

PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

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

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32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Lord, Lord, open the door for us! But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'" - Mt 25:11-12

NOVEMBER 12, 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 & Meta Boik	735-8558
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen	Jennifer Moore & Joe Bliss	492-6209 216-402-3118
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	Jean McDonald	586-1784
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. on November 14
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)



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)

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 12, 2023

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

Sunday, November 12:

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

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

No Edge (Middle School)

No Life Teen (High School)



Monday, November 13:

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

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, November 14:

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.

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

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

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

Knights of Columbus Council 10653 officers, PCC room 9, 6:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Council 10653, PCC room 9, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15:

Weekday

Saint Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

Bible Study, *EPIC: A Journey through Church History*, PCC rooms 6/8, 10:00 a.m.

Mass for the deceased members of the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

Thursday, November 16:

Weekday

Saint Margaret of Scotland; Saint Gertrude, Virgin

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

Backpack for Adults, *Essential Tools for Life*, PCC room 9, 10:00 a.m.

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

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.

Evangelization Committee, PCC room 5, 7:00 p.m.

Celebration Choir, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 17:

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

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, November 18:

Weekday

The Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles; Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin; Blessed Virgin Mary

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

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

Sunday, November 19:

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.



From the Pastor's Desk ...

BLESSING FOR VETERANS, THIS WEEKEND AT ALL MASSES:

Veterans Day, a federal holiday that falls on November 11, is designated as a day to honor the more than 19 million men and women who have served in the U.S. military. It was first observed on November 11, 1919, as Armistice Day, in honor of the first anniversary of the end of World War I (which officially ended on the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” in 1918). In 1926 Congress called for an annual observance of the anniversary, and by 1938 it was an official federal holiday. A few decades later, in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, as it is currently known today.

A blessing will be offered to all veterans attending our Masses this weekend. We are all so grateful for your service to our nation. Thank you for protecting all the freedoms we enjoy in the U.S.A.

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Please pay careful attention to the daily Mass schedule for the next three weeks. [See the front cover of the bulletin OR the first interior page of the bulletin for the latest updated information.] Due to diocesan events and other commitments, daily Mass on the following Tuesdays ... November 14, November 21, and November 28 ... will be in the MORNING, at 9:00 a.m.

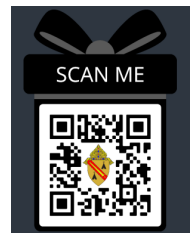
The Sacrament of Reconciliation WILL be offered on Tuesday, November 14 (from 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., as usual) but NOT on November 21 or November 28.

God's Blessings,

E. Michael

2023-2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL (ACA)

We are most grateful to our loyal donors and the new donors who have pledged to the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal so far. If you were not present at Mass or prepared to make a pledge last weekend, we invite you to do so today. Your gift is essential to sustaining the many ministries of the Diocese of Yakima. For the ACA to be a success, we need every family of the Parish of the Holy Spirit to participate this year. If you would like to donate online, please visit www.yakimadiocese.org or scan the QR code (at right or on your pledge card).



Annual Catholic Appeal Prayer

God the Father of all gifts, we praise you,
the source of all we are.

Teach us to acknowledge the many good
things your infinite love has given us.

Help us respond with generous gratitude
through our support of the
Catholic Church across Central Washington.

Open our hearts to follow your call.

Make us messengers of the Gospel in love
and service, so that all may come to know you
and become your disciples.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever.

Amen.

STEWARDSHIP: Like the sensible bridesmaids in today's parable, good stewards make sure that they, and whatever gifts are theirs to share, are ready to serve when the Master calls.

October 29: \$10,296.04 Recorded givers: 114

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.

The Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL): The first Jesuits started as "a holiness movement," which invited all to lead a holier life. St. Ignatius was inspired by the poverty of St. Francis of Assisi and he hoped that Jesuits would follow the same model. But God directed him elsewhere. Personally, he was called to set aside his own self-imposed rigors of fasting and poverty. And later, he was called to curb the Society's poverty so that its members could evangelize more people through their work in schools and other ministries. Pope Francis uses similar reasoning in his advice to priests about material possessions: own what you need to do the job. Through the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, we learn how to evaluate created things, to see if they help or hinder growth toward God. SEEL meets next on Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m. in PCC room 6/8, and online on the Zoom app. The theme will be the Christ's Kingdom. To learn more about SEEL, please visit <https://seelc.com>.

Thank you so much, Holy Spirit parish family, for your generous fifth Sunday donations, totaling more than \$3,500, to our **St. Vincent de Paul Conference**. Because of you, we are able to bring some measure of relief and hope to the poor among us in Kennewick. To see what we're about, please join us this Thursday, November 16, 10:00 AM, PCC Room 7. Thank you!



St. Louise de Marillac

With St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac co-founded the Daughters of Charity.

A NOTE FROM ST. SERRA CLUB OF TRI CITIES

"My soul is thirsting for You, O Lord my God." (Response for Psalm 63.) We were created with a thirst for God. Could He be calling you to quench that thirst by living in Him as a priest, permanent deacon, brother or sister?



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 509-586-3745.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative.

Monday	November 13	David DePauw RIP
Tuesday	November 14, 9:00 a.m.	Don Hart RIP
Wednesday	November 15	Steve Johnson
Thursday	November 16	Camille Henneberry
Friday	November 17	Amy Rieck RIP
Saturday	November 18, 4:00 p.m.	Don Hart RIP
Sunday	November 19, 5:00 p.m.	Dan & Cecilia Miller

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ida Hjortland.

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.



Tis the Season! Parish of the Holy Spirit's annual Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 10. Participation is open to all children/youth from kindergarten through high school. Rehearsals will be on Saturday, December 2, and Saturday, December 9, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the PCC.

A letter with details and an accompanying registration form is available on the table in the vestibule. If you have any questions or you would like to help with the Christmas pageant, please call Karen Gorham at 509-735-8558 or email to karen@holyspiritkennewick.org.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Greylan Joe Sani,

son of Kyle and Mary Alice Sani,

was baptized at Holy Spirit on November 4.

May God's blessings of peace and joy

be with him and protect him all of his days.



Thursday, November 2, was All Souls' Day. Remembrance envelopes are still available on the table in the vestibule. Envelopes may be turned in at any time (either in the offering baskets at weekend Masses or at the parish office), and the names of the faithful departed listed on them will be remembered at all Masses throughout the month of November.

Parishioners are welcome to bring pictures of their deceased loved ones and place them on the table near the tabernacle. We will pray for their eternal rest throughout the month of November.



A Mass for the deceased members of the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be celebrated on **Wednesday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m.** The Knights and Catholic Daughters invite everyone to join them as they pray for and pay tribute to their deceased members.

**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC—
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY
MOMENTS**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Seeking Wisdom

I think if any of us were asked the question, “Do you love wisdom? Do you seek wisdom?” we would, at first, be a little taken aback. And then we would answer quickly “Of course!” with absolutely no doubt in our minds.

But a different way of asking the question is this: “Are you making wise choices?” That’s a question that would put a fair few of us on the back foot.

In this weekend’s Gospel, the virgins who went out to meet the bridegroom were all the same. They had the exact same intentions. They had the exact same stamina, or lack of it. They had the exact same knowledge of the night being dark and lamps being necessary.

What made five foolish, and five wise?

It was their choices. Only their choices set them apart.

We may rely upon the wisdom of another — the parent who reminds us periodically to go to confession, the friend who demurs when we start speaking gossip, the priest who preaches boldly from the pulpit against an injustice we lack the courage to denounce ourselves. But even if we feel grateful for their good influence, their wisdom won’t save us.

We may possess a little wisdom ourselves — we may know well that a dark night is hard to navigate, and that we need the assistance of a lamp. We may go to Mass once in a while, read the Bible when we have time, and serve others when it’s convenient. But a lamp needs oil to burn in the darkness, just as wisdom requires action to be brought forth into the world.

