

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

509-735-8558

pastor@holyspiritkennewick.org

DEACON KEN ELLIS

509-948-4355

deaconkenneth@charter.net

DEACON ERIC SHABER

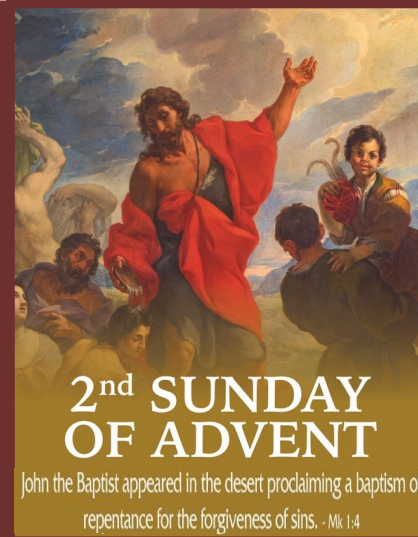
208-521-7846

ecshaber@gmail.com

DEACON MIKE GAULKE

509-551-7626

micaжере@msn.com



DECEMBER 10, 2023

Parish Staff:

Bookkeeper Philline Go 735-8558
Secretary Debbie Forgette 735-8558

Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator
Michele Umemoto 735-1743

Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade Karen Gorham 735-8558

6th to 8th Grades/Edge Danielle May 735-8558

& Meta Boik 735-8558

9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen Jennifer Moore 492-6209

& Joe Bliss 216-402-3118

email: lifeteenhs@gmail.com

Confirmation Deacon Mike and Carol Gaulke 551-7626

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Joe and 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 Paula Bachelor 375-9019

Ministries of Worship:

Scheduler for Liturgical Ministers Trish Feeney 551-0486

Eucharistic Adoration Liz Friedrich 783-6223

Prayer Line Adele Ogrzyk 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 628-0754

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

Councils and Committees:

Parish Council Jim Carey 627-0321

Finance Council Jared Liebert 947-9386

Stewardship Lenice & Pat Nagle 582-6893

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 Nick Multari 425-753-1654

St. Vincent de Paul Message Line 591-0632

Scout Troop #275 Teddy Herrera 778-0505

Natural Family Planning:

Christine Disselkamp 628-8810

Carol Gaulke 619-5464

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. this week

Wednesday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

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

or by appointment.

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 2:00 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)

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023

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

Sunday, December 10: **Second Sunday of Advent**

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

Christmas Pageant, PCC hall, 1:00 p.m.

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

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

Edge (Middle School), PCC rooms 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School), PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Thursday, December 14: **Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

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

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ) Associates, PCC room 9, 3:00 p.m.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), PCC room 7, 7:00 p.m.

Celebration Choir, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 15: **Advent Weekday**

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., in the vestibule. Concludes with *Prayers for Priestly Vocations* at 4:30 p.m. and the *Rite of Benediction* at 4:45 p.m.

Advent Penance Service, Sacred Heart Church, Prosser, 6:30 pm.

Monday, December 11: **Advent Weekday**

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

Scout Troop 275, PCC hall, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 12: **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Jail Ministry gift assembly, PCC hall, 8:00 a.m.

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

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

Religious Education, pre-school to fifth grade, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

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

Joyful Noise Choir, PCC hall, 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.



Saturday, December 16: **Advent Weekday**

Catholic Daughters, PCC room 5, 9:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, December 17: **Third Sunday of Advent**

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

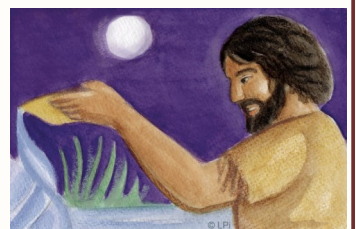
Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Confirmation Super Sunday, PCC hall and rooms 3 and 5, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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

Edge (Middle School), PCC rooms 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School), PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Wednesday, December 13: **Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

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

Mary Martha Prayer Group, PCC 5, 1:30 p.m.

Advent Penance Service, church, 6:30 p.m.

From the Pastor's Desk ...

