

# PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

FR. MICHAEL BRZEZOWSKI

509-735-8558

[pastor@holyspiritkennewick.org](mailto:pastor@holyspiritkennewick.org)

DEACON KEN ELLIS  
509-948-4355

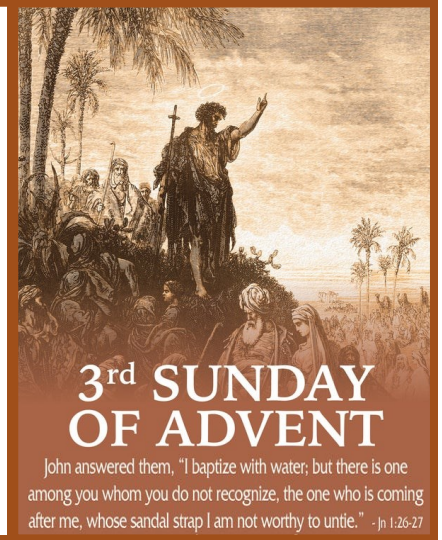
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509-551-7626

[micajere@msn.com](mailto:micajere@msn.com)



## 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

### DECEMBER 17, 2023

#### Parish Staff:

Bookkeeper Secretary Philline Go 735-8558  
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](mailto: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 Feeny 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 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

#### *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)

# Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

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

## 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](#).

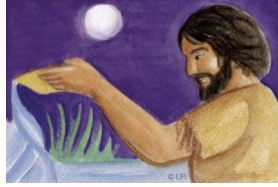
Confirmation Super Sunday, PCC hall and rooms 3 and 5, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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.



## Monday, December 18: Late 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.

Advent Penance Service, Christ the King Catholic Church, Richland, 6:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, December 19: Late Advent Weekday

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.

No Religious Education

Sacrament of Reconciliation, CHURCH, 4:15 - 5:00 p.m. (Confessions MUST end at 5:00 p.m. today.)

Joyful Noise Choir, PCC hall, 4:30 p.m.

Advent Penance Service, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Kennewick, 6:30 p.m.

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

## Wednesday, December 20: Late Advent Weekday

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

Advent Penance Service, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Benton City, 6:30 p.m. **THIS IS THE LAST ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE IN OUR LOCAL AREA.**

Amazing Grace Choir, 7:30 p.m.

## Thursday, December 21:

### Late Advent Weekday

### Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

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

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

Celebration Choir, 7:00 p.m.

## Friday, December 22:

### Late 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.

## Saturday, December 23:

### Late Advent

### Saint John of Kanty, Priest

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

## Sunday, December 24:

### MORNING

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

### EVENING

### The Nativity of the Lord

The Amazing Grace Choir and the Joyful Noise Choir have prepared a musical prelude, which will begin at 3:30 p.m., ending with the **Posada** just before the start of Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Mass in the church at 4:00 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.



**From the Pastor's Desk ...**

A PARISH PRIEST WAS MURDERED IN NEBRASKA THIS WEEK:

Whenever a First Responder like a police officer or firefighter dies, whether it is in the line of duty or of natural causes, we know that the entire community in which they served grieves and shows its solidarity and support for the surviving family members. It is not uncommon that brother/sister firefighters or police officers will come from far and wide to attend the funeral or memorial service for a fallen comrade. Given this dynamic, I ask everyone to offer prayers for the repose of the soul of **Fr. Stephen Gutsell** of Fort Calhoun, NE, who was murdered in his rectory in the early morning hours of Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>—stabbed to death in his kitchen. Needless to say, Fr. Gutsell did not celebrate any Sunday Masses on the Second Sunday of Advent and his parish likely went without the Holy Eucharist that day. Sad.

I never met Fr. Gutsell, but his untimely and tragic death should affect me and us all. Please join me in praying that Fr. Gutsell will rest in peace with the Lord whom he loved and served. Pray also for the perpetrator(s) of this crime; that they may be brought to justice and that they will repent of their actions and seek the mercy of God.

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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 19, 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 19, at the usual time, but confessions MUST END PROMPTLY AT 5:00 p.m., as I will be heading across town to hear confessions at the Advent Penance Service at St. Joseph's Church, Kennewick that evening.

Advent Blessings,

*E. Michael*

**REMAINING ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES 2023**

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.



**ADVENT**



**HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.**



**STEWARDSHIP:** All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

**December 3: \$12,572.03 Recorded givers: 119**

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

For online giving, visit:

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

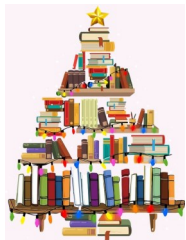
Thank you for maintaining your financial support of our parish as you are able. If you'd prefer to mail an offering, please send it to **Parish of the Holy Spirit, 7409 W. Clearwater Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336**. If you are currently using offering envelopes and would like to switch to online giving (or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



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.

