

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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: *Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice, turn to the Lord and his strength, constantly seek his face.*

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95 "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel Acclamation: *The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light;*

on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Communion Antiphon: *Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.*

On the Cover: *Miracles of Jesus: Expelling demons, church of Immaculate Conception in Lepoglava, Croatia*

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 29

Rosary Prayer Group 7 p.m. Church

TUESDAY January 30

Mass 9:00 a.m. Church

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

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30 PM Hall

WEDNESDAY January 31 St. John Bosco, Priest

Mass 9:00 a.m. Church

Bible Study 10:00 a.m. St. Peter

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

THURSDAY February 1 Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Mass 9:00 a.m. Int: Eva & Gamliel Gonzales Church

Winter Clothes Closet 6-8 p.m. Small Hall

Choir Practice 6 p.m. Church

Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Small Hall

FRIDAY February 2 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

First Friday Mass 9:00 a.m. St. Peter

Homeschool Enrichment 9:45 a.m. RE Bldg

CANDELMAS 6:30 p.m. Church

Bring your candles to be blessed during this Mass

SATURDAY February 3

St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

Confession 3:30PM Church

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

SUNDAY February 4 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

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

Religious Ed 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. RE Bldg

Confirmation 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Sm. Hall/Youth Space

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



February 14th

9:00AM

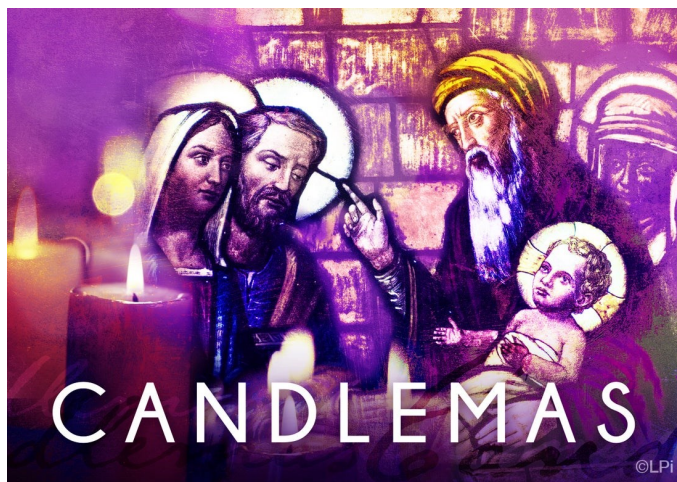
@ St. Peter Mission

7:00PM

@ St. Columban

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.



Candlemas will take place **Friday February 3rd at 6:30PM** in place of our usual First Friday Devotions. Bring your candles to blessed in a decent box or basket, please no plastic bags.

Announcements

The **parish needs a ride-on lawn mower** to replace one that is past its prime. If you have one that is serviceable and would like to donate it to the parish, please contact the parish office and you will be contacted by a member of our maintenance team to see if yours will fill the need. A replacement would cost about \$2500.

Announcements continue on page 4.

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

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

Parish Finance Council Joseph Judge (St Columban), Mari Evans (St Peter)

A Word from Father Thompson



While we can easily see the harm and lament what the idolizing of the first Face of Adam, the rogue, does to individuals and our society, there is also danger in an unhealthy attachment to the Face of the Knight that deprives one of the opportunity to pass the torch and become the wise mentor. This unhealthy attachment is especially dangerous for those who are fortunate enough to have avoided the arrested development of perpetual roguishness. One has settled down, taken his place in society. He is contributing and leading. It seems like valuing the selflessness and dedication of the knight would be a good thing, right? Indeed it is, but it can also become an idol we must watch for.

The knight, you see, has power. Yes, the rogue too has potency, and can even make a difference (a least when he is not railing on strong opinions about things he does not understand; indeed sometimes rogues make a difference nonetheless doing so, albeit to the detriment of others), but the knight—being part of and integrated into the structures of the community—is at least at some point or points in this phase of his life, in his prime in terms of power and authority. The knight has learned to bridle his power and individual will in obedience, but he has also realized that he often finds himself in the position of being the one entrusted with influence or outright command. Power is a heck of a drug. The danger is that a person can be corrupted by a combination of the authority he now has and the vision to which he has dedicated himself. The knight can easily become a tyrant, more sophisticated but morally no better (perhaps worse!) than the petulant rogue who demands the world bend to his deluded sense of his own uniqueness: the corrupted knight wants the community to bend to his will, for the community's own ostensible good, which he has in mind for it.