A CHRISTMAS WISH LIST:

I risk dating myself with the following reference, but here goes. When I was a kid, I always looked forward to the arrival of the Sears & Roebuck *Wish Book* in the mail. It arrived each fall and was the resource for the latest toys and games available for purchase for Christmas. I can remember folding back corners of some of the pages in the catalog, thus offering hints to my mom and dad (and Santa) concerning what I would enjoy as Christmas presents.

As the Advent Season advances, may I be so bold as to offer a Christmas wish list for the Parish of the Holy Spirit? Here are some of my ideas. It's not an exhaustive list.

Read the Parish Bulletin every week.

Do something in our parish (we're talking about stewardship of time and talent here). Get involved in something as a participant or volunteer. See the front page of the Parish Bulletin for a wide variety of ideas.

Sign up to receive Flocknote text messages and emails from the parish. It's free, and it helps us to communicate with you effectively and in a timely manner. There's absolutely no spam associated with this service. Contact us at the parish office and we'll get you set up to receive Flocknotes lickety-split.

Contribute to the diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). I wish that every individual or family would make a one-time donation of \$10, \$25, or \$50—or a pledge for a higher amount—to the 2024 ACA. One of our goals this year is to increase our level of participation in the ACA. It's only about 20% right now.

Consider using Bill-Payer from your bank or credit union to make your weekly Sunday offerings to our parish. This service is almost always free. Bill-Payer is a better option than using the ParishSoft online giving link (which is published in the Parish Bulletin) because there's a substantial service charge associated with using the ParishSoft service, which our parish has to absorb.

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Please pay careful attention to the daily Mass schedule for this week. [See the front cover of the bulletin OR the first interior page of the bulletin for the latest updated information.] Daily Mass on Tuesday, December 12—the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe—will be in the MORNING, at 9:00 a.m. (not at 5:30 p.m.).

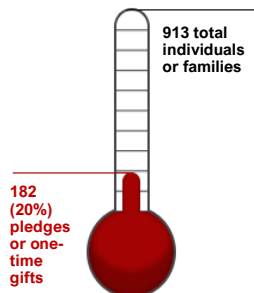
The Sacrament of Reconciliation WILL be offered on Tuesday, December 12, at the usual time, but confessions MUST END AT 5:00 p.m. I have a scheduled commitment that evening.

Advent Blessings,

E. Milub

2023-2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL (ACA)

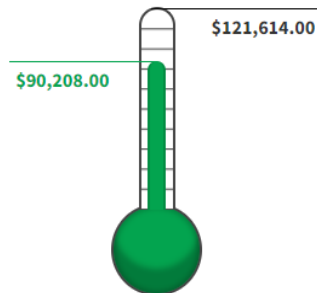
The Parish of the Holy Spirit 2024 ACA Participation



Your pledge or one-time gift to the ACA is essential to sustaining the many ministries of the Diocese of Yakima. Every parish in the diocese must meet its assessed ACA goal. As the end of the calendar year approaches, won't you please help our parish achieve ours? **For the ACA to be a success, we need every family of the Parish of the Holy Spirit to participate this year.** To date, **185** individuals or families have made a pledge or one-time offering to the ACA. We have **913** registered families at the Parish of the Holy Spirit. That's only about 20% participation so far. **We can do better.** Pledge cards are still available in the vestibule or at the parish office. If you would like to donate online, please visit www.yakimadiocese.org or scan the QR code (on the right or on your pledge card). Thank you.



The Parish of the Holy Spirit 2024 ACA Total Pledges



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES 2023

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.	Holy Spirit	7409 W. Clearwater Ave, Kennewick
Friday, December 15, 6:30 p.m.	Sacred Heart Church	1905 Highland Drive, Prosser
Monday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.	Christ the King	1111 Stevens Drive, Richland
Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 p.m.	St. Joseph Church	520 S. Garfield Street, Kennewick
Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m.	St. Frances Cabrini	1000 Horne Drive, Benton City

There will NOT be Confessions on Sunday, December 24. If you wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas, PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.

STEWARDSHIP: John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops' *Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live—the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

November 26: \$11,993.95 Recorded givers: 110

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.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
2024 CHRISTMAS CARD SALES**

Keep Christ in Christmas with the Knights of Columbus Christmas cards. This is the last weekend the cards will be available for purchase in the vestibule before and after Masses.



