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DECEMBER 3, 2023 | LEADING LIVES FULL OF **FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE**



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rooted in the Gospel of Christ, we are a Catholic parish community, welcoming all people to pray, love, and serve together.

MASS TIMES

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday 5pm, *Sunday 9:30am
*live-streamed

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon., Thur. & Fri. at 9:00am
Wednesday at 6:30pm

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM & CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Please contact Amanda Cahill
CONFIRMATION & R.C.I.A.

Please contact
Sarah & Alex Chopyak
MARRIAGE

Please contact Fr. William Heric

RECONCILIATION

Saturday - 3:45pm - 4:30pm
or by appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact
Fr. William Heric



www.stbridgetchurch.org



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4900 NE 50TH ST - OFFICE HOURS: M-F 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM (206) 523-8787 - parishoffice@stbridgetchurch.org

SCRIPTURE READINGS & DAILY SAINTS

DECEMBER 3

R1, IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7
PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
R2, 1 COR 1:3-9
Gospel, MK 13:33-37
Saint Francis Xavier

DECEMBER 4

R1, Is 2:1-5
Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9
Gospel, Mt 8:5-11
Saint John Damascene

DECEMBER 5

R1, Is 11:1-10
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Gospel, Lk 10:21-24
Saint Sabas

DECEMBER 6

R1, Is 25:6-10a
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Gospel, Mt 15:29-37
Saint Nicholas

DECEMBER 7

R1, Is 26:1-6
Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a
Gospel, Mt 7:21, 24-27
Saint Ambrose

DECEMBER 8

R1, Gn 3:9-15, 20
PS 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
R2, Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Gospel, Lk 1:26-38
**Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

DECEMBER 9

R1, Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Gospel, Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Saint Juan Diego

DECEMBER 10

R1, IS 40:1-5, 9-11
PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14
R2, 2 PT 3:8-14
Gospel, MK 1:1-8
Blessed Adolph Kolping

A REFLECTION BY FR. WILLIAM HERIC

Dear Friends in Christ,

Let me begin by wishing you a blessed and **happy new year!** Wait, are you having a senior moment Fr. Bill? Well, no I am not...just yet! The **first Sunday of Advent** we celebrate this weekend is the beginning of the new church year. It invites us in the midst of the holiday season, to prayerfully wait and watch for the Lord to come at Christmas time, but also again at the end of time, and always in the meantime which is where we live our daily lives. Please check our parish communications for the opportunities available to observe this sacred season of hope and longing.



The very first gift that Advent invites us to give is to **Jesus in the disguise of the poor and needy** in our community. That is the mission at the heart of **Catholic Community Services** who in early December make an annual **"Appeal for the Poor"** to Catholics throughout Western Washington. A staff member from CCS, Lauren Pusich, will speak at our Masses this weekend, inviting us to support the various outreach ministries that CCS provides. Please join me in making a gift to this central and vital aspect of our life as a church.

Another important part of Catholic life is forming our youth to be faithful disciples of the Lord. Congratulations to the **40 some youth** from St. Bridget and Assumption parishes who received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** ministered by Archbishop Etienne here this past Wednesday. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthened in these young people, inflame in them the fire of God's love, mercy, and compassion for others, especially the poor and forgotten in our world.

A blessed and peaceful Advent to all!

Fr. William Heric, Pastor

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS (CST)

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC VALUES THROUGH ADVOCACY

Why was a delegation of Catholic leaders from Côte d'Ivoire in Washington, DC last month to talk with decision-makers about the growing violence in the central Sahel region? Because the people of Côte d'Ivoire are directly affected by the violence in at least 3 ways: 1) Threat of terrorist attacks, 2) Influx of refugees and displaced people, and 3) Impact of climate change. Visit www.crs.org today to see how you can help!

HOLIDAY DECOR SETUP PARTY

Looking for volunteers to help set up the Christmas tree and holiday lights around the exterior of the church. There will be hot cocoa, pizza and festive music. Please scan the QR code to learn more.



ADVENT RECONCILIATION & PENANCE SERVICE

Father Heric will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation after the Wednesday 6:30pm Mass on **December 6, 13, and 20**. Furthermore, St. Bridget's will host an Advent Communal Reconciliation Service with General Absolution, on **Thursday, December 21, starting at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome.



