

PARISH FAMILY 14

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



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

December 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

	ST. ALPHONSUS	ST. BENEDICT	ST. JOHN
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
December 8 Monday THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	7 AM Confession 7:30 AM Daily Mass INT: Pastor Special Intention 2 PM Mass 7 PM Men's Group - McGrath Rm	11 AM Mass 7 PM Mass	9 AM Mass
December 9 Tuesday <i>Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i>	7 AM Confession 7:30 AM Daily Mass INT: Pastor Special Intention		6 PM Advent Community Dinner - Egan Hall
December 10 Wednesday <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	7 AM Confession 7:30 AM Daily mass INT: The Slagle Family		
December 11 Thursday <i>Saint Damasus I, Pope</i>	7 AM Confession 7:30 AM Daily Mass RIP: Kieran Glynn 10 AM Scripture Study 7 PM OCIA - McGrath Room	2:15 PM Family Adoration 6 PM Confession 7 PM Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Vigil Mass	3-4 PM Family Adoration
December 12 Friday Our Lady of Guadalupe	8:15 AM Adoration Chapel open to 8 PM		9 AM Daily Mass RIP: Alphie Doyle
December 13 Saturday <i>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	8 AM Daily Mass 4 PM Confession 5 PM Vigil Mass with Baptisms	9:30 AM Craft Group	5 PM Vigil Mass with Baptisms (Livestream)
December 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8 AM Confession 9 AM Mass with Baptisms 10 AM Coffee & Donuts 10:30 AM OCIC - McGrath Room	11 AM Mass with CLOW and Baptisms (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 & Baptisms Coffee & Donuts after both Masses 6:30 PM Book Group - Parish Admin Bldg 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

Don't miss out on our Advent excitement!



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

- Dec 7 - Parol (Lantern) Making**
- Dec 9 and 16** - Advent Community Dinners
- 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 - Vigil Mass at St. Benedict (**5PM Masses at St. Al and St. John are relocated**)
- 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 the 11 AM mass at St. Benedict
 - after 10:30 AM mass at St. John
- December 22, Monday; Take down decorations - January 12, Monday**
- after Mass and rosary at St. Al

For more info, please contact Faith Formation Office at 206-632-0843 and look for Lori or Anita.



Listening Sessions and Survey Updates

Our Pastoral Leadership Council will meet on December 11 to review and finalize the presentation of results of the Listening Sessions and Survey. Stay tuned for the presentation of the the unique gifts and charisms of each of our parish on the weekend of **December 13 and 14**.

Looking ahead, we will discern how our Parish Family can use these insights and gifts to creatively serve the unique needs of our community, potentially through new outreach efforts, youth ministry programs, evangelization initiatives, and more.

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

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR GIFT YET? SIGN UP ON FORMED FOR FREE!

Formed guides and supports you along your spiritual journey. With an immersive experience, new content added daily, and a community of life-minded individuals, at Formed, we're forming Catholics for life. So, start exploring today and discover the faith anywhere, anytime.

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1. Go to formed.org/signup.
2. Enter 98107 for zip code or Parish Family 14 Seattle
3. Enter your name and email address.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

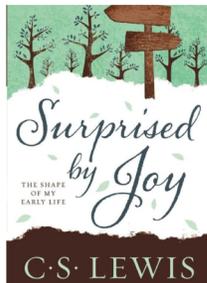


PAROL (Lantern) Making Workshop

**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!



ADVENT COMMUNITY Dinners

**Tuesdays of Advent, 6 - 8 PM
December 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.



bit.ly/PFAdventDinner

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



**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**

Christmas Giving Tree

- 1 Pick a tag from the Christmas Tree in the narthex
- 2 Include the requested items when you shop for Christmas gifts
- 3 Make this holiday season a little brighter for someone in need!



You can also choose or submit your gifts online!



nextstepnw.com/donate



bit.ly/StBenGivingTree2025

Bring your UNWRAPPED gifts to the church or Parish Office not later than **Sunday, December 14, 2025.**

Your heart, your hands, and your gifts can light up lives this Christmas!



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!



