

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



7TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

**BE
MERCIFUL.**

©LPI

St. Columban Parish

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 5 p.m.

Daily Mass Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.

(Except First Fridays)

Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 6:30 p.m.

Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Anointing of the Sick By request

Rosary Prayer Group Monday 7 p.m.

Spanish prayer group Tuesday 6:30 p.m., Hall

Sacramental Preparation Contact the office

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 a.m.

First Friday Mass 9:00 a.m.

Confessions Sunday 7:30-7:45 a.m.

Anointing of the Sick By request

Parish Office at St. Columban

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m.– 2p.m.

Friday by appointment

Sacramental Emergencies

In danger of death call: 360-704-7051

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Help line 360-458-1904

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

For your Prayer and Meditation

Reflect on the Sunday Liturgy

Entrance Antiphon O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Sunday Readings 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

First Reading “Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD’s anointed.” (1 Sm 26:23)

King David exercised great restraint in sparing the life of Saul. Can you think of a time when you had to take the high road with a friend or co-worker?

Psalm The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

Second Reading Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one. (1 Cor 15:49)

St. Paul speaks of present-day believers as one day bearing the image of Christ (the “heavenly one”). How often do you think about your future life in heaven?

Gospel “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Jn Lk 6:36)

Jesus presents his followers with some very challenging morals: love your enemy, do not retaliate, and always be willing to forgive. Does this high moral standard seem possible for you personally?

Communion Antiphon I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

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

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Mass Intentions

Parishioners may schedule a Mass intention on our website or by calling the office. Sunday Masses are offered *Pro Populo*



Feb. 25— Rita Maus—RIP

Feb. 26— Richard Fife

Feb. 27 —

Feb. 28— Gabriel Ross

The Code of Canon Law confirms the practice of offering Masses for particular intentions is ancient: “The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works” (945 §2).

Prayer Intentions

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

Robert Fisher, Joe Judge, Pam Henslee, Mary Taylor, Maria Espino, Mort Kimball, Adrian Morales, Judy Cusick, Clay McBride, Theresa Gonzales, Debbie Little, Michelle Haligan, Fr. Victor Olvida, Lorna Edwards

For The Deceased

All the souls in purgatory, especially Marcella Thornton, Eva Mankowski and all those who have no one to pray for them. *May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

For our young people, that they may eagerly seek and generously respond to their vocations from God.

For peace in the world, for God’s protection on those in danger, the defeat and true repentance of unjust aggressors, and mercy for those who have died by violence.

Monthly Intentions of the Pope: (February 2025)

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life—Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Connect with us

WEBSITE saintcolumbanyelm.org

PHONE (360) 458-3031
Ministries x1, Spanish/Español x2

LIVESTREAM
youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm

SOCIAL MEDIA
facebook.com/saintcolumbanyelm
instagram.com/saintcolumbanyelm

ONLINE GIVING
pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm

MOBILE APP
“Our Catholic Community”
(Apple App Store & Google Play) 

FREE CATHOLIC STREAMING CONTENT
FORMED.org 

PARISH STAFF (360) 458-3031

Fr. Bryan Ochs
Pastor
parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org
*not private

Fr. William Dodoma
Parochial Vicar

Fr. Martin Bourke
Senior Priest in residence

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

Matthew Tolar
PA for Admin, Bookkeeping & Records
matthew@3hearts.org
(360) 491-0890 Ext. 1107

St. Columban Finance & Pastoral Council Please be patient as this council is being restructured. Members will be posted once they have been officially appointed by our Pastor.

St. Peter Advisory Commission Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston

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 our Priests

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and blessings to all of you!

February marks six months since I arrived in the United States, and time has truly flown by! As I sit down to write this article, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and awe for the experiences I have had since arriving in America. It has been a journey filled with new discoveries, and moments of profound grace. I would like to share with you some of the highlights of my time here, as they have truly enriched my life and deepened my faith.

