

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle



December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Sacramental Emergencies: 208-572-5251 *The church may be open for prayer during office hours upon request.*

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

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation. (Psalm 85)*

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

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

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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

On the cover *Appearance of Christ to the People* Alexander Ivanov, 1806-1858, Tretyakov Gallery, Public Domain

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

360-458-3031

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Welcome to St. Columban

Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY December 11 St. Damasus I, Pope
Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

TUESDAY December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
Daily Mass 9:00AM + In Mem: Fr. Marian Roth RIP Church
Winter Clothes Closet 6:00PM-8:00PM Small Hall
OLOG Celebration 5:30PM Parish Hall
hosted by the Spanish Prayer Group

WEDNESDAY December 13 St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
Mass 9:00AM + In Mem: Fr. David Prebula RIP Church
Bible Study 10:00AM St. Peter
Winter Clothes Closet 2-4 p.m. Small Hall
Youth Ministry 6:30PM Youth Space

THURSDAY December 14 St. John of the Cross, Priest & Dr
Daily Mass 9:00AM + In Mem: Fr. Aaron Bold RIP Church
Winter Clothes Closet 6:00PM-8:00PM Small Hall
Choir Practice 6:00PM Church
Christmas Choir Practice 6:30PM Church
Bible Study 6:30PM Small Hall

FRIDAY December 15
Daily Mass 9:00AM + In Mem: Fr. Terrance Wager Church
Homeschool Enrichment 9:45AM RE Bldg

SATURDAY December 16
Confession 3:30PM Church
Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00PM Int.: Pro Populo Church

SUNDAY December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent
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
11:45AM Altar Server Practice Church
Knights of Columbus Breakfast Large Hall
Holy Land Olive Wood Craft Sale Large Hall

NO Religious Education Classes (Elementary & Confirmation)

Please be aware of email scams!

Official emails will only originate from our staff emails with our domain saintcolumbanyelm.org or from flocknote.com or ccbchurch.com. We will never directly solicit for non-official donations or items to purchase by email or text. Donations and fundraisers will always be announced during Mass.

Announcements

Holy Land Handicrafts coming next weekend Dec. 16-17

We are having olive wood carvings available to purchase after all Masses at St. Columban. Proceeds support Christian Catholic families in the Holy Land since it is the major source of income for them there. More than 75 families in Bethlehem hand carved these items. They are very beautiful and unique items-Nativities, Crucifixes, Rosaries, Statues. The Christian population has dropped from 22% to less than 2% in the past two decades. And this is a way to support them to stay there.

Altar Server Practice

Practice for altar servers for the Christmas Masses will be held Sunday December 17th after the 10:30AM Mass.

The Daughters of Mary are hosting their annual collection of gift cards for those in need this Christmas. Choose a star from the Giving Tree and return it to the church by Tuesday Dec. 12th.

Please be sure to attach the star to the gift card or write the amount on the gift card and place them in the white donation box in front of the tree. Our local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will distribute the gift cards to those families who have applied for assistance on Dec. 17; forms are available in the narthex.

TONIGHT! Free Community Concert Dec 10

Join us for a free Community Christmas Concert on Sunday December 10th at 7PM held at the Latter Day Saints Church 10423 Clark Rd SE Yelm. Come enjoy some great Christmas music performed by church choirs from throughout the Yelm area including our own St. Columban Choir. Please come show your support!

Winter Clothes Closet is open Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00-8:00PM and Wednesdays from 2:00PM-4:00PM. Donations of Coats, Knit Caps, Gloves, Warm socks, Scarves, Raincoats, and Rain boots are always welcome.



Masses for the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Sunday, December 24* Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. St. Peter; 7:30 p.m. St. Columban (Caroling begins 7 p.m.)

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day: 12:00 a.m. Midnight St. Columban (Caroling begins 11:30 p.m.); 9:00 a.m. St. Columban (Caroling begins 8:30 a.m.)

