

PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MAILING ADDRESS: 7409 W. CLEARWATER AVE., KENNEWICK, WA 99336

PARISH OFFICE: 7411 W. CLEARWATER AVE., SUITE A, KENNEWICK

OFFICE: 509-735-8558

email: office@holyspiritkennewick.org

website: www.holyspiritkennewick.org

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

FR. MICHAEL BRZEZOWSKI

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DEACON ERIC SHABER

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DEACON MIKE GAULKE

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micaejere@msn.com



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home."

- Mt. 1:20

Parish Staff:

Secretary
Bookkeeper

Debbie Forgette 735-8558
Bianca Medina 735-8558

Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator
Presently Unstaffed

Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade	Karen Gorham	735-8558
6th to 8th Grades/Edge	Danielle May	528-9780
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen	Jennifer Moore	492-6209
	& Joe Bliss	216-402-3118
	email: lifeteenhs@gmail.com	
Confirmation	Deacon Mike & Carol Gaulke	551-7626
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	Joe & Sherry Schroeder	405-2242

Ministers of Music:

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass	Julianne Barnaby	735-2163
9:30 a.m. Mass	Paula Bachelor	375-9019
5:00 p.m. Mass	Perry Kelly	735-8558
Children's Choir	Presently Unstaffed	735-8558

Ministries of Worship:

Scheduler for Liturgical Ministers	Trish Feeney	551-0486
Eucharistic Adoration	Liz Friedrich	783-6223
Prayer Line	Adele Ogryzek	627-0201
Altar Server Training	Zack Rinderer	582-2543

Parish Ministries:

Mary Martha Prayer Group	Camille Henneberry	735-4858
Welcoming Committee	Jan Beardemphl	948-3367
PCC Nursery	Wynona Vaz	222-8982
Ministry to Sick and Shut-Ins	Deacon Eric Shaber	
	& Charlotte Shaber	208-521-7846
Bible Study	Judy Turner	438-7938
Women's Group	Linda Rego	221-1130
Weekend Mass Refreshments	Judy Urrutia	438-5039

Councils and Committees:

Parish Council	Jim Carey	627-0321
Finance Council	Jared Liebert	947-9386
Stewardship	Lenice & Pat Nagle	582-6893
Evangelization	Rob Privette	438-1222
Voice of the Spirit	Dieter Bohrmann	987-3158
Parish Library	Ann Stevens	396-2723

Charter Organizations:

Catholic Daughters	Linda Garner	627-2748
Knights of Columbus	Peter Dreisbach	205-2377
St. Vincent de Paul	Message Line	591-0632
Scout Troop #275	Teddy Herrera	778-0505
American Heritage Girls	Erin Leistriz	406-579-1891

Natural Family Planning:

Carol Gaulke	619-5464
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DECEMBER 21, 2025

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Weekdays:

Monday: Mass at 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday: Mass at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 24, The Nativity of the Lord: Masses at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord: Mass at 9:30 a.m.
Friday: Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Please visit our Holy Spirit Facebook page to join livestream events:

<https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Babies and young children are usually baptized during Mass on Saturday or Sunday, or on Saturday at 12:00 p.m. Call the parish office for a list of upcoming Baptism dates and to receive registration information for pre-Baptism classes. (735-8558)



Holy Matrimony

On Being Married at Holy Spirit ...

Engaged couples who wish to be married at Holy Spirit Parish are asked to contact the parish office at least nine months prior to their desired wedding date. The couple and the priest will then meet to begin the Marriage preparation program. (735-8558)

Deaths

What should I do when there is a death in my family?

Please call the parish office and speak with the office staff and the pastor before making arrangements with the funeral home, to ensure that the church is available at the desired date and time. (735-8558)

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025

Calendar for the Week: (Note: PCC = Parish Community Center)

Sunday, December 21: **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also
livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9,
3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at
5:00 p.m.

No Edge

No Life Teen



Monday, December 22: **Late Advent Weekday**

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also
livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Tuesday, December 23: **Late Advent Weekday** **Saint John of Kanty, Priest**

Holy Spirit Mommy and Me, PCC nursery,
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Posada practice, 10:00 a.m. in the church

No Religious Education

Sacrament of Reconciliation, CHURCH, 4:15 -
5:00 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:30 p.m. Mass is also
livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Wednesday, December 24: **Late Advent Weekday**

The Nativity of the Lord

Arrive early for a **Lessons and Carols prelude**,
featuring Scripture readings and the singing of
beloved carols to help prepare our hearts for the
celebration of Christ's birth. The Amazing Grace
Choir's prelude begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends with
the **Posada** just before the start of Mass.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.



