

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

# ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Archdiocese of Seattle

December 17, 2023

Third 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)

**Christmas Eve:** Dec. 24 7:30PM (Caroling begins 7 PM)

**Christmas Day:** Dec. 25 Midnight 12:00 AM (Caroling begins 11:30PM)  
9:00 AM (Caroling begins 8:30 AM)

**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

**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.

## St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

**Sunday Mass** 8:00 AM

**No Sunday Mass Dec. 24**

**Christmas Eve:** Dec. 24 5:00 PM

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.

*Sunday Readings are from the Lectionary Cycle B*

**Entrance Antiphon:** *Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. Let your kindness be known to all men, the Lord is near. Be anxious over nothing, but in every prayer make your petitions known to God.*

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

**Responsorial Psalm:** *My soul rejoices in my God.*

**2nd Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Gospel Acclamation:** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.*

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Communion Antiphon:** *Say to the faint of heart, be strong and do not fear. Behold our God will come, and he will save us.*

# Welcome to St. Columban

## Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

### MONDAY December 18

Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

### TUESDAY December 19

Daily Mass 9:00AM Church

Winter Clothes Closet 6:00PM-8:00 p.m. Small Hall

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30 PM Hall

### WEDNESDAY December 20

Mass 9:00AM Int: Deborah Baker Church

Bible Study 10:00AM St. Peter

Winter Clothes Closet 2-4 p.m. Small Hall

Youth Ministry 6:30 p.m. Youth Space

### THURSDAY December 21

St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Daily Mass 9:00AM 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 22

Daily Mass 9:00AM Church

### SATURDAY December 23 St. John of Kanty, Priest

Confession 3:30PM Church

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

### SUNDAY December 24 4th Sunday of Advent

**NO 8:00AM SUNDAY MASS AT ST. PETER**

No Religious Education Classes (Elementary & Confirmation)

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

## Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 5:00 PM St. Peter

Christmas Eve Mass 7:30 p.m. (Caroling begins 7 p.m.) Church

### MONDAY December 25 NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Midnight Mass 12:00 a.m. Church

(Caroling starts at 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Mass will be by candlelight and will have chanted Latin Mass parts)

Christmas Day Mass 9:00 a.m. (Caroling starts 8:30 a.m.) Church

Parish Office Closed

*I am* the voice of one crying out in the desert, "make straight the way of the Lord."

John 1:6-8, 19-28



We proclaim the Roman Catholic faith to the communities of McKenna, Nisqually, Rainier, Roy, Tenino, and Yelm in southeast Thurston and southwest Pierce counties.

Our community has grown since its origins at the former St. Margaret Mary Church in McKenna, and our current church in Yelm is named for the Irish-born 6th century missionary to Europe St. Columbanus of Bobbio. We have also been present in Tenino since 1891 through St. Peter Mission, named for the apostle and first pope.



## Please be aware of email scams!

Official emails will only originate from our staff emails with our domain [saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:saintcolumbanyelm.org) or from [flocknote.com](http://flocknote.com), or [ccbchurch.com](http://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

**Altar Server Practice** for the Christmas Masses will be held today, December 17th, after the 10:30AM Mass.

**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. Please remember that all donations should be

Announcements continue on page 4.

## Connect with us

### WEBSITE

[saintcolumbanyelm.org](http://saintcolumbanyelm.org)

### LIVESTREAM

[youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm](https://youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm)

### ONLINE GIVING

[pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm](https://pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm)

## Parish Staff

Fr. Brian Thompson In Office: Tu-Th/AM  
Priest Administrator  
[frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org) x6

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

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

360-458-3031

Gabriela Makinster In Office: Tu-Th  
Elementary & Adult Faith Formation,  
[gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org) x2  
\*habla Español

Chad Lucero  
Youth Ministry & Confirmation  
[chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org) x3

Steven Slater St. Columban Maintenance  
[steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

Gilberto Espino St. Peter Maintenance  
[gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

## A Word from Father Thompson

Nothing too lofty or (directly) theological this week, but as Christmas approaches I thought I might share something regarding finding a happy and refreshing way of approaching family celebrations of Christmas. When I was a small child, my grandparents had an expectation that their adult children would maintain the Christmas traditions of their youth, an all-night affair requiring the bulk of Christmas Eve though to Christmas morning: Gifts, pepper salad, Midnight Mass, Ravioli feast (my mother's side of the family is of Italian extraction), etc. Then, of course, there were expectations on my Dad's side of the family on Christmas Day... While it was good to spend time with family and enjoying traditions, it left my parents exhausted in a lot of ways. Plus, it meant bundling and transporting kids all around the county to fulfill all those expectations.