But that isn't all, even for those who have the wisdom not to become a tyrant, we all have egos. The biggest challenge the knight faces is that his fate is one day to become the wise man, the magus. Perhaps he dabbled in this from time to time by acting as a mentor to juniors or providing fraternal support to peers, but he was still in his time of power and active service to the community. Part of becoming the magus is to let go of the power of activity, to watch and advise while others (who may or may not listen to your guidance) do and lead. The biggest challenge of all, of course, is that such a transition puts one's legacy somewhat out of one's own control. Some people cannot bring themselves to take these steps, and it turns out badly both for themselves and the community, especially since time will rob the stubborn knight who won't retire of his potency whether he likes it or not; his ability to do what he wants will diminish and diminish, the effectiveness of his service will diminish too, and ultimately he will become unable to serve at all—leaving a hole in leadership, which could have been avoided. How many good things in a nation, company, parish, team, or family, for example, fall apart because a leader has no plan nor the humility to pass the torch, or refuses to do so? I have seen quite a few, and I presume you have as well.

I know these reflections on the Faces of Adam are a little esoteric, but I hope they have been at least somewhat edifying. I also know they are a bit masculine, there is actually a feminine form of this same trope, appropriately called "Faces of Eve" (Maid, Mistress, Matron), which is generally similar—albeit taking into account realities, perspectives, and different challenges particular to women—and which one could look into if one were interested in a less militaristic or medieval metaphor. Also, there is a very good spiritual reflection on all this by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser called "Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity," which might help you more than me trying to cram such a vast concept into three articles.

In Christ

F. Thompson

*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*

Stan Villadelgado,
Robert Fisher, Tina Wilson,
Marella Thornton, Dawn
Bauer, Gary Henslee, and Joe
Judge.

FOR THE DECEASED

Grace Dvorak 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

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.

FEBRUARY: For The Terminally Ill

Let us pray that the sick who
are in the final stages of life,
and their families, receive the
necessary medical and human
care and accompaniment.

*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



Share the Good News



The NW Catholic Collection is happening this weekend. Use the envelope in your pew or go online to: NWCatholic.org/give to make your donation.

A portion of the Northwest Catholic Collection also supports the USCCB's Catholic Communication Campaign.

Outside Events & Notices

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Retreats: Give your marriage the promise of a great year by learning how to better communicate and love each other. Learn how to be the best gift you can be for your spouse. Upcoming dates: April 12-14, 2024 at LaQuinta in Tacoma, WA, Mar 8-10, 2024, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, WA, Apr 26-28, 2024 in Everett, WA. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: 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 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.

Year End Giving Statements

Everyone should have received their 2023 giving statement via email or by postal mail. If you did not receive your statement please contact the parish office 360-458-3031.

Additional printed copies are available upon request at the parish office.

Altar Society

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

Daughters of Mary

daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org

All women of the Parish are invited. Next monthly meeting is **Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Bring your favorite snack to share!

Liturgical Ministries parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Altar Servers, Choir, Greeters/Ushers, Readers

Knights of Columbus kofc@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Council 17152 and Assembly 3742 meets monthly third Wednesdays of every month. Next meeting **Feb. 21, 5:30 p.m.**

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

1st Annual Super Bowl Watch Party and Chili Cook-Off Contest Feb. 11, Doors open 2 p.m. Free! All

parishioners and their families are invited for an afternoon of fellowship, entertainment, and good food. Bring an electric crockpot of your most famous Chili and/or Corn Bread for a chance to win a trophy (1st and 2nd places awarded for both Chili or Cornbread). Register your entry with Darren Johnson at darrenejohnson61@gmail.com or 253-709-4588. Beverages will be available for purchase and the Knights will provide hot dogs and buns so everyone can enjoy all the chili after the contest is over. *Presented by KofC Assembly 3947.*

Next Sunday Breakfast Feb. 25 following the 10:30 Mass.

Knights please come help starting at 8 a.m. All Parishioners are welcome to eat; donations accepted to help offset costs.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul 360-458-1904

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.

St. Peter Circle 360-264-4856

Second Tuesdays every other month, beginning in January at St. Peter Tenino. Next meeting this Tuesday March 12.

Prayer Groups

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

Winter Clothes Closet

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2-4 p.m. October thru March. 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.

Faith Formation

Elementary Religious Education

Links to related articles & blogs will be posted in the emailed bulletin and on our social media channels.



Within the next couple of weeks until February 11th I will be providing information regarding our upcoming Teaching Safety curriculum. This year we are using Circle of Grace. The following are the objectives of this curriculum.