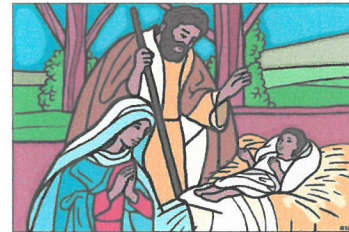
The **Celebration Choir** has prepared a musical
prelude, which will begin at 9:30 p.m.

Mass in the church at 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25: **The Nativity of the Lord**

The **Life Teen Choir** has prepared a musical
prelude, which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also
livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).



No evening Mass today.

Friday, December 26: **Saint Stephen, the First Martyr**

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also
livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, December 27: **Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

Sunday Vigil Mass in the church at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 28: **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also
livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9,
3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

No Edge

No Life Teen



O COME
LET US
Adore
HIM.



©LPI

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative

Monday	December 22	Ken & Beth Brown
Tuesday	December 23, 5:30 p.m.	Nicholas Maas
Friday	December 26	Jae and Roger Ellig
Saturday	December 27, 4:00 p.m.	Gabriel Bennett RIP
Sunday	December 28, 5:00 p.m.	Forgette Family

The Sunday morning Mass is normally offered for the people of the parish.

To have your need added to our parish prayer phone chain,
please call Adele Ogryzek at 627-0201.

To have your need added to the list which is published in the bulletin
once each month, please call the parish office.

STEWARDSHIP: When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the promptings and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks for your giving of time, talent, and treasure.

For online giving, visit:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy7409270>

Thank you for maintaining your financial support of our parish as you are able. If you'd prefer to mail an offering, please send it to **Parish of the Holy Spirit, 7409 W. Clearwater Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336**. If you are currently using offering envelopes and would like to switch to online giving (or bill-payer from your bank), please call the parish office so we can discontinue your envelope mailings with our printing service. Thank you.



Your offering on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will illuminate the darkness with the love of Christ through the network of social services offered by Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities serves those most in need throughout the lifecycle – from expectant mothers to families with young children, to grandparents raising their grandchildren, to the elderly struggling to live independently. Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift to your neighbors in need this holiday season. To learn more about Catholic Charities' services throughout Central Washington, visit www.hopetolife.org.

Save the Date:

Adore! Men's Retreat

Hosted at Holy Spirit Parish
Friday, January 23, 2026 (evening) and
Saturday January 24 concluding with Mass at 4:00 PM
Open to all men 18 years of age and older.

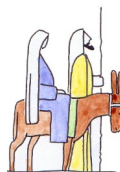
A Note from the St. Serra Club of Tri Cities

"Grace and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 1:7) Are you called to teach others about the grace and peace that is theirs in Christ Jesus? That's what you would do as a priest, permanent deacon, brother, monk or nun.

Parishioner and college student Dylan Howard is active in the St. Thomas More Catholic Student Center at Washington State University. Dylan is asking for our support to serve on a mission at La Finca in Trujillo, Honduras in March of 2026. La Finca is an orphanage for children from abusive, neglectful, and traumatic households. The school and its associated health clinic also serve people in the surrounding towns. If you are able to help Dylan fund this mission, please scan the QR code. Or please contact Dylan at (509) 870-0943 or Dylan8Howard@gmail.com for more information or for other ways to give. Thank you.



POSADA ON DECEMBER 24



All pre-school and elementary school children who will be attending the Family Mass at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve are invited to participate in the **Posada** that will immediately precede Mass. When the Posada has concluded, Mass will begin and the children will return to sit with their families in the church.

There will be a rehearsal on Tuesday, December 23, at 10:00 a.m. (for 45-60 minutes) in the church.



According to the IRS rules for charitable donations, if a check made out to the Parish of the Holy Spirit is dated before or on December 31, 2025, but the check is received in the office January 1, 2026 or later (by U.S. mail or hand-delivered), that check amount must be recognized as a donation in 2026.

Work is progressing nicely on the repair of our church roof. Thank you for understanding that there may be noise on the roof of the church and work vehicles around the church. At this time, we are not sure exactly how long the project will take to complete, so thank you for your patience. Updates will be provided as the project continues.





