

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle



December 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family

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)

No Daily Mass Dec. 26-29

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

First Friday Mass, Jan. 5 - 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

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 January 1 MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Mass 9:00AM Church

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

TUESDAY January 2 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

NO DAILY MASS

Winter Clothes Closet 6:00PM-8:00PM Small Hall

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30 PM Hall

WEDNESDAY January 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Daily Mass 9:00AM +In mem: Ana Fronda Gimenez RIP Church

Bible Study 10:00AM St. Peter

Winter Clothes Closet 2-4PM Small Hall

THURSDAY January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Daily Mass 9:00AM +In mem: Dalmacio Gimenez RIP Church

Winter Clothes Closet 6:00PM-8:00PM Small Hall

Choir Practice 6:00PM Church

Bible Study 6:30PM Small Hall

FRIDAY January 5 St. John Neumann, Bishop

First Friday Mass 9:00 AM St. Peter

Homeschool Enrichment 9:45AM RE Bldg

Eucharistic Adoration & Devotions 6:30PM Church

SATURDAY January 6 St. André Bessette, Religious

Confession 3:30PM Church

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

SUNDAY January 7 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

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

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

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.



Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on Jan. 1 will be 9:00 a.m. at St. Columban. Obligation to attend Mass on January 1 is abrogated because it falls on a Monday in 2024.

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! Register online or stop by the Parish Office.

Thank you!

Thanks to all who made our giving tree a success and generously donated gift cards for those in need. Thank you also to our Daughters and Mary and St. Vincent de Paul volunteers for organizing this effort! May God reward you.



FR. THOMPSON AND THE STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A BLESSED AND VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Connect with us

WEBSITE saintcolumbanyelm.org

LIVESTREAM

youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/saintcolumbanyelm

ONLINE GIVING

pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm

PARISH STAFF

(360) 458-3031

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

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



I know I have preached on this before, but I would like to think about a small liturgical detail you may have noticed. You may be aware of the veils that cover the ciboria that reside in our tabernacles, as well as the colored veils we place over the chalice when it is not being used at the altar.

Why in the world do we do this? Much like the sanctuary lamp or the veil that is often put over the doors of the Tabernacle (many tabernacles have veils just inside the door, but some churches have them outside), A veil over a ciborium is an indication that the Blessed Sacrament is within. If a ciborium is stored empty, or is being used to hold bread that is not yet consecrated, the veil is supposed to be removed. This is reminiscent of the cloud of glory that hovered over the Tabernacle of Israel in the desert and the Temple of Jerusalem, over the Ark of the Covenant, within which was contained the Law, the rod of Aaron, and the Mana/bread from Heaven. For Christians, Jesus is the fulfillment of all these things.

Like all veils in Christianity, the idea is not so much to prevent or to discourage access to the holy mysteries, as much as to emphasize the dignity and holiness of that which is beneath the veil. The image, if you like, is that the concealment of a veil means one has to pause and take an additional action, lifting the veil, before encountering the holy.

A similar logic holds for the colored veils over the priest's chalice. The instruments of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass are not mere dishes, but consecrated to God for this most important purpose and so are, or may, be veiled to indicate their importance (as well as the symbolism of removing the veil at the offertory of the Mass, and the revelation of the Sacrifice of Christ superseding all prior sacrifices and opening for us a more direct relationship with God).

Also true in the tradition, thankfully coming back into the consciousness of the faithful, of women wearing veils in church. This is obviously not mandatory, but it is indeed fitting and a statement of their dignity as women and humility as worshippers. That is a deeper well than I have space to explain here, but if you are interested there are plenty of Catholic women who can explain the spiritual fruits of (optionally) wearing a veil at Mass.

If our faith becomes too prosaic, faith takes a hit and appreciation for the supernatural, the mystical, and the holy diminishes with it. Veils are signs of mystery, transcendence, and powers that are beyond us and yet by the grace of God we are invited to encounter nonetheless.

In Christ

Ed Thompson

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quæ pèrvia cæli
Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre
cadènti,
Surgere qui curat pópulo: tu quæ genuísti,
Natúra miránte, tuum sanctum Genitórem
Virgo prius ac postérius, Gabriélis ab ore
Sumens illud Ave, peccatórum miserére

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.

