



Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2022

Weekend Masses: Saturday (Vigil) 5:00 PM Sunday
8:30, 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM
Reconciliation: Friday: 9:15 AM & Saturday: 3:00-4:00 PM
or by Appointment (Call Main Office)
Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration - See pg 2

Parish Office (253) 631-1940
Faith Formation (253) 631-6175
13055 SE 192nd Street Renton, WA 98058
www.ststephenslife.com
Listing of Parish Staff on the back inside page



A voice of one crying out in the desert...

Jesus warned us last week to “stay awake!” This second week of Advent, Jesus’ cousin, John the Baptist, exhorts us to “repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” These cries from the depths of God’s heart should alert us to something extraordinary that is happening, not just 2000 years ago, but now, within our own hearts and our own lives. We should listen to these words as if directed to each of us personally.

John’s voice “crying out in the desert” acts as a bookend to Jesus’ voice on the cross when he cries, “I thirst.” Jesus does thirst for our love. We don’t love, however, out of our abundance, but rather when we admit that we, too, thirst for love. We must acknowledge our poverty. As the great St. Therese, considered “the greatest saint of modern times,” said of herself, “I have no virtue.” That is someone who knows their poverty and is open to the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Repentance becomes receptivity when we realize the desire of God for our friendship, not for His sake, but for ours - for the relationship itself. Remember St. Augustine’s description of the Holy Spirit as the love that exists between the Father and the Son, a love so infinite that it is a third divine person. Wouldn’t God the Father want our relationship with Him to resemble His relationship with the Son? In fact, God gives us the same Spirit, Love itself, by which we love the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Alma Redemptoris Mater

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

During the Advent Season, the traditional Marian antiphon is the Alma Redemptoris Mater. The English words are these:

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
who remains the accessible Gateway of Heaven,
and Star of the Sea,
Give aid to a falling people
that strives to rise;
O Thou, who begot thy holy Creator,
while all nature marveled,
Virgin before and after
receiving that "Ave" from the mouth of Gabriel,
have mercy on sinners.*

Advent is a perfect time to grow closer to Mary. She is the best guide to preparing the way of the Lord. While John the Baptist cried it out, Mary lived it out perfectly in becoming the physical Mother of Jesus’ humanity. More important than her physical motherhood is her discipleship and desire for all to be saved through the Messiah. Sr. Miriam James has a beautiful little video on the first week of Advent as part of the series, “Behold”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVh62SSfyWU>

May Our Lady lead us closer to Jesus this Advent Season.



Weekly Readings

December 4 Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

December 5 Monday of the Second Week of Advent

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

December 6 Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent

Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

December 7 Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

December 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

December 9 Friday of the Second Week of Advent

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

December 10 Saturday of the Second Week of Advent

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

December 11 Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Parish Calendar

Sunday December 4

8:30 am – 9:30 am
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Mass (live-streamed)
Mass
Mass
Apologetics

Monday December 5

9:00 am – 9:30 am
10:00 am – 11:45 am
6:30 pm – 7:15 pm

Darling Dusters
Food Bank (Drive by only)
Mass (live-streamed)

Tuesday December 6

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Scripture Study
Mass (live-streamed)
Scripture Study
RCIA

Wednesday December 7

8:00 am – 12:00 pm
4:00 pm – 5:45 pm
6:30 pm – 7:15 pm
7:15 pm – 7:45 pm
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Campus Crew
Food Bank (Drive by only)
Mass (live-streamed)
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
Sacred Story
Adoration & Reconciliation
Young Adults Group

Thursday December 8

9:00 am – 10:00 am
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Immaculate Conception - Holy Day of Obligation - Mass (live-streamed)
St. Vincent de Paul
Mass
Pastoral Council

Friday December 9

6:30 am – 7:30 am
8:30 am – 9:15 am
9:00 am – 10:00 am
9:15 am – 11:00 am
10:00 am – 11:45 am

Men's Prayer/Reflection (Doors open at 6)
Mass (live-streamed)
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sacred Story
Food Bank (Drive by only)

Saturday December 10

8:30 am – 9:15 am
9:30 am – 12:00 pm
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

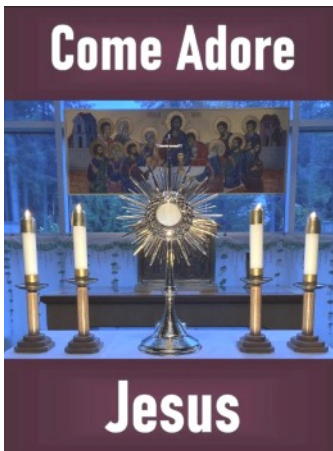
Mass (live-streamed)
Advent Morning of Reflection
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Simbang Gabi Vigil Mass
Simbang Gabi Reception

Financials - Included are last weekend's collection, the weekend before, and the fiscal year to date through the last full month.