*No 8 a.m. Mass at St. Peter for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Connect with us

WEBSITE
saintcolumbanyelm.org

LIVESTREAM
youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm

ONLINE GIVING
pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm

Parish Staff

Fr. Brian Thompson In Office: Tu-Th/AM
Priest Administrator
frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org x6

Jennifer Langham In Office: M-Thu
PA for Admin, Liturgy, & Music
jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org x1

Matthew Tolar In Office: M-Tu/AM
PA for Admin, Bookkeeping & Records
matthew@saintcolumbanyelm.org x4

360-458-3031

Gabriela Makinster In Office: Tu-Th
Elementary & Adult Faith Formation,
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org x2
*habla Español

Chad Lucero
Youth Ministry & Confirmation
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org x3

Steven Slater St. Columban Maintenance
steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino St. Peter Maintenance
gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org

A Word from Father Thompson



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

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

I very much recommend the Liturgy of the Hours to you and your families if you want to grow in your relationship with God this coming liturgical year, as well as embrace the spirit of priestly prayer I mentioned previously. The Hours are Liturgy, the official and public prayer of the Church, even when said on your couch or in your car.

Now, I will admit that the book form of the Hours is pretty bulky, and while there are abbreviated versions which forgo some content (usually the feasts of saints, Matins, Midday, Compline), it is also quite easy just to get a phone or tablet app (which is what I usually use) that give you everything conveniently (iBreviary and DivineOffice.org are two very good ones). Personally, I recommend DivineOffice.org (either the website or their app), as the prayers are available as audio recordings alongside the text (an aid to learning if you are new at it, and/or convenience if you pray while you commute, work, exercise, etc.). I (and the fathers of Vatican II) cannot recommend the Hours enough.

Happy Advent,

F. Thompson

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer prayed from Nov. 30 until Christmas Eve

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Song of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

*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*



FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND*

Vivienne Hayden,
Stan Villadelgado, Robert Fisher,
Tina Wilson, Grace Dvorak,
Marcella Thornton, Tina Wilson,
Catherine Wilds.

FOR THE DECEASED

Cecilia Joyce and all the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them

FOR OUR EXTRAORDINARY INTENTIONS

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

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE POPE FOR DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities, we pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. *Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...*

A PRAYER FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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

*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.

Ministries & Events

Parish Directory

Altar Society meets every Thursday after Daily Mass to clean the church.

Daughters of Mary

All women of the Parish are invited.

daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Knights of Columbus

Council 17152 / Assembly 3947

kofc@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Liturgical Ministries

Greeters/Ushers, Altar Servers, Readers

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Prayer Groups

Rosary Group Mondays 7 p.m., Church

Spanish Group Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Hall

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

360-458-1904

St. Peter's Circle meets at St. Peter

Mission Tenino

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)

Financial Stewardship Report

Week of 11.26.23

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection	\$3,324.00	\$668.00
(Cash & Envelopes)		
Online Giving	\$1,608.00	\$145.00
Net	(\$868.00)	(\$187.00)
Parish Solidarity	\$0.00	\$0.00
St Vincent DePaul	\$110.00	\$0.00
Sacramentals	\$41.00	\$0.00
(Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)		
Flowers	\$0.00	\$17.00
Building Fund	\$40.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Human Development	\$0.00	\$0.00

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



Prepare ...

the way of the Lord ... our hearts ... our ways

Advent 2023

Continued from Page 2.

Parish Ministries Announcements

Altar Society will be decorating for Christmas on Thursday, Dec. 21 after the 9 a.m. Daily Mass. Many hands make light work! Join them to help beautify the Church in time for Christmas.

Join the Daughters of Mary Next Meeting is Tuesday January 23rd at 6PM in the Parish Hall. Bring your favorite snack to share!