This Marian Antiphon is prayed throughout the Christmas and Epiphany Seasons, traditionally until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Feb. 2

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, Joe Judge,
Marcella Thornton,
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 JANUARY

For the Gift of Diversity in
the Church: Let us pray
that the Spirit help us
recognize the gift of
different charisms within
the Christian community,
and to discover the
richness of different ritual
traditions in the heart of
the Catholic Church. *Our
Father..., Hail Mary...,
Glory Be...*

*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

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



Altar Society

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



Daughters of Mary

Meets monthly, Next meeting is Tuesday, January 23 at 6PM in the Parish Hall. Bring your favorite snack to share!



In the spirit of Mary our Mother, the daughters 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, they 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. Email daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org.

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** (EMHC), 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; if you feel called to assist in any Liturgical Ministry please contact us at the Parish Office.

Knights of Columbus

Council 17152 meets monthly third Wednesdays of every month.



Open to all 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, which include Oktoberfest, St.

Patrick's Day, and a Spaghetti Dinner. All men of the parish are welcome to join! Council meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month.

Assembly 3742, the patriotic degree, includes also members from the St. Martin Assembly and is responsible for providing a color guard at special liturgies. Vivat Jesus!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

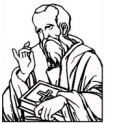
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 to help impoverished people living in the slums of Paris, France. Our chapter is composed of parishioners who provide assistance and prayerful healing to those in need in our community. Members meet weekly and monitor the helpline. For assistance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



St. Peter Circle

Second Tuesdays every other month, beginning in January at St. Peter Tenino

St. Peter's Circle supports the community in Tenino through many charitable activities throughout the year. This includes collecting food items for the backpack program in June, collecting socks for those in need in October (which totaled 461 pairs this year!), and raising funds to purchase items needed for the church. Two bake sales annually support these projects as well as monthly donations to the Tenino Food Bank. Contact Betty Tretheway, 360-264-4856 if interested in joining.



Prayer Groups

Rosary group Mondays 7 PM in the Church, Spanish Group Tuesdays 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall

A couple parishioner-led prayer groups meet weekly at St. Columban for faith-sharing and increasing devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through her Rosary. New members are always welcome. The Spanish Prayer Group also hosts Las Mañanitas in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe every year.

Winter Clothes Closet

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00-8:00PM and Wednesdays from 2:00PM-4:00PM October thru March

Its mission is "To provide warm clothing to those in need, no questions asked." Donations of Coats, Knit Caps, Gloves, Warm socks, Scarves, Raincoats, and Rain boots are always welcome. Please remember that all donations should be of the highest quality, something you would wear. Donation boxes are located in the narthex.



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)

Elementary Religious Education

Classes resume January 7.

Activities for the Feast of the Holy Family

The Church takes us today to Nazareth, into the blessed home that witnessed the Incarnation of the eternal Word in Mary's chaste womb. She shows us Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family, the "blessed trinity" on earth, the first Catholic Church in which "through Him and with Him and in Him" all honor and glory was given to the Blessed Trinity above. Be sure to read the full link to understand the deeper connection and activity to the Holy Innocents. Link will be in the E-bulletin.

As we celebrate the Holy family lets also keep in mind the Holy Innocents that took the place of the Child Jesus by shedding their blood instead of His. The Holy Innocents are the special patrons of small children. Parents can teach their children to pray for help in obeying their parents, sharing their toys, loving their siblings and playmates.

Today is an ideal day for the family to pray together. Prayer of Consecration of the Family to the Holy Family, Prayer of Parents for Their Children and Prayer to the Holy Family can be said on this feast day as a family.

Plan a family dinner, having all the family members getting involved. Each member can plan or choose a favorite dish (depending on the age). From Elsa Chaney's Twelve Days of Christmas comes the suggestion of a centerpiece made by "surrounding the Christ-Candle with smaller white candles representing the Holy Innocents. The number of small candles might be as many as there are children in the family. Each child is allowed to light one small candle from the flame of the Christ-Candle, signifying that inasmuch as he received his life from Christ, he will live and if need be die for Christ just as the Holy Innocents did.

