



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 29, 2024

Weekend Masses: Saturday (Vigil) 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:30, 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM
Reconciliation: Wednesday 7:15-8:30 PM, Friday: 5:00-6:00 PM &
Saturday: 9:15-10:30 AM, 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

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Source: <https://young-catholics.com/3459/the-feast-of-the-holy-family-year-c/>

The Feast of the Holy Family Year C offers us a chance to reflect on the values that strengthen our families. By looking at the examples of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we learn about respect, love, and finding our place in God's family. These reflections help us understand how to live these virtues in our daily lives and grow closer to God.

Respect for Parents

The Feast of the Holy Family Year C calls us to honor and respect our parents. Sirach 3:2-6 emphasizes this duty, showing how it strengthens family bonds and reflects God's commandment. Respecting our parents means valuing their wisdom and guidance. It helps build a strong family foundation.

Jesus set an example of obedience to His earthly parents, Mary and Joseph. In Luke 2:51, Jesus is shown returning to Nazareth and being obedient to them. This act of obedience highlights the importance of understanding and respecting our parents' role in our lives. It builds trust and mutual respect within the family.

When we respect our parents, we follow God's commandment and create a loving home environment. This respect helps us learn patience, kindness, and humility. The Feast of the Holy Family Year C reminds us that honoring our parents is a vital part of living a holy and fulfilling life. By following Jesus' example, we strengthen our families and grow closer to God.

Finding Our Place in God's Family

In the time of Jesus, family was not just the people you lived with. It included the extended family, like the "House of David." The head of the house made important decisions for everyone. Loyalty was very important, and even people who were not related by blood could become family through a covenant relationship.

The Feast of the Holy Family Year C reminds us of our place in God's family. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph show us the importance of family bonds. Jesus grew in wisdom by understanding His place in His Father's house. He was curious, asked questions, and studied. This helped Him understand that He was the beloved and obedient Son of God.

We are also called to find our place in God's family. It might not always be what we want, but through prayer and discernment, we can understand God's will for us. The Feast of the Holy Family Year C teaches us to be like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We should respect and love each other, and seek to know our roles in God's plan.

Love and Unity

The Feast of the Holy Family Year C teaches us about love and unity within the family. Colossians 3:14 speaks of love as the bond of perfection. Love is what holds a family together and fosters unity. It helps family members support each other through good times and bad.

In a loving family, each member feels valued and understood. This love creates a strong sense of unity and belonging. It helps families overcome difficulties and grow stronger together. The Feast of the Holy Family Year C encourages us to practice this kind of love in our own families.

By focusing on love, we can create a peaceful and joyful home. Love helps us forgive and move past conflicts. It encourages us to be patient and kind. The Feast of the Holy Family Year C reminds us that love is the foundation of a happy and united family. Following this example, we can build a strong family that reflects God's love to the world.

A Model for Our Homes

The Feast of the Holy Family Year C celebrates Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The readings focus on the importance of family and the values that hold it together. Sirach 3:2-6 emphasizes respect for parents, showing how this respect builds strong family bonds. Jesus set an example by obeying Mary and Joseph in Luke 2:51. By following this example, we honor our parents and create a loving home.

Colossians 3:14 calls love the "bond of perfection." Love unites families and helps them stay strong, even during tough times. It encourages forgiveness, patience, and kindness, helping families overcome conflicts and grow closer together.

The Holy Family also reminds us that we are part of God's family. Jesus knew His place in His Father's house, and we are called to find our place too. Through prayer, we can understand our role in God's plan. By living with respect, love, and unity, we can build families that reflect the Holy Family.

Weekly Readings

December 29 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

December 30 The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

December 31 The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

January 1 Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

January 2 Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

January 3 Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

January 4 Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

January 5 The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Parish Calendar

8:30 am - 9:30 **Mass** (Fr. Dolejsi, Music Ninia)
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Mass** (Fr. Dolejsi, Music Janet)
 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm **Mass** (Fr. Dolejsi, Music TBD)
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Apologetics Meeting

Monday December 30

9:00 am - 10:00 am Darling Dusters
 10:00 am - 11:45 am Food Pantry (drive by only)
 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
 6:00 pm - 6:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Family Meetings
 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Evening Prayer
 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Mass** (Fr. Dolejsi)

Tuesday December 31

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Evening Prayer
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm **Vigil Mass - Mary the Holy Mother of God**
 (Fr. Chanda)

Wednesday January 1

10:00 am 11:00 am **Mass - Mary the Holy Mother of God**
 (Fr. Mario)

Thursday January 2

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Campus Crew
 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Evening Prayer
 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Mass** (Fr. Chanda)
 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Pastoral Council Meeting
 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Precious Blood of Jesus Devotion

Friday January 3

6:30 am - 7:30 am Men's Prayer/Reflection (Doors open at 6:15)
 10:00 am - 11:45 am Food Pantry (Drive by only)
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Our Lady of Rosary Makers Meeting
 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Evening Prayer
 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Mass** (Fr. Mario)

Saturday January 4

7:30 am - 8:30 am Exodus 90
 8:30 am - 9:00 am **Mass**
 9:15 am - 10:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation
 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Vigil Mass**



Food Pantry Needs -

Spaghetti
 Spaghetti sauce
 Peanut Butter

Thank you for your continued support.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION!