A few weeks after my arrival someone asked me whether I missed home or how I am adapting to the wintry weather. My answer was that while being away from my family is difficult, you, the people of the parish welcoming spirit, have made me feel completely at home. Today, six months later, this remains my answer to that question, "Your welcoming spirit has made me feel at home."

The weather here is certainly much colder than I'm used to, but your warm welcome has provided a warmth that goes far beyond physical. It is a warmth that comes from the heart, and it's what keeps me going. Your smiles, your bright faces, and your generous spirits are like a constant source of comfort and joy. Thank you for the warm welcome!

I will never forget my arrival day. While Fr. Bryan was celebrating a funeral Mass, I was greeted by Azelle DeForest, who immediately took me to what I later learned was a clothing bank. There, I encountered wonderful women who gave me a jacket. I was a bit bewildered, to be honest! As some searched for other clothing, others helped me find shoes. I quickly learned that there are shoes specifically for walking – something I had not considered before! I then asked Azelle how much the jacket cost (as if I had any money), and she replied, "No, Father, it's free." I was astonished! Then, Azelle took me to the food bank. Again, I was met with incredible warmth and generosity. They gave me so much food! It was an overwhelming experience, and it brought to mind the Gospel of Matthew, 25:35 "I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was naked, and you gave me clothes, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." God bless these men and women who are trying to put the Gospel of Jesus into practice and thereby make the world a better place



to live for everyone!

Of course, the heart of any parish is its faith, and I have been deeply moved by the devotion and commitment I have witnessed here at our parish family. Your participation in the Mass, your involvement in parish activities, and your genuine care for one another are a testament to the strength of your faith. It is truly inspiring. I've also been delighted to hear the beautiful singing during Mass. The singing is simply extraordinary, truly captivating. A tour de force! When I hear the choir singing the Gloria, *Holy Holy, O Sanctissima*, just to mention a few, I feel as though I am already being lifted spiritually to the New Jerusalem.

A few days ago, I did have the delightful surprise of seeing snow for the very first time! It was truly magical. Like a scene from a Christmas card, the world transformed into a glistening wonderland. Awesome! I felt like a child and could not help but take pictures to send to people back home. This for me was a beautiful reminder of God's creation and the beauty that can be found in every season of life. I'm also grateful those of you who have taken me out to see some wonderful places around the area, such as Fort Lewis, Tumwater, West Port beach, Tacoma, Seattle and Olympia.

Driving on the streets of America was something I could only dream of before. But today, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, I can tell you that dream has become a reality. This would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of some truly special people here. They gave so freely of their time, energy, and resources to teach me, to patiently guide me, and to believe in me even when I doubted myself. Words cannot express how deeply grateful I am for their kindness. And the generosity did not stop there. I was truly overwhelmed, truly touched beyond words, when I received a car from one of you. It was an act of such profound kindness, such unexpected generosity, that it brought tears to my eyes. Only God knows the depth of my gratitude and the joy that fills my heart.

As I reflect on my time here, I am deeply grateful for the community that we have built together. Your support, encouragement, and prayers have been a source of strength for me. It is through our shared experiences, our moments of joy, and struggle, that we grow stronger in our faith and closer to one another. I'm blessed to be a part of this wonderful parish and to witness the ways in which God is at work in our lives.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of you for your kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith. May we continue to walk this journey together,

supporting and uplifting one another, as we strive to live out the Gospel in our daily lives.

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Fr. Bryan for his care and friendship since I arrived. His support has meant the world to me.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. William Dodoma

Dialogue for Justice: Catholic Advocacy to Reduce Poverty

Today’s Gospel from Luke (6:27-38) should jar us! Jesus awakens our consciences. He proposes counter cultural ways of being. Love enemies. Turn the other cheek. Give to those who ask. Do right by others. Stop judging and condemning. In other words, we are to live up to our baptismal graces as God’s children. We are to behave towards one another as God behaves toward us. The awful murder of five elementary Amish school girls in 2006 jarred the nation. The brutality of it must haunt those families. Yet, that very night, while the blood was still warm on the schoolroom floor, the Amish families in an act of mercy called upon the murderer’s family and brought them dinner. Their unbelievable act of kindness is born out of the Amish tradition of offering mercy...turning the other cheek...forgiving. This tragic event is a mirror to the words Luke gives us today. These Amish families had every right to curse and seek vengeance upon the murderer’s family. But they choose an unexpected path that shocked a culture that is more used to seeking “an eye for an eye.” The road of justice is bumpy, full of potholes and detours. Ash Wednesday is a mere ten days away. How might this Gospel passage be used to pray our way towards more just and forgiving relationships?