Knights of Columbus Next Assembly Meeting is Monday, Dec. 19, 6PM, Next Council Meeting Wednesday, Dec 20, 5:30PM. Join us for breakfast next Sunday after the 10:30 AM Mass in the Parish Hall! Everybody eats free but donations are encouraged to help offset costs.

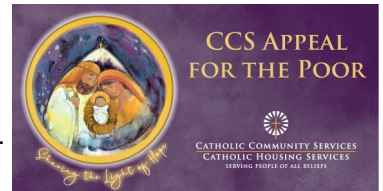
Join our **Spanish Prayer Group** as they host a celebration for **Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tuesday December 12th at 5:30PM** in the Parish Hall and **Las Posadas Saturday December 23rd at 6:00PM** also in the Parish Hall.

Outside Events & Notices

Sacred Heart Lacey will host Simbang Gabi Masses. This is a Filipino tradition of attending nine consecutive Masses right before Christmas Day. The Schedule is Friday Dec. 15, 6PM; Sat. Dec. 16, 5PM; Dec. 17-22, 6PM nightly; and Sat. Dec. 23 5PM at Sacred Heart Church in Lacey.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Retreats: "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning." Don't wait – take time now for your marriage by participating on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: Feb 9-11, 2024 at LaQuinta in Tacoma, Mar 8-10, 2024, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, Apr 26-28, 2024 in Everett. Visit www.wme.org or contact Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321

Appeal for the Poor- This weekend is the Catholic Community Services of Western Washington Appeal for the Poor. Gifts support Catholic Community Services/ Catholic Housing Services in our community. You can donate online at www.ccsww.org/donatenow



Project Rachel—Hope and Healing After Abortion English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 projectrachel@ccsww.org If you are suffering from the experience of an abortion, you do not need to walk alone. We offer 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

New Parishioners

Are you registered? Registration ensures that we know you are here, makes us aware of your needs and gifts, but most of all it helps us to welcome you to the parish! Stop by and introduce yourselves! The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday, 9:30am to 2:00pm or call us for an appointment on Fridays. You may also register online at saintcolumbanyelm.org/

Faith Formation

Elementary Religious Education

Second Sunday of Advent –Peace-

Advent means coming. Christmas is the celebration of Jesus coming into the world as a little baby. He came to show us how to love, and during this advent season, we are especially called to love our families. Parents discuss with your children the following questions.

What do you do in school/homeschool? You learn, you are taught how to read, you have fun with your friends, etc.

In our family, we learn how to love when we make sacrifices, share with our brothers and sisters, do good deeds for each other, and when we show love even when we don't feel like it. This is how we shine the love of Christ in our homes. It's like the Vital Verse says, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Jesus is coming, and we want to be prepared for him. Let us start by loving those who are closest to us: our family.

Who is the most joy filled person that you know? Everyone can have a chance to answer.

Christmas is a season of JOY! How can we be filled with joy like these people that we just mentioned? The Psalm reminds us that first we need to recognize the great things that God has done for us, and that will help fill us with joy.

Jesus is coming, and we want to be prepared for him. Last week, we started by loving those who are closest to us: our family. During this week, let's remember to count all the blessings that God has so graciously given us, so that we can be filled with joy.

Kids, what are some things your mom and dad do that you are grateful for?

Note for parents: Remind your kids throughout the week how grateful you are for them, and how much joy they bring to you. Take a few minutes everyday to listen to them laugh, not because it's loud and you want them to be quieter, but simply for the joy that they are bringing to your home.

For more regarding this article and some fun chats visit Catchat.ca Links will be available on our social media channels and in the Ebulletin.

Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)/Adult Faith Formation

Classes meet Tuesdays 6:30-8pm in the Religious Education building. These classes are open to all adult learners and to those seeking the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Next Class is December 12th and we will be discussing Jesus and the Trinity. Mr. Travis Beyer will be our instructor. He will help us see how Jesus reveals the Trinity to his Disciples, the centrality of the Trinity as relationship (Love) and the distinction between the Second Person of the Trinity and Jesus.