- ♦ Children/youth will understand that they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, son and Holy Spirit.
- ♦ Children/Youth will be able to describe the Circle of Grace which God gives each of us.
- ♦ Children/Youth will be able to identify, discern and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries.
- ♦ Children/Youth can identify all types of boundary violations.
- ♦ Children/Youth will demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

Faith Formation K-5

Feb 04 Class

Feb 11 Class (Safe Environment)

Feb 18 NO CLASS President's Day



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 January 30th and the lesson will be Matrimony and Holy Orders. Fr. Thompson will be our instructor. Fr. Thompson will help us understand both the Church's teaching about the Sacrament of Matrimony and the importance of celebrating marriage in the Church and what is necessary if there has been a previous marriage. Also understand Holy orders and how the bishop, priests and deacons are a reminder of the three tasks of Christian community, namely maintains unity, remembering the stories of God's life giving Love and Serving our neighbors especially the poor.



Youth Ministry & Confirmation (Grades 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.

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The Gospels were written by men who were among the first to have the faith and wanted to share it with others. Having known in faith who Jesus is, they could see and make others see the traces of his mystery in all his earthly life. From the swaddling clothes of his birth to the vinegar of his Passion and the shroud of his Resurrection, everything in Jesus' life was a sign of his mystery. His deeds, miracles and words all revealed that "in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily." His humanity appeared as "sacrament", that is, the sign and instrument, of his divinity and of the salvation he brings: what was visible in his earthly life leads to the invisible mystery of his divine sonship and redemptive mission. Christ's whole earthly life - his words and deeds, his silences and sufferings, indeed his manner of being and speaking - is Revelation of the Father. Jesus can say: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father", and the Father can say: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Because our Lord became man in order to do his Father's will, even the least characteristics of his mysteries manifest "God's love. . . among us". (CCC 515-516)

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.



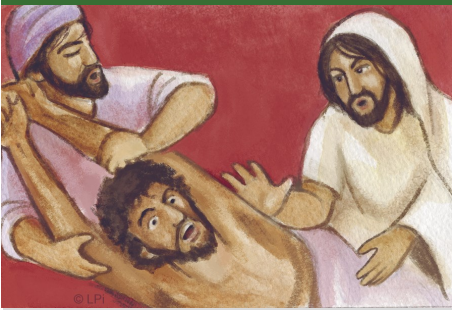
Mr. Lucero
Youth Ministry & Confirmation



chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org
360-458-3031 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.



Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Mass Readings:



First Reading:

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him." (Dt 18:18)

Moses taught the Israelites that God would raise up a prophet like him to teach them the Lord's commands. But he also forewarned about false prophets. How can we avoid listening to false prophetic voices?

Second Reading: *An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit.* (1 Cor 7:34)

St. Paul expresses his desire for the Corinthian believers to be free of anxiety so they can focus their attention and energies on Jesus. What distracts you from the Lord?

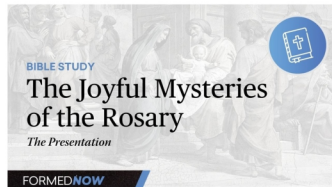
Gospel: *The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.* (Mk 1:22)

Mark informs us that early in Jesus's public ministry his "fame spread" quickly throughout Galilee because of his powerful deeds, such as the healing of the demon-possessed man in today's reading. Is there something or someone in your life that you pray Jesus would heal?

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

Week of January 28, 2024



A Bible Study on the Joyful Mysteries: The Presentation

What is the importance of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple? Join Dr. James Prothro and Dr. Ben Akers as they unpack this great mystery and how it can apply to your spiritual life.



Exorcisms: What Catholics Need to Know | Chris Stefanick Show

Scripture says, "Be sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, solid in your faith." In other words, the Christian life involves spiritual combat. But a lot of Catholics aren't really familiar with this idea. So to start unpacking it, we're talking to Fr. Chad Ripperger, an exorcist priest.



Saint John Bosco: Mission to Love

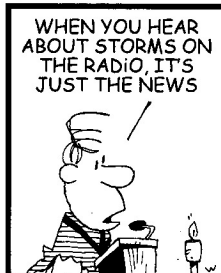
Flavio Insinna gives a winning performance as John Bosco, the great priest and educator of youth. Beautifully filmed in Italy, this epic movie dramatizes the many challenges that he had to overcome from his childhood all the way to founding his religious order.

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.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and Ignatius press

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

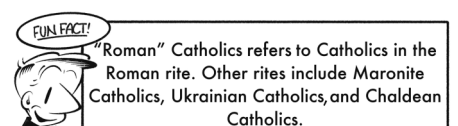
Father Flood © LPi



"What do you call a sleep-walking seminarian?"



"A Roamin' Catholic"



"Roman" Catholics refers to Catholics in the Roman rite. Other rites include Maronite Catholics, Ukrainian Catholics, and Chaldean Catholics.

Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis de Sales

CHAPTER IV. The Need of a Guide for those who would enter upon and advance in the Devout Life.

WHEN Tobias was bidden to go to Rages, he was willing to obey his father, but he objected that he knew not the way;—to which Tobit answered, “Seek thee a man which may go with thee:” and even so, daughter, I say to you, If you would really tread the paths of the devout life, seek some holy man to guide and conduct you. This is the precept of precepts, says the devout Avila,—seek as you will you can never so surely discover God’s Will as through the channel of humble obedience so universally taught and practiced by all the Saints of olden time. When the blessed Teresa read of the great penances performed by Catherine of Cordova, she desired exceedingly to imitate them, contrary to the mind of her Confessor, who forbade her to do the like, and she was tempted to disobey him therein. Then God spoke to Teresa, saying, “My child, thou art on a good and safe road:—true, thou seest all this penance, but verily I esteem thy obedience as a yet greater virtue:”—and thenceforth St. Teresa so greatly loved the virtue of obedience, that in addition to that due to her superiors, she took a vow of special obedience to a pious ecclesiastic, pledging herself to follow his direction and guidance, which proved an inexpressible help to her. And even so before and after her many pious souls have subjected their will to God’s ministers in order the better to submit themselves to Him, a practice much commended by S. Catherine of Sienna in her Dialogues. The devout Princess S. Elisabeth gave an unlimited obedience to the venerable Conrad; and one of the parting counsels given by S. Louis to his son ere he died was, “Confess thyself often,—choose a single-minded, worthy confessor, who is able wisely to teach thee how to do that which is needful for thee.” “A faithful friend,” we are told in Holy Scripture, “is a strong defense, and he that hath found such an one hath found a treasure;” and again: “A faithful friend is the medicine of life; and they that fear the Lord shall find him.” These sacred words have chiefly reference, as you see, to the immortal life, with a view to which we specially need a faithful friend, who will guide us by his counsel and advice, thereby guarding us against the deceits and snares of the Evil One:—he will be as a storehouse of wisdom to us in our sorrows, trials and falls; he will be as a healing balm to stay and soothe our heart in the time of spiritual sickness,—he will shield us from evil, and confirm that which is good in us, and when we fall through infirmity, he will avert the deadly nature of the evil, and raise us up again.

But who can find such a friend? The Wise Man answers:—“He that feareth the Lord:” that is to say, the truly humble soul which earnestly desires to advance in the spiritual life. So, daughter, inasmuch as it concerns you so closely to set forth on this devout journey under good guidance, do you pray most earnestly to God to supply you with a guide after His Own Heart, and never doubt but that He will grant you

one who is wise and faithful, even should He send you an angel from Heaven, as He sent to Tobias.

In truth, your spiritual guide should always be as a heaven-sent angel to you;—by which I mean that when you have found him, you are not to look upon him, or trust in him or his wisdom as an ordinary man; but you must look to God, Who will help you and speak to you through this man, putting into his heart and mouth that which is needful to you; so that you ought to hearken as though he were an angel come down from Heaven to lead you thither. Deal with him in all sincerity and faithfulness, and with open heart; manifesting alike your good and your evil, without pretense or dissimulation. Thus your good will be examined and confirmed, and your evil corrected and remedied;—you will be soothed and strengthened in trouble, moderated and regulated in prosperity. Give your guide a hearty confidence mingled with sacred reverence, so that reverence in no way shall hinder your confidence, and confidence nowise lessen your reverence: trust him with the respect of a daughter for her father; respect him with the confidence of a son in his mother. In a word, such a friendship should be strong and sweet; altogether holy, sacred, divine and spiritual. And with such an aim, choose one among a thousand, Avila says;—and I say among ten thousand, for there are fewer than one would think capable of this office. He must needs be full of love, of wisdom and of discretion; for if either of these three be wanting there is danger. But once more I say, ask such help of God, and when you have found it, bless His Holy Name; be steadfast, seek no more, but go on simply, humbly and trustfully, for you are safe to make a prosperous journey.

PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS TEACHING.

MK 1:22



Share the Good News



Donate now
at NWCatholic.org/give

A portion of the Northwest Catholic Collection supports the USCCB's Catholic Communication Campaign.

**NORTHWEST
CATHOLIC**

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**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

UPDATE

January 2024

Partners in the Gospel Discernment Continues

Based on the input from the public consultation phase last fall, changes were recommended for 25 parish families, which impacted 78 individual parishes and missions. These parishes and missions were invited to hold a second round of listening with their parishioners to gather input on the updated version of their parish family. This feedback has been incorporated into the discernment process.