Peace, Deacon Terry, ofs

Announcements

Year-end Giving Statements were sent out. Please contact Matthew at the parish office if there are any corrections that need to be made or if you would like to have your statement printed.

Check your emails!

We send registered parishioners an emailed version of the bulletin every week with more up-to-date information than this printed edition due to early deadlines by the bulletin publisher. If you’re not registered, please stop by the Parish Office so we may welcome you and assist you. You may also register online at saintcolumbanyelm.org

Faith Formation

Next Sunday Faith Formation Classes

Feb. 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6

Children & Adults, contact: Mrs. Makinster

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

Youth Ministry, contact: Mr. Lucero

chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Parents, check your emails! *We will communicate with you directly over email regarding YM events.*

Are you interested in having your Middle School aged youth attend a Catholic Summer camp or High School aged youth attend a Summer Catholic youth conference? Contact us for more information.

Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

Please pray for our candidates and catechumen as they prepare to join the Church this Easter. Upcoming dates:
Rite of Sending– March 2, 10:30 Mass at St. Columban;
Rite of Election– March 11, 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Lacey

Bible Study Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at the Winter Clothes Closet and Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. at St. Peter Tenino.

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN AND SPECTACULAR

Saint Patrick's Dinner

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus

SATURDAY MARCH 8

6:00 PM

ST. COLUMBAN YELM PARISH HALL

See you there!

Tickets on sale online or in-person after all weekend Masses at St. Columban.

Parish Ministries & Events

Weekly Calendar

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY February 24

Rosary Prayer Group 7:00p.m. Church

TUESDAY February 25

Daily Mass 9:00a.m. Church
Winter Clothes Closet 6:00-8:00 p.m. Small Hall
Daughters of Mary Meeting 6:00p.m. Hall
Spanish Prayer Group 6:30p.m. Church
Youth FRFC Class 6:00 p.m. RE Bldg.
OCIA Class 6:30 p.m. RE Bldg.

WEDNESDAY February 26

Daily Mass 9:00a.m. Church
Bible Study 10:00a.m. St. Peter
Winter Clothes Closet 6:00-8:00 p.m. Small Hall

THURSDAY February 27 St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doc.

Daily Mass 9:00a.m. Church
Altar Society Weekly Cleaning 9:30a.m. Church
Winter Clothes Closet 6:00-8:00 p.m. Small Hall
Bible Study 6:30p.m. Small Hall

FRIDAY February 28

Daily Mass 9:00 a.m. Church

SATURDAY March 1

Confession 3:30 p.m. Church
Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00p.m. Church

SUNDAY March 2 Eighth Sunday in Ord. Time

Confession 7:30-7:45 a.m. St. Peter
Sunday Mass 8:00a.m. *Int.: Pro Populo* St. Peter
Religious Ed 9-10:15 a.m. RE Bldg.
Confirmation Classes 9-10:15 a.m. Hall
Sunday Mass 10:30a.m. *Int.: Pro Populo* Church
Rite of Sending for our OCIA candidates
Daughters of Mary Fellowship 11:45a.m. Parish Hall

After Mass Breakfast & Coffee Hospitality

Join us after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall.

- Feb. 23**—Knights of Columbus
- March 2**—Daughters of Mary
- March 9**—Altar Society & Daughters of Mary
- March 16**—Youth Ministry

Upcoming Events

Wed., March 5 — Ash Wednesday, start of Lent
 Mass St. Peter 9:00a.m.
 Mass St. Columban 7:00p.m.

