

Saint John Bosco Catholic Church

"United as One, in Christ, to Worship and Love, Witness and Serve"



*"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you." -Mt 11:2-11*

Dear Parishioners,

The Church has begun the New Liturgical Year 2022-2023 with the first Sunday of Advent. Happy New Year to you all. The season of Advent reminds us of a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. In last weekend's liturgy, I explained the meaning of the Advent wreath and the four candles. Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple, and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good deeds undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, *Gaudete* Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing because we have arrived at the midpoint of Advent when our preparation is now half over, and Christmas is around the corner. "Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world," says Holy Father, Pope Francis. One of the ways that our parish anticipates this holy season is by offering an **Advent Penance Service**. I invite you to come to our Church on Friday, **December 16, 2022, at 6:00 pm** to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and the blessings from the Lord. Spend time praying and reflecting on the Gospels, getting to know Jesus in more intimate way; come to Mass more often during the week, asking for the grace to increase our longing for him to transform our lives; and try every day to do more good works for others, to live as Jesus did, with charity, mercy, and forgiveness.

Last month we welcomed Theodore Faulk to our parish family when he received the sacrament of baptism on November 26, 2022. Congratulations to the Faulk family. We are very happy to have you with us. Thank you for your generosity and support towards our Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas Giving Tree. May God bless your hearts.

A big thank and gratitude to Carolyn Meyers who donated her personal Baby Grand Piano to us and Kathleen Swechy who helped tune it up and made it available for service. It is a wonderful gift to us, and we will use it to glorify the Lord.

December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America, a holy day of obligation. We will have two Masses, one at the Immaculate Conception Mission at 11:00 am and the other at Saint John Bosco Church at 7:00 pm. I hope to see you there.

We just extended our office hours in order to serve you better, the new hours are **Tuesday through Thursday from 9-4:00 pm, and Friday from 9-1:00 pm.**

On Saturday, December 17th, 2022, join us for Bingo in the parish hall from 2:30-4:00 pm. All are welcome. Twenty-five people participated in our last Bingo event and we had a great time.

Thank you all for your prayer, support and love. May God, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint John Bosco, and all the Saints bless you, and your families. May they unite us as One, in Christ, to Worship and Love, Witness and Serve. Merry Christmas in advance!

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas

St. John Bosco
10508 112th Street SW, Lakewood, WA 98498
Parish Phone: [253-582-1028](tel:253-582-1028)
Parish Website: www.stjbosco.org

Parish Staff:

Fr. Thomas Tran, Priest Administrator

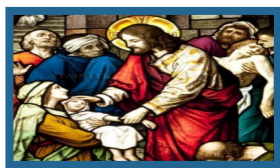
Jeff Greer, Permanent Deacon: Liturgy, Baptism, RCIA

Terri Nelson, Pastoral Associate, Outreach & Parish Involvement

Debbie Pedraza, Pastoral Assistant for Administration

Cassie Denning, Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Laurie Kaiser, Secretary



SACRAMENT OF THE SICK & COMMUNION

Emergency Anointing of the Sick: 253-376-2924

"Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."

- From the Rite of Anointing of the Sick

PRAYER LINE: Are you, a loved one, or a friend in need of a prayer? Call the parish office at [253-582-1028](tel:253-582-1028) to be added to our prayer line.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you would like to schedule a Mass Intention for a loved one, please call the parish office at [253-582-1028](tel:253-582-1028).



Interested in being part of our Homebound Ministry Program visiting the sick and homebound? Contact Terri Nelson at:

terrinelson@stjbosco.org



Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Parish Office Closed

December 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Masks are required upon entering the Parish Waiting Area and the Parish Office. Only one individual or family is permitted in the Parish Waiting Area at a time. Please wait in the Hall until the individual or family has completed their personal request, exited the Parish Waiting Area. Do not remove your mask when making your request. Thank you.

Mass Times at St. John Bosco

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Mass - 9:00 am

Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass - 10:00 am

Reconciliation



The sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated at St. John Bosco every Saturday from 4:00 to 4:30 pm in the church reconciliation room (masks required) or by appointment. Call the office at 253-582-1028 to schedule an appointment.

No reconciliation on Saturday, 12/24/2022.

First Friday Adoration



**First Friday Adoration
St. John Bosco
After 9am Weekday Mass**

NEW PARISHIONERS



Welcome to our community. Please call the office at **253-582-1028** to register. Anyone over 18 years of age, still living at home, should register as a single adult member of our community.



