

PARISH FAMILY 14

ST. ALPHONSUS | ST. BENEDICT | ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MATTHEW 24:37-44

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 PM Vigil at St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM Vigil at St. John
Sunday: 8:30 AM at St. John
9:00 AM at St. Alphonsus
10:30 AM at St. John
11:00 AM at St. Benedict

DAILY MASSES

Mon - Thurs: 7:30 AM at St. Alphonsus
Friday: 9:00 AM at St. John
Saturday: 8:00 AM at St. Alphonsus
(except 1st Sat: 9:00 AM at St. John)

CONFESSION

Mon - Thurs: 7:00 - 7:20 AM at St. Alphonsus
Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM at St. Alphonsus
Sunday: 8:00 - 8:45 AM at St. Alphonsus
Sunday: 9:45 - 10:15 AM at St. John
By appointment: info@parishfamily14.org
First Thursday Confession and Adoration:
7:00-8:00 PM at St. Alphonsus



ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH

5816 15th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107
Website: <https://stalseattle.org>



ST. BENEDICT PARISH

1805 N 49th St, Seattle, WA 98103
Website: <https://parish.stbens.net>



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

106 N 79th St, Seattle, WA 98103
Website: <https://stjohnsea.org>

Admin Office/Front Desk: 206-782-2810 | 206-770-6494 (Fax) | info@parishfamily14.org | 106 N 79th St, Seattle
Faith Formation Office: 206-632-0843 | lcorcoro@parishfamily14.org | 1805 N 49th St, Seattle



@parishfamily14

For pastoral emergencies, please call: 206-271-3543.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

November 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

	ST. ALPHONSUS	ST. BENEDICT	ST. JOHN
November 30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8 AM Confession 9 AM Mass 10 AM Coffee & Donuts 10:30 AM OCIC - McGrath Room	11 AM Mass with CLOW (Livestream) 12 PM Coffee & Donuts	8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Lectio Divina 9:35 AM Confirmation Class PF14 9:45 AM Confession 10:30 AM Mass with CLOW Coffee & Donuts after both Masses in Egan Hall 11:30 AM Advent Wreath Making - Egan Hall 7:30 PM Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
December 1 Monday	7 AM Confession 7:30 AM Daily Mass INT: Pastor Special Intention 7 PM Men's Group - McGrath Rm	8:30 AM SMdP Sandwich Making 7 PM Gospel Study via Zoom - CANCELLED	
December 2 Tuesday	7 AM Confession 7:30 AM Daily Mass INT: Pastor Special Intention	7 PM Women's Ministry via Zoom	6 PM Advent Community Dinner - Egan Hall
December 3 Wednesday <i>Saint Francis Xavier, Priest</i>	7 AM Confession 7:30 AM Daily mass INT: Pastor Special Intention		7 PM An Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew - Parish Admin Building
December 4 Thursday <i>Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	7 AM Confession 7:30 AM Daily Mass INT: Pastor Special Intention 10 AM Scripture Study 7 PM Advent Penance Service 7 PM OCIA - McGrath Room	9 AM 1 st Thursday Mass RIP: Mark Mathura 7 PM Book Club	3-4 PM Family Adoration
December 5 Friday	8:15 AM Adoration Chapel open to 8 PM		9 AM Daily Mass INT: Pastor Special Intention
December 6 Saturday <i>Saint Nicholas, Bishop</i>	4 PM Confession 5 PM Vigil Mass		9 AM 1 st Saturday Mass INT: Pastor Special Intention 11 AM Funeral Mass for David Nygren 5 PM Vigil Mass (Livestream) SVdP Collection
December 7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8 AM Confession 9 AM Mass 10 AM Ham & Pancake Breakfast 10:30 AM OCIC - McGrath Room	11 AM Mass with CLOW (Livestream) - Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance 12 PM Parol (Lantern) Making Workshop and Coffee & Donuts - School Cafeteria 12 PM Presentation on the Japanese internment camps during World War II - Church	8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Lectio Divina 9:35 AM Confirmation Class PF14 9:45 AM Confession 10:30 AM Mass with CLOW SVdP Collection at both Masses Coffee & Donuts after both Masses with Girl Scouts Craft Fair 2 PM St. Francis of Assisi - Parish Admin Building 7:30 PM Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
	<i>For livestream and recorded masses, click the links:</i>	https://parish.stbens.net www.facebook.com/stbenseattle	www.stjohnsea.org/live-stream-masses

PARISH FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

PARISH FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR

Last year, we celebrated our first Advent together as a Parish Family and it was truly a joyful experience!