Sat., March 8 — St. Patrick's Dinner, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, \$12 for Ages 12+, \$6 Ages 4-11, Ages 3 and under free

Menu: Irish lamb stew, corned beef & cabbage, vegetables, bread, salad, dessert & beverages



Altar Society

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



Daughters of Mary

Meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Join us for our next meeting **February 25** at 6 p.m. in the Hall. All women of the parish are invited and bring your favorite snack to share!



Liturgical Ministries

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Altar Servers, Choir, Greeters/Ushers, Readers
 Please check your emails and respond to confirm that you will be serving on your scheduled date. This helps us find substitutes should you be unavailable.



Knights of Columbus

kofcvelm@gmail.com Next Council & Assembly meeting Wednesday, March 19, 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



St. Peter Circle

Meets second Tuesdays every other month at St. Peter Tenino. Next scheduled meetings: **March 11 and May 13 at 9:30 a.m.**



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Meets monthly, on the third Thursday of the month in the parish hall at 7 p.m. **Next meeting is March 20.**



Winter Clothes Closet

Open Tuesday—Thursday 6-8p.m. Free to all in need, no questions asked. Donations are through the parish office or by using the bin in the narthex.



Financial Stewardship

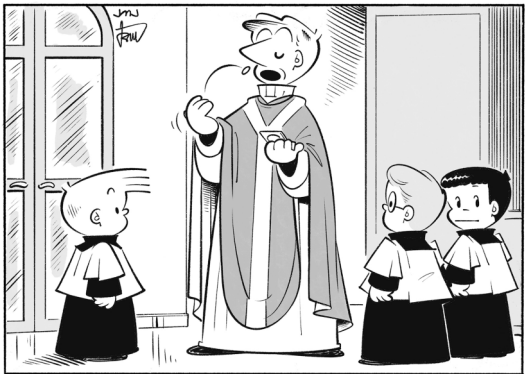
January 2025 Total Giving

	St. Columban	St Peter
Weekly Collection Goal over 4 weeks	\$23,200.00	\$4,000.00
Envelope Collections	\$22,986.00	\$2,997.00
Loose Giving	\$1,340.89	\$109.00
Net	\$1,126.89	(\$894.00)
Special Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
St Vincent DePaul	\$254.07	\$0.00
Sacramentals*	\$81.07	\$0.00
Flowers	\$70.00	\$20.00
Building Fund	\$170.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$60.00	\$0.00
Second Collection	\$0.00	\$0.00

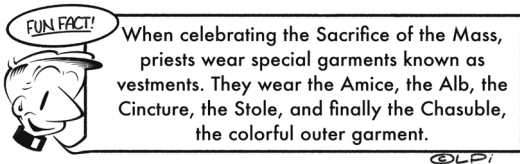
*Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)

Sunday Features

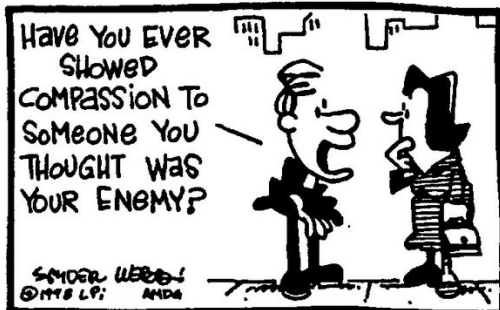
"How is a priest required to freshen his breath before Mass?"



"With a **vestMINT.**"



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Father Flood © LPi



From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

1825 "Christ died out of love for us, while we were still "enemies." [Rom 5:10] The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our *enemies*, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself. [Cf. Mt 5:44; Lk 10:27-37; Mk 9:37; Mt 25:40, 45]

The Apostle Paul has given an incomparable depiction of charity: "charity is patient and kind, charity is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Charity does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Charity bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." [1 Cor 13:4-7]

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question: Is Ash Wednesday a holy day of obligation?