Baptism & Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you or someone you know who...has expressed interest in becoming a Catholic? Has a child over 7 who has not been Baptized? Was Baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Is a Baptized Catholic but would like to return to the Church after a long time away? St. John Bosco Parish community offers an opportunity to come together (online for now) in a small group to learn about our beliefs and explore our journey of faith to God. Sessions focus on our Christian roots revealed in the Bible and the teachings and experience of the Church. For those who choose, we also prepare individuals to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. You are welcome to participate in this process with your questions, your insights, and your faith story in a warm accepting setting.

Baptism Classes

Baptism classes will be held the third Sunday of every month at 9am in the parish library with Deacon Jeff. Contact the office for an application prior to attending the class.



Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Faith Formation serves grades Kindergarten-fifth. **Youth Ministry** serves grades sixth-Twelfth. We meet for formation Sunday from 11:30-12:30. Please check out our website for details and registration.

For **Sacramental Prep** please be sure to register your student for their grade. Second graders and up are eligible to receive First Reconciliation and Communion. Seventh Graders and Up are able to receive confirmation.

First Communion and First Reconciliation Prep will take place during Faith Formation with additional workshops closer to the sacraments. If you have any questions please contact Cassie.

Confirmation Prep has begun so please attend Youth Formation 11:30-12:30 and then Confirmation class 12:30-1:00. If you are interested in having your child participate please be sure to register for Youth Ministry and email Cassie.

Volunteer! We are always looking for volunteers to serve in a variety of ways. If you are wondering how you can serve please contact Cassie Denning or fill out the survey on our [website](#).

Advent has begun I have a variety of resources on our website including an Advent Wreath Prayer Booklet and a Jesse tree activity to help your family celebrate this advent season. [Learn More](#)

Links:

[Faith Formation\(k-6\) Registration](#)
[Faith Formation Resources](#)
[Youth Ministry\(7-12\) Registration](#)
[Youth Ministry Resources](#)

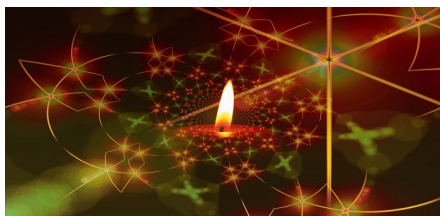
Questions? Contact Cassie Denning at:
cassiedenning@stjbosco.org

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook: St. John Bosco YM

Instagram: @stjboscoym

Saint Vincent de Paul Third Sunday of Advent



In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched, felt, and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus', but we can't just ask people to take our word for it: our **ACTIONS** must speak for us.

Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus' ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.

Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining St. Vincent de Paul Society? Call our helpline 253-820-9472 and leave message for St. Vincent de Paul team.

Immaculate Conception Mission in Steilacoom

Join us every other month on the third Saturday for daily Mass at 9am. Mass schedule for 2023: 2/18, 4/15, 6/17, 8/19, 10/21. December 12/8/2023 time to be determined.

PLEASE NOTE: NO MASS IN JANUARY 2023

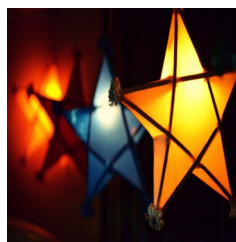
Wednesdays at 1:30pm: Adoration and the Rosary

Eucharistic Adoration is adorning or honoring the Eucharistic presence of Christ. Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament - His body, blood, soul, and divinity. He waits for our acts of faith, adoration, thanksgiving, repentance, forgiveness, and love. All are welcome!

Stewardship A WAY OF LIFE

Weekly Collection Including Weekly Online Giving
Sign up for online giving at: stjbosco.org
December 3 & 4, 2022

Weekend Collection	\$6,246.00
Weekly Online Giving	\$4,131.25
Total Weekly Collection	\$10,377.25
Budgeted Weekly Goal	\$11,938.18
Weekly Goal Under/Over Budget	(\$1,560.93)
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date Giving (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)	\$222,949.60
Budgeted Fiscal Year-to-Date Goal (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)	\$274,578.14
Under/Over Budgeted Goal	(\$51,628.54)



Simbang Gabi Celebration

Saint John Bosco

Tuesday, December 13th at 7pm



Join us for Bingo

in the Parish Hall

December 17th

2:30pm to 4:00pm

ADVENT

HOPE - LOVE - JOY - PEACE

WELCOME We welcome you to St. John Bosco Parish, celebrating with us, whether you are new to the area/parish or maybe not so new but just have not registered. If you are not registered, please complete the form below and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Thank you. (This is not a registration form).