—Mrs. Makinster

Youth Ministry & Confirmation (Gr. 6-12)

Join us for fellowship & discipleship! Youth Ministry meet monthly for a mini-retreat and weekly for on Wednesday evenings for faith sharing. Contact Mr. Lucero for schedule. Confirmation classes resume January 7

Christian Initiation for Adults -

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**. Leads into the sacraments as the way Catholics receive God.

Bible Studies - Adult Scripture Study meet weekly on Thursday evenings to discuss the upcoming Sunday Mass readings, using Lectio Divina and through Catholic exegesis. Contact the parish office to learn more.

Saint of the Week: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | January 4

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."



Mrs. Makinster

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

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 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.

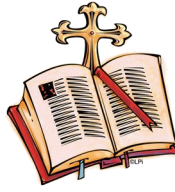
Living our Faith

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* "The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a domestic church." It is a community of faith, hope, and charity; it assumes singular importance in the Church, as is evident in the New Testament. ." (CCC 2204)

Reflect and Respond to the Mass Readings

Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord,

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (Lectionary Year B)



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.*

Readings: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 / Lk 2:22-40

First Reading: "Your own issue shall be your heir." *The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."* (Genesis 3:4-5)

Abraham and Sarah relied on their faith in the Lord as they struggled with family matters. When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?

Responsorial: *The Lord remembers his covenant forever.* (Psalm 1)

Second Reading: *By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age —and Sarah herself was sterile.* (Hebrews 11:11)

Hebrews teaches us that at every challenge in his life, Abraham consistently trusted and obeyed God. When have you had to surrender complete trust to God?

Gospel: *The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.* (Luke 2:40)

In their purification ritual in the Jerusalem Temple, Mary and Joseph learn news from Simeon and Anna about their newborn baby, Jesus. In your family, how do you deal with startling or unsettling news?

Communion Antiphon: *Our God has appeared on the earth and lived among us.*

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Readings: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

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Te Deum Prayer

A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who recite it in thanksgiving and a plenary indulgence is granted if the hymn is recited publicly on the last day of the year

O God, we praise Thee, and acknowledge Thee to be the supreme Lord.

Everlasting Father, all the earth worships Thee.

All the Angels, the heavens and all angelic powers,

All the Cherubim and Seraphim, continuously cry to Thee:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of Thy glory.

The glorious choir of the Apostles,

The wonderful company of Prophets,

The white-robed army of Martyrs, praise Thee.

Holy Church throughout the world acknowledges Thee:

The Father of infinite Majesty;

Thy adorable, true and only Son;

Also the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

O Christ, Thou art the King of glory!

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When Thou tookest it upon Thyself to deliver man,

Thou didst not disdain the Virgin's womb.

Having overcome the sting of death, Thou opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

We believe that Thou wilt come to be our Judge.

We, therefore, beg Thee to help Thy servants whom Thou

hast redeemed with Thy Precious Blood.

Let them be numbered with Thy Saints in everlasting glory.

V. Save Thy people, O Lord, and bless Thy inheritance!

R. Govern them, and raise them up forever.

V. Every day we thank Thee.

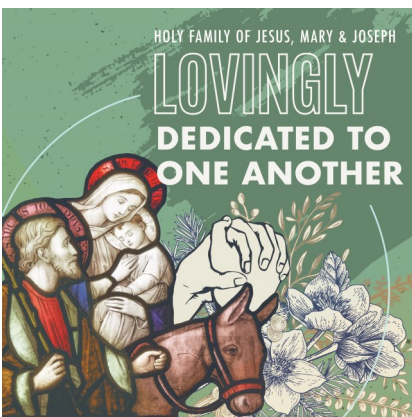
R. And we praise Thy Name forever, yes, forever and ever.

V. O Lord, deign to keep us from sin this day.

R. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

V. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in Thee.