This time of the year we are giving thanks for the many blessings God has given us. Please consider helping those in need in our parish and/or in our local community by adopting a family at Christmas. This parish program assists families who, due to economic circumstances, need food and gifts at Christmastime. For more information, call Vonnie Bliss at 586-3745.

You are invited to decorate the **Teddy Bear Tree** in the hallway near the vestibule with **stuffed animals, hats, and mittens**. Each item you give will be donated by the Women's Group to the families adopted by our parishioners at Christmas.

A NOTE FROM ST. SERRA CLUB OF TRI CITIES

"Like a shepherd, He feeds His flock ... " (Isaiah 40:11) Allow our Lord to enrich your life by shepherding His people as a priest, permanent deacon, or religious brother or sister.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER: FOR OUR SICK: B.J. Bacon (relative of Troy and Emma Bacon), Carmel O'Shea (relative of Fr. O'Shea), Aidan Rombaugh (grandchild of Fran Rombaugh), Kathleen Zimbehl (parishioner), Des and Julia Cronnelly (brother-in-law and sister of Jim Cummins), Karin Blomberg (parishioner), Lorraine Ramirez (niece of Dru Squires), Fran Rombaugh (parishioner), Marlin Friedrich (parishioner), Debbie Tavernaro (parishioner), Mary Jane Royack (parishioner), James Ellis (son of Deacon Ken and Cindy Ellis), Spenser Heaton (nephew-in-law of Fr. Michael), David Brazier (relative of Sr. Mary), Tyler Stevens (grandson of Rose Stevens), Erwin Brzezowski (father of Fr. Michael), Brad Nelson (brother of Brett Nelson), Brian and Amanda Hollenberg (son and daughter-in-law of Glenn and Karen Hollenberg), Sr. Mary (parishioner), Patricia Go (mother of Philline Go), Jim Berkman (son-in-law of Allan and Merilynn Erhart), Fr. O'Shea, Amanda Parry (parishioner), Col. Cyril A. Ryecroft Bennett (father of Anne Kristen Ryecroft Bennett Colaricci), Kathy Bealer (relative of Deacon Ken Ellis), Peggy Dye (sister of Rose Stevens), Jim Young (parishioner), Jay Johnson (parishioner), Don Malisani (father of Paul Malisani), Harry and Jana Barnes (parishioners), John Jurgilewicz (parishioner), Judy Walker (cousin of Gloria Ziegler), Larry Harris (relative of Deacon Ken Ellis), Lorraine Damon (daughter of Edith Perez), Eric Zimbehl (son of Kathleen Zimbehl), Howard Schmitt (parishioner), Margaret Liedigk (parishioner), Kevin Gilliam (parishioner), Richard Dennis (uncle of Deacon Ken and Cindy Ellis), Rachel Courson (parishioner) and girls, George J. Konzek, Sr. (father of David Konzek), Camille Henneberry (parishioner).

If you wish to add a prayer need to this list, please call the parish office at 735-8558.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative.

Monday	December 11	Don Hart RIP
Tuesday	December 12, 9:00 a.m.	Sherry Clark
Wednesday	December 13	Robin Rego
Thursday	December 14	Walsh Family
Friday	December 15	Shellagh Schaefer
Saturday	December 16, 4:00 p.m.	Gladson Vaz RIP
Sunday	December 17, 5:00 p.m.	Abby Zoldaz

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joe Carson.
May he rest in peace with the risen Lord.

To have your need added to our parish prayer phone chain, please call Adele Ogrzyzek 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.

Gratitude Corner

We give abundant thanks to **Bekki Blakely** and **Mark O'Brien** and the volunteer crews who keep our church, PCC Hall, parish office, and parish grounds clean, safe, and in good repair in seasons of heat and cold, rain and snow, throughout the year. We appreciate your diligence and all of your hard work; especially after our busy weekends.



A very warm thanks to **Cecilia Miller** for donating her time, talent and treasure to provide new curtains for our church nursery and library. Adding much needed natural light to these spaces is a gift indeed. We're grateful to you Cecilia!