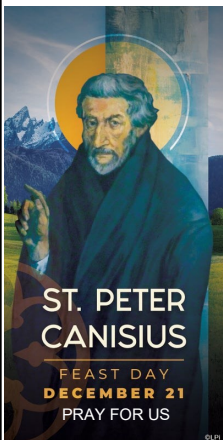
**A NOTE FROM ST. SERRA CLUB OF TRI CITIES**

"The One Who calls you is faithful ... " (First Thessalonians 5:24) Will you be faithful to His call? Listen! God may be inviting you to be a priest, permanent deacon, or religious brother or sister.



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.

**St. Peter Canisius - Feast Day December 21**



Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

Blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.

**WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS**

**All dates are tentative.**

Monday	December 18	Josie Wannarachue RIP
Tuesday	December 19, 9:00 a.m.	Brendan Calvey RIP
Wednesday	December 20	Rachel Madio RIP
Thursday	December 21	Dorothy Sanchez RIP
Friday	December 22	Sherry Clark
Saturday	December 23, 4:00 p.m.	Joanie Lee RIP

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Julie Carter. May she 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 special thanks to those who give of their time and talent in **creating a beautiful atmosphere** in which to celebrate the Mass, to pray, and to offer thanks to God in praise and worship. These include those who purchase and arrange flowers, who steam and clean the vestments and altar linens, and those who create banners, screen image projections, and other decorations that reflect the mood of the scripture readings and liturgical seasons. We are blessed in your answer to God's call to serve our parish in these ways.



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Tristan Paul Story,**  
son of Matthew and Megan Story,  
was baptized at Holy Spirit on December 9.  
May God's blessings of peace and joy  
be with him and protect him all of his days.



Your monetary offerings on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day help Catholic Charities become the hands and feet of Jesus to more than 50,000 people throughout Central Washington. To learn more about the Catholic Charities network of services, visit [www.hopetolife.org](http://www.hopetolife.org).

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**



**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/>

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

**A Constant Companion**

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in him and hope that the hours that passed gave him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you to the office Christmas party. Take him with you as you shop for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch Christmastime television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to remain connected with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could ever imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most—Jesus, the Incarnation himself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



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, 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.

**Holy Spirit St. Vincent de Paul Conference** will meet this Thursday, December 21, at 10:00 a.m. in PCC room 7. If you are seeking a way to serve the poor, grow spiritually, and make new friends, please stop by to see what we are about or contact the parish office at 735-8558.



In 1830, Our Blessed Mother commissioned St. Catharine Labouré, a Daughter of Charity, to strike the Miraculous Medal. The feast day of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is November 27.

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 mission of Saint Paul's Outreach is to "build missional community on college campuses and beyond, forming lifelong disciples." The retreat, called *Communio*, is designed to help empower students to return to their campuses as beacons of God's light, and to be on mission for others. 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. Thank you.

**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](http://www.virtusonline.org). Call Deacon Ken at 509-948-4355 or the parish office at 509-735-8558 for more information.

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.

Recitation of the Rosary for the repose of the soul of Joe Carson will be prayed **Tuesday, January 9th at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Spirit.**

The Mass of Christian Burial for Mr. Carson will be celebrated **Tuesday, January 9th at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Spirit.**

Help the **Tri-Cities Chaplaincy** care for patients and families today and into the new year.

The Parish of the Holy Spirit is a member sponsor of Tri-Cities Chaplaincy, offering sustaining financial support each year from our Sunday Mass collections.

**Hospice House Needs**

Frosting  
Instant Mashed Potato Cups  
Costco Canned Chicken  
Apple & Cranberry Juice (2 qt.)  
Single-serve Snack Packs (nuts, crackers, candy bars, trail mix, etc.)  
Single-serve Cups of Peaches, Pears, Mixed Fruit, Applesauce  
Electric Razors  
Non-skid Socks  
Kleenex  
AA Batteries  
AAA Batteries  
Razors (4 or 5 blade only)  
Laundry Detergent  
Twin Extra Long Plush Blankets  
Unscented Baby Wipes  
Gift Cards (Winco, Walmart, Costco)



**Cork's Place Needs**

Air-dry Clay	Stickers
Clay Working Tools	Musical Instruments
Stress Balls	Candyland Game
Art Canvases	Soccer Ball & Net (small indoor)
Glitter Glue Pens	Basketball Hoop (small indoor)
Journals	Socks
Acrylic Paint Pens	Toy Medical Equipment
Paint Brushes	

To view their full lists, go to <https://tccbestlife.org/in-kind-donations>.

PLEASE DELIVER TO: Tri-Cities Chaplaincy, 1480 Fowler Street in Richland. Questions? Call 509-783-7416.

## THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

“Seek the Lord and His strength;  
Seek His face continually.” Psalm 105:4

“Make Your face shine upon Your servant,  
And teach me Your statutes.” Psalm 119:145

Show us thy face and we shall be saved. Throughout the history of the world people have longed to see the face of God. The face of Jesus Christ is both a sign of God's divinity and his humanity. Jesus knew we would seek his face and long to see it. He showed us his Holy Face during his life, death, and resurrection.