We may love God just as much as we should — our flesh may pine, our soul may thirst for Him. But a parched field never brought rain on itself just by being dry. We must make the wise choice and ask God to quench our parched and thirsty souls.

“Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.” — Psalm 63:4

©LPi



Coming Soon!

Women’s Group Christmas Raffle

Save the dates:

Following All Masses
Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3
Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10

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 .



HOLY SPIRIT HOCKEY NIGHT

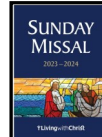
Parishioners had so much fun at the Dust Devils game this summer, we wanted to duplicate that fun at a **Tri-City Americans hockey game!** Jennifer Moore has reserved tickets for our Holy Spirit family on **Saturday, December 9th.** The game starts at 6:05 p.m. Tickets will need to be paid for in advance. Please text Jennifer Moore at 509-492-6209 if you are interested in attending. In your text, please provide your email and Jennifer will send you the link to purchase tickets at the group rate. Looking forward to spending a fun and exciting evening with our Holy Spirit family!



FATHER-DAUGHTER SNOWFLAKE

BALL: Dad, Grandpa, Uncle! Bring the special young lady/ladies in your life to the twenty-fourth **Annual Father-Daughter Snowflake Ball** on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at the St. Frances X. Cabrini Catholic Church Social Hall in Benton City. This social event is open to young ladies ages toddler to 18. The event includes corsages, souvenirs, door prizes, music, and a picture for each young lady. For reservations call Lynda at 588-4235 today!

Lectors may pick up their 2024 Lector Workbooks in the vestibule after all Masses next weekend. The books will be labeled with names and arranged alphabetically.



2023-2024 Sunday Missals will be available for purchase (\$4.00) in the vestibule after all Masses next weekend and in the parish office during office hours.

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), Julie Dowle (parishioner), Fr. O’Shea, Amanda Parry (daughter of Debbi Fisler), 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), Jim Warren and Judy Walker (cousins 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), and Margaret Liedigk (parishioner), Kevin Gilliam (parishioner), Richard Dennis (uncle of Deacon Ken and Cindy Ellis).

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



**NOVEMBER 18TH AND 19TH
FOLLOWING EACH MASS**

**SPONSORED BY THE
CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS**

**YOUR PARTICIPATION
ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE
OUR GOOD WORKS AND
TO HELP OTHERS**

Are You Registered to Receive
Holy Spirit's Periodic
FLOCKNOTES?



**Let us keep in touch with you
via email and text!**

Mass times, weather cancellations, ministry updates,
special events, reminders, & more delivered to your phone

TO SIGN UP, TEXT
WEGOTSPIRIT
to 84576

SIGN UP ONLINE AT:
parishoftheholyspiritke1.flocknote.com

Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. Text HELP for help.
There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may
apply. View privacy policy & conditions at flocknote.com/txt





The Light of Wisdom

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The dark of night can unsettle and frighten children, but darkness can disturb adults, too. It's not so much the feeling when the lights go off that unsettles us grownups as it is the dark of uncertainty. We graduate from school and wonder what to do with our lives. Should we stay in a relationship? How do we find meaning again in the midst of grief and the loss of someone we love? And sometimes most of all, where is God when we need God? We may even wonder whether to believe. At such times, we bump and bruise our way through the obstacles that life's darknesses cause.

Leonard Cohen's song "Anthem" echoes a note of hope when we feel lost in the dark as he sings about how light always seems to find a way to seep in between the cracks of our everyday living. Like stars that are visible only at night, new opportunities are often most readily recognized when we find ourselves stumbling through the dark.

Long before Leonard Cohen, Jesus told the parable of ten virgins, some wise and some foolish. In the midst of that story, he tells of a bridegroom who comes to the waiting virgin attendants at midnight. In other words, it is the Lord God who comes into our lives in the darkest times, if only we are wise enough to recognize such a coming.