At some point, life got in the way and the Christmas Eve routine stopped happening. In retrospect, my mother recognized it was for the best, and we began to keep a similar tradition, but just among my immediate family in our own home. We kept doing that the rest of the time I was growing up.

When my siblings began to marry and started having their children (and I began working on Christmas), my mother decided that while our traditional Italian Ravioli feast and gift exchange was precious, she did not want Christmas to be a stressor for my siblings as it had been for her and her sisters. So, what my family has done for the past several years has been to gather all the siblings and niblings at my parents' house and keep our old family traditions, but a little early, after Sunday Mass on one of the Sundays of Advent. My siblings and their kids are then free to develop and to keep their own traditions in their own families on Christmas itself without feeling like they have to truck the kids around on the day itself to see various grandparents, aunts, and uncles when the kids just want to enjoy their gifts and the parents want to rejoice in their children.

Come to think of it, I think this approach to celebrating Christmas across generations is pretty theologically profound. My parents, in their backing off to leave Christmas free for my siblings and their children reflects that my parents really understand the nature of Matrimony. The very purpose of Matrimony is the creation of a new and autonomous family. Of course, the spouses still are and will always be connected to their family of origin, but the family they have created by the Sacrament of Matrimony deserves priority over even the parent-child bond (...this is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife...). My mom trying to strike this balance between bringing the extended family together (10 siblings, plus their spouses, plus about a dozen niblings and counting) and allowing each nuclear family to have their own lives was a very wise idea, and very much embodies the Christian theology of Matrimony.

In Christ



### 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.

### FOR THE DECEASED

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](mailto:daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org)



### Knights of Columbus

Council 17152 / Assembly 3947

[kofc@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:kofc@saintcolumbanyelm.org)



### Liturgical Ministries

*Greeters/Ushers, Altar Servers, Readers*

[parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto: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](mailto:stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

### St. Columban Parish Finance Council

Joseph Judge (St Columban), Mari Evans (St Peter)

## Financial Stewardship Report

Dec. 2 & 3

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection	\$5,351.00	\$1,083.00
(Cash & Envelopes)		
Online Giving	\$1,998.34	\$480.00
Net	\$1,549.34	\$563.00
<b>Special Funds</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
St Vincent DePaul	\$435.00	\$0.00
Sacramentals	\$36.00	\$0.00
(Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)		
Flowers	\$40.00	\$10.00
Building Fund	\$15.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$100.00	\$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](mailto:jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org)



Continued from Page 2.

of the highest quality, something you would wear. Donation boxes will be located in the narthex.

## Parish Ministries Announcements

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

**Knights of Columbus** Next Assembly Meeting is Monday, Dec. 19th , 6PM, Next Council Meeting Wednesday, Dec 20th, 5:30PM

## Outside Events & Notices

**Young Adults!** Join in fellowship this Tuesday, **December 19 6pm** at Chapman's Cider in Tumwater (8024 River DR. SE #303, Tumwater). Come enjoy food and fellowship and a talk on the Spiritual Exercises of the Saints. Hosted by Theophany Catholic Young Adults of St. George Olympia.

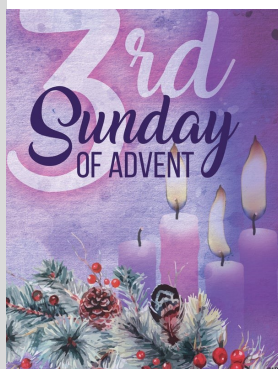
**Sacred Heart Lacey will host Simbang Gabi Masses.** This is a Filipino tradition of attending nine consecutive Masses right before Christmas Day. Masses continue this week: Dec. 17-22, 6PM nightly and Sat. Dec. 23 5PM at Sacred Heart Church in Lacey.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Retreats:** "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord.'" Whose voice are you listening to, the world or God? Invite God into your marriage by participating in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: Feb 9-11, 2024 at LaQuinta in Tacoma, WA, Mar 8-10, 2024, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, WA, Apr 26-28, 2024 in Everett, WA. . Visit [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321

**Project Rachel**—Hope and Healing After Abortion English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 [projectrachel@ccsww.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccsww.org) 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/](http://saintcolumbanyelm.org/)



Give Online using Pushpay  
St .Columban St. Peter



## Faith Formation

### Elementary Religious Education

#### Third Sunday of Advent –Joy-Gaudete

This week's article is from catholicicing.com and you can find the link in the bulletin email.