Answer: Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no! Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event (such as the birth of Christ at Christmas) or celebrate particular people (such as Mary's Immaculate Conception or the feast of All Saints). Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. In a sense, it focuses on a concept rather than something particular and concrete.

Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That's one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth. ..

(Text ©LPi, our bulletin publisher)

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls

CRS Rice Bowl is celebrating 50 years of helping Catholic faith communities bring Lent to life and encounter God through our global family. During the 40 days of Lent, let us journey together through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Next week, pick up your rice bowl at the narthex and collect change throughout Lent. Visit crsricebowl.org/join to share your Lenten prayer intentions.



Father Michael McGivney
An American Blessed

FORMED® THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

Father Michael McGivney: An American Blessed

In May 2020, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Fr. Michael McGivney, paving the way for his beatification. This documentary highlights Fr. McGivney's fraternal charity, evangelization, and empowerment of the laity.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



Other Events & Announcements

In our Parish Family

For more happenings and Mass Schedule in Lacey visit www.sacredheartlacey.com Contact the Sacred Heart parish office at 360-491-0890 or staff@3hearts.org.

Sacred Heart Parish 57th Annual Crab Feed

Friday, February 28, 2025, 6pm Sacred Heart Lacey Hallen Hall, Adults 18 and over \$40.00, Ages 13-17 \$25.00, Age 12 and under free. Tickets are all you can enjoy crab, with beer & vino included with meal. No ticket sales at the door, presale only. Contact John Huff for tickets: (360) 584-2323 or contact the Sacred Heart parish office.

Sacred Heart Youth Ministry Fat Tuesday Pasta Feed, Youth Talent Show & Fundraiser Auction

Tuesday, March 3, 2025, 6pm Hallen Hall. Tickets on sale at the Sacred Heart parish office.

Lenten Vespers

Monday evenings, 5-5:30pm March 10 - April 14, in the Church at Sacred Heart Lacey. Join the parish family for Vespers, the praying of Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the Church.

A Journey in Lent with the Psalms of Ascent

Tuesday evenings March 11-April 15 6:30-8 p.m. or Wednesday mornings March 12-April 16 10-11:30 a.m. in Sacred Heart's Hallen Hall. Join in a six-week series of weekly presentations and discussions about the "Psalms of Ascent" (Psalms 120-134), facilitated by parishioner Jon Talbot. Free, sign-up through the Sacred Heart parish office .

Position available in our Parish Family

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is seeking an administrator who will oversee the day-to-day administrative operations of the Church. They function as a Chief of Staff of all parish administrative staff. This is a full-time in-person role with benefits. They will oversee all the administrative functions of the parish, including finance, maintenance and facilities (including technology), and Human Resources and serve as key person for the Partners in the Gospel initiative. This person not only ensures the quality of all work done by parish administrative staff but works to maintain a healthy and safe work environment for all. For information, please contact azelle@3hearts.org.

Holy Family School, a private independent Catholic school in Lacey, serving PK-8. Visit Holyfamilylacey.org or call 360-491-7060.

Pope John Paul II High School, a Catholic, college-prep high school in Lacey. Visit popejp2hs.org or call 360-438-7600.

From the Archdiocese

For a complete list of events happening around the Archdiocese of Seattle visit archseattle.org/eventslist

Celebrating a Legacy of Faith

The Archdiocese of Seattle is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year from January to May. We will mark this anniversary with special Masses and with a Season of Service. Learn more at

archseattle.org/175

Jubilee 2025

Learn how to participate locally at

archseattle.org/Jubilee2025



Jubilee of Deacons—This Jubilee year of 2025 invites each one of us to be a pilgrim of hope. For Christians, hope is anchored in

the encounter with Jesus whose life, death, and resurrection reveals God's transforming love.