Discernment is different than simply “making a decision.” It involves prayer and quiet time to listen to the Holy Spirit to understand the direction this journey should take us. At this time, we ask everyone to continue praying for this effort.

Updated Q&A

Throughout the consultation process, new questions arose regarding Partners in the Gospel, the process, the purpose and more. Please see highlights below:

Q: How are we cultivating priestly vocations?

A: The Archdiocesan vocations team has expanded to include a full-time vocations director and three associate vocations directors. This has led to more opportunities to accompany young men discerning and to invite others to consider the priesthood. Specifically, our vocations team focuses on prayer, education and encouragement.

- **Prayer:** Following our Lord Jesus’ invitation to ask for laborers to serve in the harvest, parishes around the archdiocese regularly host Holy Hours dedicated to praying for vocations, as well as Serra Club chapters and other lay groups.
- **Education:** The vocations team is present at parishes, schools and diocesan events and retreats to teach people about vocations and how to discern them. This message is echoed through several communication efforts, including the annual seminarian poster, Vocations website and social media channels.
- **Encouragement:** Through events like discernment retreats and Quo Vadis Days, young men are encouraged to consider priesthood and to discern their vocation.

Upcoming Key Dates

Feb. 3-4, 2024 – Final parish family plan will be announced.

Spring 2024 – Pastors and parochial vicars announced.

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

“I hope that we can come together with a new purpose and a soft heart towards one another.”

– Parish consultation

“We are not meant to be comfortable. This is an opportunity to grow in holiness. This could be what the Holy Spirit is calling for us.”

– Parish consultation

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

Read full Q&A at archseattle.org/partners

Knights of Columbus Assembly 3947 presents
THE 1ST ANNUAL
SUPERBOWL PARTY
& CHILI COOK-OFF CONTEST

Sunday Feb 11th
at the St. Columban Parish Hall

This free event is open to all parishioners and their families for an afternoon of fellowship, entertainment, and good food.

**Chili Cook-off Contest &
Cornbread Contest:**

Bring an electric crockpot of your most famous Chili and or Corn Bread and win a Trophy (1st and 2nd places awarded) for both Chili or Cornbread.

To register your Chili or Corn Bread contact

Darren Johnson at

darrenejohnson61@gmail.com or 253-709-4588



Trophies & 50/50 Drawing

Hot Dog buns provided, bring a dessert if you want!

Beverages will be available for purchase and the Knights will provide hot dogs and buns so everyone can enjoy all the chili after the contest is over.

There will be a dessert table if you would like to bring some type of dessert to share.

DOORS OPEN AT 2PM.
GAME STARTS AT 3:30PM!

Parents First

Special Edition

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2223)

Your Family and Circle of Grace

Your home is the first place your child will experience the security and protection of God's love for him. And YOU are the first persons to communicate this profound truth of God's *Circle of Grace* to your child.

From the moment of birth, a child can know deep down inside if he is loved and secure. Your child experiences a circle of grace from the gentle way his parents and caregivers hold him, how they respond to his needs when he cries and reassure him when he is afraid or in danger. God provides his love and care for your child through your nurturing care for him.

At your child's Baptism, you were given a candle and asked to be a "light" to your child...shining the light of Christ's love and



presence on him. When you are a loving and responsible parent, your child learns about the circle of grace from you as you communicate God's love to him through your faithful care and protection.

Your words teach your child about God's protection and comfort. Use words to remind your child that God is with her, watching over her day and night. When she is afraid or anxious, remind her that she is never alone. Assure her that she is wonderfully made by God...just as she is; short, tall, freckled or plain.

Your actions teach too. Show respect for your child by allowing him age-appropriate privacy, not teasing him about his body, setting rules about bullying and name-calling, setting boundaries at home so that mutual respect is learned and practiced everyday in ordinary ways.

Your attitudes will communicate to your child in profound ways. An attitude of openness and acceptance of your child's dreams and fears is important to establish the sense of trust she needs to tell you what she is feeling. She needs to know that she can tell you anything and that you will listen and accept her feelings without retribution.

Establishing Traditions and Sacred Space

Simple family traditions and rituals help children have a sense of security and belonging that enhances their understanding of the circle of grace. Traditions act like glue holding families together. Some traditions are seasonal (snow sledding, raking leaves, bike riding, or camping in the back yard). Others occur in the rhythms of everyday (signing each child with the sign of the cross on the forehead as they leave the house, good-night prayers or story reading, notes in sack lunches on special days or Friday night pizza and a movie). Families who wrap their lives in ritual and tradition teach children that God's grace surrounds them in the ordinary moments of their lives as well as at special times.