GIVING TREE

Embrace the spirit of giving at St. Bridget's through the Advent-Giving Tree tradition. Adorned with ornaments representing charities like **PREPARES, St. Vincent de Paul, Westside Baby, and St. Francis House**, parishioners come together to support expectant mothers, the less fortunate, infants, toddlers, and those experiencing homelessness. This festive initiative not only decorates the church but also symbolizes the community's collective generosity, turning the holiday season into a meaningful time of unity and compassion. In addition, **we will also be collecting adult and children's warm coats for the Seattle Police Department Coat Drive**.



Our Giving Tree will be set up in the Narthex, we hope you'll take a moment to check it out and consider a tag for a family in need.

COOKIE DECORATION CELEBRATION FOR A CAUSE!

Join us at St. Bridget's for a festive Christmas Cookie Decorating Party **December 18 & 19**, over the holiday break! Contribute by bringing homemade cookies and donating some to share the joy of Christmas with families in need. Register to bring plain sugar cookies, frosting/icing, sprinkles, and more! Scan the QR code below. Earn volunteer service hours for both kids and adults! More details to follow.

BIBLE STUDY - THE GOSPEL OF MARK

With Fr. Bill Heric

Join Fr. Bill for a Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark on **Mondays Dec. 4, 11, and 18, from 7:00-8:15 pm**.

We will be using the Little Rock Scripture Study Program to help us dive deeper into the gospel we will be hearing at Mass in the coming lectionary B cycle. Mark is considered the earliest of the gospels and was a primary source for Matthew and Luke in the writing of their gospels. A zoom option will be available for those who prefer. Please register by scanning the QR code or through our parish website.



UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

WEEK OF DECEMBER 4 - 10

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DECEMBER 4	DECEMBER 5	DECEMBER 6	DECEMBER 7	DECEMBER 8	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 10
9:00am-10:00pm Church is open 9:00am Holy Mass 3:00pm-10:00pm Adoration 7:00pm Bible Study - The Gospel of Mark	9:00am-5:00pm Church is open 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am-7:00pm Church is open 5:30pm Holy Rosary 6:30pm OCIA Meeting 6:30pm Holy Mass 7:00pm Advent Reconciliation	9:00am - 5:00pm Church is open 9:00am Holy Mass 6:30pm Wreath Making Enrichment Class 6:30pm Vigil Mass - Our Lady of Immaculate Conception	9:00am - 5:00pm Church is open 9:00am Holy Mass - Our Lady of Immaculate Conception 9:30am Anointing of the Sick <i>+Live-streamed</i>	9:00am - 6:00pm Church is open 3:45-4:30pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Vigil Mass	9:00am - 3:00pm Church is open 9:30am+ 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:45am Children's Choir & Pageant Practice 11:00am Town Hall Mtg 12:00pm Holiday Decor Setup

UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOLIDAY DRIVE

Your assistance is requested

A heartfelt thank you to all those who contributed to our Thanksgiving gift card initiative. With your support, we were able to assist 55 families, providing them with essential aid for their holiday meals.

As we transition into the Christmas season, our focus turns to ensuring a joyous celebration for those in need. Through interviews with each family, we have identified the Christmas wishes of their children. Many of these families, led by single parents navigating the challenges of our current economy, are striving to create a memorable holiday for their kids. The wishes of these children are displayed on the giving tree at the church. Please consider selecting a tag from our Giving Tree and bringing joy to a child's Christmas!

If you wish to contribute financially to the holiday meals for these families, please scan the QR code, click the button and select SVDP from the drop down menu. Thank you for your support this holiday season!



ST. FRANCIS HOUSE DONATION REQUESTS

Thank you for your continued support of the poor and homeless we serve at St. Francis House, located at 169 12th, near Seattle University. Current needs:

Boys pants, size 8-14, Pots and pans, dishes, any kitchen items, including tea kettles, toasters, rice cookers. Bath towels, beach towels, bed pillows, blankets, quilts Rosaries (can buy on Amazon for \$1.), men's winter jackets/coats

Drop off at St. Bridget in narthex, near front office.

Thanks again!