Weekly Collections	Nov. 19 & Nov. 20 2022	Nov. 12 & Nov. 13 2022	FY To date July 1 2022-Oct. 31 2022
Collections-actual	21,342	16,525	306,799
Collections-Budget	18,325	14,441	311,896
Variance	3,017	2,084	(5,097)
*EFT-Actual	7,678	3,535	156,169
*EFT-Budget	11,422	6,957	181,375
Variance	(3,744)	(3,422)	(25,206)
Total Collections	(727)	(1,338)	(30,303)
Variance			

*EFT= Electronic Funds Transfer (Online Collections)

New Fiscal Year began 7/01/2022



Adoration Invitation

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Stephen's is now perpetual! We are delighted to now have enough committed Adorers to fill our weekly schedule! Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is daily from 12:00 am to Midnight (there is no Adoration during regularly scheduled Masses). While our schedule is full, there is still plenty of room for more people willing to spend weekly time with Jesus! For information, see

<https://ststephenslife.com/eucharisti>

c-adoration or visit the Adoration Table in the Narthex. Call Tina 206-715-8462 or Bernie 206-427-6085.

Liturgy of the Hours <https://ststephenslife.com/holy-mass-live-stream>

Mon - Fri 6:30 -7:30 AM Holy Hour, Office of Reading Morning Prayer
Mon - Fri 12:00 PM Angelus
Mon - Fri 3:00 PM Divine Mercy
Mon - Fri 5:30 PM Evening Prayer
Sat - Sun 7:30 PM Evening Prayer

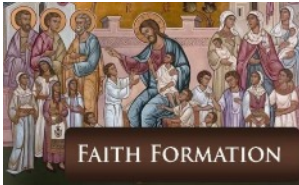


Our Parish Stewardship of Treasure

Renewal is in the third week. We are grateful to those who have returned their pledge card (or e-pledge, etc.). Your gift to your parish supports our many ministries and helps our parish continue

its mission to build up the Body of Christ. We have received 150 commitment cards from our 2500 registered families. We desire to get a pledge from every registered family. Please complete a new pledge card this year, even if you have pledged in the past, or give the same amount every year. If you can make an estimated commitment, please make your pledge today by filling out the commitment card or going online at <https://www.ststephenslife.com/stewardship-of-treasure>. Your pledge is a goodwill commitment and if your situation changes and you cannot fulfill your pledge you are not obligated to do so. Your pledges help us to estimate our collections and plan programs ad our budget accordingly. If you are not able to commit at this time, please fill out a card and write that you will keep the parish and it's mission in your prayers Thank you.

Faith Formation Programs



Faith Formation Fall 2022 K-12th Grade Programs are now underway. For updates on our programs please visit: <https://www.ststephenslife.com/faith-formation>. Families - We need

Volunteers! With covid, we had to pull back our programs. Now we are starting to do more in-person programming, but we can't do that without awesome adults who are ready to share their faith. Ask in prayer -- are you called to help in some way? If God says, "Yes!", then let us know. We will find the right place for you. We look forward to meeting you!! For our Faith Formation office contact Maria Trejo at sstm.yfmooffice@gmail.com or at (253) 631-6175, ext. 115. For K-5th grade and our overall Director, contact Shannon Battles at ststephenskids@gmail.com or at (253) 480-7112. For Youth Ministry 6th-12th grade contact Debbie Blomquist at sstm.youth@gmail.com.



Little Saints Preschool - Director Search

It's time to finalize plans for the new school year, yet we continue to search for our new Little Saints Preschool Director. Please join us in praying a Surrender Novena. You can also recommend potential candidates. Do you know a teacher who's secretly dreading the start of the new year? Maybe they are being called to a new purpose at Little Saints! To apply: call Shannon or go to our Recruitment Ad. To pray or recommend, go to our webpage: <https://ststephenslife.com/little-saints-director-search> Contact: Shannon Battles, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, (253) 480-7112, ststephenskids@gmail.com.

Are You Thinking of Becoming a Catholic? Do you or someone you know want to learn about the Catholic Faith?