If you missed the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on December 8, there's still an opportunity to fulfill your obligation to attend a "Marian Mass" in December. In the Diocese of Yakima, Catholics may attend a Mass on December 12—the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe—if they couldn't attend a Mass for Mary's Immaculate Conception.

Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. (not 5:30 p.m.) on Tuesday, December 12.



Stop by our **parish library** and check out the variety of books and movies for your family's enjoyment during this special time of year. There are materials available to help you celebrate the days of Advent and the Season of Christmas.

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

Jubilation to Share

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A positive pregnancy test result, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

Given all that, when was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You say you don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing our faith with others may seem uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist within the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes "their" history.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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According to the IRS rules for charitable donations, if a check is dated before or on December 31, 2023, but the check is received in the office January 1, 2024 or later (by U.S. mail or hand-delivered), that check amount must be recognized as a donation in 2024.



SUPPORT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

This event on Saturday, February 10, 2024 will raise funds for the academic success and preparation for service and leadership of students at St. Joseph School. Tickets are \$80 each, or 2 for \$150, or buy a table of 8 tickets for \$576. Contact Lisa Jacobs at 509-544-2107 or aw@sjske.org with any questions.

St. Joseph Catholic School is looking for a Middle School Math/K-8th Technology Teacher for the remainder of the school year. If interested, please apply at: <https://www.applitrack.com/yakimadiocese/onlineapp/>.



**Women's Group Christmas Raffle
after all Masses this weekend.**

This is the last weekend to purchase tickets to win these beautiful items!

Winning tickets will be drawn following the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 10.

All proceeds support the Women's Group ministry which provides funeral luncheons to families after funeral Masses at Holy Spirit.

The Knights of Columbus are selling fresh **Noble fir Christmas trees** in the parking lot at St. Joseph Church. The lot is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on weekdays from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. until sold out.



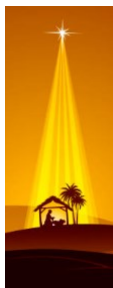
VIRTUS SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

All adult volunteers currently working with or planning to work in any capacity with minors or vulnerable adults at our parish must complete **VIRTUS Safe Environment Training** before starting their ministry. Deacon Ken Ellis is offering a training session at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 21** in the PCC hall. This is the last opportunity to attend VIRTUS training in 2023, so take advantage of this opportunity.

Create an online VIRTUS account and register at www.virtusonline.org. Call Deacon Ken at 509-948-4355 or the parish office at 509-735-8558 for more information.



The **Women's Group** is collecting **new and used blankets and sleeping bags** for distribution to the homeless by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Pasco. Sadly, many of our needy neighbors are sleeping in cars or outdoors during the winter months. Please package your new or gently used blankets/sleeping bags in a plastic bag and place them inside the playpen in the vestibule **through December 10**. Contact Linda Rego at 253-370-6368 with any questions.



As the social arm of the church, Catholic Charities brings hope to life to more than 50,000 people throughout Central Washington each year. The annual Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities will be taken up at all Catholic churches in the Diocese of Yakima on December 24 and December 25. Please help us serve others by giving generously on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. To learn more about the Catholic Charities network of services, visit www.hopetolife.org.

Parishioner and college student Conner Howard is active in the St. Thomas More Catholic Student Center at Washington State University. Conner is asking for our support to attend a national retreat in Florida in January hosted by Saint Paul's Outreach. The retreat, called *Communio*, will bring together men and women from 16 college campuses. It is designed to help empower students to return to their campuses as beacons of God's light, and to be on mission for others that do not know the power of their faith. If you are able to help Connor fund this trip, you may write a check to the Parish of the Holy Spirit, write "Connor Howard Retreat" in the memo line, and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office.



When Will We Be Satisfied?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In 1992, *Forbes* magazine published an issue titled “Why Do We Feel So Bad When We Have It So Good?” It featured articles by such luminaries as newsman Dan Rather, President George H. W. Bush, and author John Updike. Many of the writers reflected upon our passion for more and our hunger to live in affluence and how that fails to satisfy. In so many ways, we as a nation find ourselves seeking distractions from living with ourselves lest we be confronted by our ultimate loneliness. As a nation we are addicted to entertainment and smartphones, to drugs and pornography, to finding something new. We are confronted by rising suicide rates and a pervasive, deep-seated anger. Why are we not satisfied?