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church. The Jubilee of

Deacons was held from Friday, February 21, to Sunday, February 23, 2025. In the Catholic Church, the diaconate is one of three degrees in ordained ministry - bishops, priests, and deacons. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Latin-rite Church has restored the diaconate "as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy". Deacons preparing for the priesthood are transitional deacons, while those not planning to be ordained priests are permanent deacons. The permanent diaconate can be conferred on a single or married man. If he is married, he must be so before receiving the diaconate. Deacons embrace the ministry of word, ministry of liturgy, and works of charity which, in their turn, are carried into daily life. Let us pray for our deacons Terry Barber, Rey Ronquillo, and Ronnie San Nicolas in our parish family of Sacred Heart, St. Columban and St. Peter.



Resources

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.

Please Support our Bulletin Advertisers. The bulletin is provided to us free of charge thanks to the local businesses who advertise. Please consider being an advertiser in this local neighborhood bulletin. Thank you.

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

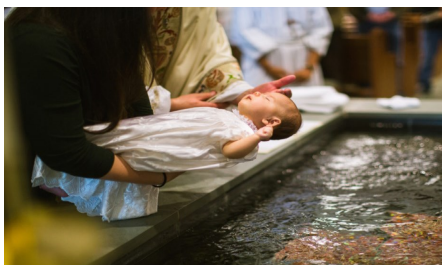
(Partner Dioceses contact information here)

Su Familia y el Círculo de Gracia

Su hogar es el primer lugar donde su hijo experimentará la seguridad y la protección del amor de Dios por él. Y USTEDES son las primeras personas para comunicar esta profunda verdad del *Círculo de Gracia* de Dios a su hijo.

Desde el momento en que nace, un niño puede saber en su interior si es amado y está seguro. Su hijo experimenta un círculo de gracia por la forma dulce en que sus padres y encargados de su cuidado lo abrazan, cómo responden a sus necesidades cuando llora y le tranquilizan cuando tiene miedo o está en peligro. Dios proporciona su amor y su cuidado a su hijo a través de su atención cariñosa hacia él.

En el bautismo de su hijo, se le dio una vela y se le pidió que fuera una "luz" para su hijo... la luz del amor de Cristo y su presencia brillando sobre él.



Quando usted es un padre amoroso y responsable, su hijo aprende de usted el círculo de gracia al comunicarle el amor de Dios a través de su fiel cuidado y protección.

Sus palabras le enseñan a su hijo la protección y el consuelo de Dios. Utilice las palabras para recordarle a su hijo que Dios está con él, velando por él día y noche. Cuando tenga miedo o ansiedad, recuérdelo que nunca está solo. Asegúrele que ha sido maravillosamente creado por Dios... tal como es; bajo, alto, pecoso o sencillo.

Sus acciones también enseñan. Demuestre respeto por su hijo permitiéndole una privacidad adecuada para su edad, no burlándose de su cuerpo, estableciendo normas sobre el acoso escolar y los insultos, y fijando límites en casa para que el respeto mutuo se aprenda y se practique cada día de forma habitual.

Sus actitudes le comunicarán a su hijo de forma profunda. Una actitud receptiva, de franqueza y aceptación de los sueños y temores de su hijo es importante para establecer la sensación de confianza que necesita para contarle lo que siente. Necesita saber que puede contarle cualquier cosa y que usted le escuchará y aceptará sus sentimientos sin castigos o represalias.

Establezca Tradiciones y Espacios Sagrados

Las tradiciones y rituales familiares sencillos ayudan a los niños a tener una sensación de seguridad y pertenencia que mejora su comprensión del círculo de gracia. Las tradiciones actúan como el adhesivo que mantiene a las familias unidas. Algunas tradiciones son de temporada (montar en trineo en la nieve, barrer las hojas, montar en bicicleta o acampar en el patio trasero). Otras se dan con el ritmo de la vida cotidiana (dar a cada niño la señal de la cruz en la frente al salir de casa, las oraciones de buenas noches o la lectura de cuentos, las notas en las loncheras en días especiales o la pizza y la película del viernes por la noche). Las familias que incorporan en sus vidas rituales y tradiciones les enseñan a los niños que la gracia de Dios les rodea tanto en los momentos cotidianos de sus vidas como en los momentos especiales.