INQUIRY SESSIONS are for those who: ▪ Want to learn about the Catholic Faith. ▪ Those in other faith traditions who are interested in joining the Catholic Church. ▪ Adult Catholics who have not received all their Sacraments. **Inquiry Sessions are Tuesdays, 7-9:00 PM in the Social Hall.** For questions or more information contact Anne Merklin at sstmassociate@gmail.com or call the office at (253) 480-7108, ext. 126.



Baptism Classes In-person classes to prepare for Infant Baptism are now available. Pre-registration is required to attend. Class size will be limited, and you must have proof of pre-registration to be admitted. Please, only 2 parents, baby, 2 godparents (5 total) per family. Pre-register by contacting Teresa Wright,

Pastoral Assistant for Infant Baptism at 253 480-7106 or twright@ststephenslife.com

Parents: Please sign-up for Flocknote so you can get program and parish news, as well as emergency updates! To sign up for Flocknote, go to bottom of the first page of our website: ststephenslife.com.

FLOCKNOTE SIGNUP	
First Name	Last Name
Email Address	Mobile Phone
Sign Me Up!	



St. Stephen Choir - Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; cry out to the rock of our salvation. (psalm 95:1)

We are forming the St. Stephen Choir for high schoolers and adults interested in singing and learning the music and prayers of the Liturgy. The choir will sing for Mass and other liturgical events. We will practice on Tuesdays from 7:30pm-9:00pm. Our first day to meet and practice will be Tuesday, December 6, at 7:30pm in the main church. For more information and questions please contact Niña de Jesus at 206-859-8902 or email ndjesus@ststephenslife.com.



Bethlehem Olive Wood Sale - Olive Wood items will be available the first weekend in Dec. 3rd & 4th in the Narthex after each Mass. Olive Wood items will be available the first weekend in December in the Narthex after each Mass. The proceeds are to support Christian Catholic families in the Holy Land since this is their major source of income. More than 75 families in Bethlehem hand carved these beautiful and unique items. (Nativities, Crucifixes, Rosaries, Statues). The Christian population in the Holy Land has dropped from 22% to less than 2% in the past two decades. This is a way to support them to stay there.



Now Hiring: Youth Minister Saint Stephen the Martyr, has an immediate opening for a full-time Pastoral Assistant for Youth Ministry. The youth minister leads the junior and high school parish ministry. We seek a person with a passion for leading youth and their families by accompanying them on a journey to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and full participation in the Church. The candidate should be able to articulate their vision and implementation plan for a robust parish youth ministry. The youth minister will be part of a collaborative team of volunteers and staff, that together live out the vision of our parish: Sharing the Transforming Light of Christ. Visit <https://www.ststephenslife.com/job-openings>



Friday Morning Men's Prayer & Reflection Social Hall opens at 6:00 AM for coffee and donuts. Morning Prayer begins at 6:30 followed by reading and reflection of the coming Sunday Gospel. We conclude no later than 7:30 AM. Participants are encouraged to download the app, I-Breviary for use with the Morning Office of Readings.



December 4: Second Sunday of Advent - In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (206) 767-6449 so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.



December EVENTS for LIFE - All Are Welcome! For more information or questions contact Mary K at:

19JMJ54@comcast.net or Bernie at: bkwit6gc@msn.com

December 1-31: Prayer Partners stand vigil at the Cedar River Clinic, 263 Rainier Ave S, Renton. They stand on Wednesday 9:30-10:30am. Prayer partners are also there Thursdays 9:30-Noon. Care Net Ultrasound Mobile unit is in Renton from 9:30am - 2:30pm every Thursday each month. Partners also stand on Fridays 11:00am-Noon and Saturdays 9:30am-11:30am.

December 2: Respect Life Ministries Eucharistic Adoration in the church sanctuary from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. All are welcome! Bring a friend.

December 8: Respect Life Ministry Meeting 7pm - Our meeting will be on site at St Stephen the Martyr church building in the Office conference room.

December 17: The Movie "The Matter of Life" 10am- Noon parish social hall

Now Enrolling: St. Anthony School - Are you interested in your child receiving a mission-based, community-focused Catholic education? For nearly 100 years, St. Anthony School has educated the whole child to better the world and serve others. St. Anthony is now enrolling for limited spots for the current school year and for all grades for next school year (2023-24). Please visit our website at www.sasr.org or email Jean Dang at dang@sasr.org to set up a school tour or to learn more info. Come join our vibrant community of faith and learning!

To educate children to be joyous, loving & Christ-centered people capable of serving others & bettering the world.