How then to negotiate the darkness? Stay the course. In time, wisdom reveals a path. Trust that light will come, all in God's time and not ours. Finally, wisdom always comes in the darkest of times, seldom when our lives are bright as day. ●

[Jesus said,] "Stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour."

MATTHEW 25:13



Reflect

***When and how has God entered into
your darkness?***



From the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* [Documents of Vatican II]

In Baptism men and women are implanted in the Paschal Mystery of Christ; they die with him, are buried with him, and rise with him. They receive the spirit of adoption as sons and daughters in which we cry, "Abba, Father" and thus become true adorers such as the Father seeks. Similarly, as often as they eat the Supper of the Lord they proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The Liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the church is directed; it is also the source from which all its power flows. For the goal of apostolic endeavor is that all who are made children of God by faith and Baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of his church, to take part in the sacrifice and to eat the Lord's Supper. The liturgy, in its turn, moves the faithful filled with the "paschal sacraments" to be one in their commitment to God.

The renewal in the Eucharist of the covenant between them and the Lord draws the faithful and sets them aflame with Christ's compelling love. From the liturgy, therefore, and especially from the Eucharist, grace is poured forth upon us as from a fountain, and our sanctification in Christ and the glorification of God to which all other activities of the church are directed, as toward their end, are achieved with maximum effectiveness.



Eucharistic Miracle of

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI



ITALY, 1240

The History of Saint Clare, Virgin, tells of various miracles performed by Saint Clare. There are episodes of multiplications of loaves, of bottles of oil that appeared in the convent when there was none before. But Clare performed the most famous of the miracles in 1240, on a Friday in September, in which she turned away an attack by Saracen soldiers who had broken into the convent cloister by showing them the Sacred Host.



Saint Clare and the Assisi on Assisi, Giuseppe Cesari (1568-1640).
Heritage Museum, St. Petersburg



Enrico de Vercelli (1587),
Miracle of Saint Clare



Convent of San Damiano in Assisi



Uris containing the body
of Saint Clare, Assisi



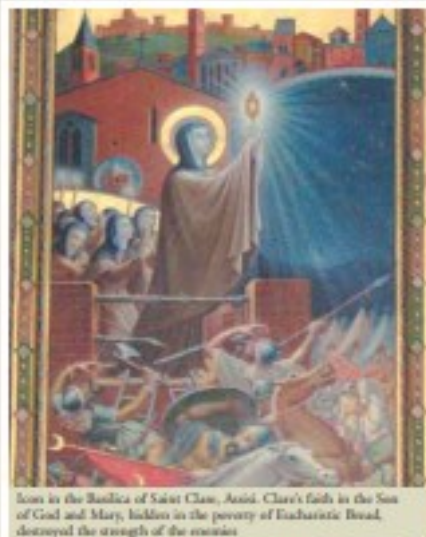
Ancient depiction of the Miracle of Saint Clare



Saint Clare, detail of the great
Cross of Gianfrancesco dalle
Genti



Saint Clare and the Saracens.
Painting by Piero Cosentini.
Holy Cross Monastery,
Pepusian Maggiori



Icons in the Basilica of Saint Clare, Assisi. Clare's faith in the Sun
of God and Mary, hidden in the poverty of Eucharistic Bread,
destroyed the strength of the enemies

This Eucharistic Miracle is cited in "The History of Saint Clare, Virgin," written by Tommaso da Celano, and describes how Saint Clare of Assisi succeeded with the Blessed Sacrament in turning away Saracen troops in the pay of Emperor Frederick II of Sweden.

The history goes like this: "By imperial order, regiments of Saracen soldiers and bowmen were stationed there, massed like bees, ready to devastate the encampments and seize the cities. Once during an enemy attack against Assisi, city beloved of the Lord, and while the army was approaching the gates, the fierce Saracens invaded San Damiano, entered the confines of the monastery and even the very cloister of the virgins. The women swooned in terror, their voices trembling with fear as they cried to their Mother, Saint Clare.