This year, don't miss out on the excitement. Join us for a series of meaningful and fun activities that invite us to pray, connect, and grow as a Parish Family, drawing us closer to one another and to Christ during this holy season.

Please check out **Upcoming Events** section of this bulletin or go to bit.ly/PF14Advent2025 for complete details.

Nov 30 - Advent Wreath Making

Dec 2, 9 and 16 - Advent
Community Dinners

Dec 3 - Presentation on the
Gospel of Matthew by Ron Ryan

Dec 4 - Advent Penance Service

Dec 7 - *Parol* (Lantern) Making

Dec 8 - Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception Mass

Dec 11 - Feast of Our Lady of
Guadalupe Mass

Dec 19 - A Festival of Lessons and
Carols

Dec 20 - Simbang Gabi

Dec 24 and 25 - Christmas Masses

VOLUNTEER THIS ADVENT!

Bring the joy of the season to others by sharing your time and talents!

Set up Christmas lights at St. Benedict - after the 11 AM mass on December 7, Sunday

Decorate our churches for Christmas - December 21, Sunday; Take down decorations - January 11, Sunday

- after 9 AM at St. Alphonsus
- after the 11 AM mass at St. Benedict
- after 10:30 AM mass at St. John

RITE OF WELCOMING AND ACCEPTANCE – ALL INVITED!

Please join us as we welcome those continuing their faith journey toward becoming Catholic. On **Sunday, December 7 at 11:00 AM, our Parish Family will celebrate the Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance at St. Benedict Church.** This rite is the first formal step in the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) process.

In this beautiful rite, unbaptized catechumens and previously candidates publicly declare their desire to follow Christ and the Church, in turn, embraces them with prayer and encouragement. Through this simple but powerful ritual, they are welcomed into our faith community and supported as they continue to learn, grow, and discern.

Your presence is a meaningful way to show hospitality and accompany our newest members in faith. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend, pray and celebrate with our catechumens and candidates at this joyful milestone.

UPDATE ON THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL MINISTRY POSITION

Fr. Parrish has put a pause on the hiring of a Director of Pastoral Ministry (DPM). The DPM is intended to work with our Pastor, Parochial Vicar, and leadership team to help make our faith formation programs more focused on living and sharing our faith in everyday life.

The decision not to hire for this position was made to help close an existing budget gap. By not filling the role, the parish can start tightening expenses, press reset, and focus on rebuilding financially. This is part of our overall efforts to address financial challenges and reduce costs.

In the meantime, Fr. Nkolombidzo, our Parochial Vicar, will take on the responsibilities of this role to ensure continuity in our faith formation initiatives.

FAITH FORMATION STAFF AVAILABILITY

Our Faith Formation staff are available Wednesdays to Fridays, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM to serve you! Whether you have questions, need guidance, or want to learn more about our programs, they are ready to assist and support you on your faith journey. The Team is available on email for faster responses.



Listening Sessions and Survey Updates

Our Pastoral Leadership Team is still working on consolidating the results from the Listening Sessions and the Survey. **These insights will be shared with all three parishes on the second weekend of December.** Stay tuned as we discover and celebrate the unique gifts and charisms of each community!

Our survey remains open, so there's still time to share your voice. If you haven't yet participated, you can scan the QR code or pick up a printed form in the vestibule of any of our churches. Your input is valuable and helps shape the future of our Parish Family.



bit.ly/PF14WhoRWeSurvey

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT

Wreath Making

Party

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 30

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

ST. JOHN'S 10:30 AM MASS

AT EGAN HALL

EVERYONE'S
INVITED!



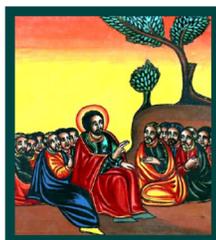
ADVENT Penance Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

7:00 - 9:00 PM AT

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH

Join us for adoration and confessions on a prayerful evening with contemplative music and reflections.