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
 { } New Parishioner { } New Address { } Moving, please remove from parish directory]



We will make the decision to cancel masses at the latest 2 hours before the scheduled mass. We will be sure to update our website when the decision has been made and post it on Facebook.

If you have any doubts or are worried about making the trip, please stay home. You are excused from Mass.

PING PONG CLUB



Join Fr. Thomas' Ping Pong Club

Tuesday's & Friday's 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Note: The final day for ping pong in December will be the 13th and will resume January 3rd

All levels of experience welcome.

Location: Classroom 7

St. John Bosco & Immaculate Conception Maintenance & Custodian Position

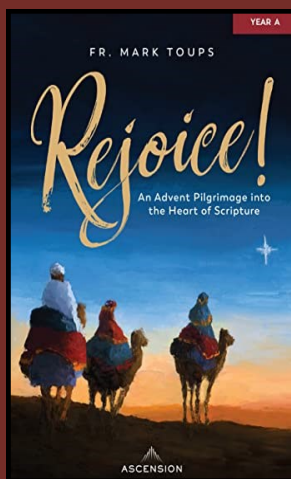
Full-time with Benefits

If interested in the position, click the link below for the application and position description:

Careers - Archdiocese of Seattle (archseattle.org)

Select "Chancery & Parish Positions"

Questions? Contact Debbie Pedraza at: [253-582-1028](tel:253-582-1028)



Deacon Jeff's Bible Study

Join Deacon Jeff for his Advent Bible Study using "Rejoice! An Advent Pilgrimage into the Heart of Scripture" from Ascension Press. Please sign up after Mass this Weekend November 26th & 27th to participate and pick up information on how to complete this weekend's session at home and then join us the other Sundays of Advent after the 10am mass.



First Friday Adoration
at St. John Bosco
Following the 9am Mass

Friday, January 6, 2023

**Patriots Landing **

Rosary available Wednesdays at 10:30am. St. John Bosco volunteers Cecilia Lago and Marie Cadungug will offer communion (not a liturgy service) to those who are homebound after the rosary.

Celebrate Mass with Fr. Thomas every last Wednesday of the month. The anointing of the sick will be offered every other month.

December 9, 2022

PARISH STEWARDSHIP
TIME. TALENT.
TREASURE



Thank you to the 161 families who have already returned their Parish Stewardship commitment cards for a total of \$317,240.50 and those of you who submitted your prayers. If you haven't returned your commitment card or completed one online at our website www.stjbosco.org, it's not too late. Please take this opportunity to discern how God is calling you to grow closer to Him this year.



ST JOHN BOSCO PARISH
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON

JOIN US FOR MASS THIS ADVENT
SATURDAYS AT 5PM
SUNDAYS AT 10AM

◆ 1st Sunday : November 26&27 ◆ 2nd Sunday: December 3&4
◆ 3rd Sunday: December 10&11 ◆ 4th Sunday: December 17&18

DAILY MASS: WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAYS 9AM

◆ ADORATION AND CONFESSION ◆
Fridays following Daily Mass: December 2, 9, 16, 23

◆ SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DECEMBER 8 ◆
7pm Mass at St John Bosco
11am Mass and Reception at Immaculate Conception Mission

◆ SIMBANG GABI CELEBRATION DECEMBER 13 AT 7PM ◆
◆ COMMUNITY PENANCE SERVICE DECEMBER 16, 6-8PM ◆

◆ CHRISTMAS EVE MASS DECEMBER 24 AT 5PM ◆
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS DECEMBER 25 AT 10AM

◆ SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD ◆
Saturday, December 31 at 5pm ◆ Sunday, January 1 at 10am

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Saturday, January 7 at 5pm ◆ Sunday, January 8 at 10am

◆ FOR MORE INFO: STJBOSCO.ORG/ADVENT-AND-CHRISTMAS-MASSES ◆

SAVE THE DATE: Feast of St John Bosco January 28 at 5pm



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

St. John Bosco Parish and
Youth Ministry have
provided Christmas Gifts
and more to those in need
for the past
20+ years.

ITEMS DUE: DECEMBER 11

DONATE NOW FOR THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Pick up Tags from the Christmas Giving Tree in the Hall starting
November 19&20.

Please bring the items back wrapped with the tag on it by
December 11.

