

# St Raphael

First Sunday of Advent - Year B  
November 29, 2020

412 3rd Avenue North • P.O. Box 471  
Glasgow, Montana 59230  
[www.straphaelparish.net](http://www.straphaelparish.net)  
406-228-9800

## & Sister Faith Communities

Queen of Angels - Nashua St. Raphael - Glasgow  
Holy Family - Glentana St. Albert - Hinsdale

## Weekend Mass & Word/Communion Services

Date:	Location	Time
Saturday, Dec 5	St. Raphael ☩	<b>4:00 pm</b>
Sunday, Dec 6	St. Raphael ☩	9:00 am
	St Alberts ☩	9:00 am
	Queen of Angels ☩	11:00 am
	Holy Family ☩	11:30 pm



Mass



Service of Word & Communion

### A Commentary on Paul's Epistle to the Romans [15]

#### Chapter 15:1-33: Welcome One Another in Christ

**Verses 1-6: Example of Christ:** Christians' conduct is dictated by their experience of freedom in the Spirit. The 'strong' minded in the church are to follow the example of Christ. Out of love for Christ, the strong would welcome the weak and do not look down on [judging] their weakness but conduct themselves [put up with] for the edification of all in the community. Paul emphasizes that 'self-concern' is not Christ like attitude. Welcome the neighbor for his/her own good to build a harmonious community. Christ did not seek his own pleasure or safety but he suffered on the cross, took upon himself the burdens of humanity [bear one another's burdens- Galatians 6:2]. Paul argues from the scriptures to prove his point, as in Psalm 69:9: 'the insults of those who insult thee have fallen on me', referring to Christ as suffering servant of God. The purpose of the coming of Christ is for the wellbeing of all in human family and those who believe in Christ have a duty to build harmony in the world, which is glory of God the Father through Jesus Christ. Christian journey is a life of fellowship, not an independent pursuit. Groups hold on to different traditions/views must welcome each other as one in Christ. Human family with all its diversity is one unity because of Oneness of God!

**Verses 7-13: The Messiah:** Christ was sent as fulfillment of promise to the circumcised [Jews]; he is servant of the covenant; he is manifestation of God's mercy to the gentiles that they too may glorify God. For this reason, Paul wants harmony among Jewish and Gentile Christians [Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalm 117:1: 'all gentiles praise God'. Christians allow the Holy Spirit in them to do his work in praising God and praying in them! Paul teaches how to co-exist with people from different backgrounds, convictions; for all in the Christian community are bound together in Christ by one faith. One's particular understanding of doctrine/traditions should not be about mutually excluding each other. Acceptance by Christ is the norm for Christians; only Christ would know each ones heart!

**Verses 15-24: Paul's wish to visit Rome:** Paul expresses his great desire to visit Rome on the way to Spain [Spain was part of Roman empire]. But first he wants to go to Jerusalem to give the collection he took up from Macedonia

and Achaia to help the poor in Jerusalem church. This is a model of fellowship, how gentile Christians treat fellow Jewish Christians who are in need. Paul says 'correct one another' out of love rather than judging the other. Because of indwelling of Spirit in Christians, they must be able to give good counsel to each other. Paul is confident that Christians in Rome are capable of overcoming differences and work for harmony; they have acquired knowledge and goodness because of faith, a guide for Christian conduct. About his wish to go to Spain, Paul explains his gift [charism] as an apostle of gentiles; he uses his authority to remind Christians of their unique status in Christ. Paul's admonitions in the letter are not meant as accusations of Christians in Rome but rather to encourage them to live what they already came to know about Christ! Paul is a minister/steward of the gospel to gentiles, a ministry from God. Spreading the gospel is like a priestly offering. Paul's offering to God is the gentiles who came to faith; it also means reception of the Holy Spirit because worship of God is an action of Spirit in the Christian.