Creating Sacred Space in your Home: **"Bidden or not bidden, God is present"**

Place sacramentals in your home to remind yourself and your children that God is present all the time whether or not we are attentive to Him. Sacramentals (a cross or crucifix, pictures or statues of Mary, Jesus or the saints, a rosary, medal or scapular, or other religious art) are

objects that remind us of our faith. Placing the scriptures in a prominent place with a candle nearby is a way of acknowledging God's presence in His holy word. Or create a home altar with a symbol of Christ, a candle and objects that remind you of God's gracious presence all around you in nature, in photos of loved ones, or in mementos of happy times together.

Praying together...

*Gather whoever is at home at meal times or bed time and ask God's blessing on your family. Pray when someone is sick, sad or anxious. Pray when you have something to celebrate. Have a book of family prayers at home to help you remember to pray daily. In your prayer, acknowledge God's presence with you, ask for what you need and give thanks for your blessings. **Prayer is a dialogue with God in which we are reassured by His power and presence in our lives.***

Talking to your children about their *Circle of Grace*

Here are a few ideas to assist you in teaching your child that he is God's precious creation and he is never outside the circle of His love and grace.

- Question: What are some ways God shows us how much he loves us?**
Response: God is with us always- when we are happy, sad, asleep, lonely or afraid. God loves us very much and He puts Trusted Adults in our lives to help us when we are hurt, scared or confused. God helps us know what belongs in our *Circle of Grace* by experiencing peace, love or contentment when something or someone good comes into our *Circle of Grace*.
- Question: How do we know when something doesn't belong in our *Circle of Grace*?**
Response: We may get a funny or uncomfortable feeling that something or someone is not safe, we may be afraid or feel like we want to get away.
God helps us know what does not belong in our *Circle of Grace*:
God desires to help us when we are hurt, scared, or confused (unsafe)
The Holy Spirit prompts (alerts) us that something does not belong in our *Circle of Grace* by giving us a "funny or uncomfortable feeling" that something is not safe. This feeling is there because God wants us to be safe.
God does not cause bad things to happen to us. He loves us very much. Having faith does not take away all of life's struggles. But God promised to always "be present" providing guidance and comfort in our time of need.
- Question: God gives us people in our lives (our parents, teachers and Trusted Adults) to help us when we are troubled or struggling with a concern. Ask your child what they would do if they were afraid that something unsafe may happen to them, or has already happened to them? (Tell our parents, or a Trusted Adult.)**
Response: God helps us know when to ask for help from someone we trust. God wants us to talk to a trusted adult about our worries, concerns, or "funny/uncomfortable feelings" so they can help us be safe and take the right action. *Circle of Grace* helps us learn skills for good decision making and reminds us of God's presence and assistance when we are facing difficult and confusing situations.

What is family?

Today's families may look quite different than generations past. Married parents, single parents, step-parents, foster parents, grandparents, extended family, friends and others may be responsible for providing a healthy, safe and loving environment to raise our children. **Families are central to God's plan for His children.** They are the fundamental building block of strong societies. Families are where we can feel love and learn how to love others.

"The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason **the family home is rightly called "the domestic church,"** a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity." Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 1666



What *Circle of Grace* Teaches about God's Love

Circle of Grace is the love and goodness of God that surrounds us at all times. It is the recognition that He is with us always and desires a loving relationship with each of us, even in difficult and confusing situations. God is truly present not as a judge, but out of love, guiding us to make decisions that will bring us closer to Him. *Circle of Grace* teaches of the sacredness of each person and how relationships are called to be experiences of divine love.

May We Recommend...

Parents First Newsletters for Kind.- gr. 12-

Parents First complements *Circle of Grace* lessons by giving parents information and resources to help answer questions, in an age-appropriate manner, about sexuality, puberty, human dignity and sacred relationships. (Parents First newsletters for each grade and Parents First on special topics of interest to parents are available from your School, Religious Formation or Youth Ministry.)

Marriage and Family Life Ministries- Parents and Parenting:

www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/parents-and-parenting

'What Children Need From Their Parents'— Catholics Come Home:

www.catholicscomehome.org/your-questions/marriage/parenting/

Parenting for all Stages- Catholic Family Faith

www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/general1.html

(Partner Dioceses contact information here)

A young goat with light brown and grey fur stands in a dusty, rocky area. In the background, there is a wall made of mud-brick and some large, rough stones. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AND THEY
OBEY
HIM.

— MARK 1:27 —

— SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 —

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin,
and will put my words into his mouth;
he shall tell them all that I command him." (Dt 18:18)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading:

An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord,
so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. (1 Cor 7:34)

Gospel:

The people were astonished at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. (Mk 1:22)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

With one swift command, Jesus freed a man from the possession of evil spirits. He has that same power to banish the shadow of sin from our own lives. Let's invite him into our hearts, asking him to cleanse the darkness he finds there.