R. O Lord, in Thee I have put my trust; let me never be put to shame.



FEAST OF THE
HOLY FAMILY
12/31



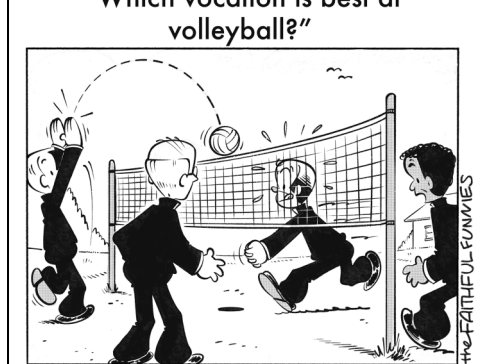
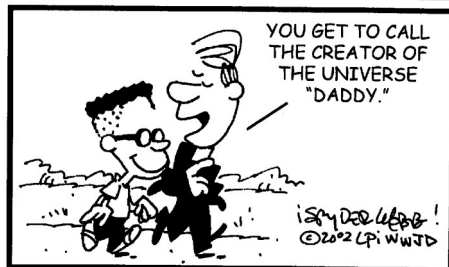
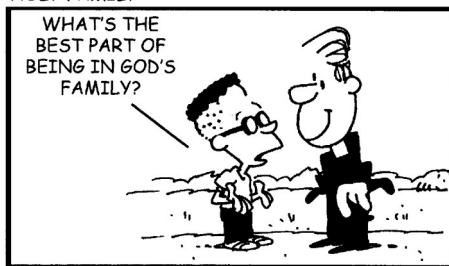
SOLEMNITY OF
MARY
1/1



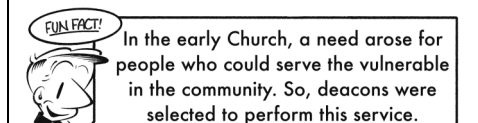
EPIPHANY
1/7



FEAST OF THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD
1/8



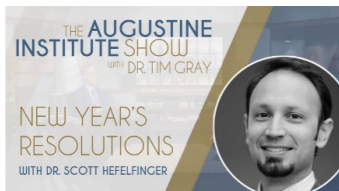
"Deacons, they're ordained for service!"



This week on FORMED

Our Church has a subscription to FORMED.org, a streaming service with multitudes of Catholic videos, audiobooks, and e-books for the whole family. 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 Search for FORMED in your device's app store to watch on the go or on your TV.

New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



The Holy Family We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season!



Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

Outside Events & Notices

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 wwme.org or contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321

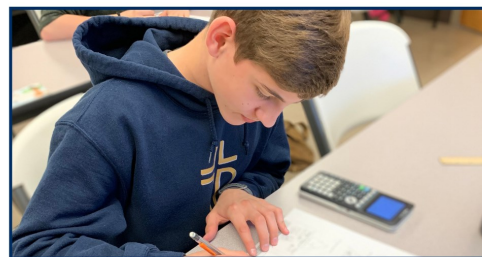
Project Rachel—Hope and Healing After Abortion English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 projectrachel@ccsww.org If you are suffering from

High School Placement Test

@ Pope John Paul II High School
January 13, 2024 | 9AM-12:15PM

The HSPT is a standardized test administered to 8th graders that helps schools know where to place students academically when they enter high school. The test takes approximately three hours to complete and an essay will be administered after the standardized portion of the test.

We host a Prospective Parent Information Session during the first hour of the HSPT for parents and guardians. The HSPT can be shared with any school that accepts the HSPT regardless of where it was proctored.



Scan the QR code to register for the HSPT @ JPII!



The cost for the test is \$30, however, if this fee presents a hardship for your family, please contact our admissions office at admissions@popejp2hseagles.org.

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.

Reminders

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.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Your own issue shall be your heir."
The Lord took Abram outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."
(Gn 3:4-5)

Psalm:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

Second Reading:

By faith he received power to generate,
even though he was past the normal age
—and Sarah herself was sterile. (Heb 11:11)

Gospel:

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

Observances for the week of December 31, 2023

- Sunday:** The Holy Family; New Year's Eve
Monday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Tuesday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Saturday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



Saint of the week

Venerable Mary Elizabeth Lange was a trailblazing black Catholic who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of black religious sisters in the USA. Her faith and perseverance helped break down barriers and create new opportunities for black Catholics.

Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endow her with humility, courage, holiness, and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and the sick. You enabled her to fund the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provided educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (state your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://nolacatholic.org/news/black-catholic-history-month-mother-mary-lange#:~:text=Prayer,the%20poor%20and%20the%20sick.>)

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps
128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday:

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34,
36, 38

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see
11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— *Father John Muir*



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Sword and the Family

In the first few weeks of parenthood, the tears flowed fast and freely, and with very little provocation.