**Verses 25-33: Purpose of the Letter:** Paul wants Christians to live in hope of the return of Christ and encourage unity in church. He also asks prayers for his travel to Jerusalem that he may not encounter hostility from Jewish nationalists who considered him as an apostate and that Christians may receive the collection in a spirit of good will [Acts 24 gives details of Paul's trip to Jerusalem and it didn't go well. He was beaten up by his enemies, then brought to trial before the high priest and Roman governors. He was in prison for almost two years and when he appealed to Caesar as a Roman citizen, he was sent to Rome with armed guards to stand trial there and that ended up in his martyrdom under emperor Nero]. Paul ends this section blessing Christians in Rome that God of peace be with them! Peace is experienced in fellowship/unity, in openness to the Spirit who sustains us in hope!

**Father Jose**

## Liturgical Ministry Schedule

Saturday, December 5, 4:00 PM

Sacred Host	Jeannie Compton
Lector	Randy Holom
Hospitality	Amy Capdeville, Craig Gilchrist
Mass Coordinator	Amy Capdeville

Sunday, December 6, 9:00 AM

Sacred Host:	Deacon Ed Malone
Lector:	Ellen Guttenberg
Altar Server	?????
Hospitality:	Madylon Cornwell, Kari Knierim
Mass Coordinator:	Annette Wageman



A virtual, online Retrouvaille marriage help program starts Thursday evening, January 14th. The Retrouvaille Community of Montana has been invited to join with California's Northern Community in offering this online weekend. The virtual program begins Thursday and Friday evenings and a full day on Saturday and Sunday, January 14 - 17, 2021. The weekend will be followed by a series of virtual Post Weekend Sessions. There is a \$500 registration fee per couple. Please know that no one is turned away because of the inability to pay. For additional information please contact us at 406-761-4830 or view the details at [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

## Word of Life 2020

"Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society."  
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"  
[respectlife.org/gospel-of-life-summary](http://respectlife.org/gospel-of-life-summary)

## Quiet Moments of Reflection

It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken.

St Francis Xavier



## Stewards Of the Week

We would like to acknowledge all of our parishioners as stewards of the week. There was only one week out of this pandemic that we needed to take a few dollars from our savings to pay our bills. It is a wonderful feeling to belong to such a generous parish that realizes we still need funds to keep our churches going. Thank you for your Stewardship!!!!

## Discussion Questions of the Week

**Life Question:** What are you doing to help give birth to peace? What is a danger that could threaten your life or wellbeing?

**Gospel Question:** At what doorways are you watching for God to come?

**Youth Question:** How do you stay alert to Jesus' coming in your life? What are three things your family does to make Advent special?

## Kneeling after the (Agnus Dei)Lamb of God

In the Dioceses of the United States of America, they should kneel beginning after the singing or recitation of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) until after the Amen of the Eucharistic Prayer, except when prevented on occasion by ill health, or for reasons of lack of space, of the large number of people present, or for another reasonable cause. However, those who do not kneel ought to make a profound bow when the Priest genuflects after the Consecration. **The faithful kneel after the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) unless the Diocesan Bishop determines otherwise.**

## Things to find on the St Raphael App

The App is St Raphael Parish Application. You can find the bulletin. There is an icon for **Mass:** Mass times, daily Mass intentions, daily readings, ministers schedules. An icon for **Tithing and Giving:** St Raphael Endowment, Haiti, online giving, religious education fees, grotto, Care & Share. **Virtual Mass:** it's the link to both the facebook(straphaelglasgow) and our website(straphaelparish.net). **From the Vatican:** Christus Vivit- Pope Francis & His reflections, **Daily Marriage Tips, & much more.** **It's free for you to use anytime that is convenient.**

## Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Those who would like to go to confession please contact Fr. Jose or Parish office at 228-9800 to schedule time/date. Confessions will be held in Father's office at parish center for privacy and adequate social distancing.

## St. Raphael's Sacrificial Giving

<b>Last Weekend</b>	\$2,129
Oct Contributions	\$16,553
Oct Expenses	\$15,512
Oct Month Totals	\$1,041

### Fiscal

**Year Income** 47,403

**Expenses** 45,094 = 2,309

**St Andrew, the Apostle** was born between AD 5 and AD 10 in Galilee. Andrew's very name means strong and he was known for having good social skills. Both he and his brother Peter were fishermen by trade, hence the tradition that Jesus called them to be his disciples by saying that he will make them "fishers of men". St. Andrew is venerated in Georgia as the first preacher of Christianity in that territory and in Cyprus for having struck the rocks creating a gush of healing waters upon landing on the shore.

