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.holyspiritkernewick.org

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

FR. MICHAEL BRZEZOWSKI

509-735-8558

pastor@holyspiritkennewick.org

DEACON KEN ELLS 509-948-4355

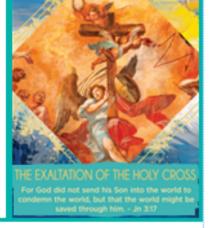
DEACON ERIC SHABER. 208-521-7846

DEACON MIKE GALILKE

509-551-7626

deaconkenneth@charter.net ecshaber@gmail.com

micajere@msn.com



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Parish Staff:

Secretary Debbie Forgette 735-8558 Bookkeeper Bianca Medina 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 528-9780 9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen Jennifer Moore 492-6209 & Joe Bliss 216-402-3118 email: lifeteenhs

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

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 Jan Beardemphl 948-3367 Welcoming Committee Wynona Vaz 222-8982 PCC Nursery

Ministry to Sick and Shut-Ins Deacon Eric Shaber

& Charlotte Shaber 208-521-7846

Bible Study Judy Turner 438-7938 Linda Rego 221-1130 Judy Urrutia 438-5039 Women's Group Weekend Mass Refreshments

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 Peter Dreisbach 205-2377 Knights of Columbus Message Line 591-0632 St. Vincent de Paul Scout Troop #275 Teddy Herrera 778-0505

Natural Family Planning: 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: 5:30 p.m. 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 12:00 p.m. Call the parish office for a list of upcoming Baptiam dates and to receive registration information for pre-Baptism classes. (735-8558)





On Being Married at Holy Spirit ... Engaged couples who wish to be married at Holy Spirit Woly Matrimony 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)

Deoths

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)

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14, 2025

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

Sunday, September 14:

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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.

Edge (Middle School) Parent Meeting and Edge Fun Night for students, PCC rooms 5 and 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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



Monday, September 15:

Our Lady of Sorrows

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on Holy Spirit Facebook page.

CSJ Associates Sisters of St. Joseph, PCC room 7, 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16:

Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

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.

Mass in the church at 5:30 p.m. Mass is also livestreamed on Holy Spirit Facebook page.

Fall Catholic Education Series: Catholic Beliefs and Questions: Catholic Life in our World Today, PCC rooms 6/8, 6:15 p.m.

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, PCC room 9, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17:

Weekday

Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on Holy Spirit Facebook page.

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

Amazing Grace Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

Parish Council, PCC room 7, 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 18: Weekday

Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside Mass with the Celebration of the Word of God in the church at 9:00 a.m.

St. Vincent De Paul, PCC room 7, 10:00 a.m.

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

Celebration Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 19:

Weekday

Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. 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 and Prayers for Peace at 4:30 p.m. and the Rite of Benediction at 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, September 20:

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

Catholic Daughters, PCC room 5, 9:00 a.m. Sunday Vigil Mass in the church at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 21:

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on Holy Spirit Facebook page.

Pack-a-Picnic sponsored by Elizabeth Ministry, on the lawn in the shade on First Avenue, following Mass.

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

Order of Christian Initiation for Children (OCIC), PCC room 7, 3:00 p.m.

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

Edge (Middle School), PCC rooms 5 and 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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

From the Pastor's Desk ...

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:

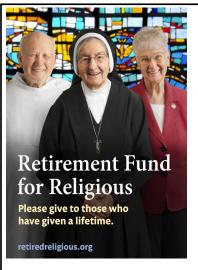
You may be asking yourself ... "Didn't I just contribute to the *Priests' Retirement Collection* in the month of July?" Well, yes, you did; and the priests of the Diocese of Yakima thank you. But here's what you need to know: *that* collection benefits the retirement of the parish priests (diocesan priests) of the Diocese of Yakima—like Fr. O'Shea and Msgr. Auve. It doesn't assist nuns or religious brothers who have retired (here in our diocese or elsewhere).

Next weekend's national special collection—for the *Retirement Fund for Religious*—is different. How so? "Religious" are women and men who serve the Church as sisters, brothers, monks, or priests after making a solemn profession in a religious order—like the Sisters of Providence, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the Franciscans, the Dominicans, the Carmelites, the Benedictines, the Jesuits, etc. All religious men and women take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience (to their superior). Some even take additional vows. Whatever they earn as professionals in their respective fields (like health care, teaching, counseling, social work, etc.) is pooled—in common—to sustain themselves and their confrères economically.