Saint Clare, with a fearless heart, commanded them to lead her, sick as she was, to the enemy, proceeded by a silver and ivory case in which the Body of the Saint of saints was kept with great devotion. And prostrating herself before the Lord, she spoke tearfully to her Christ: 'Behold, my Lord, is it possible you want to deliver into the hands of pagans your defenseless handmaids, whom I have taught out of love for you? I pray you, Lord, protect these your handmaids whom I cannot now save by myself.' Suddenly a voice like a child's resounded in her ears from the tabernacle: 'I will always protect you!' 'My Lord,' she added, 'if it is your wish protect also this city which is sustained by your love.' Christ replied, 'It will have to undergo trials, but it will be defended by my protection.' Then the virgin, raising a face

bathed in tears, comforted the sisters: 'I guarantee you, daughters, that you will suffer no evil; only have faith in Christ.' Upon seeing the audacity of the sisters, the Saracens took fright and fled back over the walls they had scaled, unnerved by the strength of she who prayed. And Clare immediately admonished those who heard the voice I spoke of above, telling them severely: 'Take care not to tell anyone about that voice while I am still alive, dearest daughters.'"

Dear Padre,

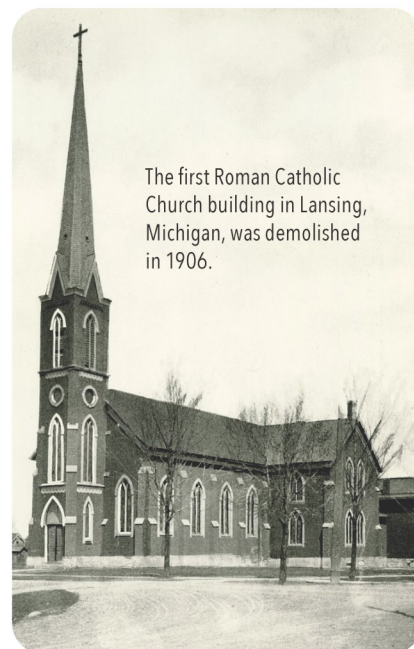
I was taught that Catholic churches are built on consecrated ground. How can a church be torn down and replaced by a shopping mall if it's sacred ground?

Church buildings are blessed and considered by the Church to be sacred places. But when they're damaged and can no longer be repaired or their repair is impractical or they no longer effectively serve their purpose for the faithful of God, the bishop can remove that blessing. By doing this, the bishop opens them for nonsacred use. Subsequently, they can be torn down or sold, as long as the new purpose is not scandalous to the people of God.

In the end, what is truly sacred is not the brick and mortar or even the soil, but the purpose for which they were built. Churches are blessed and declared sacred because we perform sacred rituals within them. When those rituals are no longer being performed in that location, there is no longer a need for them to be declared sacred.

When a church is closed, it is often a sad event. Many people carry deep emotional ties to their parish churches. But a diocese cannot always maintain all of its churches. Catholic populations shift, local needs change. Money is limited, and good stewardship demands that bishops sometimes make the difficult decision to close or merge parishes. Remember what is truly important and of ultimate and sacred value—our worship and service of God. ●

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / DearPadre.org



The first Roman Catholic Church building in Lansing, Michigan, was demolished in 1906.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
November 13 <i>St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin</i> Wis 1:1–7 Lk 17:1–6	November 14 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 2:23–3:9 Lk 17:7–10	November 15 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 6:1–11 Lk 17:11–19	November 16 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 7:22b–8:1 Lk 17:20–25	November 17 <i>St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious</i> Wis 13:1–9 Lk 17:26–37	November 18 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 18:14–16; 19:6–9 Lk 18:1–8	November 19 <i>Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Prv 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31 1 Thes 5:1–6 Mt 25:14–30 or 25:14–15, 19–21

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus wants to tell us that we must be prepared for the encounter with him. Not only for the final encounter, but also for the everyday great and small encounters, with a view to that encounter for which the lamp of faith is not enough; we also need the oil of charity and good works.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

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