His saltire cross is featured on the flag of Scotland and is represented in much of his iconography. He is commonly portrayed as an old man with long white hair and a beard, often holding the Gospel book or a scroll.

**St Francis Xavier:** He was born in the Kingdom of Navarre on April 7, 1506. His father was a privy counselor and finance minister to King John III of Navarre. He was the youngest in his family and resided in a castle which still partially stands today and is in the possession of the Jesuit order. In 1530, Francis Xavier earned his master's degree, and went on to teach philosophy at the University of Paris. He built 40 churches for the people of the Pearl Fishery Coast.

**St Damascene:** He wrote works expounding the Christian faith, and composed hymns which are still used both liturgically in Eastern Christian practice throughout the world as well as in western Lutheranism at Easter. He is one of the Fathers of the Eastern Orthodox Church and is best known for his strong defence of icons. The Catholic Church regards him as a Doctor of the Church, often referred to as the Doctor of the Assumption due to his writings on the Assumption of Mary.



Catholic Social Services of Montana invites you to recognize National Adoption Month with us in November! Unfortunately, due to Covid19, Adoption Celebrations around Montana will not take place in person this year. In honor of

National Adoption Month, we invite you to reflect on adoption and how it has impacted your life, and the lives of your family and friends. It has been found that adoption has touched the lives of 6 in every 10 people in this country in some form. If adoption has impacted your life, please consider supporting adoption services in Montana by donating to Catholic Social Services of Montana, we are a licensed adoption agency working with expectant parents, and couples hoping to adopt all across Montana. Your gift will support the lives of unborn children by providing caring, professional support to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies. Check out our updated website at [www.cssmt.org](http://www.cssmt.org) for more information about CSSM and our services.

### The Patron Saint of:

**St Andrew, the Apostle;** fishermen, rope-makers, textile workers, singers, miners, pregnant women, butchers, farm workers, protection against sore throats, convulsions, fever, & whooping cough

**St Francis Xavier:** plague epidemics, parish missions, missionaries

**St Damascene:** pharmacists, icon painters, theology students

# Weekly Calendar

Monday, Nov 30 **St Andrew, Apostle**

7:00 PM: Al-anon Meeting-Blue Room

8:00 PM: Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 1

No Mass

Wednesday, Dec 2

No Mass

6:30 PM: Youth Group: Grades 6-12

Thursday, Dec 3 **St Francis Xavier**

112:10 PM: Mass Intention: †LaVerne Beede  
by Family

Friday, Dec 4 **St Damascene**

No Mass

Saturday, Dec 5

3:30 PM: Rosary

4:00 PM: Mass Intention: †Carol Fossum  
by Family

Sunday, Dec 6 (Second Sunday of Advent)

8:30 AM: Rosary

9:00 AM: Mass Intentions: †Father Jose's Mom  
by Jeannie Liebelt

## Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father

### Artificial Intelligence

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

*Special Intentions: Pray the Rosary*

Lord, please hear these prayer intentions of your faithful people...

Dan Carney, David Reinhardt, Dolores Brenna, Jerry Feda, Maverick Bench, Savannah Schaefer, Skylar Welter, Bob Hill, Todd Boucher, Shelley Welter, Mike Carney, Sharon Retterath & all in need of prayers

## Christmas for the



## Children of Hays



We are in need of hats, scarves, toys for the kids. We will also be doing gifts for the Sisters of Hays. We could use lotions, cute candles, small items for gifts. We still need about 10 shoe boxes. If you have any questions, please call Jewel at 521-0500 or Terri at 228-9800.

 LPL Financial

**Gary Wageman**

Financial Advisor

228-8261

519 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Glasgow, MT 59230

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schedule your  
appointment  
today!