OR



Check out our amazon Wishlist and
order a gift or more and have them
delivered directly to the parish.

ALSO ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF THESE ITEMS

- Laundry Detergent
- Body Wash, Shampoo, lotion
- Tooth Brushes and Tooth Paste
- Diapers, Pull Ups and Wipes
- Gloves, Mittens, Hats, etc.
- Blankets
- Monetary Donations:
 - Check made out to St John Bosco

ONLINE
GIVING:



Questions? please email Cassie Denning at
cassiedenning@stjbosco.org

Learn more online: stjbosco.org/christmas-giving-tree





Surviving the Holidays in the Midst of Grief

Wednesday, December 14, 2022
11:00 am

Whether you are facing the first holiday season without a loved one or have faced numerous other losses in life that makes it difficult to face the holiday season, we'd love to have you join to talk, share, and learn some coping strategies for the holiday season so it is less likely to overwhelm you physically and emotionally.

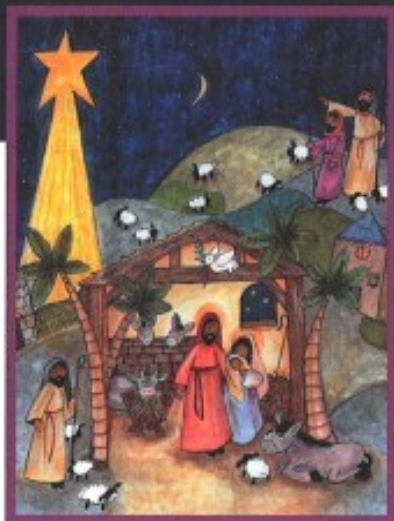
We will meet in the Parish Library/Conference Room.

To **Preregister**, call or stop by the parish office and let us know, or email terrinelson@stjbosco.org to register.

**Sponsored by St. John Bosco Grief
Ministry**



Lord, hear our prayer. *Amen*

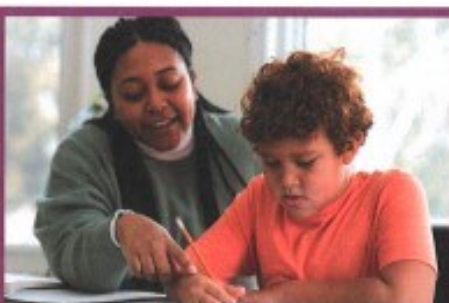


CCS/CHS 2022 APPEAL FOR THE POOR

THANK YOU
TO PARISHES AND SUPPORTERS WHO
LIGHT THE PATHWAY TO HOPE
FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NEIGHBORS SERVED
BY 180 CCS/CHS PROGRAMS IN
WESTERN WASHINGTON

2022 CCS/CHS SOUTHWEST PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Opening Christmas Eve last year, **Bertha's One**, a shelter for women, couples, and other people over 55, added 62 shelter beds in Vancouver. **Bertha's Too** provided additional shelter to 32 previously homeless individuals one month later. Through August, Bertha's shelters successfully transitioned 34 clients into permanent housing.
- ★ **CCS** relocated clients from the downtown **Olympia Mitigation Site** to **Quince Street Village** in Olympia, increasing the number of chronically homeless individuals served from 45 to 100, and moving them from tents to powered and heated tiny homes.
- ★ **CCS Community Kitchen** provides stable, nutritious food access for primarily unhoused people in Olympia. On average this year 2,000 more meals have been served each month, than in 2021.
- ★ **CCS** successfully completed a Pierce County pilot housing program in partnership with the City of Puyallup, providing 20+ adults with shelter and critical services 24/7.
- ★ As COVID-19 restrictions lifted, **CCS Volunteer Services** welcomed 182 volunteers who provided 35,404 hours of service to 626 clients in a variety of programs.
- ★ **CCS Foster Care** program expanded their services to the greater Vancouver area to serve children who are temporarily unable to live with their parents.
- ★ **CCS Supportive Services for Veteran Families** successfully provided rapid rehousing and case management for 162 veteran families experiencing homelessness.
- ★ **CCS Unaccompanied Children** program serves youth who are eligible to resolve their legal status. Four family reunifications across multiple states have taken place. **CCS** staff express the joy of "watching them receive their status and transition to greater success by becoming our countries newest Americans."
- ★ **CCS SW Latino Network Builder**, Isabel Cisneros Rueda and her Women's Justice Circle received the Thea Bowman Award from the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) for bringing mental health resources and support in the Latino community. The Circle created the first annual Caminar para Sanar (Walk to Heal) to de-stigmatize mental health within the Latino community in Gray's Harbor.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES
OF WESTERN WASHINGTON
CCSWW.ORG