Confirmation

Both first year and returning second year confirmation candidates meet at 9-10:15am in the new Youth Space on Sundays. Parents, please ensure you or our candidate is signs in for attending Mass.

Youth Ministry

For all students grades 6-12. Activities, retreats, bible Studies, and social event times vary throughout the year. Additional fees may be required for activities held outside the parish.

Parents of middle school and high school students! Opt-in for Youth Ministry emails at this link: saintcolumbanyelm.org/ym and you will be sent an email to RSVP for upcoming events.

Next Youth Night: Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Next Service Saturday (Christmas Party): Saturday, December 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Mrs. Makinster
Elementary & Adult Faith
Formation,
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org
360-458-3031 x2 *habla Español*

All Year 2 First
Communion families
SAVE THE DATE:

December 10 we will
have a **mandatory**
parent meeting during
class time.

At St.
Columban, we
provide an
opportunity for
children and
youth to learn
about their Catholic faith and
grow in their relationship with
Jesus Christ through study,
prayer, and community service.



Mr. Lucero
Youth Ministry &
Confirmation



chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org
360-458-3031 x2 x3

Our Youth Ministry Values

1. Our primary identity is as beloved sons and beloved daughters of God, no matter what. You are here because God wanted you here. Willing our existence, God create each of us out of love to love and for love.
2. We glorify God by striving to fully live our state in life. God gave us families and communities where we learn our faith, pray for each other's needs, and build virtue together as members of his Church, the Body of Christ.
3. As pilgrims on a journey together we are always on mission. We attend Holy Mass and receive the sacraments to better endure the trials of life, train us to be of service to one another, and to prepare us for eternal life in Heaven.

Living our Faith

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

John the Baptist is "more than a prophet." In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the "voice" of the Consoler who is coming. As the Spirit of truth will also do, John "came to bear witness to the light." In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfills the longing of the angels. "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God. . . . Behold, the Lamb of God." (CCC 719)

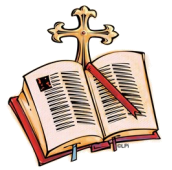


Advent Week Two

Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Readings

First Reading: *A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!* (Is 40:3)

The prophet Isaiah offers comfort and hope to the Israelites who were captive in Babylon in proclaiming that the glory of the Lord is returning to Israel. Do you have family or friends who could use words of encouragement from you?



Second Reading: *We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.* (1 Pt 1:13)

Saint Peter speaks of being at peace while we wait for the promise of new heavens and a new earth when Christ returns. What gives you peace of mind these days?

Gospel: *John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.* (Mk 16:4)

Fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah, John the Baptist proclaimed the arrival of Jesus, "one mightier than I... (who) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Where do you sense the Holy Spirit present in your life?

This week on FORMED

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit 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

The Spirituality of Advent Dr. Tim Gray discusses the spirituality of Advent and the joy of waiting for Christ.

Our Lady of Guadalupe | Littlest Saints A boy, his sneakers, and a giant sombrero take up the story of St. Juan Diego's miraculous encounter with the Blessed Virgin Mary. How far will Our Lady ask him to reach out in faith, trust, and confidence?

Yakhal/Hope | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project In the Bible people who have hope are very different from optimists! In this video, we'll explore how biblical hope looks to God's character alone as a basis for trusting that the future will be better than the present.



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
Reflections, select clip art and content are ©LPI, our bulletin publisher.

For Sunday Advent reflections by our bishops, inspirational videos and more Advent resources, go to archseattle.org/advent.



Faith Retriever Podcast

Take a listen to the Faith Retriever podcast and learn about free resources, reflections, traditions and more to strengthen your family's experience of Advent. *Faith Retriever, Fetching the Good News* with Deacon Eric Paige, which airs on Sacred Heart Radio, helps you deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ by connecting you with the local church here in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

From the Archdiocese: Partners in the Gospel Update



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

What do you hope for?