**Romans 8:28** "We know that all  
things work for good for those who  
love God, who are called according  
to his purpose."

**Willows Restaurant**

Open 6 A.M. to 10 P.M. Daily

Owner: Betty & Tracy Stone - parishioners

**St. Raphael's**  
Adoration & Rosary  
Led by  
**MEN'S Prayer Group**  
Meets Every Tuesday  
night @ 7:00 in Church  
**All Parish Members**  
WELCOME

For info Contact: Deacon Ed

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It is impossible to find a saint  
who did not take the "two P's"  
seriously: Prayer and Penance!

**St Francis Xavier**



Hours: Monday thru Saturday  
8:30AM - 5:30PM

Pharmacy plus:

- Digital & Film Photo Printing
- Cosmetics & Health Care Items
- Stationary & Greeting Cards
- Gifts, Toys, Books & Magazines
- Candy, Snacks & More....

**Fred & Jeannie Compton,**  
R.Ph.'s, parishioners

**BLESSED**  
**GIFTS**  
St Raphael Parish  
Open Mon. thru Thurs.  
from 10 am - 4 pm

An old St. Nicholas Day tradition in Germany and Poland had children dress up like bishops and go out begging for alms for the poor. What a marvelous practice! **Mary M. McGlone**

**Parish Office Hours**

Monday thru Thursday

10:00am to 4:00pm

**Pastor:** Fr. Jose Valliparambil

Office Hours 9:30 to 11:00AM T-TH

If needed outside hours, please call the rectory.

Office: 228-9800

Rectory: 228-2962

Email: vallijose@gmail.com

**Councils & Commissions**

Pastoral: Mary Fahlgren: 230-0148

Finance: Glen Monson: 228-8385

Stewardship.: Kim Monson: 228-9742

Education: Nicole Cole: 263-1220

RCIA: Deacon Ed Malone: 785-7080

Liturgy: Karen Breigenzer: 367-5352

Christian Service: Nancy Koessl: 228-2898

PCCW: Sue Sather: 228-2606

K of C: Jon Bengochea: 228-2384

Prayer Chain: Breigenzer: 228-8527

**St Nicholas Day**  
is Dec 6th

- He sold all his possessions & gave his money to the poor.
- A devout Christian, he dedicated his life to serving the sick & suffering

**Be like St Nick!!**

**Kim is in the store**  
Tuesdays 10-Noon

**Staff...**

Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry:  
Jewel Etherington

Office: 228-9800, ext. 22

Email: dffym@nemont.net

Secretary/Bookkeeper: Terri Ellsworth

Office: 228-9800, ext. 21

Email: straphael@nemont.net

Maintenance: Perry Shorten

**Friends**  
of  
**Reynolds**  
**#1018**

# Hays Lodge Pole Mission School Shoebox Project

We are collecting items to fill 50 Shoeboxes for the kids at Hays Mission School this Christmas.