Then finally, the other day, it hit me! Advent is a time of joyful expectation- the expectation of a baby! We are nesting for baby Jesus during Advent. So I started thinking about all of the ways that I nest when I'm expecting a baby, and I realized that a lot of them had very similar counterparts that happen during Advent. Here is how: Share this with your children and have them join in the planning.

- Announce the pregnancy to your family / send out Christmas cards
- Go shopping for baby stuff / shop for presents (have the children draw names and they can buy a present for the person who's name they've drawn).
- Family and friends throw baby shower to celebrate baby coming / throw Christmas parties
- Paint and decorate the nursery / tree, lights, other Christmas decorations
- Read books about babies / read Christmas books
- Clean the house for sanitation / clean the house for guests
- Make a baby registry for gifts / make a Christmas Wishlist
- Stocked up on frozen meals / bake ahead of time for Christmas
- Play music on tummy for baby / listen to Christmas music

Keep in mind, all of the baby gifts, extra food, etc., don't actually get *used* until after the baby is born, but they're all set up and ready to go well before the due date.

#### 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.



RCIA classes have been paused for the Christmas Season.

Classes will resume on January 2nd 2024. Our Instructor will be Mr. James Briggs. We will explore how you have been drawn to this class and begin to recognize your desire and capacity for God. Lead into the Sacraments as the way Catholics receive God.

#### Youth Confirmation



Both first year and returning second year confirmation candidates meet at 9-10:15am in the new Youth Space on Sundays. Classes resume January 7. Parents, please ensure you or our candidate is attending Mass and signing in. Remember the next Holy day of Obligation (outside of next Sunday) is Christmas!



#### 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. Next Youth Night is January 3, 2024. Happy Christmas break!

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

Mrs. Makinster  
Elementary & Adult Faith Formation,  
[gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org)  
360-458-3031 x2 *habla Español*

For the month of November we had **15** students pray **536** prayers. Since the beginning of our catechetical school year that brings our total to 9,975. These prayers help with memorization, salvation of souls and family bonding. Excellent job faithful prayer warriors!



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](mailto: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*

The prophetic texts that directly concern the sending of the Holy Spirit are oracles by which God speaks to the heart of his people in the language of the promise, with the accents of "love and fidelity." St. Peter will proclaim their fulfillment on the morning of Pentecost. According to these promises, at the "end time" the Lord's Spirit will renew the hearts of men, engraving a new law in them. He will gather and reconcile the scattered and divided peoples; he will transform the first creation, and God will dwell there with men in peace. (CCC 715)

# Prepare ...

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

Advent 2023

*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.*

## Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Readings

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

The prophet 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:** *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)*

Saint 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:** *"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)*

Saint 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?

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

## This week on FORMED

**Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project** The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.

**Mary of Nazareth** What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.

**O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis** Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Advent Word Study  
**Agape: "Love"**



MARY  
OF NAZARETH



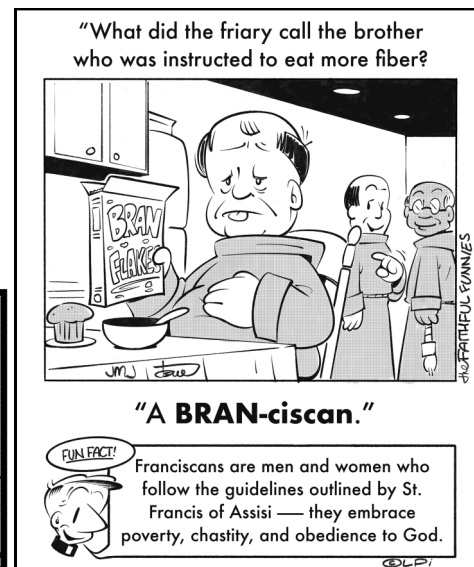
O Holy Night

What Christmas is About

For Sunday Advent reflections by our bishops, inspirational videos and more Advent resources, go to [archseattle.org/advent](http://archseattle.org/advent).

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Father Flood © LPi



## All about Antiphons on Gaudete Sunday

**Antiphons** are short chants in Christian ritual, sung as a refrain. They are used during Mass: sung at the Entrance (or *Introit*), during the Offertory, and during distribution of Holy Communion. The traditional name given for the Third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete Sunday*, is from the Entrance Antiphon: *Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete*. This translates to *Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice*. Did you know these are always printed here in our bulletin and are found in the *Lumen Christi* missals in the pews? In addition to this antiphon, we can also celebrate Advent by becoming familiar with the *Alma Redemptoris Mater* and the “O” Antiphons.