Many religious women and men worked very hard for the Church over many years; but—in part, due to their vow of poverty—did not receive adequate compensation to provide for their present needs in retirement. And so, as you think of the religious sisters, brothers, and priests who have had an impact on your life and your spiritual development as a Catholic, please consider assisting them financially in their senior years. Their mission now, in retirement, is to pray for you, for me, and for the Church. As we benefit from their prayers, may they, in turn, count on our annual financial support. Thank you.

God's Blessings,

E. Milal

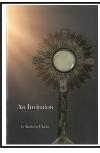


A lifetime of service deserves care in return.

"Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois.

Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing,

medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious women and men. Please consider giving to this annual national collection next week.



Please stop by the booklet display in the vestibule and pick up a **free** copy of **The Invitation**. This booklet reminds us that a great way to get to know someone is by sitting with them and simply enjoying their company. Jesus Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament, will show each of us that we are both lovable and loved. We can all draw closer to Jesus if we sit in his divine presence in the Most Holy Sacrament.

C

Save the Date



CURSILLO (English speaking) October 16-19, 2025 for Men October 23-26, 2025 for Women

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity that aims to help participants deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their Catholic faith.

It is a 3-day weekend experience involving talks, discussions, prayer and fellowship all aiming to empower individuals to more fully live-out discipling in their daily lives.

For more information regarding the men's Cursillo, contact John McKean at 509-945-8327. For more information regarding the women's Cursillo, contact Trish Eley at 509-670-2224.

TRI-CITIES PREP NEWS



Tri-Cities Prep is the only Catholic high school in the greater Tri-Cities area. For more information about our school, please visit tcprep.org, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. We are located at 9612 St. Thomas Drive in Pasco. We can be reached at 509-546-2465 or info@tcprep.org.

Wednesday, September 17th - Join us for the Mass of the Holy Spirit at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on campus.

Monday, September 29th - The greater Tri-Cities community is invited to celebrate the dedication of the St. Michael Plaza. Bishop Thomas A. Daly will bless this beautiful new meditation/prayer space at 8:30 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP: Even though the Lord led them out of Egypt and provided for their every need, the people in today's first reading were complaining and ungrateful. Does my stewardship of God's gifts show that I know from whom they came? Am I grateful?

August 10: \$17,047.85 Recorded givers: 128

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.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC—Beneath the Surface By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflection: When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. To heal *us*, God invites us to look upon the Cross.

The Cross is Not Negotiable

"Holiness isn't for wimps," Mother Angelica famously said. "And the Cross isn't negotiable, sweetheart — it's a requirement."

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is tough, and to do it you have to make a decision to be tough, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today's readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

Holiness is for wimps, because the Cross isn't negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the Cross — the very altar of the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that Cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn't do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn't right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do so. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We're wimps sometimes; that's who we are.

But the Cross of Jesus is a magnificent invitation to see something more: Divinity Himself, who assumed the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at his Cross we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we can be.

And none of it is negotiable.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS
All dates are tentative.

Monday	September 15	Luke Gorham	
Tuesday	September 16, 5:30 p.m.	Ella Sears RIP	
Wednesday	September 17	David Pellegrini	
Friday	September 19	Paul Stein	
Saturday	September 20, 4:00 p.m.	Deby Ziegler	
Sunday	September 21, 5:00 p.m.	Trudy (RIP) and Joe Vincent	
The Sunday morning Mass is normally offered for the people of the parish.			

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

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



Thank you, Holy Spirit parish family, for your generous fifth Sunday donations totaling \$4,615.52 to your local St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Recently, you helped provide a single mother of a troubled daughter with food and gas, and helped her renew her caregiver license. We meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. in PCC room 7. If

you are available a few hours each month and are seeking a way to serve the poor, grow spiritually, and make new friends, please join us this Thursday.

Pope Saint John Paul II beatified **Antoine Frederic Ozanam** in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on Friday morning, August 22, 1997, during World Youth Day. His Feast Day is September 9.

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT THE PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Our parish is in need of an **Edge Coordinator** to lead the middle school (grades 6-8) catechesis program on Sunday evenings. The coordinator will be responsible to plan, organize, and facilitate middle school religious education, youth activities, and events. The Edge Coordinator is a paid staff position accountable to the Pastor of the Parish of the Holy Spirit for the execution of assigned responsibilities. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

Working to ensure qualified Core Team members staff the Edge program by:

- Recruiting and assigning Edge team members (catechists and volunteers)
- Coordinating training for team members
- Maintaining compliance with diocesan safe environment requirements

Maintaining a fully functional Edge program to include:

- Establishing a calendar of weekly Edge sessions during the school year
- Working with Core Team members to plan Edge Nights
- Leading Edge Nights
- Order and maintain teaching resources
- Prepare a budget for the Edge program.