**Suggested items:**

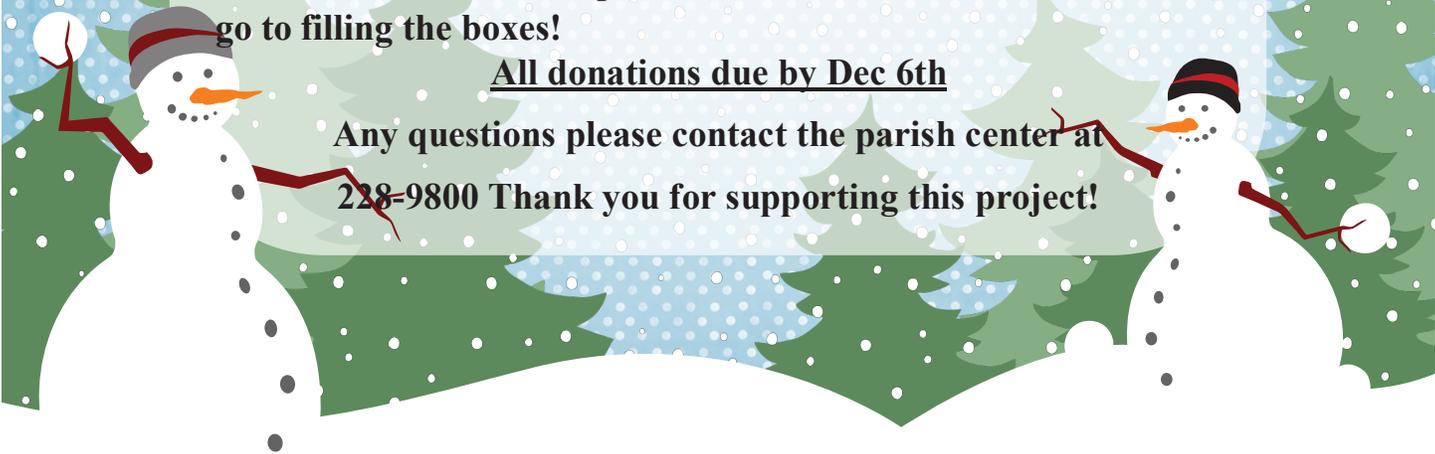
- \* Winter Hats & Gloves
- \* Socks
- \* Small Toys/Games (ie: cards, legos, dolls, cars, play dough)
- \* Crayons, Colored Pencils or Markers
- \* Coloring or Activity books
- \* Chapstick
- \* Hair Ties, Nail Polish or Jewelry
- \* Candy

Donations can be dropped of any time at the Parish Center or at either door of the Church during Mass.

Cash donations are excepted in lieu of items. All donations will go to filling the boxes!

**All donations due by Dec 6th**

Any questions please contact the parish center at  
228-9800 Thank you for supporting this project!



# Solemnity of Christ the King 2020

The dramatic presentation of the Last Judgment is the end of the great discourse of Jesus in Mathews gospel. Jesus is the Messiah the Christ, that makes him king; king is also called shepherd in Jewish tradition; he is Son of man and that gives him power as judge of the universe because by becoming man, Son of God became one of us and part of the created universe. First reading gives the image of God as shepherd, his concern for the weak and the lost. We share in the ministry of Jesus as king, as we were anointed king, priest and prophet in our baptism. King's role is to serve his people and gospel says they include the hungry, thirsty, sick, prisoners, sinners, all who experience many forms of abuses. It is amazing to note in the last judgment scene the standard for judging is: how did you live the commandment, 'love your neighbor', a life of caring and sharing, a life of giving without even noticing? The gospel is in a way the conclusion of the parable of the talents; how do you use your gifts; how do you live love?

In the Lord's prayer we pray for the coming of the kingdom of God and God's will be established on our world. God's will is man fully alive! that is to bring peace, healing, reconciliation and joy to all we encounter in life. Christ the king became our food and drink in the Eucharist. He opens our eyes to the Millions go hungry in our world, to the scarcity of clean water in many countries and human indifference to care for creation. The king asks: how did you bring spiritual and physical healing to the wounded humanity and creation? How did you bring to action the faith you profess in me? The upright are those who had the mind of Christ whose words are good-news of comfort, encouragement and peace and whose actions made visible the Christ in them. Those who on the left side of the king are not necessarily sinners, perhaps even pious people but they overlooked love of neighbor, did not move by human misery, suffering! Their faith remained dormant and they buried their talent! It is not enough doing nothing or not sinning but Christians are called to be proactive in loving and make present in their lives the kingdom of Christ the king. You help many charities and in our own small way we help the church in Haiti to show our solidarity with the poor and suffering of the world! During this pandemic the healthcare workers, essential workers and all who care for the sick and needy live the spirit of today's gospel!