John the Baptist called the people of his day to repent, which is another way of asking them—and us—to look at life differently. Advent is really about getting in touch with our deep longing for more, a part of our human condition that ultimately is only satisfied by God. We have been created to long for more, a longing that feels like loneliness, a longing that seeks to be satisfied. In the end, we can only find a sense of peace in the midst of such longing by accepting that it can never be fully satisfied in this life. Like the spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous, accepting rather than fleeing from our human reality becomes a path to new life. ●

Reflect

How do you deal with loneliness and a longing for more out of life?

John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

MARK 1:4



ONE FOR TWO? ... NOT

Did you notice? The **Fourth Sunday of Advent** is on December 24th this year. So Christmas Eve is the evening of that same day. You might be wondering ... **“Can I fulfill my obligation for Sunday and for the holy day of The Nativity of the Lord by coming to Mass just once on December 24th?”** The answer is: **No**. We are to come to Mass once for *Sunday* (either Saturday evening, December 23rd at 4:00 p.m. or Sunday morning, December 24th at 9:30 a.m.) **and** once again for *Christmas* (either of the two Masses on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th or the Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25.)

Celebrating Mass together is essential for maintaining our loving union with God. Without it, our relationship with God suffers. That’s the reason the Church makes Mass attendance an obligation on Sundays and holy days. Every Sunday we celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection, and on Christmas we celebrate the Lord’s Incarnation. The entire Christian faith depends on these two key events in Jesus’ life. Therefore, we gather together for Mass to praise God for the salvation we have received through Jesus’ birth, his life among us, his passion and death, and his glorious rising from the dead. Mass is our way of thanking God for his goodness and his faithful love.

Saturday, December 23



4:00 p.m.—Mass for the
4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24

9:30 a.m.—Mass for the
4th Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m.—Mass for
The Nativity of the Lord

10:00 p.m.—Mass for
The Nativity of the Lord

Monday, December 25

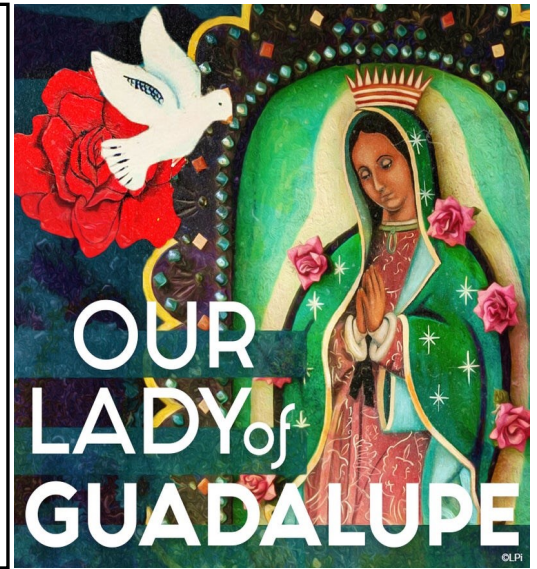
9:30 a.m.—Mass for
The Nativity of the Lord



*Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.
Feast Day - December 12*

On December 9, 1531, Our Lady appeared to a simple Aztec Indian who had converted to the Catholic faith, Juan Diego. The place of the apparition was on a hill call Tepeyac, located in present-day Mexico City. Three days later, at Juan Diego's request, Mary provided a sign so the local bishop would believe that she actually had appeared. Roses grew out of the cold winter soil, and when Juan Diego opened his cloak to show the bishop what he had found, an image of Our Lady appeared on the fabric. These occurrences led to the conversion of most of Mexico and remain today a strong sign of Our Lady's concern and love for us.

Church-approved Marian apparitions always point to her Son, Jesus. For many of us with a strong Marian devotion, Mary is a pathway into a stronger relationship with our Lord. Her generosity shown to Juan Diego is the same generosity shown to each of us that choose to ask for her intercession. Families pray for one another and she is a very prominent member of our spiritual family. May the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe be a sign of warmth for us in the cold of winter and of Advent hope for the coming of the Christ Child who has redeemed the world.