Mary Jo Gasparich, Jean Li, and Marilyn Price

ASSUMPTION - ST. BRIDGET SCHOOL

Do you have a future Bulldog? Assumption-St. Bridget School is now accepting applications for PreK-8th for the 2024-25 school year! **Pre-K & Kindergarten application deadline is December 15th.**

Inquire today on our website at asbschool.org to find out more about ASB or to set up a tour.

Questions? Please email admissions@asbschool.org

PARISH INFORMATION

ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of the Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN ON THE PARISH WEBSITE!

Classes will continue on **Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.** All are welcome! For information please contact Alex Chopyak at RCIA@Stbridgetchurch.org

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ryan Oftebro - Co-Chair
roftebro@uw.edu

Cheryl Carey - Co-Chair
cahc06@gmail.com

Mary Kay Beeby

Jean Marie Shields

Stephanie Eastman

Shallete D'Souza

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mike Wietholter Chairman
mikewieth@hotmail.com

Tim Vinopal Vice Chairman
timvinopal@comcast.net

Ilaria Hare Heiderich Secretary
ilaria@floorworksinc.com

Manon Cypher

Arun Mathew

Beth Toomey

Julie Henling

Shannon Hull

Joe Rinaldi

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for those who are ill:

Ronnie Cross
Joseph Daniel
Marilyn Davis
Irene Dunphy
John Ernest
Mary Gibson
Gary Hill
Linda Lovinger
Daisy Lu
Catherine Lubatti
Fr. Tim Sauer
Jonathan Spencer
The patients in Seattle
Children's Hospital

For those who have died:

Jeanne Shields

SPECIAL MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	Dec.	4	9:00am	Daily Mass	Tracy Robinson Barnard
Wednesday	Dec.	6	6:30pm	Daily Mas	For the Parish
Thursday	Dec.	7	9:00am	Daily Mass	Jeanne Shields
Friday	Dec.	8	9:00am	Daily Mass	For the Parish
Saturday	Dec.	9	5:00pm	Vigil Mass	For the Parish
Sunday	Dec.	10	9:30am	Sunday Mass	For the Parish

PARISH STAFF

Pastor	Fr. William Heric	wheric@stbridgetchurch.org	Ext. 207
Deacon	Angus McDonell	amcdonell@stbridgetchurch.org	
Parish Admin. & Accountant	Lyanne Scott	lyanne@stbridgetchurch.org	Ext. 203
Office Manager	Christine Kelly	christine@stbridgetchurch.org	Ext. 201
Dir. of Communications	Susie Lane	susie@stbridgetchurch.org	Ext. 204
Pas. Asst. for Children Faith Form.	Amanda Cahill	children@stbridgetchurch.org	Ext. 205
Pas. Asst. for Music & Confirm.	Sarah Chopyak	sarah@stbridgetchurch.org	Ext. 223
Pas. Asst. for Adult Faith Form.	Alex Chopyak	RCIA@stbridgetchurch.org	Ext. 223
Program Coordinator	Anne Lovinger Earhart	anne@stbridgetchurch.org	Ext. 214
Program Coordinator	Melissa Malley	melissa@stbridgetchurch.org	Ext. 214
Parish Office		parishoffice@stbridgetchurch.org	(206) 523-8787
Principal, ASB School	Kathleen Conklin	kconklin@asbschool.org	(206) 524-7452

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Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday: December 6, 13, 20 at 7:00 pm

Communal Reconciliation Service

December 21 at 7:00 pm

Immaculate Conception of Mary Mass

December 7 at 6:30 pm and December 8 at 9:00 am

Christmas Eve Mass

December 24, 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass

December 25 at 9:30 am

Holy Family Mass

December 31 at 9:30 am

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

January 1 at 9:30 am

An artistic illustration in a monochromatic red and purple palette. It depicts the Three Kings of the East on a journey. One king is mounted on a donkey, while the other two walk beside him. They are silhouetted against a bright, hazy background. In the upper right, a brilliant star shines in the sky. In the distance, a silhouette of a city with a prominent tower is visible on a hill. The overall mood is one of anticipation and journey.

Advent 2023: Prepare ...

This Advent, use this guide to help you and your family prepare for the Lord's birth at Christmas.