Gospel teaches that the essence of human wellbeing is compassion! Dr. Karl Menninger, the famous psychiatrist, once gave a lecture on mental health and then answered questions from the audience. One man asked: what would you advise a person to do if that person felt a nervous breakdown coming on? Most people expected him to reply: consult a psychiatrist. To their astonishment he replied: 'I will tell that person, lock up your house, go across the railway tracks, find someone in need and do something to help that person. Don't sit and pout; get up and do something. All aspects of Christian life must be governed by love. It is God's love that judges and separates what is not of love. The fire mentioned in the gospel is life wasted away and satan is self-deceived existence! Christ the king brought a revolution of love. This love takes into consideration all human experiences. We are servants, ministers of Christ the king to embark on a mission to change world into his kingdom through love!

## Collecting for Christmas Flowers

There are several ways you can help with the Christmas Flowers. You can write **a check** and in the memo put "Christmas Flowers". If you would like to do it in memory of someone, please put a note with your donation and we will put the names in the bulletin. There is **online giving**: you can either go to our website at [straphaelparish.net](http://straphaelparish.net) or our app at [St Raphael Parish Application](#) and you will find the online giving icon and it will take you to Tithing & Giving > go to online giving > fund will be Easter & Christmas Flowers. If you do online giving and want to have names put in the bulletin, please send an email to [straphael@nemont.net](mailto:straphael@nemont.net).





INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL  
**CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP**

e-Bulletin • December 2020



**A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER**  
*for December*

Heavenly Father,

You give us this blessed season of Advent as a gift of time to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

But all too often we turn this gift into a source of frenzy, stress and anxiety; a time when we're apt to prepare for a Christmas celebration looking perfect on the outside, but spiritually exhausting and without true meaning.

Restore in us that inherent quest for quiet expectation and hope. Show us the way to a more peaceful, prayerful disposition that makes us more open to a conversion of heart.

And give us the courage to let go of things that are ultimately unimportant to the true meaning of Christmas.

Help us be good stewards of this Advent season, so that on the Feast of the Nativity, we will be ready with our own sacred space for the arrival of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we now pray.

Amen

## Stewardship and Christmas: Turning the World Upside Down



For women in the ancient world, motherhood was prized and desired above almost all else. Sacred scripture tells of many women who pleaded with God to let them conceive. From Sarah, the mother of Isaac, to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, the Bible is replete with women who finally, in their old age, were granted the gift of motherhood for which they had begged God. How marvelously significant it is, then, that in the town of Nazareth

those many years ago, a young girl named Mary, unmarried and probably feeling altogether unready for motherhood, was visited by an angel who delivered God's plea: would she give God a child? Mary's response is a model *par excellence* for all those who aspire to be good stewards: "Behold, I am the Lord's servant. Let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38).

And so the real mystery and beauty of Christmas is delivered: God turns the world upside down. In the words of the *Magnificat*, Mary proclaims the hope of every good steward: "My soul magnifies the Lord" (Lk. 1:46). He has dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart, lifted up the lowly, filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. Here is a new understanding of the God who desires not our begging and our pleas, but our 'yes' to God's invitation to be active stewards in his plan of salvation. For the Christian steward, the consumerism, the gaudiness, the excesses of our cultural Christmas can be overcome by answering the call to live simpler lives, to use less, to feed the poor, to quiet ourselves in stillness rather than grow louder in frenzied activity.

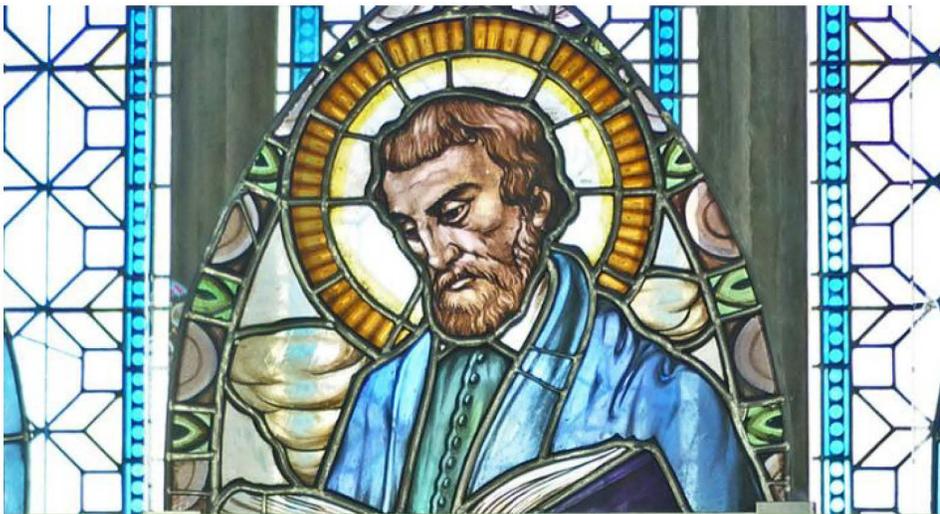
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In the words of the *Magnificat*, Mary proclaims the hope of every good steward: "My soul magnifies the Lord" (Lk. 1:46).