Sometimes I wept because it was getting dark out, and sometimes because the sun was coming up. Sometimes I wept because the days were so unbearably long. Sometimes I wept because they were so cruelly short and slipped past so quickly, bearing away with them forever these inaugural moments of my daughter's life — moments I knew I would long for on my deathbed.

So, the inclusion of the Presentation of Christ in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary has always struck me. The Blessed Mother, just a few weeks after giving birth, standing at the holy temple: Is she tired? Is she emotional? Is she frightened? Is she happy? We cannot know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know, she is all four. But she stands there dutifully, offering her baby to the Lord, and this is what she is told, "A sword shall pierce your heart."

Joyful? I would have snatched the baby back, called the police and sobbed for a week.

But Mary knows that Simeon speaks the truth, and she cannot receive God's will with anything less than joy, even if it means a pierced heart.

Family means love, but love means — what, exactly? Pleasure, fulfillment, contentment? Yes, but so much more, too. Love means you have much to lose.

How full is family life with these beautiful moments which, on the surface, look and feel painful — but hold within them the opportunity to be like Mary, to bow our heads and once again say "Yes, Lord."

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..." — Colossians 3:12

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What are the servant songs of Isaiah? How do they relate to Jesus' life and ministry?

Answer:

The four servant songs (Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, and 52:13—53:12) are strategically placed in Second Isaiah to offer hope and consolation to a suffering Israel during its Babylonian Exile.

Israel had been defeated by the Babylonians, who destroyed their temple, killed the last of the kings in David's lineage, exiled them from their land, and transported them to Babylon. This is the context in which Second Isaiah composes his powerfully poetic book of hope and consolation. A significant part of that message is the portrait of God's servant, who is called to be a source of hope and encouragement for the people.

Each of the four poems emphasizes God's choice and election of the servant. The last poem stresses the suffering and rejection of God's servant, along with his eventual death. Isaiah is certain that God will use the servant's innocent suffering as a way to redeem and remove the guilt and sin of others. Thus, the servant becomes a source of salvation for himself and for others.

Who is this servant? Many suggest that Isaiah was referring to Israel herself, as she underwent exilic suffering which would ultimately prove to be redemptive. Jesus' followers, including those for whom Mark wrote his Gospel, understood Jesus' ministry in terms of Isaiah's suffering servant whose innocent suffering and death became the means of salvation for all.

“For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

- Lk 2:30-32

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Abraham and Sarah relied on their faith in the Lord as they struggled with family matters. When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?

Second Reading

Hebrews teaches us that at every challenge in his life, Abraham consistently trusted and obeyed God. When have you had to surrender complete trust to God?