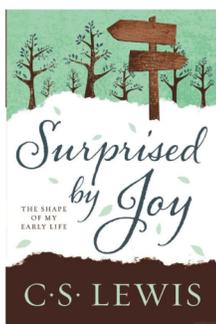
an introduction to the

Gospel of **Matthew**

with **Ron Ryan, D. Min.**

Wednesday, December 3

7:00 - 8:30 pm • St. John Parish Admin Bldg.



ADVENT COMMUNITY Dinners

Tuesdays of Advent, 6 - 8 PM

November 25-

December 2, 9, and 16

Hosted at St. John's Egan Hall

Join us for a four-week Advent series as we reflect together on *Surprised by Joy* by C.S. Lewis. Come for dinner, stay for prayer, and leave with a renewed connection with your parish community.

Childcare available. Register Today!

RSVP by calling the Faith Formation Office at 206-632-0843 or online:



bit.ly/PFAdventDinner

Volunteers needed!

We warmly welcome volunteers and dish contributions, but your presence and participation matter most! See you there! Questions or to sign up, email cshea@parishfamily14.org.

PAROL (Lantern) Making Workshop

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ST.

BENEDICT'S 11:00 AM MASS

AT THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Get creative and make your own Christmas *parol*! A *parol* is a traditional Filipino star-shaped lantern that symbolizes hope and the light of Christmas.



All supplies are provided courtesy of Fellores-Orquia Family. Take your lantern home and let it shine this Christmas!



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MASS

Monday,
December 8

9:00 AM - St. John Church
11:00 AM - St Benedict Church
2:00 PM - St. Alphonsus Church
7:00 PM - St. Benedict Church



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

Thursday, December 11
7 PM, St. Benedict Church

For details on all our meaningful and joyful Parish Family Advent programs and events, click here: bit.ly/PF14Advent2025.

FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTS

SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS

Faith Sharing Group

November 30, 7:30 PM | St. John Group via Zoom
Everyone is welcome to join, ask questions, and share insights as they grow together in faith. For zoom link and more info, contact tressa.Lombardi@hotmail.com

Gospel/Scripture Ministry

December 1, 7 PM | St. Benedict Gospel Study via Zoom
Meeting ID: 864 **CANCELLED** word: 961919 (Contact: Brenda Stratton at bjandmes@msn.com)

December 4, 10 AM | St. Alphonsus Scripture Study in the St. Alphonsus McGrath Room (Contact: Mary Green at amgquilts46@gmail.com)

Men's Group

December 1, 7 PM | St. Alphonsus Men's Group fellowship and faith sharing in the St. Al McGrath Room (Contact: Brian LeBlanc at brianleblanc76@gmail.com)

Women's Group

December 2, 7 PM | St. Benedict Women's Ministry via Zoom Meeting ID: 83832067839 Password: 042299
For more info, please contact Debra Reilly at debras.reilly@gmail.com.

Book Group

December 4, 7 PM | St. Benedict Book Group at St. Mary Room (upper level of Parish Center); Reading schedule: December - *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flag (Contact: Brenda Stratton at bjandmes@msn.com)



Looking to grow in faith and friendship? Check out the many Small Faith Sharing Groups across our Parish Family! Scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/PF14SmallGroups. These groups are wonderful opportunities to pray together, reflect on Scripture, share life experiences, and build meaningful connections within our community. Everyone is welcome, whether you're new or have been with us for years. Come find a group that feels right for you!



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Infant Baptism

Baptisms in our Parish Family are scheduled during the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses at our three churches. Upcoming baptism dates: **December 13 and 14, 2025; February 28 and March 1, 2026; June 13 and 14, 2026**
For more information, contact Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Are you an adult seeking confirmation or interested in becoming Catholic? Join our OCIA! Sessions are held on **Thursday evenings at 7 PM in the St. Alphonsus McGrath Room**. This is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith. Email Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org for more information. All are welcome!

Youth Confirmation

- Classes meet at St. John's Egan Hall (unless otherwise communicated).
- Register here: bit.ly/PF14ConfirmationReg
- For full details, go to www.stjohnsea.org/confirmation or contact jrudden@parishfamily14.org.

Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC)

If your kids are from another faith tradition but feel at home in our Parish Family, or baptized Catholic but want to learn more, OCIC might be the perfect place for them to grow in faith.

Join us for classes on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 AM in the St. Alphonsus McGrath Room. Sessions begin November 30!
For more information, please contact Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org.



Marriage

Marriage in the Catholic Church is a sacrament and a lifetime commitment—preparation is vital to ensuring that the bride and groom are ready to enter into this serious, life-affirming and life-long commitment.

We aim to support and assist you as you start your journey toward the joys of married life. To get started, please contact Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org or 206-632-0843 ext 217.

Please feel free to contact us for the following:

First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, Youth Confirmation, Sacrament of Matrimony and Funeral -

Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children - Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org

Parish Advocates for Annulment - annulment@stjohnsea.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Everyone's invited!

HAM AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT ST. ALPHONSUS



On Sunday, **December 7**, the men of the **Holy Name Society** will serve up a ham and pancake breakfast after the 9 AM Mass, at the St. Alphonsus Family Center. All donation proceeds will go to the St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter.

You can drop off your socks donations for St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter at the Pancake Breakfast.

The shelter is also in need of the following new items: toothbrushes, travel-sized toiletries (shampoo, lotion, shaving cream), disposable razors and deodorant.



Thank you for sharing the spirit of compassion and generosity this season!

Sancta Vita

Next Step helps those facing unplanned pregnancy with free pregnancy tests, diagnostic ultrasounds, information and resources as well as material assistance.

Every Christmas St. Alphonsus takes the opportunity to help Next Step in stocking up their baby boutique with needed items. Please take a tag from the tree and return your unwrapped gift and place it by the tree by Sunday, December 14 or to the Faith Formation Office during office hours. If you'd prefer to make a financial donation to the Next Step you can do so online at nextstepnw.com/donate.



Food Lifeline

A big thanks to our six volunteers who worked with 15 other volunteers to sort and repack an impressive 1,740 lbs of pasta on Wednesday, November 5. We started with one ton bins of pasta, then sifted pasta into smaller cardboard boxes, and then a calibrated 5 level scoops of pasta was put into 2 lb bags. Then (15) 2 lb bags went into each banana box, then 21 banana boxes to a pallet. We were moving and shaking, proving great teamwork makes the dream work.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Share your blessings this holiday season!

Pick a tag, bring your **unwrapped gift/s** to the church or parish office, and help bring joy to children, families, and individuals in need in our community.

Gift recipients include:

- St. Alphonsus
 - Next Step Pregnancy Services
- St. Benedict
 - St. Vincent de Paul families
 - St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter
 - St. Francis House
 - Columbia Lutheran Home
 - Jubilee Women's Center
 - King County Juvenile Detention Center
 - Friends of Limulunga
- St. John
 - Noel House Women's Shelter
 - St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter
 - Broadview-Thompson K-8 Program



Knights of Columbus PANCAKE Breakfast



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Knights of Columbus' pancake breakfast at St. John on November 16!



FAITH IN FOCUS



Advent Wreath Year A

IF YOU are setting up an Advent wreath in your home this year, here are some prayers you could say while you light its candles.

You may say these before or after a meal, when waking up, before going to bed, or whenever you and the members of your household gather for prayer. Before you say the prayer, read and talk over the Gospel reading you heard at Sunday Mass that week.

Week 1: O God, who invite us to stay awake because we do not know the day the Lord will come, let this candle signify the dawn of the day when your Son will come again. Help us to avoid doing things we want to hide and to live always as children of the light. Through Christ our Lord.

Week 2: O God, who sent John the Baptist to tell us to prepare the way of the Lord, let these two candles light the way for us. Help us to walk now and always in a straight path to you. May love of God and love of neighbor light our way. Through Christ our Lord.

Week 3: O God, who promised that the least one born into the Kingdom of God is greater than John the Baptist, fill us with joy as we light the rose candle. Make us happy when we serve you, and let us see the light of your glory. Through Christ our Lord.