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In her book *The Vigil: Keeping Watch in the Season of Christ's Coming*, Professor Wendy Wright from Creighton University writes: "The ancient desert dwellers of our early Christian communities tell us that the surest way into the heart of God is to be still. In being still we learn to be attentive to the vast and hidden stillness that permeates all things."

In a world which prizes and desires wealth above so many things, the Christian steward finds in the stillness the true hope which lies at the heart of Christmas. Christ has come, and he comes again and again, and finally in the end, Christ comes. Once again, God implores us to receive this child in the stillness of our hearts, and respond to his call to transform the world's values – to turn the world upside down.



## STEWARDSHIP SAINT FOR DECEMBER

### Saint Peter Canisius, Doctor of the Church

Saint Peter Canisius was a Jesuit priest at the height of the many Protestant reformations in 16th century Europe. He is known as a prolific Catholic theologian, preacher, teacher and evangelizer.

Canisius was born in 1521 in the city of Nijmegen, now in the Netherlands, son of the city's burgermeister (mayor). At age 15, he studied at the University of Cologne, earning a master's degree in 1540. Following his stewardship desire to serve God in the Church in Germany, he became the first Dutchman to join the newly formed Society of Jesus in 1543.

Canisius became one of the most influential Catholics of his time. Through his teaching, preaching and writing, he led an historic renewal of the Catholic faith in southern Germany and Austria. Canisius wrote a number of books, preached retreats, founded the first German-speaking Jesuit colleges, and cared for the sick, reputedly traveling more than twenty thousand miles on foot or horseback. Because of these frequent travels, tedious and dangerous at the time, he became known as the Second Apostle of Germany after Saint Boniface. Canisius declined an appointment to become Archbishop of Vienna in order to continue his evangelizing ministry.

Renowned as a popular preacher, Canisius packed churches and was said to have been so eloquent and convincing that he attracted hundreds of Protestants back to the Catholic faith.

Canisius produced a well-organized and easily accessible German-language catechism, followed by two abbreviated versions: one for middle school students and one for young children.

Canisius was influential with Emperor Ferdinand I, and participated in the Council of Trent. Devoted to the Virgin Mary, he is credited with adding to the Hail Mary the sentence Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners. When asked if he felt overworked, the energetic Canisius replied with a stewardship quote: "If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all."

Canisius died on December 21, 1597 at age 76. Canonized and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1925, he is the patron saint of Germany. His feast day is December 21.

## Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

On December 9, 1531 a poor Mexican Indian, Juan Diego, was walking by a hill near his village when he heard beautiful music. Suddenly there appeared a radiant cloud and within it a young Indian maiden dressed as an Aztec princess. The young maiden spoke to the 57-year-old widower in his native language and directed him to visit the Archbishop of Mexico with a request that a chapel be built where she stood.



The archbishop demanded a sign of authenticity, and the maiden instructed Juan Diego to gather flowers from the top of the hill where they met. Even though December was too late in the growing season for flowers to bloom, Juan Diego was surprised to find Castilian roses, not native to Mexico.

On December 12, Juan Diego opened his cloak before the archbishop, the roses fell to the floor, and in their place the image of the young virgin was miraculously imprinted on the fabric. News spread quickly, and shortly thereafter an estimated nine million Indians converted to Catholicism.