GRIEF DOESN'T TAKE HOLIDAY BREAKS

Grief is a challenging emotion that doesn't choose a specific time to appear, not even during holidays. It can be especially difficult to cope with loss when everyone else seems to be celebrating. However, there are tools available to find comfort during this holiday season. Trying out some of these resources might just help in navigating through the grief and finding solace during the festivities.

Grief Groups offered by Tri-Cities Chaplaincy (registration required)

- **General Grief Group**—For adults dealing with grief. Call 509-572-7819.
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Cork's place, 2108 W. Entiat Avenue, Kennewick
Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at Chaplaincy Administration Building, 1480 Fowler Street, Richland
- **Pet Loss**—Process grief while learning general grief education and coping skills.
Email h3peturgentcare@gmail.com to register. December 13th from 5:30—6:30 p.m.
3315 Clearwater Avenue, Suite 100, Kennewick
- **Loss by Suicide**—A safe space focused on around the difficult topic of suicide.
Second Wednesday of every month, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Chaplaincy Administration Building, 1480 Fowler Street, Richland
- **Anticipatory Grief Group**—For adults dealing with the anticipation of losing a loved one.
First Monday of every month, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at Chaplaincy Administration Building, 1480 Fowler Street, Richland
- **Grief Book Club**—Discussion of a book centered around grief and healing.
Every 2nd Monday of every month, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at Chaplaincy Administration Building, 1480 Fowler Street, Richland
- **Gone Too Soon**—For adults have experienced the loss of a baby before or after birth.
Registration required, call Aggie at 509-430-4204. Meets second Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. at Chaplaincy Administration Building, 1480 Fowler Street, Richland (Or a virtual meeting is available on the fourth Thursday of the month from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.)

Visit <https://tccbestlife.org/events/> for a complete calendar of Tri-Cities Chaplaincy classes.

If you are finding yourself adverse to the holiday spirit, that's okay. Here are some ways to guide yourself through the holidays and not over stress yourself.

Make a plan and set yourself up for success during a celebratory season by minimizing anxiety.

The first step, Cormier said, is acknowledging that the holidays will be different, and to be proactive about what helps and what doesn't. For example, consider the following:

- **Are there some traditions you'd rather not do?** Some may just be too painful. It may make sense to try something new!
- **Do you want to celebrate in the same place?** It might be better to travel this season instead of staying home.
- **Who are the people you want to be around?** Enjoy their company when they invite you for a visit.
- **Can you handle an all-day celebration?** Be flexible with yourself and let the host know you may only stay for a short while.

Those grieving also should recognize that often how one anticipates an event, especially one they believe may be stressful, almost always is worse than how it actually turns out.

Reminder: In many ways, a holiday is just like any other day in that it only lasts 24 hours.

*"Behold, children are
a gift of the Lord,
the fruit of the womb is
a reward."*

- Psalms 127:3



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There's nothing like the birth of a child to bring hope to the world. Each year, when we celebrate the birth of Christ, we celebrate the birth of hope. I hope you'll join me in helping to keep the light of hope alive throughout the year by giving to the Collection for Catholic Charities on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

For more than 70 years, Catholic Charities has been reaching out in love to help those most in need. Support for pregnant moms and families with young children. Helping hands for housebound seniors and the disabled. Counseling for those like Rosa who are dealing with depression and anxiety.

As you celebrate the birth of Christ, please be generous to those in need by giving to Catholic Charities. May God bless you and your family during this season of hope.

In Christ's love,

Father Tom

Monsignor Thomas C. Champoux
Chairman of the Board and Vicar for Charities

Hope comes in small packages. So small, in fact, that baby Ophelia brings enough hope to last her mother, Rosa, a lifetime.

Just a few years ago, Rosa hit bottom. Depression and anxiety had taken over her life and hope felt beyond reach. "I was at the point where I felt I had all the right reasons to end my life. I felt like I had nothing going for me," she says.

Thankfully, Rosa found the help she needed at Catholic Charities. Therapy combined

with medication was the path that led Rosa to a new life, one full of hope. Once stable, she landed a job at a local thrift store and worked her way up to store manager. She met Eddie, they married, and are now the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl. "She's my everything. I thank God every day for her," Rosa says.