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

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.

Northwest Boychoir's

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 19, FRIDAY, 7:30 PM
ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH



Buy
tickets
here:



www.nwchoirs.org/events/a-festival-of-lessons-carols-2/

Experience the beauty of the season with the Northwest Boychoir in their concert and enjoy inspiring music, sacred readings, and a joyful celebration of the holidays!

DEC 20
SAT
5PM

SIMBANG GABI

AT ST. BENEDICT CHURCH



Join our Parish Family for *Simbang Gabi*, a traditional Filipino Advent Mass, as we come together to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

(Note: December 20 5PM Vigil Masses at St. Alphonsus and St. John are relocated.)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24
4:00 PM

- St. Alphonsus Church
- St. Benedict Church
- St. John the Evangelist Church

December 24
11:00 PM

- Come and sing beautiful Christmas carols with us beginning at 10:30 PM!*
- St. Benedict Church

December 25
9:00 AM

- St. Alphonsus Church
- St. John the Evangelist Church



FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTS

SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS

Faith Sharing Group

December 7, 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

Suspended in December | St. Benedict Gospel Study via Zoom; Meeting ID: 864 2616 6842 Password: 961919
(Contact: Brenda Stratton at bjandmes@msn.com)

December 11, 10 AM | St. Alphonsus Scripture Study in the St. Alphonsus McGrath Room (Contact: Mary Green at amgquilts46@gmail.com)

Men's Group

December 8, 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 30, 6:30 PM | St. Alphonsus Women's Group in the McGrath Room; Join us for a discussion with Fr. Justin Ryan, Director of Vocations who will provide an update on vocations in the Archdiocese of Seattle. No RSVP needed. Questions? Contact olivia@raesegroup.com.

Grounded in Grace

January 15, 6:00 PM | St. Alphonsus Family Center
If you are navigating the pain of divorce or marital separation, join Grounded in Grace, a safe and confidential space for healing and hope. Childcare provided. Questions? Contact olivia@raesegroup.com.

Book Group

December 14, 6:30 PM | St. John Book Group in the Parish Admin Building; The book for discussion is **Babette's Feast**, an Academy Award winning 1987 Danish movie based on a short story by Isak Dinesen (author of Out of Africa). A Parisian refugee is sent to serve as the family cook in an austere household that abjures the fleshly pleasures of fine foods and wine. Through a turn of fortune, she is able to present the family with a lavish celebratory banquet that tempts the family's dwindling congregation. (Contact: Diana at diana.grusczynski@outlook.com.)

Spiritual Practices and the Liturgical Year



Thank you to everyone who joined us on November 19 for Daniel Pelfrey's wonderful presentation. He walked us through the seasons of the Church year in a very approachable way and shared practical spiritual habits we can bring into our daily lives.

We're grateful for your presence and enthusiasm, and we hope to offer more faith formation presentations like this for our whole Parish Family in the future.



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 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. For more information, please contact Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org.



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Holy Name Society

Thank you and bless you!

The Ballard Food Bank weighed our November 24th delivery of your donations at 300 lbs.! The Holy Name Society joins the Ballard Food Bank in thanking you for your kindness.

Next meeting

The Holy Name Society is scheduled to meet in the St. Alphonsus Family Center at 11:30 AM on Sunday, December 14. We invite all men of the Parish Family to come and check us out.

Grief Support Group

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you don't have to go through it alone. Our Parish Family Grief Support Group is here to offer comfort, support, and a listening ear. Stay tuned for the schedule of weekly sessions in January. For more information, please reach out to Margaret Alquist at margaretalquist1@gmail.com.

Want to put your faith into action? Our Social Justice Ministries need hearts and hands like yours. Everyone is welcome!



St. Martin de Porres Sandwich Making

SMDP sandwich makers prepare a total of 800 sandwich lunches every month for men who live at the SMDP shelter in downtown Seattle.

Join the next sandwich making on **December 15, 2025, Monday, 8:30AM** in the St. Benedict Parish Center. Contact Vicky Briones at vicster912@gmail.com for more information.