Observances for the week of January 28, 2024

Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

Wednesday: St. John Bosco, Priest

Friday: The Presentation of the Lord,
World Day for Consecrated Life

Saturday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr;
St. Ansgar, Bishop

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

St. Ignatius of Antioch, a bishop of Antioch in the first century, was a direct disciple of the apostle John. Despite being thrown to the lions and martyred in Rome's Colosseum for his faith, his teachings and hope for Christian unity live on as early examples of Christian theology.

Prayer for the Youth

Dear Lord,

Be with our young people this week and always — keep them in Your care. Help them to form godly friendships, speak the truth, and know You in the personal way that will challenge, shape, and guide them. Amen.

Readings for the week of January 28, 2024

Sunday:

Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/
1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

Monday:

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5,
6-7/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday:

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/
Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday:

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday:

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab,
11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday:

Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Saturday:

1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/
Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday:

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
(see 3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie “Nefarious” features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like *multiple* persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel *fake* sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, **“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?”** Notice the plural, *us*. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man’s identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, **“Quiet! Come out of him!”** Jesus’ word has the power to restore the man’s singularity — *him* — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

— Father John Muir



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

What Have You to Do with Me, Jesus of Nazareth?

Inevitably, when we read the story of the Garden of Eden, my children try to imagine what life would be like if Adam and Eve had not sinned against God.

"Would we have to go to school?" they ask me.

"Would we get sick? Could we eat whatever we want? Would we get older?"

I tell them the only thing I know for sure about a world without sin is that we would be happier. I can see confusion in their faces — *Why? How?* — but I have none of the concrete answers they want. I don't know how to describe a happiness untouched by sin.

The moment sin entered the world, a chasm erupted between God and mankind. There is now a space between humanity and the divine, a cavernous and seemingly impassable void into which God calls for us, unendingly. And because we are lost in the dark, and miserable, instead of following his voice when we hear it, instead we reply: "What do you want?"

"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"

Did the unclean spirit know, when he cried out all those thousands of years ago in Capernaum, that he was giving voice to a question which defined the human condition? They are the words of a demon, yes, but they are also my words. Far, far more often than I care to admit, when God is reaching for me, I look upon His hand with contempt and confusion. When I am grappling with a problem or a sin which overwhelms me, again and again I forget that I already know the solution.

The tragedy of original sin is not that we live in a world where we cannot eat what we want, where we age, and where we become sick and die. The tragedy of sin is that we have forgotten how to be happy. We look at happiness and we think: "What do you want with me?"

*"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."
— Psalm 95:7*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I have a friend who receives communion, but who I know for a fact is in a state of mortal sin. Should I tell our priest? Is it my responsibility to say something?

Answer:

While we may always want to do what is best for our friends and family members, we have a responsibility to respect their privacy and their conscience. In its reflections on the Eighth Commandment ("You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"), the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury. [One] becomes guilty: -of rash judgment who, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor; -of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who do not know them; of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them" (no. 2477).

We will never truly know what is in a person's mind, heart, and soul; only God knows those things. We should, of course, take our concerns to God and entrust the person about whom we are concerned to God's grace and mercy. If we have concerns about the spiritual wellbeing of someone with whom we are close, we should go to the person themselves and talk about our fears and concerns. Unless it is a case of abuse or endangerment (which we have a moral and even legal responsibility to report to the appropriate authorities), we ultimately do not have the freedom to share another's persons faults or sins, however good we think our intentions might be.

All were amazed and asked one another, “What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.” His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee. - Mk 1:27-28

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

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Moses taught the Israelites that God would raise up a prophet like him to teach them the Lord’s commands. But he also forewarned about false prophets. How can we avoid listening to false prophetic voices?

Second Reading

Paul expresses his desire for the Corinthian believers to be free of anxiety so they can focus their attention and energies on Jesus. What distracts you from the Lord?