Here's what your fellow Catholics wrote online during the public consultation phase:

- Hope that the younger people will be motivated to serve the church and answer the call to the priesthood/religious life.
- We hope it serves as a wake-up call about the difficult temporal realities the Church faces in Western Washington in the present context. We hope there is genuine renewal through the process, though we admit to a certain trepidation that it will be disruptive to many people's habits of Church attendance and the routines which support a life of faith.
- My hope is that we focus on the key elements of our faith — love God and love one another. Some of the wrangling over the less important part of our faith serve to distract us from loving one another as Christ loved us.

**Sign up for the Partners
Update Newsletter at
archseattle.org/partners**



Thank you to everyone who provided input and feedback on the parish families during the recent public consultation phase of Partners in the Gospel.

More than 800 people provided comments online, while nearly 140 parishes and missions hosted in-person sessions in several languages including English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Q'anjob'al, a Mayan language indigenous to Guatemala. In total, the Archdiocese of Seattle received more than 700 input session reports resulting in more than 3,000 pages of input.

Overall, the sessions were fruitful. Staff, lay leaders and parishioners listened to the Holy Spirit and provided their input on their proposed parish families.

Over the past few weeks, all collected input - by notetakers during the in-person sessions and from the online feedback form - was sorted by parish family. Each set of parish family data was read by two people who wrote a synthesis including any proposed changes, concerns and hopes for the new parish family.

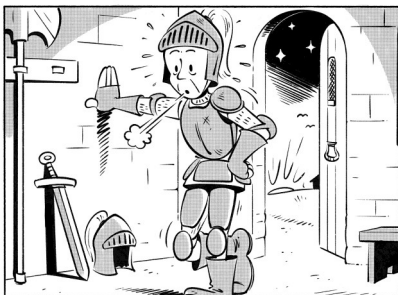
This synthesized reports, along with the raw input data, were used by the Oversight Committee, the Presbyteral Council and the Partners in the Gospel team to inform the next draft of proposed parish families. Specifically, of the 61 proposed parish families, 25 were recommended for changes based on this recent consultation.

Public Input Phase results in changes to 25 draft parish families

There will be a second round of consultation with staff and parishioners with these 25 proposed parish families before a final recommendation is submitted to Archbishop Etienne at the end of the year. The final parish families are expected to be announced in early 2024.

A Parish Family Feedback Report of public input was released on November 16, 2023 with a letter from Archbishop Etienne, thanking everyone who participated in the public input process. Read Archbishop Etienne's letter and Parish Family Feedback Report online at archseattle.org/partners.

"Why was St. George tired?"



"He worked the knight shift."



St. George is the patron saint of England, he was a soldier and officer in the Roman army who was martyred for his faith in Jesus.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Father Flood © LPI



CCS/CHS 2023 APPEAL FOR THE POOR



THANK YOU
TO PARISHES AND SUPPORTERS WHO
SHARE THE LIGHT OF HOPE
WITH TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NEIGHBORS SERVED
BY 190 CCS/CHS PROGRAMS IN
WESTERN WASHINGTON