Are You Interested in Home Schooling?

The beauty of the program is you can start at any time, even mid-year. SSTM Home School Co-op offers support to families and helps our students grow in their Catholic faith. If you have questions please reach out to Beth Nieva or Stephanie Firth at sstm.homeschool@gmail.com

Gabriel Project - PREPARES Giving Tree

Please look for our "Giving Tree" in the Church narthex. Everyone is welcome to choose a tag from the trees to make a Mom & child happy.

Got Old Wax Candles? We are continuing with our wax recycling program. Recycled candle wax will be turned into new candles to be given away for a donation. The donated funds will buy wax (51% beeswax) to make candles for the altars in the church and chapel. So drop off your wax contributions in the big blue tote next to the food bank baskets (also used for old cell phones and inkjet cartridges) in the narthex. You can also give your old wax candles directly to me, Bernie Wittgens (206-427-6085). Thank you.

Thanksgiving Dinner Thank You! Our first Thanksgiving dinner since the Covid closures was a smashing success! Over 200 parishioners and guests were served with barely a morsel left uneaten. A HUGE thank you for all the donations and the tireless work of so many volunteers to bring this warm event to fruition. You ALL made this event a warm and happy occasion!! Thank you all!!

Thank you to the St. Stephens youth group for collecting a boat load of socks and to parishioners for donating the socks for the homeless we serve every Tuesday! Those we serve will be very happy to receive them with these cold, wet months ahead. There was a question regarding why we requested Men's Warm Socks and not Women's. We have a boatload of Women's socks already and the majority of the homeless we serve at the Holy Spirit site on Tuesdays are men. Terrific Tuesday Meals thanks you for supporting the sock drive for the homeless.

If you are grieving the death of a loved one, come find strength and compassion with the St. Stephen's Virtual Grief Support Meeting on Sunday, December 18th at 1:00pm. Our topic will be "Depression / Getting the Help You Need." For more information and to register, please contact Sharon Rasmussen at srasmussen910@yahoo.com. "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves." Psalm 34, 19

Vine Maple Place is looking to help moms facing homelessness and in urgent need of warm winter coats! Please spread the word for: new or gently used women's cold weather coats. All sizes needed but especially larger sizes (L - 4X)Purchase Online: Click here to purchase coats to be delivered to Vine Maple Place; or Purchase and Deliver: Bring donations to the Family Hope Center in Maple Valley: 21730 Dorre Don Way SE, Maple Valley or Kent: 24044 104th Ave. SE (Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm).





ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION

Saturday, December 10th 8:30-12:00

Advent and the Early Church Fathers with Dr. Christopher Hall

Mass 8:30 am

Program 9:30 am

About Chris Hall

Christopher A. Hall is a member of the Renovaré Ministry Team. He served as president of Renovaré from 2015-2022. Hall is author of a four volume set on the Church Fathers: Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers, Learning Theology with the Church Fathers, Worshiping with the Church Fathers, and Living Wisely with the Church Fathers, all published by IVP Academic. He also was associate editor of the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (29 volumes: published by IVP Academic).

Dr. Hall possesses a B.A. from UCLA in history, an M.A. in biblical studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, a Th.M. from Regent College, and a Ph.D. from Drew University. He has served in the pastorate overseas (France, 5 years) and in Canada (British Columbia, 2 years). He has also served as Director of Pastoral Care at New Jersey's only state gero-psychiatric hospital.

He and his wife Debbie reside in Philadelphia and have three children and two grandchildren.

Presentation 9:30-11:00 am
Question & Answer 11:00 -11:30 am
Prayer and Adoration 11:30-12:00 noon



Parish Information

New to St. Stephen's? Welcome! Learn more about our vibrant community by visiting our web site at www.ststephenslife.com. Registration forms are online or may be obtained from the ushers and put in the collection basket or mailed in. **Bulletin Notices:** The **content deadline is 12:00 PM on the Friday** a week before the weekend you wish it to appear (8 days in advance). Notices about parish events or items of interest to the parish are welcome, however posting cannot be guaranteed. Email notices to: ourbulletin@gmail.com.

Main Office Phone: TEL 253-631-1940 / FAX 425-255-2943 Ten digit phone numbers listed below are direct lines.