On Epiphany 1849 he answered that call again. When the pope had to flee Rome due to a revolution, God allowed the veil of Veronica to be miraculously illuminated allowing the imprinted face of Jesus on his way to Calvary to be seen clearly, for the first time in centuries, for three days. Artists were brought in to capture Jesus' image, those images were printed, touched to the true veil and sent out to the religious. One religious man, Leo Dupont, worked 6,000 verified miracles in front of one such print.

It was the favorite devotion of St. Therese the Little Flower, whose name in religious life was Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face.

Short daily prayers, revelations, and a chaplet were given to a little known nun, Sister Mary of Saint Peter. This chaplet was given to her to be *the* devotion to fight communism, a concept she had never heard of before.

The Lord showed us his face. Let us seek it, let us love and adore his face as Mother Mary did, as the saints in heaven do. If you are looking to increase your love of Jesus, consider making this devotion your own.

To learn more about this beautiful devotion, stop by the parish office. There are copies of the autobiography of Sister Mary, chaplets, plaques, and framed copies of the image from the veil of Veronica. These are all free and waiting for you! But supplies are limited so head over today! All of these materials have been made available to us by a family from our parish who has a deep devotion to the Holy Face. We thank the Von Rotz family for sharing these materials with us.



St Therese of the  
Child Jesus and  
the Holy Face

### GRIEF DOESN'T TAKE HOLIDAY BREAKS

#### TIPS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON FROM TRI-CITIES CHAPLAINCY

**Acknowledge Feelings as Normal:** It is normal for children to experience a wide range of emotions when grieving the death of someone significant. Acknowledge these feelings and assure your child that having these feelings is normal.

**Emotional Expression:** Accept expression of all emotions. Children may express sadness, pain, frustration, anger or other powerful emotions. Avoid minimizing their feelings or trying to put a “positive” spin on them. For example, saying, “It’s important to focus on the good times you had with your dad,” may communicate that you do not want to hear a child talk about painful things.

**Traditions:** Plan ahead. Create new traditions or choose to embrace the old as a way to stay connected. Involve children in creating new traditions. Come together and decide what traditions still work for your family, what traditions it is time to let go of, and what new traditions you can create together.

**Memories:** Include the memory of the person who died in your celebration. Invite children to make something meaningful, such as a holiday card or gift, specifically for your person. Some children might want to take these items to the cemetery. There are lots of ways to remember your person during the holidays, by cooking their favorite food, listening to their favorite songs, or taking part in their favorite traditions.

**Self-Care:** Always remember to take care of yourself. Give yourself a break, surround yourself with a strong support system, and take time to recharge. Remember: you have to take care of yourself first so you can take care of others around you.

**Give Back:** Caring for others can be very therapeutic when you are grieving. Consider taking time to volunteer at a local non-profit, or make a donation in your person’s memory or honor.

If you missed the **Knights of Columbus Christmas Card sales** in the vestibule, it’s not too late to buy a box. Deacon Ken Ellis has an assortment of cards available for purchase in the parish office. Stop by during office hours to shop the selection of *Keep Christ in Christmas* cards.

**Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 Women's Group Christmas Raffle!** Thank you all for participating and being so very generous toward our fundraising efforts. A total of **\$2,174** was raised and will support the Women’s Group ministry of providing parish funeral luncheons to families after Masses of Christian Burial at Holy Spirit Parish.

The winners are:

Wine Basket #1- Teresa Neu  
Wine Basket #2 – Beth Retterer  
Wine Basket #3 – Antonia Hemenez  
Wine Basket #4 – Father Michael  
Hot Wheels – Colby Weis  
Tri Cities Basket – Dee Hermsen  
Legos – Merilynn Erhart  
Harry Potter Figures – Evan Young  
Candle Basket – Sophie Calvey  
CBC Basket – Mary Ann Morris  
Ceramic Santa – Laury Case  
Baking Basket – Linda Perkins  
Nativity Set – Sandy Brennan  
Holy Family Set – Dan Mauss  
Wall Rosary and Beaded Rosary – Barbara Wagner  
Family Game Basket – Billie Mauss  
Soup Basket – Melanie Arokian  
Beauty Basket – Sandy Boatright  
Hot Air Balloon Painted Art – Nancy Thompson  
Kitchen Basket – Jim Brennan  
Coffee Basket – Jim Feeney





# 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

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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





## Making Room for God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life. ●

### Reflect

***When has it been difficult for you to fade into the background?***



[John] was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

JOHN 1:8



# Dear Padre,

**Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?**

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●



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**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**The Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus. This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith.**

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 13, 2020

### MONDAY

December 18  
*Advent Weekday*  
Jer 23:5–8  
Mt 1:18–25

### TUESDAY

December 19  
*Advent Weekday*  
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a  
Lk 1:5–25

### WEDNESDAY

December 20  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 7:10–14  
Lk 1:26–38

### THURSDAY

December 21  
*Advent Weekday*  
Sg 2:8–14 or  
Zep 3:14–18a  
Lk 1:39–45

### FRIDAY

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

### SATURDAY

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

### SUNDAY

December 24  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16  
Rom 16:25–27  
Lk 1:26–38

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