would you ask from the Lord?

Second Reading

Paul teaches the believers in Rome that God calls us “according to his purpose.” Do you have a sense your purpose in life? If so, what is it?

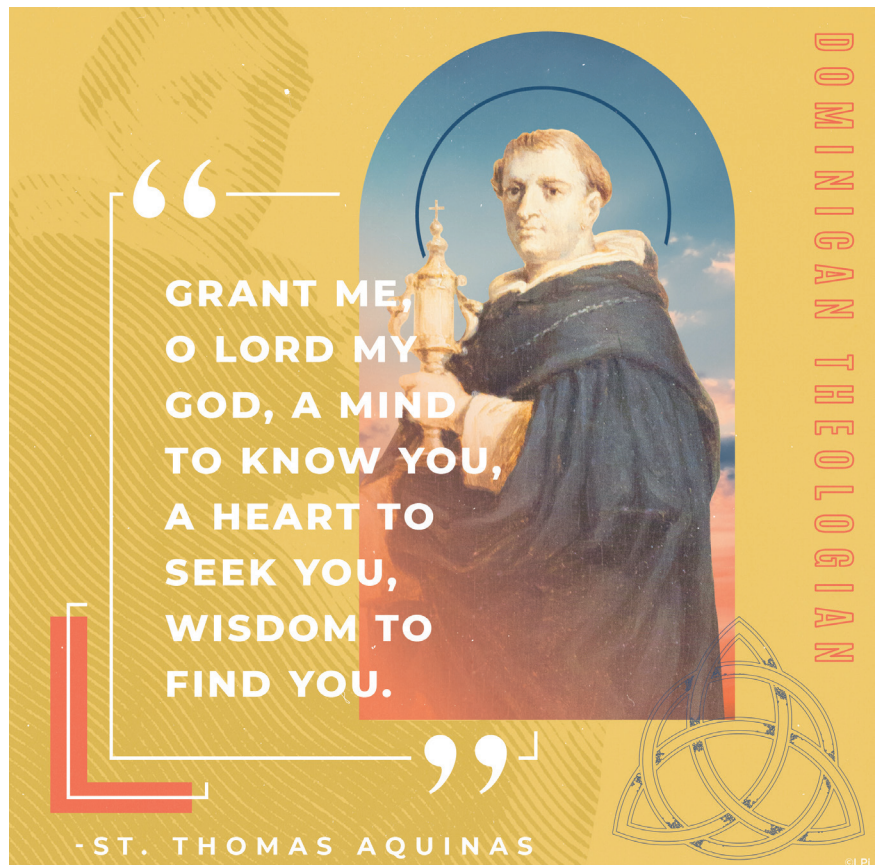
Gospel Reading

Jesus offers several kingdom of heaven parables to the disciples: buried treasure and fine pearls (a priceless discovery) and the large catch of fish (an invitation to all). With these parables, what do you think Jesus is teaching us about the kingdom of heaven?



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A photograph of a person with a backpack walking away from the camera down a long, arched corridor of a grand building. The corridor is lined with tall, fluted columns and features a series of vaulted arches on the ceiling. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a sense of depth and grandeur. The text "LORD, I LOVE THY COMMANDS." is overlaid in large, blue, serif capital letters, and "PSALM 119" is overlaid in smaller, blue, serif capital letters below it.

LORD, I LOVE THY COMMANDS.

PSALM 119

“Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Do you understand all these things?” They answered, “Yes.” - Mt 13:49-51

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Prayer

God, help me to love your kingdom more than the things I have.

Mission for the Week

Put God's kingdom first.
Read a Bible story every morning.

Sharing the Gospel

Your toys can break.
Your books can tear.
Your clothes can shrink and stain. Things don't last forever. The kingdom of heaven does last forever. It is like a treasure. Heaven is worth more than anything you own. In both stories, the person who found the treasure sold everything else just to be a part of God's kingdom.

Now color the picture!



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

KINGDOM
HEAVEN
TREASURE

HIDDEN
FIELD
FOUND

PEARLS
SOLD
BOUGHT

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