**A** L- ma \* Re-demptó-ris Ma-ter,  
 quæ pérv- a cæ-li porta manes, Et stel-la  
 ma-ris, succúrre ca-dénti súrge-re qui cu-  
 rat pópu-lo: Tu quæ genu- í-sti, na-tú-ra  
 mi-ránte, tu-um sanctum Ge-ni-tó-rem:  
 Virgo pri- us ac posté-ri- us, Gabri- é-lis ab  
 o-re sumens il-lud Ave, \* pecca-tó-rum  
 mi-se-ré-re.

**The *Alma Redemptoris Mater*** is the Marian Antiphon sung during the Advent and Christmas Season, which is from first vespers of the First Sunday of Advent until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2.

The lyrics in English are as follows:

Loving Mother of the Redeemer,  
 Gate of Heaven, Star of the Sea, Assist your people  
 who have fallen, yet strive to rise again. To the  
 wonderment of nature you bore your creator yet  
 remained a virgin after as before. You who received  
 Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor  
 sinners.

Make this a part of your family prayer by reciting or  
 singing it as part of your prayers before bedtime.

**The “O” Antiphons** accompany the Magnificat canticle of Vespers (Evening Prayer) from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present hopes as well. Their repeated use of the imperative “Come!” embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. These antiphons form the basis of the verses of the Advent hymn *O Come O Come Emmanuel*.

**Dec. 17 - O Sapientia:** O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

**Dec. 18 O Adonai:** O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

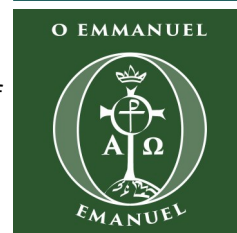
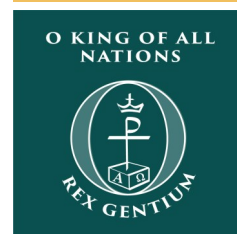
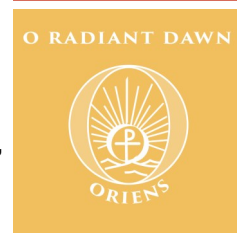
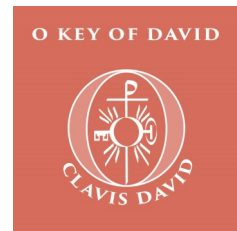
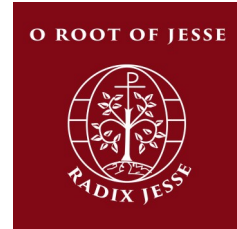
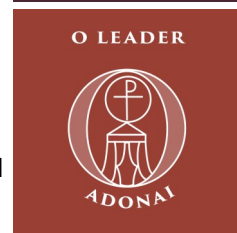
**Dec. 19 O Radix Jesse:** O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

**Dec. 20 O Clavis David:** O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

**Dec. 21 - O Oriens:** O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

**Dec. 22 - O Rex Gentium:** O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

**Dec. 23 - O Emmanuel (“God with us”):** O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.





SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

## 3<sup>RD</sup> 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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## 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](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?