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES

LIGHTING PATHWAYS TO HOPE ACROSS WESTERN WASHINGTON

PREPARES (PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT)

The PREPARES ministry is a parish-based partnership with CCS that offers vulnerable families a promise of support and assistance from pregnancy to their child's fifth birthday. Vital needs provided include volunteer companionship, food, clothing, diapers, parenting classes, and supportive social services. In 2021 PREPARES distributed 240,000 diapers to over 2,000 children, age three and younger. Learn more at preparesforlife.org

COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN

CCS/CHS is a leader in the Communities of Concern Commission, a statewide coalition of leaders from Black, Indigenous & Communities of Color in urban and rural areas that are disproportionately affected by poverty and have yet to fully benefit from the economic growth so apparent in many areas of Washington State.

IMMIGRATION

CCS/CHS Network Builder, José Ortiz, was the Keynote Speaker at the Sixth Annual Archdiocesan Immigration Summit which highlighted the mental health, advocacy, legal issues, and refugee sponsorship within immigrant communities.

SYNODAL LISTENING SESSIONS

CCS/CHS facilitated 13 listening sessions for clients, staff, and community partners as part of the Archdiocese of Seattle consultative process for Pope Francis' global synod.

LONG TERM CARE (LTC)

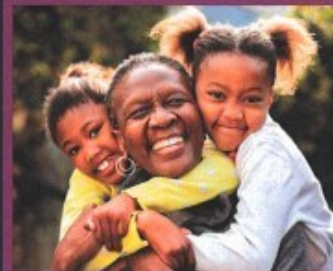
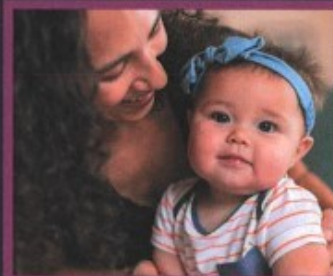
CCS Long Term Care compelling advocacy efforts influenced the Washington State Health Care Authority to make the "most significant anti-poverty change in Long Term Care in many years," raising the personal needs allowance for clients from 100% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 300% of FPL.

Based on a successful pilot program at CCS Nativity House shelter where LTC provided personal care services to guests with functional disabilities, the legislature funded a statewide expansion with oversight provided by LTC.

FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Two CCS clinicians were deployed to provide mental health support to the Catholic Charities team helping families following the tragedy in Uvalde, TX.

Locally, the Washington Council on Behavioral Health named CCS Family Behavioral Health as one of six agencies best qualified to become a teaching clinic for our state's strained mental health system.



5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER:

Serve meals, help seniors, and more at ccsww.org/volunteer

ADVOCATE:

Be a champion for those in need! Contact your local Network Builders:

Nick Leider at

NickL@ccsww.org or

Isabel Cisneros Rueda at

IsabelCR@ccsww.org

DONATE:

Make a gift of cash, stock, or crypto, or leave a legacy gift through your estate at ccsww.org/donate

STAY INFORMED:

Sign up for a monthly CCS/CHS update at ccsww.org/join-us

SHARE ON SOCIALS:

For more frequent updates, follow us on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram** @ccsww



About Simbang Gabi

The original Simbang Gabi was called the "Misa de Aurea" (Golden Mass) or the "Angel's Mass." In 1587, Fray Diego Soria, prior of the San Augustin Convent, petitioned the Pope for permission to hold Christmastide Masses outdoors because the church could not accommodate the multitude that attended the services. The request was granted through a rescript and in the 17th Century, the Misa de Aguinaldo or the Misa de Gallo, or Simbang Gabi became a Filipino spiritual tradition. Vatican II encouraged the church in the Philippines to continue the tradition and uphold its significant role in the life of the people.

This novena of Masses expresses the love of the people for God through His Mother, Mary, as we gather in prayerful anticipation of the Christmas miracle. The readings, the prayers and the songs at Mass remind us all of our need for God in our lives and the necessity of taking time to reflect on our relationships with God and with one another at this special time of the year.