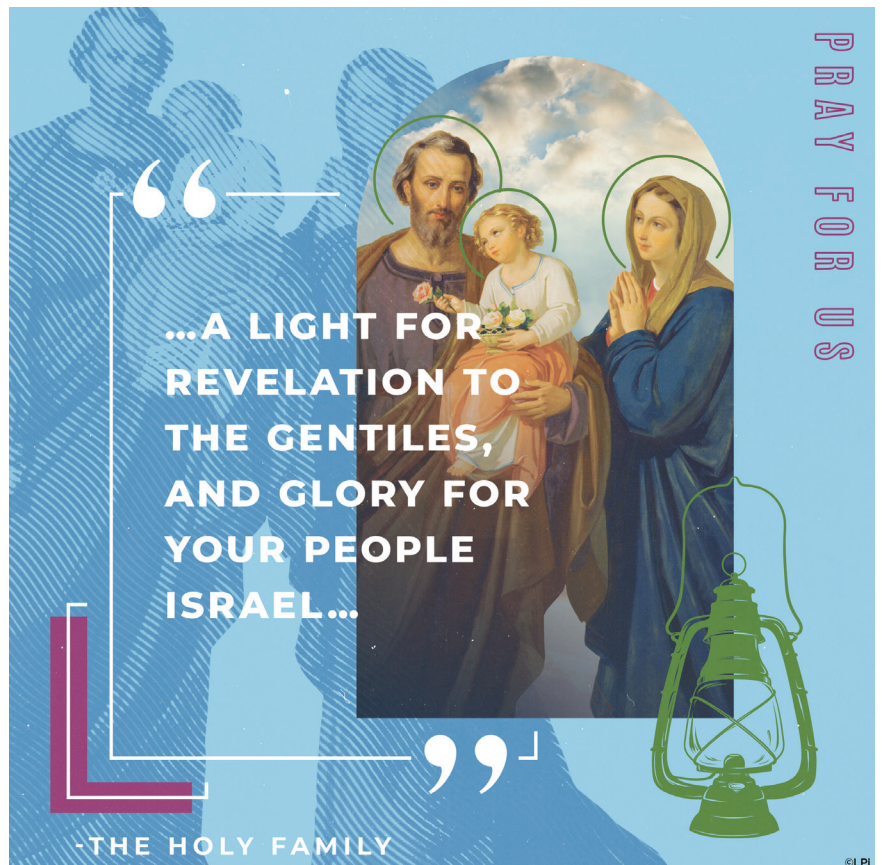
Gospel Reading

In their purification ritual in the Jerusalem Temple, Mary and Joseph learn news from Simeon and Anna about their newborn baby, Jesus. In your family, how do you deal with startling or unsettling news?



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THE LORD REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT FOREVER.

Psalms 105

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When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:39-40

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Prayer

God, help me to love you enough to do all that you ask me to.

Mission for the Week

Jesus belonged to God. Look up the word “belong” in the dictionary. Thank God that you are his child, too.

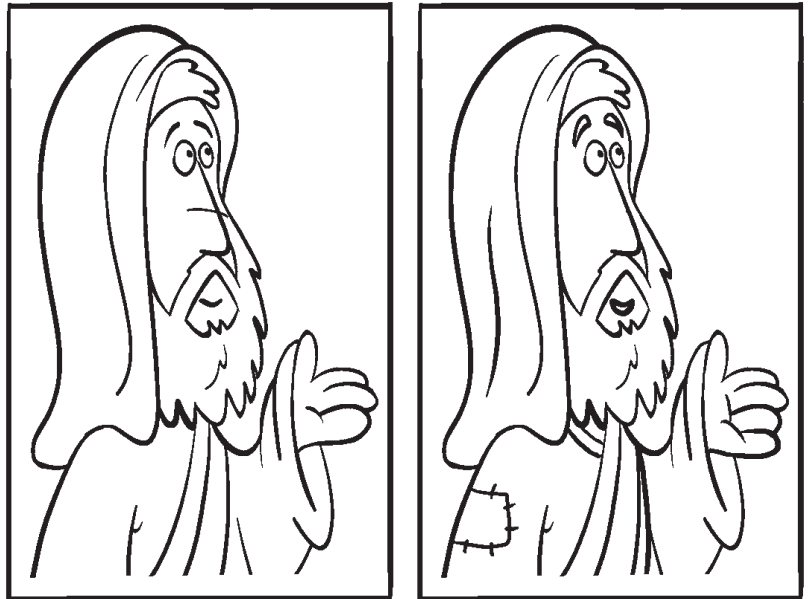
Sharing the Gospel

Love God and trust him with your life. Then you will want to do what God asks. Simeon listened to God. Anna served God for many years in the temple. Mary and Joseph did everything God asked them to do for Jesus. Everyone in the temple knew that Jesus was sent by God to be their Savior. They trusted God with Jesus’ precious life.

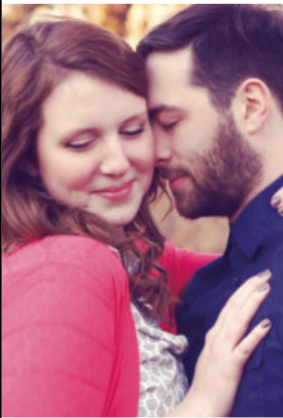
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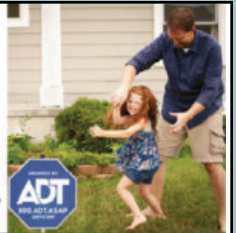
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