Establezca un Espacio Sagrado en su Hogar: "Con o sin invitación, Dios está presente".

Coloque sacramentales en su casa para recordarse a sí mismo y a sus hijos que Dios está presente todo el tiempo, estemos o no atentos a Él. Los sacramentales (una cruz o un crucifijo, imágenes o estatuas de María, Jesús o los santos, un rosario, escapulario o una medalla, u otro arte

religioso) son objetos que nos recuerdan nuestra fe. Colocar las escrituras en un lugar destacado con una vela cerca es una forma de reconocer la presencia de Dios en su santa palabra. Otra opción sería hacer un altar en casa con un símbolo de Cristo, una vela y objetos que le recuerden la presencia bondadosa de Dios a su alrededor, en la naturaleza, en fotos de seres queridos o en recuerdos de momentos felices juntos.

Oren Juntos...

Reúna a quien esté en casa a la hora de comer o acostarse y pida la bendición de Dios para su familia. Ore cuando alguien esté enfermo, triste o ansioso. Ore cuando tenga algo que celebrar. Tenga un libro de oraciones familiares en casa para ayudarle a recordar la oración diaria. En su oración, reconozca la presencia de Dios con usted, pida lo que necesita y dé gracias por sus bendiciones. La oración es un diálogo con Dios por medio de la cual Él nos tranquiliza con su poder y presencia en nuestras vidas.

Hable con sus Hijos sobre su *Círculo de Gracia*

Estas son algunas ideas para ayudarle a enseñarle a su hijo que es una creación preciosa de Dios y que nunca está fuera del círculo de su amor y su gracia.

- Pregunta: ¿Cuáles son algunas de las formas en las que Dios nos muestra cuanto nos ama?**
Respuesta: Dios está con nosotros siempre, cuando estamos contentos, tristes, dormidos, solos o con miedo. Dios nos ama mucho y Él pone Adultos de confianza en nuestras vidas para ayudarnos cuando estamos heridos, asustados o confundidos. Dios nos ayuda a saber qué pertenece en nuestro *Círculo de Gracia* al experimentar paz, amor o satisfacción cuando algo o alguien bueno entra en nuestro *Círculo de Gracia*.
- Pregunta: ¿Cómo sabemos cuando algo no pertenece en nuestro *Círculo de Gracia*?**
Respuesta: Podemos tener una sensación extraña o incómoda de que algo o alguien no es seguro, podemos tener miedo o sentir que queremos huir.
Dios nos ayuda a saber lo que no pertenece en nuestro *Círculo de Gracia*:
Dios desea ayudarnos cuando estamos heridos, asustados o confundidos (inseguros). El espíritu Santo nos avisa de que algo no pertenece en nuestro *Círculo de Gracia* al darnos una "sensación rara o incómoda" de que algo no es seguro. Este sentimiento está ahí porque Dios quiere que estemos seguros.
Dios no hace que nos pasen cosas malas. Tener fe no nos quita los problemas de la vida. Pero Dios prometió estar siempre "presente" guiándonos y dándonos consuelo en nuestros momentos de necesidad.
- Pregunta: ¿Dios nos da personas en nuestras vidas (nuestros padres, maestros y Adultos de Confianza) para que nos ayuden cuando tenemos problemas o una preocupación. Pregúntele a su hijo/a qué haría si tuviera miedo de que algo inseguro pudiera sucederle, o si ya algo le ha ocurrido. (Contarles a los padres, o a un Adulto de Confianza).**
Respuesta: Dios nos ayuda a saber cuándo pedirle ayuda a alguien en quien confiamos. Dios quiere que hablemos con un adulto de confianza sobre nuestras preocupaciones, inquietudes o "sentimientos raros/incómodos" para que nos ayuden a estar seguros y a actuar correctamente. El *Círculo de Gracia* nos ayuda a aprender habilidades para tomar buenas decisiones y nos recuerda la presencia y la ayuda de Dios cuando nos enfrentamos a situaciones difíciles y confusas.