2023 CCS/CHS SOUTHWEST PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The **Family Housing Network** partnered with the City of Tacoma to create 20 Safe Parking spaces on the former Holy Rosary campus. Guests who live in their vehicles are invited to use the hygiene facilities, laundry, and 24/7 case management on the pathway to stability and permanent housing. Area parishes provide meals and other support.
- ★ In Olympia, a partnership with Providence St. Peter Hospital allows CCS to convert two **Drexel House** shelter beds to medical respite care for medically fragile elderly and disabled guests.
- ★ CCSWW received \$2.7 million from **USDA's Farm Worker Relief Program** through **Catholic Charities USA**, one of 14 nonprofit organizations and one tribal entity selected nationwide to provide direct grants to help agricultural households impacted by COVID-19, including residents at CHS housing in Lewis, Clark, and Cowlitz Counties.
- ★ Network Builder Isabel Cisneros Rueda, a member of the Archdiocesan Mental Health Committee, was the first to receive and subsequently provide "safeTALK" suicide prevention training in Spanish to the Latino community in our region.
- ★ CCS SW now provides **Housing and Essential Needs** (HEN), a housing stability program funded by the state, in Thurston County under the seasoned leadership of the HEN team in Kitsap County.
- ★ In its first year of operation, **Bertha's I and Bertha's II**, 88 new shelter units serving veterans and older people experiencing homelessness in Vancouver, helped more than 80 residents move on to permanent housing.
- ★ **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** (SSVF) program has helped over 400 veterans and veteran families at risk for homelessness find housing stability through **Rapid Rehousing** and other CCS homelessness prevention programs in Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Thurston, and Wahkiakum counties.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES

OF WESTERN WASHINGTON
CCSWW.ORG



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES

SHARING THE LIGHT OF HOPE ACROSS WESTERN WASHINGTON

COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN

CCS/CHS actively participates in the **Communities of Concern Commission**, a statewide coalition of Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color in urban and rural areas disproportionately affected by poverty.

FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CCS FBH is a recognized leader and pioneer among state behavioral agencies. This year, FBH hosted child welfare experts and agency leaders from Japan seeking to learn how to better address and prevent child abuse and neglect using programs like our **Wraparound with Intensive Services (WiSe)**. 95% of the thousands of children and youth we served last year with intensive mental health treatment, integrated pediatric outpatient services, crisis response, and de-escalation remained safely with their families.

IMMIGRATION

Catholic Charities USA awarded CCSWW two grants in 2023 to provide asylum-seekers in our region with help and support. A \$25,000 grant provided direct financial assistance to clients of CCS' Catholic Immigration Legal Services (CILS). CCSWW divided the second grant of \$350,000 between CILS and 41 parishes providing emergency services and supplies to refugees in their communities.

LONG TERM CARE (LTC)

CCS Long Term Care (LTC). Last year, we served 4,600 homebound elders and others with disabilities, helping to keep people in their homes in all 19 counties of western Washington. This year, thanks in part to CCS LTC advocacy, more low-income clients are benefiting from "the most significant anti-poverty change in Long Term Care in many years:" the increase of their personal needs allowance from 100% to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

NETWORK BUILDERS

Every year, **CCS Network Builders** work regionally to support service ministries in our deaneries and parishes, connecting the faithful to the people we serve. This year, CCS Network Builders are finding ways to support parish service ministries as they discern the path ahead through the Partners in the Gospel process.

PREPARES (PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT)

One hundred four parish partners have joined the CCSWW **Pregnancy and Parenting Support Program**, offering vulnerable families the promise of support and assistance from pregnancy to their child's fifth birthday, including food, clothing, diapers, parenting classes, and referrals to social services. This year, parish volunteers offered special events including community baby showers for high school Teen Parent programs, and participation in Welcome Circle Family Days for refugees.



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 Builder:

Isabel Cisneros Rueda at

IsabelCR@ccsww.org

Nick Leider at

NickL@ccsww.org or

DONATE:

Visit ccsww.org/donate to make cash or stock gifts or leave a legacy gift through your estate.

STAY INFORMED:

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

SHARE ON SOCIALS:

For more frequent updates, follow us @ccsww





SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

Psalm:

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

Second Reading:

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

Gospel:

"I baptize with water;
but there is one among you whom you do not
recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
(Jn 1:23)

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Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's
life — someone who prepares His way, who calls
out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist
in your life. Pray you can be this person for
someone else.

Observances for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of
the Church

Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve



Saint of the week

Blessed Maria Franziska Schervier was a German Catholic nun who devoted her life to serving the poor and the sick. She founded the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen and began chapters in the United States where she and her sisters also founded a number of hospitals.