The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus.”

MATTHEW 1:20–21



Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

Reflect

How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?

Christmas

GOD IS WITH US

For the Church, Christmas is not just a one-day event but a full 12-day season that begins with the Christmas celebration of God's incarnation in Jesus of Nazareth and then progresses to the Epiphany as he is gradually manifested to John the Baptist, to his disciples, to the magi and finally to us and to the whole world.

The Twelve Days of Christmas have roots in early Christian tradition, marking the period between the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi. The early church established this period as a time of celebration and reflection on the Incarnation and the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles.

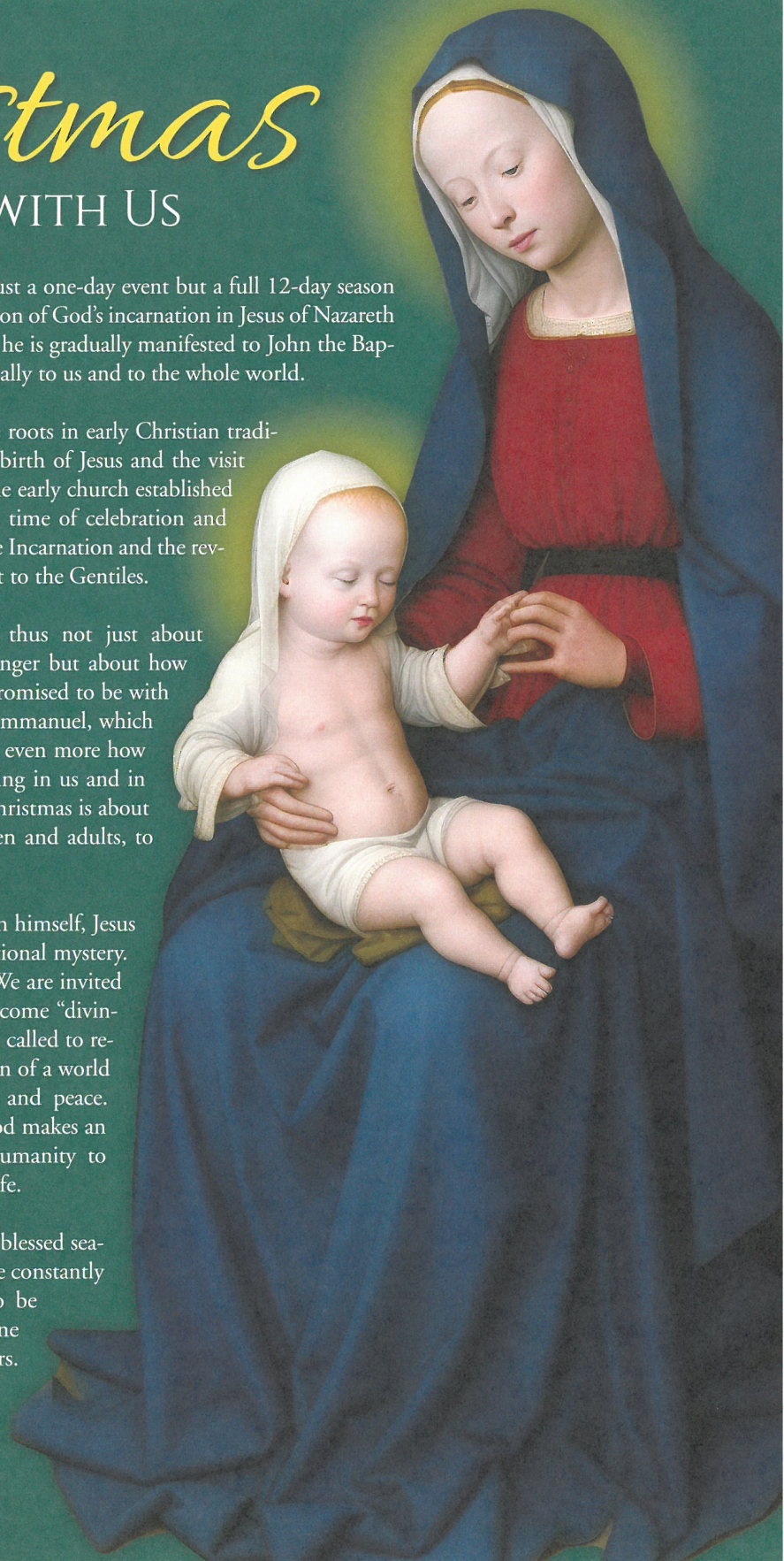


Christmas is thus not just about a baby in a manger but about how the God who promised to be with us comes to be with us in Jesus, our "Emmanuel, which means God is with us" (Mt 1:23), and even more how God continues to be with us by dwelling in us and in our community, the Body of Christ. Christmas is about God's call to men and women, children and adults, to become "divinized" persons.

