



St. Clare Parish

Dec. 17, 2023

*A Catholic Community guided by the Holy Spirit
to proclaim Christ's love in worship, service and life-long learning*

Church

8535 SW 19th Ave Portland, OR 97219 503.244.1037

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12:30pm & 2 - 4pm

office@saintclarechurch.org www.saintclarechurch.org

Follow us on Facebook at [St. Clare Catholic Church](#)

Pastor	Fr. Don Gutmann	x101
Deacon	Dcn. Bill McNamara	x108
Pastoral Associate	Kim Zea	x104
Business Manager	Shelley Worrell	x102
Administrative Assistant	Laurie Zupsic	x100

School

1807 SW Freeman St Portland, OR 97219 503.244.7600

info@stclarepdx.org www.stclarepdx.org

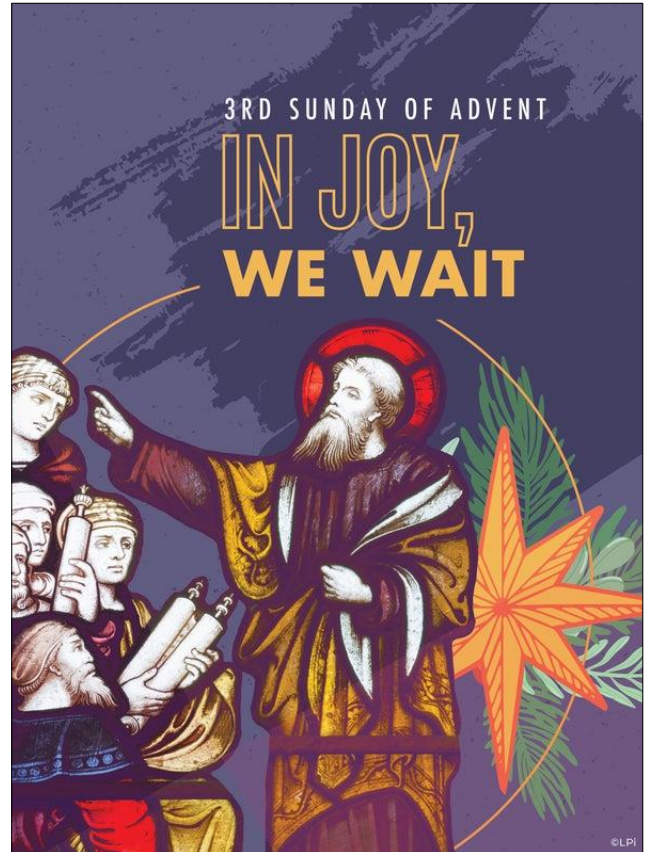
Principal	Chris Harris
Office Manager	Donna Parker MacNeur

Preschool

1812 SW Spring Garden St Portland, OR 97219 503.244.5458

nancy@stclarepreschool.org

Director	Nancy Melzer
Administrative Assistant	Jeanne Raffety



Sacraments - Please visit www.saintclarechurch.org for more information on sacramental preparation.

Weekend & Daily Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5pm

Sunday - 8:30am & 10:45am

Weekdays except Tuesdays - 8:30am

Holy Days - 8:30am, 12pm & 7pm

Visit www.saintclarechurch.org to view our livestream weekend Masses.

Reconciliation Saturdays from 4pm - 4:30pm in the church or by appointment. Contact Fr. Don Gutmann.

Matrimony Six month preparation required. Contact Deacon Bill McNamara.

Baptism for Infants Contact Deacon Bill McNamara.

Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation for Adults & Teens

Contact Kim Zea; **for Children** Contact sacramentprep@saintclarechurch.org

A Warm Welcome To All Who Worship with Us

Whether you are a current parishioner and need to update your information or newly arrived in the parish and not yet registered, please complete the form below and place in the offertory basket or mail to the parish office.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Parishioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Returning Catholic | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving (please remove from parish directory) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Phone Number | <input type="checkbox"/> New Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Please send Sunday Offertory envelopes |



Weekly Inspiration

3rd Sunday of Advent

Dec. 17, 2023

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else. ©LPi

Week-at-a-Glance

Saturday, Dec. 16

9:00am	Giving Tree Delivery Day (ends 12pm)	Parish Office
4:00pm	Confessions until 4:30pm	Church
5:00pm	Youth Mass + <i>Alec Bentley</i>	Church
6:00pm	Soup & Caroling	Parish Office

Sunday, Dec. 17 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30am	Mass <i>For the People</i>	Church
10:45am	Mass <i>Edith Luther</i>	Church

Monday, Dec. 18

8:05am	Weekly Rosary	Church
8:30am	Daily Mass + <i>Dave Montgomery</i>	Church
9:00am	Confessions until 9:30am	Church

Wednesday, Dec. 20

8:30am	Daily Mass + <i>Irving Digregorio</i>	Church
9:00am	Advent Reflection & Adoration	Church
2:15pm	Red Cross Blood Drive (ends at 7pm)	Parish Hall

Thursday, Dec. 21

8:30am	Daily Mass + <i>Viola Wray</i>	Church
9:00am	Confessions until 9:30am	Church

Friday, Dec. 22

8:30am	Mass + <i>Larry Thaden</i>	Church
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Saturday, Dec. 23

4:00pm	Confessions until 4:30pm	Church
5:00pm	Vigil Mass + <i>David J. Prissel</i>	Church

Sunday, Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30am	Mass <i>For the People</i>	Church
NO 10:45am	Mass Today	

Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

4:00pm	Family Mass	Church
6:00pm	Mass	Church
10:00pm	Mass	Church

Monday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day

10:00am	Mass + <i>Irving & Laura Digregorio</i>	Church
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Fr. Don's Musings . . .

Christmas is almost here. I hope you aren't feeling too stressed as we approach this very special day. Our culture can put a lot of pressure on people to do everything exactly right, but focus on the most important things and don't sweat the details. Jesus is born, God has come among us, we can count on Heaven because of Christmas. Yippee!

On Monday and Thursday this week, I will be available to hear confession after daily Mass from 9-9:30am. Our Christmas schedule will be similar to previous years except that the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve both fall on Dec. 24th. Please see and save the schedule below.

Also remember, the 4pm Christmas Mass is always the super crowded one. The Children's Choir will be singing and there will be a simple pageant. I expect the church will be standing room only, so if you want to come to that Mass, come early for a good seat (and parking space too).

The other Masses will all have adequate seating. Joyful Noise will sing at the 6pm, the St. Clare Choir will sing at the 10pm and an ensemble of St. Clare Choir members will sing at the 10am Christmas Day Mass.

Who can you invite to join you at Christmas Mass? This is a great opportunity to invite folks to experience the goodness of God and the goodness of St. Clare Catholic Church. Bring your family and friends.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Christmas!

~ Fr. Don



December 23 - 25 Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 24

Saturday, Dec. 23, 5pm Vigil Mass
Sunday, Dec. 24, 8:30am Mass only

**** There will be NO 10:45am Mass on Dec. 24. ****

Christmas Eve, Sunday Dec. 24

4pm Family Mass with our Children's Choir
6pm Mass with Joyful Noise
Carols begin at 5:45pm
10pm Mass with our St. Clare Choir
Carols begin at 9:30pm

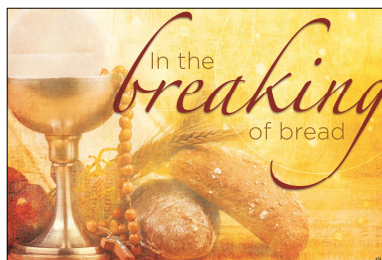
Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25

10am Mass with the St. Clare Choir
Carols begin at 9:30am

Signs of the Times by Deacon Bill . . . The Liturgy of the Eucharist

This year during Advent, we continue to focus on the Eucharist. As a result this week, I would like to review the part of the Mass, also known as the Liturgy (meaning the work done by the people), that brings the Eucharist alive in our midst.