Prayer

Almighty, just and merciful God, Blessed Frances Schervier spent her whole life giving back to You all the gifts that You had given her. She cared for the poor and the sick and radiated Your loving presence to all that she met. We beseech You now to glorify your servant, Frances. Give her the honor of sainthood if it is in accordance with Your will.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Prayer Source: http://franciscansisters-en.sfp-poor.org/images/stories/2016/PDF_2016/pr_canoniz_en.pdf)

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday:

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
(Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday:

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56

Saturday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and
14/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,
27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: **"There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him."** The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

— *Father John Muir*



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the “men in white coats” came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, “It's okay. I see it, too.”

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

*“He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.”
— John 1:8*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

Answer:

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: “Our Father who art in heaven...” In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — “Give us, this day, our daily bread” — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, “Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”

John answered them,
“I baptize with water;
but there is one among
you whom you do not
recognize, the one who
is coming after me,
whose sandal strap
I am not worthy to
untie.”

- Jn 1:26-27

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Isaiah rejoices over God's call in his life and the promise of restoration for all nations. As we continue in the season of Advent, what has brought some joy to you or your family?

Second Reading

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be people of prayer and joy, open to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Is there anything recently that has brought you joy?

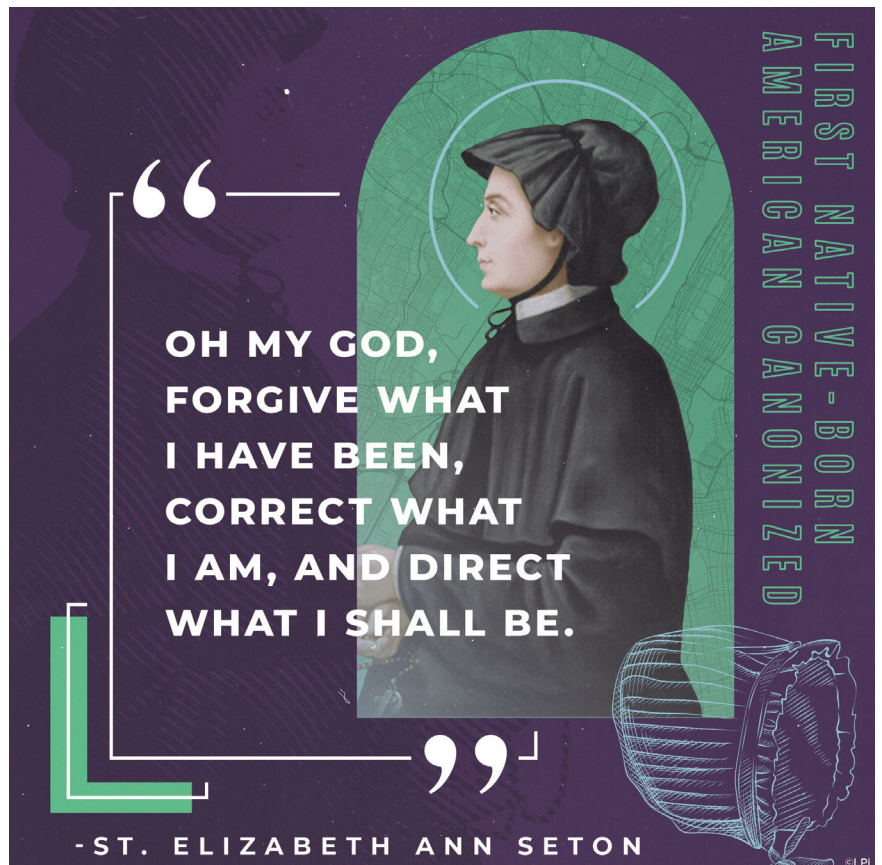
Gospel Reading

John presents the religious leaders of Jerusalem as puzzled and uncertain as to who John the Baptist was. How do you approach friends or family in your life who are confused or questioning the faith?