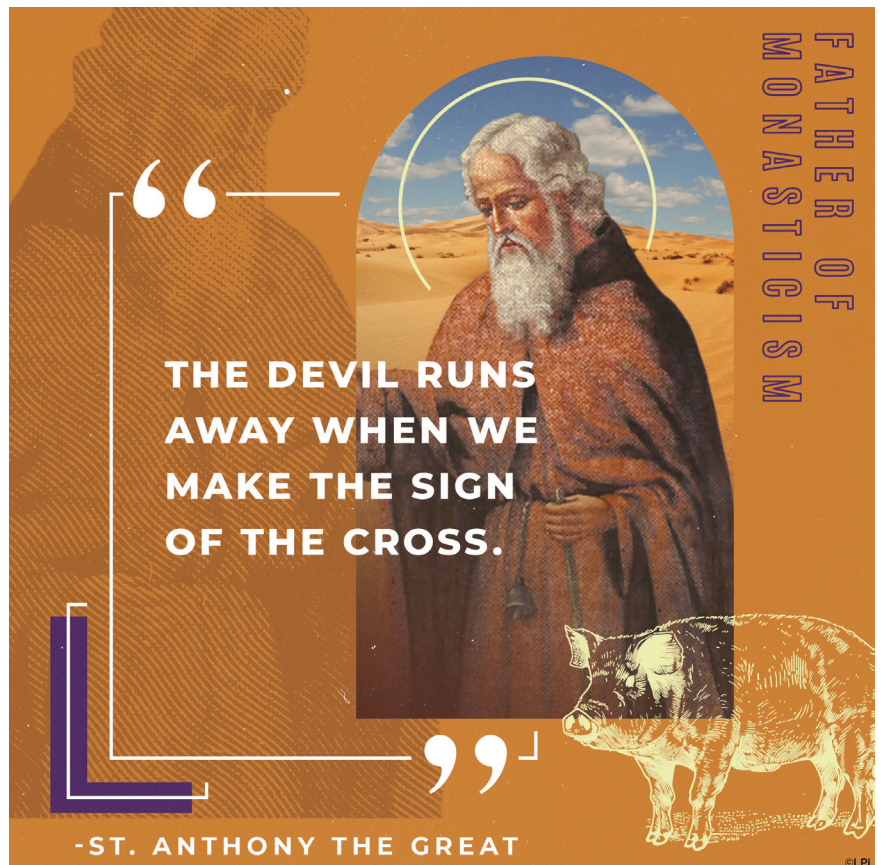
Gospel Reading

Mark informs us that early in Jesus’s public ministry his “fame spread” quickly throughout Galilee because of his powerful deeds, such as the healing of the demon-possessed man in today’s reading. Is there something or someone in your life that you pray Jesus would heal?



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DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.

PSALM 95



In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” Jesus rebuked him and said, “Quiet! Come out of him!” - Mk 1:23-25

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Prayer

God, you are much stronger than evil. Nothing is too hard for you to clean.

Mission for the Week

Make a new label for your family's stain pre-treatment bottle. Trace around the bottle, write Mark 1:21-28 in big letters, and decorate your label with a picture of Jesus. Tape your new label to the bottle so you and your parents remember how strong Jesus is.

Sharing the Gospel

Grass stains. Tomato sauce. Brightly colored fruit drinks. When these nasty stains stick to your clothes, it is tough to get them out. Regular soap won't work. You need something stronger. Jesus is really strong, too. In today's Gospel, a nasty evil spirit screamed when it saw Jesus. Jesus was so powerful, he cleaned that evil spirit right out.

Now color the picture!



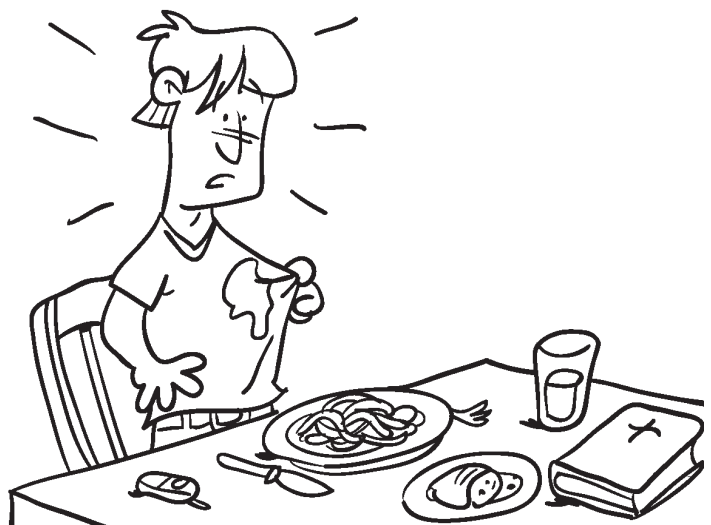
Unscramble words from today's gospel

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amazed

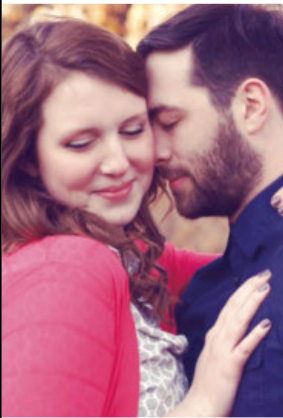
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