Maintaining student attendance records, and other documentation as required.

Performing logistical responsibilities:

- Unlocking and locking buildings (church and Parish Community Center)
- Overseeing the set-up of rooms and facilities to be used
- Submitting bulletin notices as required

To express your interest in this position or for additional details, call the parish office at 509-735-8558.



Are you surprised to learn that Catholicism is on the rise among Gen Z men?



- Are YOU interested in becoming Catholic, or learning more about the Catholic faith? Or do you know someone you could invite to church?
- Our parish has begun the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) process for adults who are considering joining the Catholic Church. Please join us Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in PCC room 7.
- We are beginning with a period called *Inquiry*. These Thursday evening classes will cover the basics of our Catholic beliefs, prayer, and community life in a welcoming and supportive environment.
- All are welcome! For more information or to register, contact Joe Schroeder (509-405-2242) or Sherry Schroeder (509-521-3782.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS

Religious education registration forms have been emailed to those who attended our classes last year. If you did not receive one, or if you are enrolling a student for the first time, please look for a registration form on the table in the vestibule, download one online at www.holyspiritkennewick.org or come into the parish office and pick one up. Classes begin this week.

Elementary: Preschool (age 4-5) through Grade 5 - Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. starting **September 16th**

Middle School: Edge - Sundays following the 5:00 p.m. Mass through 8:00 p.m. starting **September 14th** (Edge Parent Meeting Sunday, September 14th in PCC following the 5:00 p.m. Mass)

High School: LifeTeen - Sundays following the 5:00 p.m. Mass through 8:00 p.m. starting **September 14th**

OUR ADVERTISERS



Our Fall Catholic Education Series continues on **Tuesday, September 16** with "Catholic Beliefs and Questions—Catholic Life in our World Today." Join us from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. in PCC rooms 6/8 as our pastor Fr. Michael presents this topic. Light refreshments will be provided. Everyone is invited and families are encouraged to attend.



Join us for the next Pack-a-Picnic hosted by the Elizabeth Ministry next Sunday, September 21.

Following the 9:30 a.m. Mass we'll gather in the shade between the church and First Avenue. Pack a picnic lunch and bring a blanket and/or seating for your family. Popsicles and water will be provided.

A NOTE FROM ST. SERRA CLUB OF TRI CITIES

In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that he who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16) This is the essence of the Good News that everyone needs to hear. Will you spread Jesus' message to all as a priest, permanent deacon, brother, monk or nun?



Register today for the 2025 Church Mission Congress: Building the Young Church in Christ: Growing Parish Youth Ministry. All are invited to this day of prayer and reflection,

merchandise vendors, raffle prizes and more on **Saturday**, **October 11**, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at La Salle High School, 3000 Lightning Way in Union Gap. To register, or for more information, call 509-965-7117 or send an email to info@yakimadiocese.org.

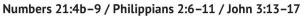


San Lorenzo Ruiz Mass Saturday, September 27, 2025 11:00 a.m. Parish of the Holy Spirit

You are invited to join us for Mass celebrated by Fr. Roleto Amoy, Fr. Rex Familiar and Fr. Michael Brzezowski. A potluck luncheon in the PCC hall will follow the Mass. Entertainment will include Filipino song and dance performers and display booths. For more information, contact Lito Ines at 509-727-2391.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER: FOR OUR SICK: B.J. Bacon (relative of Troy and Emma Bacon), Carmel O'Shea (relative of Fr. O'Shea), Kathleen Zimbehl (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), Laurie Brzezowski-Greenberg (sister of Fr. Michael) Fr. Michael Brzezowski, David Brazier (relative of Sr. Mary), Tyler Stevens (grandson of Rose Stevens), Brad Nelson (brother of Brett Nelson), Brian and Amanda Hollenberg (son and daughter-in-law of Glenn and Karen Hollenberg), Sr. Mary (parishioner), Jim Berkman (son-in-law of Allan and Merilynn Erhart), Fr. O'Shea, Amanda Parry (parishioner), Kathy Bealer (relative of Deacon Ken Ellis), Jim Young (parishioner), Don Malisani (father of Paul Malisani), Harry and Jana Barnes (parishioners), John Jurgilewicz (parishioner), Larry Harris (relative of Deacon Ken Ellis), Lorraine Damon (daughter of Edith Perez), Eric Zimbehl (son of Kathleen Zimbehl), 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), Rob Privette (parishioner), Addison Wessels (grandniece of Mike and Pam Thurman), Nikki Hensyel (sister of Terri Larson), John Schneider (relative of Gloria Ziegler), Chuck and Kate Wilson (relatives of Debbi Fisler), Judy Cleary (parishioner), Eric Richard Madden (nephew of Sr. Mary), Jeneane Conway (daughter of Julie Waddoups), Linda Ziegler (daughter-in-law of Gloria Ziegler), Rose Stevens (parishioner), Deborah Rowley (parishioner), Natalie Schaeffer (parishioner), Isaac Schmidt (grandson of Sharee Kline), Diana Murawski (parishioner), Steve Sakry (family member of Mike and Pam Thurman), Deby Ziegler (daughter of Gloria Ziegler) Christina Squires (daughter of Dru Squires),