Week 4: O God, who sent an angel to comfort Joseph in his dream, comfort us when we are afraid. Turn our darkness into light. Let these four candles warm our hearts as we await the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us. Through Christ our Lord.



Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Devotions and Customs © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

Francis Xavier

Feast Day: December 3

Canonized: March 12, 1622

Beatified: October 25, 1619



The Catholic Church calls Saint Francis Xavier “the Apostle to the Indies” and “the Apostle of Japan.” The word apostle means “one who is sent.” Jesus sent his twelve apostles out to announce the coming of God’s kingdom. Hundreds of years later, the Church sent Francis Xavier out to preach the same good news.

Francis was born in Spain in 1506. He studied in Paris and with Ignatius Loyola was one of the seven men who founded the Jesuit order, the Society of Jesus, in 1534. Then in 1541 he sailed to Goa, India. There he preached about Jesus—the poor carpenter of Nazareth.

Francis knew that actions speak louder than words, so he did not only tell the people of India the message of the Gospels. He acted out this message by living, sleeping, eating, playing, and working among the poor. Did they live in rickety huts? So did he. Did they eat only rice? So did he. Did they work long hours in the hot sun? So did he. Because of his words and actions, many thousands came to believe in the Christian God of mercy and love and tenderness.

In 1547, Francis sailed to Japan. In the two years he was there, he baptized thousands of people. But Francis had a dream. He wanted to take the good news to China. So in 1552 he set sail again. But he fell sick before reaching mainland China. On the island of Shangchuan, he died at the age of 46: far from home, but not far from God. He was canonized in 1622, at the same time as Ignatius of Loyola.

Francis Xavier is the patron saint of Catholic missionaries.

<http://www.saintsresource.com/francis-xavier>



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Forming Catholics for Life.



Week One | Adore: Advent with Fr. John Burns

Join Fr. John Burns as he journeys deeper into the theme for week one: watchfulness.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish family to get free access to this content and much more!

PARISH FAMILY UPDATES

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Please remember the following people who are ill, homebound, or need your prayers this week: Marnie Ahern, Lillian Anderson, Len Andrews, Fridon Bahrimandarlini, Alexander Bodsky, Anneliese Bodsky, Linda Broderick, Joe Chitty, Donna Day, Jeff D'Amelio, Natasha Ryan D'Amelio, Bertha Eriksson, Ritchell Cunanan, Todd Galvão, Espedito P. Galvão, Margaret Goodrich, Carol Grimes, Lianne Grimes, Myrna Israkul, Joanne Jepson, Emily Jones, Joan Knebel, Nicholas Konopik, Daniel Love, Josephine Lynch, Seamus Lynch, Norma Macke, Ginny Massett, Darren Miller, Joanne Morgan, Jerry Mulka, Patricia Mulka, Jennifer Nagel, Ray Naidu, Dan Nichols, Patricia Patterson, Jack Piza, Bob Pohlman, Lucy Rogers, Janet Rossignol, Hilda Saleh, Lisa Schmidt, Jack Serwold, Abby Simpson, Lil' Stanley, Jeannette Tannario, Scott Tom, Jane Treeheal, Dennis Weiler, Jerilyn Wetzell, Shea Wilson, Lillian Yamamoto, Cheryl Kerner, and Megan Yoshimura.

For those who have died, including Mary Miller, that they may rest in the healing embrace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord. For Armed Forces personnel throughout the world, that they come home safely to their families, we pray to the Lord.

Note: To request a prayer, please call the Parish Office or use the QR code or this link:

<https://bit.ly/PF14Prayer>



READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 - Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading

The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb.

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm

"Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever."

Psalm 72

Second Reading

God, the source of patience, enables us to live in harmony.

Romans 15:4-9

Gospel

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Matthew 3:1-12

Each Sunday of Advent this year, the first reading is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah and the Gospel is from Matthew. Matthew's Gospel consistently portrays Jesus and his mission as a fulfillment of the promise God made to the Chosen People. Therefore, Matthew strives to connect the dots between Isaiah, the paramount prophet of the Hebrew scriptures, and Jesus Christ. Today we hear Isaiah and John the Baptist describe in terms poetic and practical the coming of God's chosen one. May their words strengthen our anticipation of and preparation for the Lord's coming.

PARTICIPATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Invite your friends and family to attend Mass and experience the peace, community, and spiritual growth it brings. Sharing our mass times with them can help strengthen our Parish Family!

Week of November 16, 2025

St. Alphonsus Parish

MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 5 PM	81
Sunday, 9 AM	281

PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 3,737.00
Online Donations	\$ 3,327.39
Mailed-in	\$2484.95
Total Collection	\$9,549.34
Weekly Budget	\$ 9,833.00
Under Weekly Budget	\$283.66

Thank you so much for all your support to St. Alphonsus Parish!

Set up your recurring online giving now!



St. Benedict Parish

MASS ATTENDANCE

Sunday, 11 AM	186
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PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$816.00
Online Donations	\$ 2,671.03
Mailed-in	\$ 5,110.00
Total Collection	\$ 8,597.03
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,055.00
Over Weekly Budget	\$ 2,542.03

Thank you so much for all your support to St. Benedict Parish!

Set up your recurring online giving now!



St. John Parish

MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 5 PM	117
Sunday, 8:30 AM	162
Sunday, 10:30 AM	202

PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 2,878.00
Online Donations	\$ 9,920.50
Mailed-in	\$ 5,358.00
Total Collection	\$ 18,156.50
Weekly Budget	\$ 17,228.00
Over Weekly Budget	\$ 928.50

Thank you so much for all your support to St. John Parish!

Set up your recurring online giving now!

<https://bit.ly/PushpaySJ>



PARISH FAMILY UPDATES

PARISH STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE.

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their pledge! Your support helps our parish plan ahead with confidence and continue our mission.

If you haven't made your pledge yet, there's still time. Simply scan the QR code to participate. Thank you!

St. Alphonsus
bit.ly/2026PledgeStAl



St. Benedict
bit.ly/2026PledgeStBen

St. John

bit.ly/2026PledgeStJohn



★ REGISTRATION STARTS DECEMBER 5!



OPEN TO ALL ST. BENEDICT ALUMNI, PARISH MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS OF ST. BENEDICT ALUMNI. REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE ON DECEMBER 5. GAMES WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15.

For more information, please reach out to Jamie Lin-Yu at jlinyu@gmail.com

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Funeral Mass for **David Nygren** will be on Saturday, December 6, at 11 AM at St. John Parish. Reception to follow in the Parish Admin Building.



LOOKING FOR A CAR FOR FR. NKOLOMBIDZO

Good news - Fr. Nkolombidzo has a driver's license! He is hoping to get a reliable car for driving around Seattle, attending funerals, retreats, and parish visits.



If you have a spare vehicle that's not too fancy but runs well, and would be willing to sell at a reasonable price, contact mwiseman@parishfamily14.org. Your kindness and support would be greatly appreciated!



Meals for Our Priests

Our Parish Family is organizing a meal train to nourish and thank our priests in residence for their generous service.

They have no dietary restrictions and welcome any meal — a simple supper, a favorite recipe, or local takeout.

If you'd like to help, please sign up for a date that works for you: <https://mealtrain.com/4gewk7>.

Meals can be dropped off at the St. Alphonsus Parish office or rectory.

Thank you for caring for those who so faithfully care for us!



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Scan the QR code, or go to formed.org/signup
Enter 98107 for zip code or Parish Family 14 Seattle
Enter your name and email address.



FROM THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE



December 6 | 9 AM - 5 PM | Holy Rosary Church

Join Young Catholic Professionals Seattle Chapter for a day of prayer, community and reflection for our Annual Advent retreat.

Led by Abbot Marion Q. Nguyen, O.S.B., we will begin the day with Mass followed by time for prayer, fellowship, and small group discussions. We will be reflecting on John 10:9 "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and pray a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

Learn more and register at <https://bit.ly/4r6u1bF>



Join us for the 31st Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on **Saturday, December 6.**

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe honors the Virgin Mary, who appeared to an Aztec peasant, Juan Diego, for the first time on a hill called Tepeyac on Dec. 9, 1531, in Mexico City. Mary told the Christian convert, in his native language of Nahuatl, that she wanted a church built in her honor on the site of her apparition.

Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared Patroness of the Americas in 1945 by Pope Pius XII, and her Feast Day was elevated to an obligatory memorial by Pope John Paul II in 1999. She is also the Patroness of the Philippines.

The program starts at 8:00 AM at Immaculate Conception with Holy Hour, Rosary and Mañanitas, then a procession to St. James Cathedral for Mass. Please see the program schedule at <https://bit.ly/4oEolrc>



The Archdiocese of Seattle has a number of open positions at parishes, schools, camps, the Retreat Center and the Chancery. Are you or someone you know interested in putting your gifts and talents to work for the archdiocese? View the job listed below as well as all open positions at <https://archseattle.org/careers>

Webmaster

Seeking an experienced Webmaster to join our Communications team. If you love managing and optimizing WordPress websites, this role is for you. This role is responsible for managing and executing the archdiocesan website strategy based on specific goals and objectives.

Agape Program Coordinator

Lead this thriving ministry in developing a long-term vision and direction with a focus on the group experience and the evangelization of youth and young adults, while responding to the needs of the farmworker and immigrant community.

A red poster for Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble. It features a QR code, the text "Opus 7 VOCAL ENSEMBLE", and "SUNDAY DEC 7 7:30PM". The main title is "Britten's Saint Nicolas" with the subtitle "OPUS 7'S HOLIDAY TRADITION RETURNS TO ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL!". Below this, it says "Come experience the wonder! This semi-staged production features 150+ singers, tenor, treble, and string soloists, historic vestments, piano, organ, and chamber orchestra in the beautiful St. James Cathedral". A list of featured performers and their roles is provided, including Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble, Chad DeMaris (Tenor), St. James Youth Music Program, Bellevue High School Choirs, Opus 7 Chamber Orchestra, Denise Dillenbeck (Concertmaster & Soloist), Joseph Adam & Matt Wilkins (Piano), Christopher Stroh (Organ), and Anthony Kim (Boy Nicolas). The poster includes several small photographs of the ensemble and a drawing of a boy by M. Laughlin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Social Justice Commission's Speaker Series

JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMPS DURING WORLD WAR II

December 7, Sunday, 12pm (after the 11am Mass)
St. Benedict Church Sanctuary



Presented by Judy Kusakabe

Ms. Kusakabe was born in the internment camp located at the Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup, and provides a keen and insightful eye on this dark chapter of American history.

Please join us for a one-hour presentation/discussion on the creation of the internment camps, conditions, and the lasting effects on the Japanese community. Refreshments and light snacks will be served.

SAINT ALPHONSUS PARISH SCHOOL

BINGO NIGHT

December 12th

Kitchen opens at 6pm | First Game at 6:30PM

Food & Beverage available for purchase!

CASH PRIZES

TREE LOT IS BACK! JOIN THE TRADITION!

Presented by Scout Troop & Crew 100 in Ballard

Christmas Trees, Wreaths & Garland!

OPEN NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 14TH!

Where:
15th Avenue NW between NW 57th Street & NW 58th Street (by Ballard Market)

What's Available:

- Trees
- Tree stands
- Wreaths
- Garland

Open Hours:
Monday thru Friday: 2:00pm - 8:00pm
Saturday & Sunday: 9:00am - 8:00pm

Funds support the All youth Scout Troop & Crew 100!

St. John's Girl Scout Craft Fair

Please help support St. John's Girl Scouts' mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place as the craft fair is the main fundraising event for our troops!

Come check out the crafts and sing a Christmas carol while enjoying coffee and donuts after the December 7th Masses at St. John!

Advent

LIVING IN CHRIST'S LIGHT

As the nights grow longer and the air turns colder, Advent arrives—not only as a season on the calendar, but as a call to our hearts. In a world where darkness can feel overwhelming—through suffering, division, and uncertainty—Advent reminds us that God has already answered with light.

From the beginning, God's light has pierced the shadows. The prophets saw it from afar, speaking of a coming Messiah who would bring justice, peace, and healing. In Bethlehem, that promised light took flesh. In Jesus Christ, the Light of the World stepped into our night with the warmth of love and the power of truth.