*St. Stephen the Martyr has met our goal of **\$184,000** for the Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign. Parishioners have pledged/given **\$184,200** from **383 families!***

There is still time to contribute for those families who have not yet pledged/given to the ACA this year. All gifts received now will be returned to the parish to help support our ministries and outreach. Through the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal, our parish has been answering the call to support our local Catholic community. Your generous gifts support the needs of our faith family and help cultivate the future of our



Adoration Invitation - At St. Stephens we

enjoy Perpetual Adoration of Jesus in the chapel/church. That means Jesus is exposed in the Monstrance 24 hours 7 days (except during scheduled Masses). At this time we find ourselves with open hours needing to be filled by committed adorers. Is Jesus calling you to Come and Adore Him? Please go to the Adoration sign up table in the narthex and find up-to-date information on what hours are available and/or need to be filled or visit <https://ststephenslife.com/eucharistic-adoration> or contact coordinator Bernie 206-427-6085 or Tina 206-715-8462.



Watch Bishop Robert Barron insightful sermon on the power of Eucharistic Adoration at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3snpp3VrYvE> (Youtube search: Bishop Barron Eucharistic Adoration)

Weekly Collections			
	Dec 9, - Dec 15, 2024	Dec 2, - Dec 8, 2024	FY To date July 1 2024-November 30, 2024
Collections-actual	20,890	15,193	380,054
Collections-Budget	35,829	21,041	403,996
Variance	(14,939)	(5,848)	(23,942)
*EFT-Actual	9,677	11,933	192,740
*EFT-Budget	10,049	10,215	206,315
Variance	(372)	1,718	(13,575)
Total Collections Variance	(15,311)	(4,130)	(37,517)

Outreach Collections			
Outreach Assistance	260	860	13,812
Food Pantry	5,824	546	19,632

New Fiscal Year began 7/01/2024

*EFT= Electronic Funds Transfer (Online Collections)

Faith Formation Programs

Faith Formation Registration

This is for children and teens through 12th Grade, as well as Adult Scripture Study. Check out your areas right away, as things are happening fast! If you have questions, we're happy to help. Join us, build community, and grow in our Lord!

Children/Family Classes and Activities: Wednesday Nights (some Friday night activities)

For Registration Please Visit <https://ststephenslife.com/fall-2024-registration-children-and-teens>



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 calling (253) 480-7106 or emailing Ellen Golden at egolden@ststephenslife.com.



Pilgrimage to Fatima! - Join Fr. Mark Kiszelewski, pastor of St. Cecilia and Kathleen Tansey, experienced group travel advisor from St. Stephen on a 13 day Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes with Avila, Loyola, Barcelona and more in October 2025. To learn more go to: travel.nativitypilgrimage.com/kiszelewski or contact Kathleen at 253-653-6074 or Kathleen@travelcenter4u.com

Position Opening: Liturgical Musician

St. Stephen's is hiring a Liturgical Musician! Job requirements are:

- Proficiency in keyboard and sight-reading skills is required.
- Basic knowledge of proper vocal production. Singing skills are desirable.
- Flexibility to execute music in a variety of styles.
- Ability to communicate with and instruct others in a clear and positive manner.
- Willingness to take direction, to collaborate, and to lead when empowered to do so.
- Practicing Catholic preferred.

For more details visit <https://ststephenslife.com/job-openings>



December 29 - Holy Family

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other. Thank you for your continued support of this much needed Ministry. Our community of neighbors are blessed by your prayers and financial donations.



The Gabriel Project is in need of diapers and wipes for their young Moms. They especially need sizes 4, 5, and 6 as well as unscented wipes. You may leave them at the Food Pantry Baskets in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support for our Moms who chose life!



Returning Catholics

Catholics who have been away from the church are invited to meet for a time of rediscovering their faith journey. To find out more contact Bill Swedberg at bswedberg@ststephenslife.com



CATHOLIC COLLEGE CORNER – What is Legatus? It is an international organization of Catholic business leaders and executives, who have committed to study, live and spread the Catholic faith. They are currently offering a variety of grants to those who apply to a select group of Pro-Life colleges. It is National Catholic Register's new (hot off the press, 2024) Catholic College guide. Having thoroughly read it, each school and seminary listed is Pro-Life, teaches in communion with the Church, and all have reputations for being very generous with their financial aid, especially need-based scholarships. For more information, visit <https://www.ncregister.com/section/college-guide>



Did you know St Stephens has more than 85 ministries?