Sancta Vita

I ask for a firm commitment to respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, so that each person can cherish his or her own life and all may look with hope to a future of prosperity and happiness for themselves and for their children. Without hope for the future, it becomes hard for the young to look forward to bringing new lives into the world.

- Pope Francis, 01/01/2025

Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound

Are you homebound, in nursing home or hospital and want to receive the holy communion? Our Cabrini Ministers would be happy to bring the holy communion to your home. For inquiries, please contact the following:
St. Benedict's Cabrinit Ministry: Brenda Stratton - bjandmes.bjs@gmail.com
St. Alphonsus: Lori Corcoro - lorcororo@stalseattle.org

SCHOOL NEWS

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!



★ REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! ★



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

HELP STUFF THE DUMPSTER — EARN SERVICE HOURS!

Volunteers are needed on Monday, December 22, starting at 9:00 AM until we finish. We'll be cleaning out the front of Benedict House in preparation for painting and moving furniture. If you need service hours and don't mind a bit of demolition, including breaking old pianos and furniture, we'd love your help. To sign up and to let Miss Anita know what tools to have ready, please email ahardwick@parishfamily14.org. There will be pizza for all volunteers!

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 Galvã, 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, 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 Carol Evavold, and 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 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading

The desert will bloom.

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Psalm

"Lord, come and save us."

Psalm 146

Second Reading

Be patient like a farmer waiting for spring.

James 5:7-10

Gospel

In prison, John received word of the coming of Christ.

Matthew 11:2-11

The powerful imagery in Isaiah's poetry overwhelms us with joy on this Gaudete Sunday. Deserts bloom with abundant flowers! Parched land exults in joyful song! The blind will see, the deaf will hear, and those who cannot walk will leap like a stag! In this season of watchful preparation for the Lord's coming into our lives, may we recognize his transformative presence in our world as we long for the coming of the kingdom, when all this and more will be fulfilled.

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 23, 2025

St. Alphonsus Parish

MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 5 PM 83
Sunday, 9 AM 188

PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection \$ 2,749.00
Online Donations \$ 3,694.43
Mailed-in \$ 885.00

Total Collection \$ 7,328.43

Weekly Budget \$ 9,833.00

Under Weekly Budget \$ 2,504.57

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 178

PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection \$ 963.00
Online Donations \$ 2,367.23
Mailed-in \$ 160.00

Total Collection \$ 3,490.23

Weekly Budget \$ 6,055.00

Under Weekly Budget \$ 2,564.77

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 102
Sunday, 8:30 AM 169
Sunday, 10:30 AM 191

PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection \$ 4,509.00
Online Donations \$ 12,629.02
Mailed-in \$ 1,769.00

Total Collection \$ 18,907.02

Weekly Budget \$ 17,228.00

Over Weekly Budget \$ 1,679.02

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

Set up your recurring online giving now!

<https://bit.ly/PushpaySJ>



FAITH IN FOCUS



Dress



OUR SUNDAY best used to represent the finest duds we owned. Time at church was formal, and folks dressed that way. Of course, dinner was formal too. So was theater. So was photography. Now it's different. People come to church wearing everything from tuxedos to cutoffs, from formal gowns to sandals. Society clings to few rules about dress. Restaurants make you wear shoes and shirts. People laugh at your bathrobe, curlers, and bunny slippers.

A backless dress may be elegant at a Saturday wedding, but gauche on a Sunday morning. Under the roof of God's house, some dos and don'ts prevail, but there is no telling how the brothers and sisters will dress for the family faith meal. The advance of casual wear has succeeded in many parts of society, not just churches. What constitutes appropriate attire for business and leisure activities continues to fluctuate. Even when invitations specify formal wear, business clothes, or casual dress, respondents may remain confused.

Expectations for Sunday dress vary from one worshiper to the next. A young participant's outfit reveals some flesh. Some see no problem; others find it scandalous. Some cannot afford nice clothes; others are coming from work or stop on their way to play.