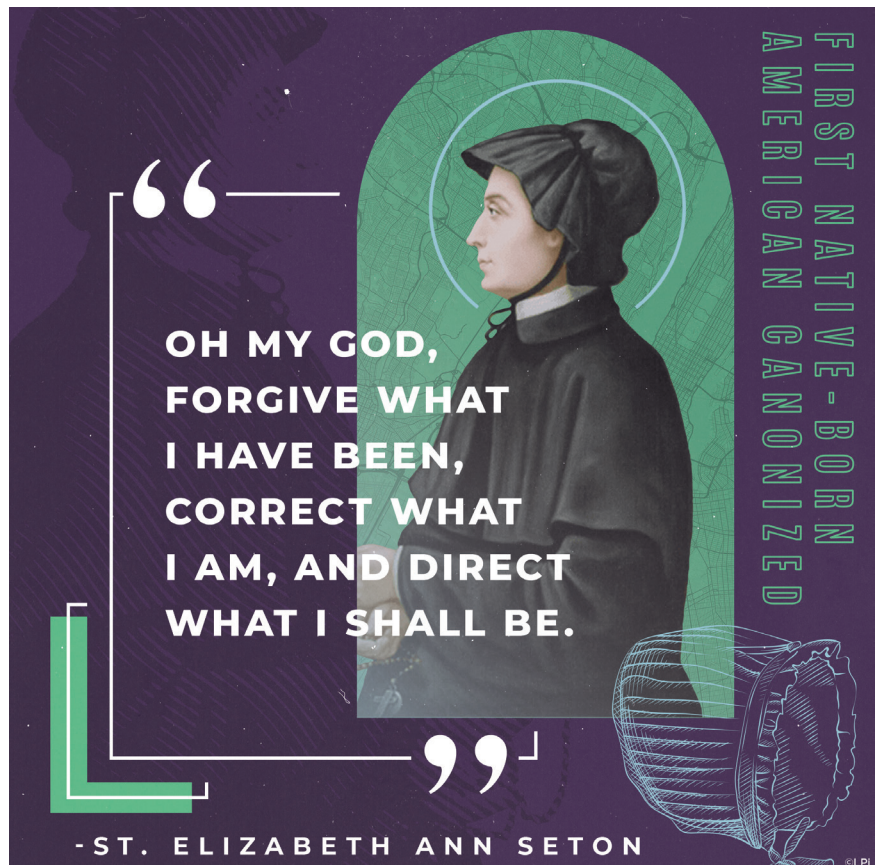
### Gospel Reading


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.

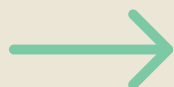
## Mission for the Week

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

## Sharing the Gospel

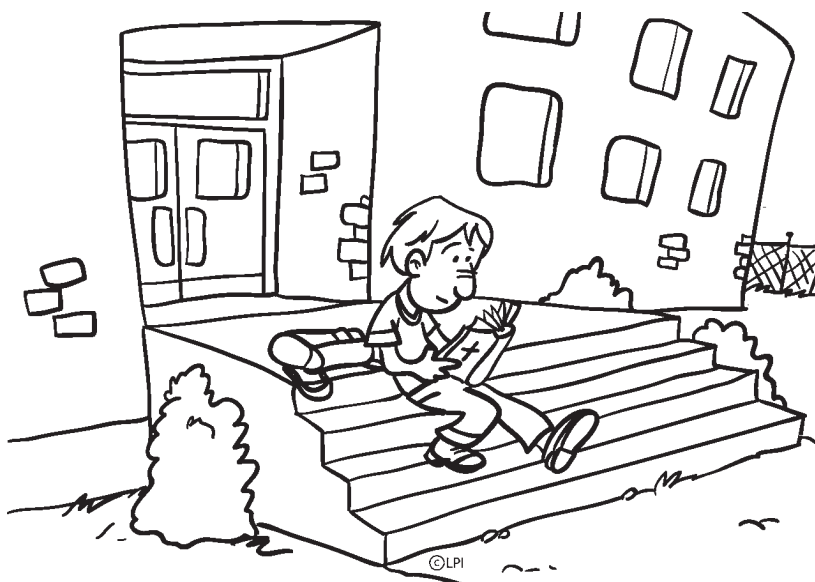
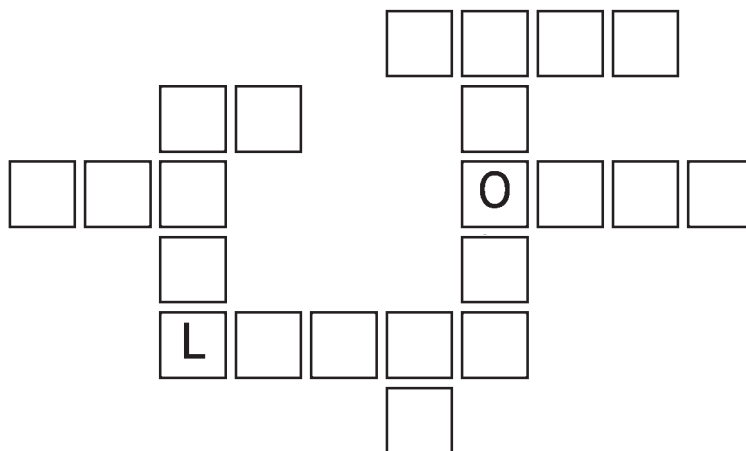
People noticed John the Baptist. He loved God, and he used words honestly. He really wanted to help people change and grow closer to God. He stood out as someone really different and special. People came from all around to hear him and learn about him. When people asked him questions, he pointed them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

**Now color the picture!**

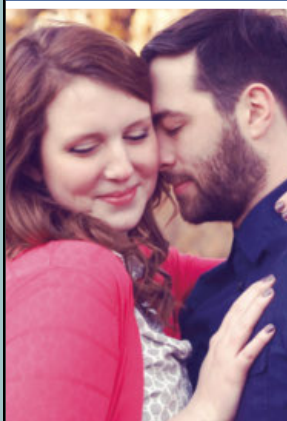


Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

He came only to tell about the light.



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