Our Lady's appearance to a poor, humble man is a compelling reminder that God's loving embrace is all-inclusive; and that our Church's preferential option for the poor is a Gospel imperative.

# Keeping Christ in Christmas by Feeding the Littlest Ones



The wonderful joy we feel in December as we await the coming of the Christ child is not so joyful for the millions of children in the United States who will go hungry this Christmas.

In every community in the United States where a county election commission announced the results of last month's historic elections, children woke up hungry. They spent the day hungry. They went to bed hungry. In fact, more than 8 million children go to bed hungry every night.

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**“Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.”**

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As many as 17 million children nationwide are affected by food insecurity, a phenomenon defined by experts as inconsistent access to enough nutritious food to live a healthy life.

The consequences and costs of child hunger are severe. Research shows that lack of nutrition can permanently alter a child's brain architecture, stunting intellectual capacity and a child's ability to learn and interact with others. With hunger comes more frequent sickness and higher healthcare costs not to mention the resulting societal costs later on.

Many children will not enjoy a bountiful meal on Christmas day, or any day, and for many, there may be no festivities, no tree, no gifts. Christian stewards understand the obvious paradox as they celebrate the Incarnation of Christ as an innocent child.

Finding comprehensive remedies to hunger in the United States and worldwide is complex, subject to debate, and transcends politics and ideologies. But what is not subject to debate in Catholic social teaching is that Catholics don't let children go hungry. Good stewards are motivated by the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta: “Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.”

Like the Good Samaritan, good stewards do not avert their eyes from the needs of the littlest ones who suffer in our own communities and neighborhoods. They know they are called to reach out. Saint Teresa of Calcutta also said: “If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” One way to keep Christ in Christmas is to Be Christ to a hungry child.



# FEED THE HUNGRY

**O**ur way to feed the needy is through the Valley Community Food Bank. We have three drop off spots: parish center and both doors at the church. We are collecting Peanut Butter, Cereal, Soups, Canned Veggies, Hamburger Helpers, Etc.

**W**e are also do a food drive for the Sisters in Hays. Rice, Dry Beans, Vegetables, Flour, Sugar, Yams or Sweet Potatoes, Canned Tomatoes, Soft Corn Tortillas, Beef, Chicken, Etc. They also could use some feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, shampoo, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, unscented lotions, etc.

**W**e will be delivering around Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

**Your pray for the hungry. Then feed them.  
That's how pray works.      Pope Francis**



## Seven Things You Can Do for the Poor at Christmas



Sacred scripture teaches us that the prophet Isaiah was filled with God's spirit when he proclaimed in the first reading of the Third Sunday of Advent that the Lord had sent him "... to bring glad tidings to the poor..." (Is. 61:1). It is that same spirit that keeps us mindful of the poor and suffering among us.

There are many things you can do during the Advent and Christmas seasons to assist efforts to bring glad tidings to the poor in your community. Where you can safely volunteer individually during this time of pandemic, as a family or as part of a group or parish, the possibilities for serving the poor do exist. Consider following one or more of the seven suggestions below:

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1. Pray for the poor, and ask God to transform your own attitudes about those in need, realizing that all of us are poor in some way before God's grace.
2. Suggest that a petition be added to the Prayers of the Faithful asking that the members of the parish community open their hearts to the poor.
3. Collect food items for a food pantry in your community.
4. When it can be safely accomplished, volunteer to assist a pantry for a day of sorting, bagging or distributing.
5. Prayerfully consider whether your parish might participate, if only virtually, in the Homeless Persons' Memorial Day events on December 20, sponsored by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council
6. Make your own generous financial gift to an organization that serves the poor.
7. Think about ways to use your professional skills in a volunteer capacity at your chosen anti-hunger organization. There are many programs, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) screening and application assistance centers, food banks, and other anti-hunger organizations, that can use your help to make sure that all eligible people have access to nutrition assistance and anti-hunger programs.



You will find joy in fulfilling these stewardships tasks just as the prophet Isaiah found his gladness, causing him to exclaim: "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul" (Is. 61:10).