Advent Family Traditions

Advent, the liturgical season before Christmas, is a great opportunity for families to enjoy joyful, faith-based traditions that keep the focus of the season on the anticipation of Jesus. This isn't easy when retailers start Christmas the day after Halloween. Even if you didn't grow up with many Advent traditions, are there one or two traditions on this list that you can try this year?

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is rich with the symbolism of the season: four candles for the four weeks of Advent and the flames representing the light of Christ to come. The lighting of each candle is an opportunity for the family to gather in prayer and read the daily scripture or reflection from an Advent book. Try turning off the lights and sing a song like, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or "Light the Advent Candle" as the candles are lit.

Advent Calendar

The point of an Advent calendar is to inspire hopeful anticipation of the coming of Jesus and to emphasize the spirit of waiting over the spirit of receiving. Although the chocolate and Lego calendars are fun, try a faith inspired Advent calendar this year, which are easy to purchase online. Many have daily scripture quotes from Advent to keep you in the Advent frame of mind.

For Sunday Advent reflections by our bishops, inspirational videos and more Advent resources, go to archseattle.org/advent.





Congratulations **CONFIRMANDS!**

Siena Anibarro
Nicolas Josef
Biernacki
Drew Bosa
Caroline Bruch
Connor Cahill
Marion Carey
Hudson Colarossi
Rory Crile
Leighton Crile
Reagan Marie Dries
Connor Duffy
Emma Eastwood
Jack Erickson
Madeline Halls
Elizabeth Heisel
Mark Heisel
Huntley Hurst
Catherine Jackson
Adelaide Johnson

Bennett Kirk
Lawson Kois
Ellie Laskey
Claire Moriarty
Ruthie Nelson
Aidan Nemeth
Finn Nemeth
Maggie Okada
Madeline Lole Olsen
Flora O'Mahony
Ava Philips
Avery Romey
Sebastian Maximilian Savage
Macey Simonds
Sadie Slavin
Emily Sleeth
Brett Taylor
Sofia Volpone
Robinson Weiss



November 2023



Thank you to everyone who provided input and feedback on the parish families during the recent public consultation phase of Partners in the Gospel.

More than 800 people provided comments online, while nearly 140 parishes and missions hosted in-person sessions in several languages including English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Q'anjob'al, a Mayan language indigenous to Guatemala. In total, the Archdiocese of Seattle received more than 700 input session reports resulting in more than 3,000 pages of input.

Overall, the sessions were fruitful. Staff, lay leaders and parishioners listened to the Holy Spirit and provided their input on their proposed parish families.

Over the past few weeks, all collected input - by notetakers during the in-person sessions and from the online feedback form - was sorted by parish family. Each set of parish family data was read by two people who wrote a synthesis including any proposed changes, concerns and hopes for the new parish family.

This synthesized reports, along with the raw input data, were used by the Oversight Committee, the Presbyteral Council and the Partners in the Gospel team to inform the next draft of proposed parish families. Specifically, of the 61 proposed parish families, 25 were recommended for changes based on this recent consultation.

Public Input Phase results in changes to 25 draft parish families

There will be a second round of consultation with staff and parishioners with these 25 proposed parish families before a final recommendation is submitted to Archbishop Etienne at the end of the year. The final parish families are expected to be announced in early 2024.

A Parish Family Feedback Report of public input was released on November 16, 2023 with a letter from Archbishop Etienne, thanking everyone who participated in the public input process. Read Archbishop Etienne's letter and Parish Family Feedback Report online at archseattle.org/partners.

What do you hope for?

Here's what your fellow Catholics wrote online during the public consultation phase:

- Hope that the younger people will be motivated to serve the church and answer the call to the priesthood/religious life.
- We hope it serves as a wake-up call about the difficult temporal realities the Church faces in Western Washington in the present context. We hope there is genuine renewal through the process, though we admit to a certain trepidation that it will be disruptive to many people's habits of Church attendance and the routines which support a life of faith.
- My hope is that we focus on the key elements of our faith — love God and love one another. Some of the wrangling over the less important part of our faith serve to distract us from loving one another as Christ loved us.

"What do I want for my children's children?"

Not a 20 person Mass, not pastors overworked, but rather a fully engaged parish. This isn't about us, but about everyone.

— Fellow Catholic

Sign up for the Partners Update Newsletter at archseattle.org/partners