Each Advent candle, each quiet moment of prayer, becomes a step on the path from darkness to light. As the candles grow in number each week—hope, peace, joy, and love—we are invited to let Christ's light grow within us. The flicker of a flame reminds us: He is near. He is coming. He is already here.

But Advent is not just about seeing the light. It is about living in it. Christ doesn't shine so we can remain the same; he shines so we can become radiant with his love. His light transforms our hearts, softens our judgments, strengthens our courage, and sends us out as bearers of that same light.

In this sacred season, we are called to reflect his light—to offer hope to the lonely, peace to the anxious, joy to the weary, and love to the forgotten.

Whether we light a candle on the wreath or a string of lights on the tree, let each small flame be a prayer:

COME, LORD JESUS. LIGHT THE WAY.
DWELL IN US. SHINE THROUGH US.

This Advent, may we not only watch for Christ's coming but prepare to live as children of the light—joyful, radiant, and ready to welcome him.



FROM CANDLES TO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

ILLUMINATING THE MEANING OF ADVENT

Candles have long symbolized Advent, representing the light of Christ coming into a world darkened by sin. The tradition dates back to early Christian customs in Europe, where people lit candles during the darkest days of winter as a sign of hope and expectation. Over time, this merged with Christian liturgical practices—especially in medieval Germany—giving rise to the Advent wreath.

The wreath usually holds four candles—three purple and one pink—lit one by one on each Sunday of Advent. Some include a fifth white candle, the Christ candle, lit on Christmas Day. Each flame represents a theme: hope, peace, joy, and love. As more candles are lit, the growing light reflects the increasing anticipation of Christ's birth.

More than seasonal decoration, candles serve as a visual and spiritual countdown to Christmas. Their soft glow invites stillness, prayer, and reflection in a season often marked by hurry. They help focus our hearts on the mystery and joy of the Incarnation.

Christmas lights continue this tradition in a broader, more public way. Like Advent candles, they symbolize Christ as the Light of the World—a promise kindled in Advent and fulfilled on Christmas Day. The practice of lighting homes and trees began when Christians placed candles in windows as a sign of welcome and hope. With electric lights introduced in the late 19th century, the tradition expanded to homes, trees, and city streets.

Each light we see—whether candle or bulb—echoes the same message: light overcomes darkness. Jesus, the true Light, has come to bring warmth, joy, and peace. As candles call us to quiet reflection, Christmas lights proclaim in celebration that the Light has arrived.



SUNDAY MASS READINGS FOR ADVENT 2025

1st Sunday: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

2nd Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

3rd Sunday: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

4th Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Christmas Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

"MAY WE BE IN THIS WORLD A RAY OF THAT LIGHT WHICH SHONE FORTH FROM BETHLEHEM, BRINGING JOY AND PEACE TO THE HEARTS OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN."

—Pope Francis

WHERE DID ADVENT COME FROM?

Advent originated in the early Church as a season of preparation for baptism, especially for new Christians baptized at Epiphany. Records from 4th-century Gaul and Spain show Christians observing periods of fasting and penance in late autumn. By the 6th century, the focus of Advent shifted in Rome to preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth on December 25. Pope Gregory I (590–604) helped shape the season's liturgical structure, though the number of weeks varied regionally. By the Middle Ages, the Western Church standardized Advent as the four Sundays before Christmas. Its name comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming," and it mirrors the Greek word *parousia*, referring to Christ's return. Over time, Advent became a season marking both Christ's first coming in Bethlehem and his promised return.

ADVENT FACTS

Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." It translates the Greek word *parousia*, which refers to Christ's Second Coming. Advent invites reflection on both Christ's birth and his return in glory.

Liturgical colors used during Advent are primarily purple (or violet), symbolizing penance, prayer, and preparation. On the third Sunday, called *Gaudete* Sunday, (Latin for "rejoice") rose-colored vestments may be used to signify joy and a shift toward celebration.

The '**O Antiphons**' are a set of ancient prayers recited or sung from December 17–23. Each begins with "O" and addresses Christ by a biblical title, such as "O Wisdom" or "O Emmanuel." They are the inspiration for the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

The **Advent season** begins four Sundays before Christmas and lasts between 22 and 28 days, depending on the calendar year.

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