¿Qué es la familia?

Las familias de hoy en día pueden ser muy diferentes a las de las generaciones pasadas. Los padres casados, los padres solteros, los padrastros, los padres adoptivos, los abuelos, la familia extendida, los amigos y otros pueden ser responsables de proporcionar un ambiente sano, seguro y amoroso para criar a nuestros hijos. **Las familias son fundamentales en el plan que Dios tiene para sus hijos.** Son el pilar fundamental de las sociedades fuertes. En las familias es donde podemos sentir el amor y aprender a amar a los demás.

"El hogar Cristiano es el lugar donde los niños reciben el primer anuncio de la fe. Debido a esto es que el **hogar familiar es llamado con justa razón "la iglesia doméstica"**, una comunidad de gracia y oración, una escuela de las virtudes humanas y de la caridad cristiana". Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica No. 1666



Lo que el *Círculo de Gracia* Enseña sobre el amor de Dios

El *Círculo de Gracia* es el amor y la bondad de Dios que nos rodea en todo momento. Es el reconocimiento de que Él está con nosotros siempre y desea una relación de amor con cada uno de nosotros, incluso en situaciones difíciles y confusas. Dios está realmente presente no como juez, sino por amor, guiándonos para tomar decisiones que nos acerquen a Él. El *Círculo de Gracia* enseña el carácter Sagrado de cada persona y cómo las relaciones son llamadas a ser experiencias de amor divino.

Podemos Recomendar...

Boletines de Primero los Padres de Kinder hasta el grado 12.

*Primero los Padres complementa las lecciones del *Círculo de Gracia* proporcionándole información y recursos a los padres para ayudarles a responder las preguntas de sus hijos, de una manera apropiada para cada edad, en temas como la sexualidad, la pubertad, la dignidad humana y las relaciones sagradas. (Los Boletines de Primero los Padres para cada grado y los boletines sobre temas especiales de interés para los padres están disponibles en su Escuela, la Formación Religiosa o el Ministerio Juvenil).*

Ministerios del Matrimonio y la Vida Familiar, Padres y Crianza:

www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries/parents-and-parenting (en inglés)

'Lo que los Niños Necesitan de Sus Padres'— Los Católicos Regresan a Casa:

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

Crianza para todas las Etapas— Fe Familiar Católica

www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/general1.html (en inglés)

((Información de contacto de las Diócesis asociadas, aquí)

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Speakers:
Natalya Rubel & Karen Hyde



Location

Virgil Clarkson Lacey Senior Center
6757 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503



Date

March 13, 2025



Time

From 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Join us for an insightful educational program provided by the Alzheimer's Association presented by ABOVE Home Health, in collaboration with the Sacred Heart Parish.

This event is designed **to equip caregivers with effective communication strategies for interacting with individuals living with dementia.** Learn person-centered approaches to overcome common challenges, foster meaningful connections, and build a strong support network.

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Meeting ID: 239 722 383 87

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Class start promptly at 1:00 PM

Please notify: Karenehhyde@outlook.com if you plan to attend in person, otherwise we will see you on **TEAMS**.

Your Presenters will share:

- **Recognizing** the communication difficulties posed by dementia.
- **Employing** effective communication strategies tailored to individual needs.
- **Enhancing** interactions with individuals living with dementia, family members, and healthcare
- **Creating** a space for open dialogue, questions, and shared experiences.
- **Building** a strong support network for caregivers.

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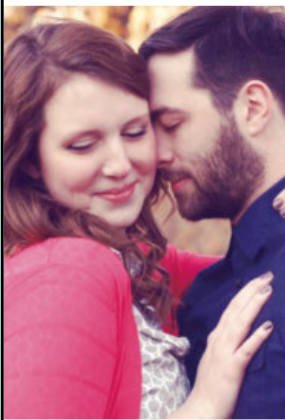
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