At its best, the variety of church dress displays the universality of the call to worship. At its worst, it shows carelessness and confusion. The harrumph-o-meter generally short-circuits when a worshiper, who arrived expecting a place in the pew, serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a reader, or song leader for a short-handed celebration. Having Communion offered to you from someone dressed in shorts and a grunge rock T-shirt may shake the most fervent worshiper's belief in the Body of Christ.

However, ministers generally prefer to dress well and in a fitting manner. When duty calls them unprepared, they do their best with hearts of faith, seeking to serve, not to offend. When we prepare for church, charity demands consideration in our dress and moderation in our judgment.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Gestures, Postures, and Customs of the Liturgy © 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>

MARY

What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Dr. Tim Gray & Dr. John Sehorn

FORMEDNOW

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Forming Catholics for Life.



What Is the Immaculate Conception?

Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.

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!

THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE



December 13, 2025 | 11:00 AM | St. James Cathedral

Join Bishop Schuster and Catholics from around the archdiocese for this festive, colorful and prayerful Advent celebration in the Jubilee Year. This Filipino tradition ushers in Simbang Gabi, a novena of nine Masses meant to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Simbang Gabi, or “night Mass,” began during the early days of Spanish rule over the Philippines. The Masses were offered in the evening after the farmers had put in long, hot days in the fields. Though exhausted, they came anyway. As a compromise, the friars switched to mornings, sometimes as early as 3 a.m. Read more, in Northwest Catholic, about how the archdiocese has celebrated Simbang Gabi for the past 27 years. <https://nwcatholic.org/news/northwest-catholic/simbang-gabi-celebration-at-cathedral-anticipates-christmas>



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.



Advent is a season of joyful anticipation as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. On a deeper level, anticipation during Advent is about fostering a greater desire for the Lord and his presence in our daily lives.

Go to archseattle.org/advent or scan the code for Advent inspiration from Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, engaging stories from Northwest Catholic and resources to make this your best Advent ever.



PARISH FAMILY STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Colin Parrish
pastor@parishfamily14.org

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Paul Nkolombidzo

ADMIN/OPERATIONS TEAM

(LOCATION: ST. JOHN ADMIN BUILDING; MAIN LINE: 206-782-2810)

Director of Operations

Dani D'Amelio
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Director of Communications

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Receptionist/Admin Assistant

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(LOCATION: ST. BENEDICT PARISH CENTER; MAIN LINE: 206-632-0843)

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Sacramental Coordinator

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Evangelization Coordinator

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Music Director - St. Al/St. Ben

Andrew Koch
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ext 219

Music Director - St. John

Kate Reinhard - St. John
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Immaculate CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that Mary, conceived in the normal way through an act of love by her mother and father (St. Joachim and St. Anne), was born free of original sin and its effects from the first moment of her existence. This special favor was conferred on her because of her role in God's plan for our salvation. Historically, this doctrine has sometimes been

misunderstood as the conception of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit in the feast we know as the Annunciation. Instead, the Immaculate Conception celebrates the special gift of God's grace to Mary because she was to be the mother of Jesus, God's chosen agent to bring about

our salvation. We hail Mary in faith and prayer because she is "full of grace" and because "the Lord is with her." In other words, Mary was filled with God's life well before the Messiah was conceived in her womb.

After consulting with the bishops of the Church, Pope Pius IX first solemnly defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception in 1854 in the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*.

The Immaculate Conception has the distinction of being one of only two formal Church dogmas to be solemnly defined by the full teaching authority of popes rather than general Councils (the other being Mary's Assumption). This means that the Immaculate Conception has been solemnly defined as an infallible teaching to be believed by the whole Church. We not only believe that this is our truth, but we also try to imitate the meaning of this truth. While we honor Mary for the privilege of being without sin, we also try to be like her in becoming faithful bearers of Christ in the world. As we strive for greater integrity in our words and actions we allow God to work in us to help transform our world into one of greater justice and love. Thus we imitate Mary and become the kind of disciples that Jesus praises in the Gospel: "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it (Luke 11:28).



The Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55)

And Mary said:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Mary, Mother of the Church

Jesus gave Mary to the Church from the cross when he told his beloved disciple, “Behold your mother” (John 19:26-27). Mary was present in the upper room with the other disciples on Pentecost, when the Church was born (Acts 1:13-14). Over the centuries of Christianity, Mary has been sought out by the faithful who find in her support for their own lives of discipleship. As one whose own life of faith was not easy or simple, Mary is a companion who can show us a path in our everyday lives and in our suffering.

Mary is a wonderful example of what happens when one opens oneself to the life and power of God. As at the marriage at Cana, Mary always directs our attention to Jesus, saying “Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5). Mary is not a goddess wielding power. Neither is she controlling and domineering nor cold and aloof. Mary is there for us whenever we need her.

WHY DEFINE THIS DOCTRINE?

The doctrine of Mary’s Immaculate Conception affirms that through God’s grace she was never separated from God by sin. Over the centuries Mary’s freedom from original sin—the teaching that every human is born in the wrong relationship with God (this is what sin is and does) and so must be freed from this condition through God’s grace (this is what salvation is and does)—was disputed by theologians who could not agree.

After consulting with the Bishops of the Church to confirm that almost all Catholics believed this doctrine, Pope Pius IX first solemnly proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854 in these words: We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which asserts that the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, was preserved free from every stain of original sin is a doctrine revealed by God and, for this reason, must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful.

WHY DECEMBER 8?

December 8 is the liturgical celebration of Mary’s Immaculate Conception, i.e., her being “adorned from the first moment of her conception with the splendors of an entirely unique holiness” (Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #56). This date was chosen because it is 9 months (the time of a child’s gestation in the mother’s womb) before the traditional celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Mary on September 8.

A Prayer for the Immaculate Conception

We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us
You free us of all stain of sin;
You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God,
The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,
The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.
Let us not give in to discouragement,
But, trusting in your constant help,
Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,
Of this city and of the entire world.
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

—Pope Francis



One Minute Meditations

St. Lucy

St. Lucy was born into 4th century pagan Syracuse, Sicily, and is one of the most famous martyrs of the early Church. Her family arranged for her to marry a pagan, but since she had consecrated her virginity to Christ, St. Lucy refused him. Offended, he betrayed her to the authorities for her Faith. She was questioned and tortured, but all attempts to discourage her failed. She was finally executed. She is the patron saint against eye problems.

The three comings of Christ

This season of Advent, we celebrate the three comings of Christ: in glory at the end of time, in time when He was born in Bethlehem, and His coming in our own lives and hearts. Advent is a time of "busy stillness," of preparing and waiting, like Mary certainly did, for the arrival of the Savior. This Christmas, let's renew our "Yes" to God's request to dwell in our hearts and be "born" in the daily living of our lives.

"The King comes as a helpless infant, born of insignificant parents in a small town of a distant outpost of the Roman Empire. He will conquer through the finally irresistible power of love, the same power with which he made the universe." Most Reverend Robert E. Barron

Find peace before Christmas by slowing down

The busyness leading up to Christmas can be exhausting, but the Advent season holds a better path. It's a time to breathe, reset, and prepare our hearts for the coming of the King. Advent is a built-in gift, a chance to slow the pace and lift our eyes to what matters most.

Renew a sense of the holy: Advent is a chance to wake up the soul. When we lean into our Faith with intention, the season stops feeling rushed and starts feeling radiant. Light the Advent Wreath and let its glow steady your heart. Go to Confession and feel the weight lift as mercy takes over. Spend a few quiet minutes before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and let His presence ground you. Pray the Joyful Mysteries, the "Christmas mysteries" that still speak powerfully to our lives today.

Tune out the noise: Advent becomes richer when we clear space for God to speak. The world buzzes with distractions, but your soul needs room to breathe. Build small pockets of

silence into your day and let stillness sharpen your awareness of God's presence. Reach for a spiritual book instead of a scroll through your feed. Cut back on the constant stream of news that crowds the mind. When the noise quiets, the Holy Spirit has space

"Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

to guide, steady, and renew you.