Pastor	Fr. Edward G. White	For Fr. Ed contact his assistant, Betty Mencke 253-480-7103 (100)
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Robert Antony	253-480-7111 (132) FatherRobert@ststephenslife.com
Deacon	Dec. Carl Chilo	ssmdeaconcarlchilo@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec. Sonny Ungco	sonny.ungco@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec. Ike Tarabi	ike.tarabi@outlook.com
Dir. of Parish Operations	Tom Jones	253-480-7114 (103) tjones@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Associate	Anne Merklin	253-480-7108 (126) AMerklin@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Assistant for Outreach	Darlene Simpson	253-480-7121 (127) DSimpson@ststephenslife.com
Office Manager/Pastor's Assistant	Betty Mencke	253-480-7103 (100) bmencke@ststephenslife.com
Liturgy Coordinator	Janet Denby-Stewart	253-480-7115 (102) JStewart@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Care	Marijean Heutmaker	253-480-7116 (106) Mheutmaker@ststephenslife.com
Bookkeeper	Debbie Blakey	253-480-7113 (101) DBlakely@ststephenslife.com
Facilities & Parish Life Coordinator	Kim Anderson	253-480-7120 (129) KAnderson@ststephenslife.com
Director of Faith Formation	Shannon Battles	253-480-7112 (114) SBattles@ststephenslife.com
Youth Ministry	Debbie Blomquist	253-480-7110 (113) DBlomquist@ststephenslife.com
Young Adult Ministry/Talents Ministry	Beth Nieva	bnieva@ststephenslife.com
Evangelization & Communications	Bill Swedberg	253-480-7107 (121) bswedberg@ststephenslife.com
Baptism & Marriage	Teresa Wright	253-480-7106 (120) Twright@ststephenslife.com
Little Saints Preschool	Shannon Battles	253-480-7112 (114) ssm.littlesaints@gmail.com
Faith Formation Support Coordinator	Maria Trejo	253-631-6175 (115) MTrejo@ststephenslife.com
St Stephen Housing Association		253-480-7122 office@ststephenhousing.org
SVDP Help-Line		206-767-6449
Custodial Support	Soo Kim	

Marriage: Couples seeking Marriage must contact the church 9 months before their wedding date. Some preparation and Parish Registration are required before a date can be set. Contact Teresa Wright for details concerning marriage at (253) 631-6175, Ext. 120.

Annulments: (for those who are divorced): For compassionate and confidential answers to your questions and for help through the annulment process, please contact our parish Tribunal Advocate, Veronica Smith-Casem, at vsmithcasem@gmail.com or 425-301-0356.

Baptism: Preparation and Parish Registration are required for both Parents and Godparents/Sponsors. Baptisms are held monthly. Contact the Faith Formation Office for details (253-631-6175).

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) For adults desiring to become Catholic, including those needing baptism. Contact Anne Merklin 253-631-1940 ext 126. ssmassociate@gmail.com

Praying For Sick

Renato Desiderio, Jim Steckler, Linda Marie Parker, Grace Ragonesi, Kelley Chaves, Angelina Rivera, Leila Rivera-Abada
If you or a loved one would like to be included in the bulletin listing please contact Betty Mencke at 253-631-1940.

Recent Deaths

Larry Kelly, Karen Gorg, Ann Erhart, Margie Voountarioso, Paulo Falaniko, Rita Canine, Tom Thiel, Maria Soto, Pat O'Connell, Joan Sevigny, Thomas Lorezca, Maria Coluccio, Joseph Marci, Adrian Perez, Walter Joseph Koczor, brother of Mary Kasprzyk, Terry Strom, Rose Heryla, Mary Ann Schofield, Violeta Castaneda, Mary Claire Duncan and Adrian Abada, Robert Paulsen

Serving in the Military

Captain Philip Clay LT Luke Carpenter (deployed) Stephen Snelling, Jack Cullers US, Zenaida Roth, Daniel Dobbs Japan, Joey Buslon Poland

To add names to the box, please email ourbulletin@gmail.com, or contact Betty Mencke, 253-631-1940.

To contact the Prayer Chain, please see Teresa Wright, at 425-255 0301 or teresa2pray@gmail.com



Rachel's Corner: Hope and Healing After Abortion *The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord raises up those who are bowed down.* - Psalm 146: 7-8 When thoughts come to your mind regarding the day you were involved in an abortion decision, do they make you feel blind to hope, entrapped in regret and burdened with shame? Call for a compassionate, confidential conversation, and be free again. **Registering now for our Virtual Healing Series.** English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 Email projectrachel@ccsw.org Visit us at www.ccsw.org/projectrachel or www.facebook.com/projectrachelww Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services. **You are loved with an everlasting love!**



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