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My
soul
rejoices
in my
God.

LUKE 1



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A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. - Jn 1:6-8

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Prayer

Jesus, help me to be different because I love you.

Mission for the Week

Ask a friend if he or she is ready to meet Jesus.

Sharing the Gospel

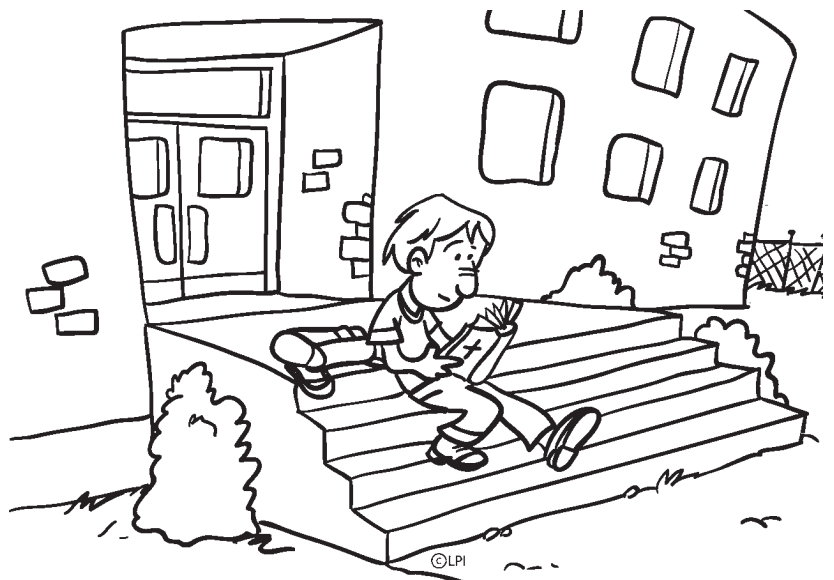
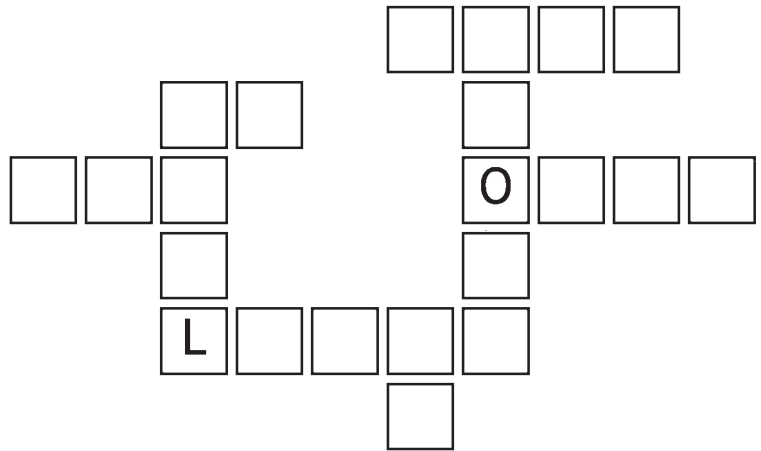
People noticed John the Baptist. He loved God, and he used words honestly. He really wanted to help people change and grow closer to God. He stood out as someone really different and special. People came from all around to hear him and learn about him. When people asked him questions, he pointed them to Jesus.

Now color the picture!

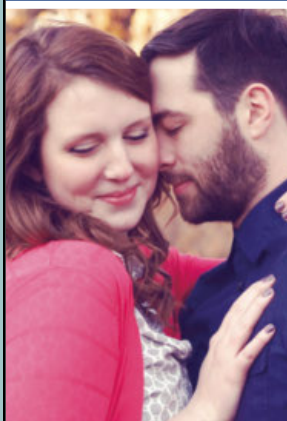


Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

He came only to tell about the light.



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