Dear friends in Christ,

Please Help Catholic Community Services help those in need

This week, we take up the Catholic Community Services collection for the poor. CCS is the main outreach of our church to those in need throughout Western Washington. As you might imagine in these times your support is needed more than ever to help those who are out of work, flooded out, on the streets, or in crisis. You can also pick up an envelope in Church or go online to https://ccsww.org/donate/ Please remember them this Christmas but more importantly remember the people they serve. They are making room for Christ to have a home.

Christmas is this coming Thursday!

I wish all of you very blessed and joy-filled celebrations of Christ's birth! What a joy it is to welcome him. Please see this bulletin or website for the Christmas schedule. *A reminder to all our ministers, we need your help at all the Christmas Masses. Please sign up to serve – we have many spots to fill.* Here are a few suggestions for Christmas Mass this year...

1. Please come to a Mass other than early Christmas Eve. Traditionally, these Masses have been the most crowded—so please, please consider coming to a different Mass this year. The real date of the feast is Christmas Day. Jesus didn't come at a convenient day, time, or hour for Mary. Likely, he came during the night. Have some fun and change up the routine and come to the late-night Mass or on Christmas Day. Everyone will have a better and more comfortable experience of the Mass if we change up our routines and spread out among the Masses.

At St. Jude, the wonderful tradition of lesson and carols returns this year at 9:15 PM. Led by our 9 AM Sunday Choir, this is a wonderful prelude to the 10 PM Mass. It is an inspiring way to get into the spirit of our Christmas celebrations. At Midnight Mass, we remember that Christ came quietly when night was 'halfspent.' At the conclusion of this Mass, there is the very special blessing of the outdoor Manger. This is always a beautiful moment in the stillness of the night. On Christmas Day, in addition to the Mass of the Shepherds at the 9 AM, at 11 AM Mass we will have a wonderful choir to joyfully celebrate the Savior's birth.

- <u>2. Please come early</u>. Please also remember to come early. We'll have many guests and people new to the Church at Christmas attending. Let us make room for them. We want to be sure to make them feel at home and welcome them as Christ would.
- 3. Please extend the hospitality of Christ. Christmas is an important opportunity to welcome visitors, people new to our parish, Catholics who may have been away from the church for a while, or those simply searching for faith. Again, we want to be sure all feel welcomed. There is no better time to evangelize, with our friendliness, our welcome, our joy at the Savior's birth and our desire to invite all to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Many thanks to all who are working to prepare our Christmas celebrations and to all our ministers who serve so well! May God bless you and your families as you prepare for Christmas! He is coming!

He is coming soon!

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Johnson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

The Parish Office will be closed December 24—28 and will next be open on December 29. Merry Christmas, may it be filled with the love and hope of Jesus!

Monday, December 22 **No Daily Mass**

9:00 AM Women of Faith (KoC room) 11:00 AM Funeral Mass for Larry Gregory

Tuesday, December 23

No Daily Mass

12:30 PM Decorating the Church for Christmas

Wednesday, December 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**

No Confessions No Daily Mass

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

7:00 PM Christmas Mass - Syro Malabar Rite

9:15 PM Scripture & Carols

10:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass During Night

11:59 PM Midnight Mass with Carols

Thursday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 AM Mass at Dawn

11:00 AM Mass of Christmas Day

Friday, December 26

No Daily Mass No Adoration

Saturday, December 27

3:30 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 28

9:00 AM Sunday Mass

11:00 AM Sunday Mass

Poinsettia Pickup & Display Dec. 23, 2025 11:30AM & 12:30PM

Help Needed! Can you help transport our Christmas Poinsettias **OR** help display them at church? We will meet at Flower World in Snohomish at 11:30AM, load the poinsettias, and then go to St. Jude. We are hoping to

arrive at the church around 12:30PM if you would like to help unload and display the poinsettias. Let Betty know if you can help: bettyreyes@stjuderedmond.org.





Donate

Support Western Washington

Emergency Relief Fund



Historic flooding across Western Washington is causing widespread damage and forcing evacuations throughout the Skagit and Snoqualmie valleys and other parts of the region.

In response, the Archdiocese of Seattle opened the Emergency Relief Fund, which provides immediate financial assistance to parishes and schools during an emergency or disaster. Gifts to the Emergency Relief Fund will support flood-related needs and will also be available in the future for other local emergency or disaster relief efforts.

As Catholics, we are called to accompany those in need. Your gift today will bring hope, relief, and the love of Christ to communities impacted by this disaster.

> Please consider donating today: https://archseattle.org/flood/



Next weekend, Dr. Will Boegel, of Opal House Guatemala Children's Mission, will speak at the Masses on December 27 and 28. Opal House is a refuge for the impoverished children of Guatemala located in the mountains of Lake Atitlan, where guests receive physical, spiritual, medical, and educational nourishment.

Beware of Scams this Season

With it being Advent and Christmas time, we are seeing an increase in phishing emails and other scams aimed at targeting those with the giving hearts of the season. This is a reminder that Fr. Johnson, Fr. Raphael, or any parish staff will not individually email or text with gift or donation requests.

Be vigilant and double check any suspicious communications before responding to them.