The Mass has four parts: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Concluding Rites. Today, I will focus on the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



The Liturgy of the Eucharist starts with our gifts to God – those deeds and actions which have shown love of our neighbor. The bread and wine are “the fruit of the vine and work of human hands.” (hands meaning our gifts)

Then comes the Eucharistic Prayer which is a prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification. We are invited to “lift up our hearts.” Father Don unites the congregation to himself in prayer which he addresses in the name of the entire community to God the Father through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. Almost all of this prayer is said by the priest in our name and that of the whole church.

The first part, called the Preface, is a prayer of thanksgiving. As a response to this prayer, the entire congregation joining with the heavenly powers sings the *Sanctus* or *Holy, Holy, Holy*.

Next the priest implores the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the gifts of bread and wine, our gifts, will be consecrated and become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

The institution narrative and consecration follow by means of the words and actions which Christ instituted at the Last Supper, “Take this, all of you, and eat of it for THIS IS MY BODY which will be given up for all of you.” Jesus commanded his followers to perpetuate this same mystery. Since Jesus’ words were “THIS IS MY BODY,” why have so many come to think of the Eucharist as a symbol rather than the real presence of Jesus?

The Eucharistic Prayer continues with a section fulfilling the command to keep the memorial of the blessed Passion, glorious Resurrection and Ascension of Christ alive as we participate in all these events here and now in this very celebration of the Eucharist. We are the ones who offer, through the words of the priest to the Father and the Spirit this spotless victim, the Body and Blood of Christ.

Then we offer intercessions that the Eucharist is celebrated in communion with the entire Church of heaven, purgatory, and earth. The prayer for the Pope and the Archbishop symbolizes their unique role in the Church and helps us realize that they are simply human like us. Even though most of the words are said aloud in the Eucharistic Prayer by the celebrant, we are called to make it our own prayer.

The Eucharistic Prayer itself is a mystery beyond our full comprehension, but the ritual speaks volumes to our innermost being. The bread and wine which we brought to the table become for us The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. There is no way anyone can fully explain this action of God. We simply have to accept this sacredness in our deeper belief of Jesus Christ. Let us enable the power of this ritual to transform us, and let it help us to grow to a more awareness of God’s gifts and grace in our lives.

~ Deacon Bill

Advent Reflection & Adoration

Wednesday, Dec. 20
following the 8:30am daily Mass
ending at 10am

Join us in the church for a short reflection
on the Nativity of the Lord,
listen to peaceful music,
and spend time with the Lord
before the Blessed Sacrament.

Scripture Readings

4th Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24, 2023

Reading 1 - 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16
Psalms - 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Reading 2 - ROM 16:25-27
Gospel - LK 1:26-38

The Nativity of the Lord

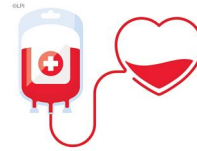
Dec. 25, 2023

Reading 1 - IS 9:1-6
Psalms - 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Reading 2 - TI 2:11-14
Gospel - LK 2:1-14

Outreach

December Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, Dec. 20
2:15-7pm Parish Hall



Please register at www.redcrossblood.org
(Sponsor Code is St.ClarePortland)

If you need assistance with registering,
either call 800.RED.CROSS
or contact Maria DaSilva,
St. Clare Blood Drive Coordinator,
at 503.260.3633 (cell) or marriad8984@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all who contribute!

Offertory Report

Due to earlier holiday printing deadlines, the 12.10.23
Offertory Report will not be included until the 12.24.23
bulletin.

THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

Week of December 17, 2023



Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the “men in white coats” came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, “It's okay. I see it, too.”

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

*“He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.”
— John 1:8*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

Answer:

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: “Our Father who art in heaven...” In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — “Give us, this day, our daily bread” — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, “Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”



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ABORTION COUNSELING

Are you or someone you know considering or impacted by abortion?

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Chrissy Hanson
 Parishioner

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