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





When Life Is on Empty

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

s he stood in line in front of me, the back of his T-shirt read, "Pain is weakness leaving the body." Though unsaid, it implied that the parting pain would be replaced by newfound strength. Yet, the more I thought about it, I wondered if that is always the case. Some pain simply leaves one empty, like the grief that comes with the death of one's child. That emptiness never leaves, it is never replaced. So too, the pain of living with mental illness, as it seems to isolate one from many of life's joys and satisfactions. Or, eventually, the aging process in all of us, as it slips in and steals the treasures of life, one by one. Pain is not always weakness leaving the body. Sometimes, it is the pain of an alien spirit settling in for the long haul.

If St. Paul's assertion that Jesus came and "emptied himself...coming in human likeness...even [to] death on a cross," then those times that seem to empty us of all we would hold dear are the times when we slowly take on the image of Jesus in our own lives. It is at such times when we are most powerless but also when God's spirit shines through our broken and wounded lives, if only because we become totally dependent upon God. It is Saint Teresa of Kolkata who is said to have once remarked that even God cannot fill what is already full.

-Reflect-

What emptying am I experiencing?
Can I accept it as becoming more like Jesus?





September 19-20, 2025

Friday, 5 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Christ the King 1111 Stevens Drive, Richland

49 Years of Family Fun! Food. Family. Fun. Fest!

You are invited to Christ the King's 49th annual Sausage Fest. Bring your family and friends to enjoy a weekend of great local foods, outdoor beer garden, games for all ages, handmade arts and crafts, bingo, live music and entertainment.

Admission is FREE!

Events and items to check out at Sausage Fest...

- Famous Sausage Fest sausages, fresh-picked corn, homemade desserts and bier rocks!
- Local talent on the outdoor stage
- Games for the entire family
- Fresh produce and plant starts
- Outdoor beer garden with live music

An affordable weekend of family fun!

See you there!





CHURCH MISSION CONGRESS

BUILDING THE YOUNG CHURCH IN CHRIST: GROWING PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Proujer & Reflection, Merchandise Vendors, Raffle Prizes

REGISTER TODAY!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

> LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL 3000 LIGHTNING WAY UNION GAP, WA 98903

> > REGISTER TODAY!



CONTACT INFORMATION: (509) 965-7117 INFO@YAKIMADIOCESE.ORG

Dear Padre,

A Protestant friend tells me that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. That doesn't seem accurate to me. What does the Church teach about the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross?

Jesus understood his mission to be sacrificing his own life "as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was even at the cost of death. However, saying Jesus' death was payment for our sins doesn't mean that a vengeful God was appeared by the slaughter of his own innocent son. Rather, we are redeemed because of the mutual love between Father and Son, as well as the love Christ had for us all when he offered his life. "It is love 'to the end' (see John



13:1) that confers on Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus' death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice "that completes and surpasses all other sacrifices," when "the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us with himself," and the Son of God freely and lovingly offered his human life to his Father "in reparation for our disobedience" (CCC 614). Christ "bore our sins in his body upon the cross.... By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Viewed in light of the resurrection, Christ's death has meaning in eternal life's triumph over sin.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday

September 15 Our Lady of Sorrows 1 Tm 2:1-8 Jn 19:25–27 or Martyrs Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday

September 16 Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Lk 7:31–35 1 Tm 3:1-13 Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday

September 17 Weekday 1 Tm 3:14-16

Thursday

September 18 Weekday 1 Tm 4:12-16 Lk 7:36-50

Friday

September 19 Weekday 1 Tm 6:2c-12 Lk 8:1-3

Saturday

September 20 Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs 1 Tm 6:13-16 Lk 8:4-15

Sunday

September 21 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Am 8:4-7 1 Tm 2:1-8 Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I chose to take the name Leo XIV...mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic encyclical Rerum Novarum addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution. In our own day, the Church offers...the treasury of [its] social teaching in response to...new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice, and labor.

> ADDRESS TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS, **ROME, MAY 10, 2025**



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