Filipino Americans brought Simbang Gabi to the United States and found it to be an effective way to stay connected to their faith. It expresses who they are as a Filipino people, and enables them to share their God-given gifts with the wider Church in the United States. Simbang Gabi draws on the leadership of the Filipino Catholics in the parishes to carry out these special gatherings and to share their religious tradition and culture with the whole parish family. Simbang Gabi is an opportunity for the Archbishop to gather with the parish leadership at St. James Cathedral for a Commissioning Mass to commence the nine days novena. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Novena of nine Masses.

What is a PAROL?

- ✦ A star-shaped lantern displayed in homes in the Philippines, the *Parol* is meant to serve as the guiding light and sign for Mary and Joseph and more importantly, Jesus, to come into the home, as the family is ready for them.
- ✦ It is also used as a part of the processional entrance for Mass to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World bringing life and light to all who accept Him.
- ✦ The Parol represents the star of Bethlehem that guided the magi to the place where Jesus was born.
- ✦ The presence of the star reminds us of God's presence among us, that Jesus is Emmanuel, which means, God is with us.





Sharing the Light



unBOUND

FAMILY ADVENT
ACTIVITY KIT

Sharing the Light



SETTING OUT TOGETHER ON THE PATH TO CHRISTMAS

Hi, we're Unbound, and we work with people overcoming poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Started in 1981 by a group of Catholics from the U.S., we now help 300,000 children, families and elders meet their needs for school, food, shelter and more.

Our easy-to-use Advent resource, "Sharing the Light," helps families prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who calls us all to be a light for each other. The activities that follow work well with an Advent wreath or on their own. Either way, we hope they help your family put faith into action.

Wishing you a blessed Advent,
Your friends at Unbound

Week One: Hope

The first candle on the Advent wreath symbolizes hope. Hope, along with faith and love, is one of the three great virtues. Advent is a good time to do small acts of kindness and generosity that bring hope to others.



LIGHT ONE CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH, THEN PRAY TOGETHER

Loving God, help us begin Advent well. This week we especially ask for the gift of hope. Help us to share our hope with all those we meet. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

ACTIVITY

As a family, choose someone you know (neighbor, friend, relative) who might be especially lonely around the holidays. Write that person a card or letter and have each family member include a personal note. Younger children could draw pictures.

DID YOU KNOW? For a child or elder sponsored through Unbound, knowing that a new friend across the world believes in them and their abilities is a daily source of hope. Sponsors often express support for their sponsored friends through letters.

Week Two: Love

During the second week of Advent, we reflect on God's great love for us. When we love others, we want to do what is best for them. We want their happiness just as we want our own. As St. John reminds us, God is love.



LIGHT TWO CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH, THEN PRAY TOGETHER

O God, you show us your love through the actions of those who bring joy to our lives. May we, too, help spread your love to everyone we meet. Amen.

ACTIVITY

The holidays are an especially difficult time for families that don't have enough to eat. Contact a local food bank and ask how you can help. You might be able to bring some canned goods, make a cash donation or help package and deliver items.

DID YOU KNOW? Families in the Unbound program can choose to use sponsorship funds to buy nutritious food. That's a big help since food takes up a large part of a family's income.

Week Three: Joy

The pink candle on the Advent wreath is for the third Sunday of Advent. It represents joy. When the angels announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds, at first the shepherds were afraid. But their fear soon turned into rejoicing. We, too, should be happy, for Christmas will be here soon!



LIGHT THREE CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH, THEN PRAY TOGETHER

Loving Father, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son, help us to be joyful and to spread our joy to those around us. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Bring a little extra joy to those who need it. Your family could visit homebound elders in your neighborhood or community or spend some time at a nursing home or assisted living center.

DID YOU KNOW? Unbound is the only major U.S.-based organization that offers sponsorship support for elders. This helps make their later years more comfortable and less lonely.

Week Four: Peace

The fourth Sunday of Advent comes just three days before Christmas! Our season of preparation is ending and a new season of celebration begins. The last candle on the Advent wreath reminds us that the Prince of Peace is about to be born.



LIGHT FOUR CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH, THEN PRAY TOGETHER

Lord Jesus, as an infant you slept in heavenly peace under the loving watch of Mary and Joseph. Help us to be kind to one another as we seek to make our world a more peaceful place. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Spend some time as a family at the Nativity scene in your home or church. Talk about the different figures (Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the magi, the animals) and what being there must have been like for each of them.

DID YOU KNOW?

There was "no room at the inn" for Mary and Joseph, but families in Unbound communities around the world belong. They participate through mothers groups, social and recreational programs, and many other activities.

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A BLESSED
ADVENT AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