By uniting divinity and humanity in himself, Jesus invites us to participate in this incarnational mystery. Our lives are Christmas in miniature. We are invited to let God be born in us so that we become "divinized" persons, full of the divine life and called to realize God's vision of a world of justice, love and peace. Through us, God makes an appeal to all humanity to enter into this life.



During this blessed season, then, we are constantly reminded of God's love and desire to be with us so that we can share in the divine life and also share this life with others. Celebrating the full Christmas Season provides us with a period of calm in which the spiritual meaning of the manifestation of Jesus, God-With-Us can be explored.



The Christmas Story in the Gospels

After centuries of preparation, at God's appointed time (around 4 BC), the drama of Christ's incarnation began to unfold in the tiny, out of the way village of Nazareth in the hilly northern part of the Holy Land called Galilee.

The accounts of Jesus' birth are found in chapters 1–2 of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Although they relate the story in different ways, Matthew concentrating on Joseph and his dilemma about accepting Jesus as his son and Luke concentrating on Mary and her willing participation in God's plan for salvation, both Gospel writers stress that Jesus was not just another human child born to human parents but the unique son of God born through the agency of God's active power, the Holy Spirit.

Both Gospel writers stress that the infancy story of Jesus is really a miniature version of the rest of the Gospel: Jesus comes into our world—and into each person's life—and each one must then decide to respond either positively with acceptance or negatively with hostility. So Joseph and Mary, their relatives Elizabeth and Zechariah, the shepherds and the magi recognize Jesus as God's son sent for salvation. But threatened by this new-born king, King Herod and the Judean Jewish leaders respond with hatred and try to murder him. Similarly, each of us must also decide how we will respond to Christ's presence in our lives today.

A Prayer for Enlightenment

Look upon us, O Lord,
hear and enlighten us.
Show us your very self.
Take pity on our efforts
and strivings toward you,
for we have no strength without you.
Teach us to seek you,
and when we seek you
show yourself to us,
for we cannot seek you
unless you teach us,
nor can we find you
unless you show yourself to us.
Let us seek you in desiring you
and desire you in seeking you,
let us find you by loving you,
and love you in finding you.
—*St. Anselm of Canterbury*

Mass Readings for Christmastide 2025-2026

Christmas Day (Dec 25)

Is 52:7-10

Heb 1:1-6

Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Holy Family (Dec 28)

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Mary, Mother of God (Jan 1)

Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Epiphany (Jan 4)

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Baptism of Jesus (Jan 11)

Is 42:1-4, 6-7

Acts 10:34-38

Mt 3:13-17

The Christmas Season

As the familiar 18th century English Christmas carol reminds us, the Christmas Season, also known as *Christmastide*, is not just one day but a 12 day celebration. In the Church's liturgical year, Christmas day was the first of the 12 days. The last night, twelfth night, is January 5, the eve of the feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 6. Today, the final Sunday of the Christmas Season celebrates the Baptism of Jesus. Clearly, Christmas is meant to be not just a celebration of the baby Jesus or Jesus' birthday but a summary of our lives in relation to God's intimate, incarnate presence with us today.

In the early Eastern Church, the Epiphany was the primary celebration of both Jesus' birth and his manifestation to the world. It was associated with the winter solstice when the sun's light began to be renewed for another year. In the Roman West in the 3rd century, the celebration of Jesus' birth was shifted to December 25 to compete with the pagan festival of the "unconquered sun" (*natalis solis invicti*) and the time until Epiphany became the Christmas Season. From the 4th century on, Christmas, with its focus on Christ's incarnation as a truly human person like ourselves, grew in popularity until today it often surpasses Easter in the popular imagination.



Dear Padre,

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, “How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?” The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●



Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen

to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

Monday

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Tuesday

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Wednesday

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Thursday

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

Friday

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Saturday

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8


Sunday


December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

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