The help Rosa received at Catholic Charities was not only a lifeline for herself; it gave her the knowledge and skills to raise her daughter with the tools she needs to live a stable life.

Ophelia is a happy, healthy baby, a daily reminder to Rosa to stay on the path that brought her out of darkness. "God has a plan for my life. He gave me Ophelia when I needed her most."

*“Son los hijos regalo
del Señor, el fruto del
vientre es una
recompensa.”*

—Salmo 127,3



Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas:

No hay nada como el nacimiento de un niño para dar esperanza al mundo. Todos los años, cuando celebramos el nacimiento de Cristo, celebramos el nacimiento de la esperanza. Espero que se unan a mí para ayudar a mantener viva la luz de esperanza durante el año haciendo una donación a la Colecta de Caridades Católicas en Nochebuena y el día de Navidad.

Por más de 70 años, Caridades Católicas ha extendido con amor ayuda a los más necesitados. Apoyando a las mamás embarazadas y a las familias con niños pequeños. Extendiendo las manos a personas mayores y discapacitadas confinadas en sus hogares. Asesorando a personas como Rosa que están sufriendo depresión y ansiedad.

Les pedimos por favor que al celebrar el nacimiento de Cristo, sean generosos ayudando a los necesitados con su donación a Caridades Católicas. Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias durante esta temporada de esperanza.

En amor de Cristo,

Father Tom

Monseñor Thomas C. Champoux
Presidente de la Junta y Vicario de Caridades

La esperanza viene en paquetes pequeños. De hecho, la pequeñita Ophelia trajo suficiente esperanza a su madre, Rosa, que le durará toda la vida.

Hace pocos años, Rosa tocó fondo. La depresión y ansiedad se habían posesionado de su vida y la esperanza se sentía fuera de su alcance. “Estaba en un punto donde sentí que tenía todas las razones para terminar mi vida. Sentí que no tenía nada a mi favor,” dijo ella.

Afortunadamente, Rosa encontró la ayuda que necesitaba en Caridades Católicas. La terapia combinada con medicamentos fue el camino que guio a Rosa a una nueva vida, una vida llena de esperanza. Una vez estable, consiguió un trabajo en una tienda local de segunda mano y ascendió hasta convertirse en gerente de la tienda. Conoció a Eddie, se casaron, y ahora son los orgullosos padres de una linda niña. “Ella es mi todo. Todos los días doy gracias a Dios por ella,” dice Rosa.



La ayuda que ella recibió en Caridades Católicas no fue sólo un salvavidas para ella misma; sino que le brindó el conocimiento y las habilidades para criar a su hija con las herramientas que necesita para vivir una vida estable.

Ophelia es una bebita feliz, saludable y un recordatorio diario para que Rosa se mantenga en el camino que la sacó de la obscuridad. “Dios tiene un plan para mi vida. Me dio a Ophelia cuando más la necesitaba.”

Dear Padre,

Do Catholics have to marry in the Church? If a couple decides to marry outside of the Church, are they still allowed to receive Communion and other sacraments?

Catholics are obligated to follow the laws of the Church, including those laws regarding marriage. If a Catholic marries outside the Church, meaning that they did not follow Church law, then they may not receive the other sacraments until their marriage has been witnessed by the Church.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony for the couple, but it is also a ceremony for the Church. The Christian community is called upon to witness the ceremony, with the bishop, priest, or deacon called upon to bless the union in the name of the Church. The Church can dispense from the form, that is, the place of the wedding, for good cause, and does so when necessary. When a dispensation from the law is granted, then the person has followed the marriage laws of the Church and is free to receive the sacraments.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony in which a sacrament is conferred. While the park may be pretty or the church down the street may be bigger, neither is a sufficient reason to ignore marriage law and marry outside the Church. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



MIDY EDWARDS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	December 17 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

In the Bible [conversion] means, first and foremost, to change direction and orientation; and thus also to change one's way of thinking. In the moral and spiritual life, to convert means to turn oneself from evil to good, from sin to love of God. And this is what the Baptist was teaching.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 6, 2020

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