Streamline and prioritize: Choose what draws you closer to Christ. When your heart is ordered toward what matters, even the cooking, decorating, singing, and gift-giving gain a deeper beauty. You may decide to attend fewer events, keep the décor simple, or choose more modest gifts. Far from taking away joy, this clears space for it. You move through the season with more peace, more purpose, and a heart in step with Jesus.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics believe Jesus is God?

Every Christmas, we remember that Jesus, the Son of God, took on our humanity without losing His divinity. It is a mystery, yet we hold it with confidence because God, who is Truth, has revealed it.

During His earthly life, Jesus spoke and acted with divine authority. He

said, "The Father and I are one" (John 10:30). He forgave sins, clarified the Law, and worked miracles. His Resurrection stands as the clearest confirmation of His identity, showing that His claim to be God was real. As man, He could suffer and die. As God, He rose and conquered death.

The most meaningful gifts of Christmas aren't wrapped

We know that the most valuable gifts are often the ones we cannot wrap. Alongside whatever you give your loved ones this year, do not let Christmas pass without offering these gifts as well:

Your time: Being present with the people we love is one of the simplest and strongest ways to show care. A short visit, an unhurried coffee, or an evening without phones can mean more than any item we put under a tree. When we give someone our attention, we affirm their worth.

Your forgiveness: Forgiveness does not excuse the hurt. It frees you from the weight of anger and resentment. It

also gives the other person room to grow and seek healing. Letting go is often the first step toward real peace. In many ways, forgiveness is a gift you give yourself.

Your gratitude: Giving thanks to God at Christmas is more than a warm sentiment. It is a heartfelt response to the depth of His love.

Look at the Crucifix, the Nativity, or the Eucharist and consider the humility behind such a gift. Our gratitude matters to God (see Luke 17:17-18). So after attending Mass on Christmas Day, take a moment to say, "Thank you." It is a small act that carries real meaning.

from **S**cripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Obedience is trust in action

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, Saint Joseph had already formed a habit of steady obedience to God. So when the angel spoke to him in a dream and instructed him to flee to Egypt, Joseph acted without delay. He trusted that God would care for him and for the family entrusted to him.

This trust is even more striking when we consider the circumstances of Jesus' birth. Mary and Joseph had traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem during the final stages of her pregnancy. Whether by foot or by donkey, the trip would have been long, uncomfortable, and

exhausting. When they finally arrived, they found no suitable place to stay and settled among animals. Soon after, they faced the threat against Jesus' life and fled to Egypt, living for years in a foreign land without the support of relatives or friends. Through every hardship, Joseph relied on God to protect his family.

The Holy Family was perfect in love, yet not spared from difficulty. Mary and Joseph met each challenge with faith and allowed God's Word to guide them. We can follow the same path.

Q & A

Why is it said that Mass brings us closer to God than anything else?

At every Mass, Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1374). In this moment, the Sacrifice of Christ is made present to us in a mysterious but real way. His self-giving is the greatest act of love, and our participation at Mass is our strongest response, our way of saying, "I love you, too."

Worshipping together also strengthens our faith in the God who is everywhere yet unseen. Faith grows in community. It grows through the physical actions of the Mass as well. When we sit, stand, bow, and kneel, we express with our bodies what we believe in our hearts.

Finally, the Real Presence of Jesus on the altar draws us into a closeness to God that we cannot find anywhere else in this life. Nowhere do we meet Him more directly than when He feeds us with His very life. In the Eucharist, He is as present to us as He was to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and to His apostles in the Upper Room.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 6 – St. Nicholas of Myra (4th century). St. Nicholas had a very generous heart and always gave to the poor. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold to pay their father's debt. St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of children.

December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Though given to Mary, this special grace was for our sake. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it's considered a holy day of obligation.

December 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by Our Lady at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. She requested a chapel be built and sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 29 – St. Thomas Becket (1170). Thomas enjoyed power and riches as a close friend of England's King Henry II, who appointed him chancellor of England. In 1162, King Henry had St. Thomas named Archbishop of Canterbury. St. Thomas refused to allow the King to regulate Church matters and was exiled. He fled to France for safety. Thomas returned to England and was martyred.

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