For more information about how to get involved
Please contact Beth Nieva at bnieva@ststephenslife.com



Connect with a ministry and use your gifts



Eucharistic Ministers
Altar Servers
Lectors
Hospitality Team
Music



Food Bank
Terrific Tuesday Meals
Food for Funerals
Outreach to those in need



St. Vincent de Paul
Knights of Columbus
Hospital & Homebound
Missions
Grief Ministry
Gabriel Project/Prepares



Adoration
Men's Group
Bible Study
Prayer Groups
Faith Formation



Office Helpers
Collection Counters
Councils
Clean Up Crew



After Mass Socials
Medical Closet
Respect Life
Rosary Makers
Cultural Communities



ADULT BIBLE STUDY Winter 2025

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's

immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

Come join us as we learn, grow and prepare for Lent and Easter together!

We have a wonderful, welcoming community of learners meeting in two Bible study sessions at St. Stephens. One session meets Tuesday morning from 9:20-11:30 and one session meets Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:00. We'd love to see you at one of them!

Registration begins December 20 and ends January 10! Follow the link below to register.

<https://archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/4123/responses/new> target="_blank">2025 Winter Scripture Study - No Greater Love

For more information contact: Karen Buchert at kasbuchert@comcast.net or the Faith Formation office at mtrejo@ststephenslife.com or 253-631-6175.

Adult Confirmation

Are you a Baptized Catholic Who Has Never
Received Confirmation?



Wouldn't it be a great blessing to receive the GIFTS of the
Holy Spirit through Confirmation?

Adult Confirmation Sessions Begin
January 21st, 7:00-9:00 PM in the Social Hall

- To learn more about our Adult Confirmation Program (adults over the age of 19 years) OR if you are interested in Becoming a Catholic; call or email Anne Merklin, 253-480-7108, or at AMerklin@ststephenslife.com.

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. Bryan Dolejsi		frbryan@ststephenslife.com
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Marlo F. Abad		frmarlo@ststephenslife.com
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Sylvester Chanda		frchanda@st-anthony.cc
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Gilberto Mora Tapia		
Deacon	Dec. Carl Chilo		sstmdeaconcarlchilo@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec. Sonny Ungco		sonny.ungco@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec. Ike Tarabi		ike.tarabi@outlook.com
Director 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
Outreach Ministry Assistant	Lisa Grigaliunas	253-480-7109	lgrigaliunas@ststephenslife.com
Office Manager	Betty Mencke	253-480-7103 (100)	bmencke@ststephenslife.com
Liturgy Coordinator	Janet Denby-Stewart	253-480-7115 (102)	JStewart@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Care	Marijean Heutmacker	253-480-7116 (106)	Mheutmacker@ststephenslife.com
Bookkeeper	Debbie Blakely	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	Michael Joseph	253-480-7110 (113)	mjoseph@ststephenslife.com
Young Adult Ministry/Talents Ministry	Beth Nieva	253-480-7105 (123)	bnieva@ststephenslife.com
Evangelization & Communications	Bill Swedberg	253-480-7107 (121)	bswedberg@ststephenslife.com
Marriage & Child Baptism Prep	Ellen Golden	253 480-7106	egolden@ststephenslife.com
Faith Formation Support Coordinator	Maria Trejo	253-631-6175 (115)	MTrejo@ststephenslife.com
Choir Director	Nina DeJesus	253-236-2882 (137)	ndejesus@ststephenslife.com
St Stephen Housing Association		253-480-7122	office@ststephenhousing.org
SVDP Help-Line		206-767-6449	

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 See contact information above to reach a Staff person for Marriage or Baptism.

Annulments: (for those who are civilly divorced). For compassionate and confidential answers to your questions, please contact our Pastoral Associate, Anne Merklin, 253-480-7108 (ext. 126), AMerklin@ststephenslife.com.

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. sstmassociate@gmail.com

Praying For Sick

Erlinda David, Canlas Ingraham, Angel M. Piol, Jeff Tobin, Estrellita & Patrick Staeheli, Frank Ratajczyk, Cincy Lagmay

Please note we are revising the list of those who are ill and in need of prayers. Names will be posted for 3 weeks unless we receive further notification.

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

Conrado Redila, Peter Olson, Charito Rubis Galindo, Buddy Day, Mike Romero,

Names will be posted for 3 months.

Serving in the Military

Captain Philip Clay, LT Luke Carpenter (deployed), Zenaida Roth, Joey Buslon Poland,

Specialist, Anthony Vogeler, Fort Carson, Colorado.

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@ccsww.org Visit us at www.ccsww.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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