



St. Clare Parish

Dec. 24, 25 & 31, 2023 & Jan. 1, 2024

*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

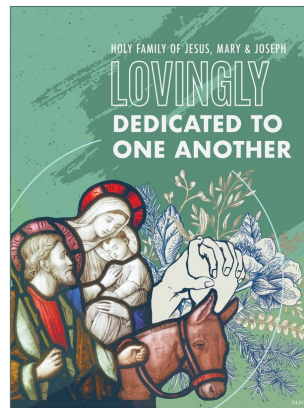
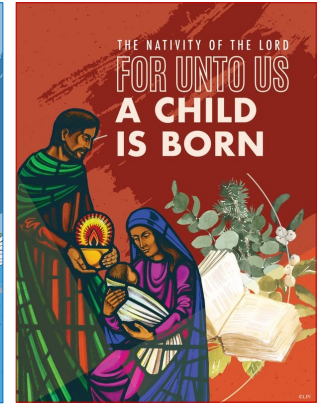
Principal	Chris Harris
Office Manager	Donna Parker MacNeur

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
4th Sunday of Advent
 Dec. 24, 2023

God's plans are not always what we imagined. Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say "Yes, Lord" – and God will show you that His imagination is better than yours. ©LPi



The Nativity of the Lord
 Dec. 25, 2023

Christ was born for you, exactly as you are. But he has come to offer you a new life. A better life. Don't be afraid to cast off the darkness. Step into the light of Christ's love.

Wishing You All...



***From Fr. Don, Dcn. Bill, Kim, Shelley,
 Chris, Nancy, Laurie, and John***

Week-at-a-Glance

Saturday, Dec. 23

4:00pm Confessions until 4:30pm Church
 5:00pm Vigil Mass +*David J. Prissel* Church

Sunday, Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30am Mass *For the People* 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 +*Irving & +Laura Digregorio* Church

Wednesday, Dec. 27

8:30am Daily Mass +*David & Rita Kerno* Church

Thursday, Dec. 28

8:30am Daily Mass *Edith Luther* Church

Friday, Dec. 29

8:30am Mass +*Nancy Rogers* Church

Saturday, Dec. 30

4:00pm Confessions until 4:30pm Church
 5:00pm Vigil Mass +*Viola Wray* Church

Sunday, Dec. 31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30am Mass +*Sus Ramirez & Family* Church
 10:45am Mass *For the People* Church
 7:00pm Vigil Mass (The Solemnity of Mary) Church

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 The Solemnity of Mary

10:00am Mass +*Jim Sheridan* Church

Fr. Don's Musings . . .

Merry Christmas everyone!

I love celebrating this holiday, there's so much good cheer and warmth in people's hearts. Good stuff! I've been thinking about the "Why?" of Christmas lately. Why do we celebrate Christmas? Why is Christmas so important? In our increasingly secular society, Christmas is huge. Why is that?

I think even people who say they don't believe in God want to believe in goodness. Christmas is all about goodness, the goodness of Santa Claus (based on the real-life fourth century bishop St. Nicholas), the fun of reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, Christmas trees and mistletoe. Those things are all good and fun, but the core of why we celebrate Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ, the little baby born in the barn, laying in a manger. The little baby who is actually God, will grow up to show us the true face of God through his compassion, mercy, truth-speaking, and willingness to suffer and die out of love for us. Baby Jesus shows us that God will do anything to convince us of his love, and to help us to come to the fullness of life.

Thank you for coming to St. Clare Church to celebrate God's amazing love for us. This Christmas season (and throughout the new year) let's spread that love of Jesus to others.

May God bless you and your family this Christmas and New Year! ~ *Fr. Don*

Editor's Note: Due to holiday bulletin printing deadlines and parish office closures, the Sunday bulletins for Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, 2023 have been combined. The next bulletin will not be available until Jan. 7, 2024. Thank you.

Signs of the Times by Deacon Bill . . . A Christmas Sermon

A Christmas sermon from St. Augustine (354-430) (sermon 185: PL 38, 997) taken from the Divine Office (a book of prayer for monks, religious, and clergy).

“Awake, mankind! For our sake God has become man. Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you. I tell you again: for our sake, God became man.

We would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. We would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for his mercy. We would never have returned to life, had he not shared our death. We would have been lost if he had not hastened to our aid. We would have perished, had he not come.

Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which he who is great and eternal who came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time. He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: *“Let him who glories, glory in the Lord”*.

Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, *“I am the Truth”*, was born of a virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in the new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God. Truth has arisen from the earth: because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven: because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. And justice looked down from heaven: for man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ: for truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom we have access to the grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope for God’s glory. He does not say, “of our glory” but of God’s glory, for justice has not proceeded from us but has looked down from heaven. Therefore he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord.

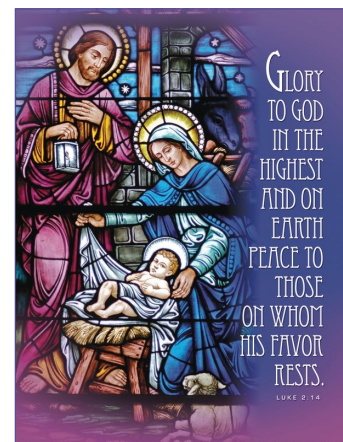
For this reason, when our Lord was born of a virgin, the message of angelic voices was: “Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.” For how could there be peace on earth unless Truth has arisen from the earth, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And he is our peace who made the two into one: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.

Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorifying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says: “He is my Glory, the one who lifts up my head.” For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in turn become son of God?

Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.

ALL IS GRACE!!”

Thank you God! Have a Blessed Christmas Season! ~ Deacon Bill





THANK YOU to all the great folks that helped to make our Christmas celebration special here at St. Clare Church: our musicians, decorators, greeters, readers, altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers, and staff.

Well done everyone, thank you! ~ Fr. Don

THANKS to all the donors and volunteers who helped make this year's Giving Tree a success! Each of the 110 families made up of 460 individuals received gift cards and well-filled boxes of food (about 8000 lbs.) and toiletries.

With much gratitude,
The 2023 Giving Tree Team



Outreach



The St. Clare Conference Society of St. Vincent de Paul

MANY THANKS to those who
have donated to the pantry this past year!

After the Christmas season, St. Clare Parish continues to assist our neighbors through our SVdP Food Pantry.

Food items always needed are:

- Peanut Butter & Jelly • Rice
- Canned Foods: Fruits, Vegetables, Soups, Tuna & Chicken
- Dry Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Boxed Sides especially Mac and Cheese

Also frequently requested are basic hygiene and cleaning products, as SNAP benefits cannot be used for non-food items:

- Soap, Toothpaste & Shampoo
- Dish & Laundry Detergent
- Paper Products for Kitchen & Bathroom

Donations may be placed in the food baskets at the church or on the front porch of the parish office.

Please check dates to ensure foods have not expired.

Many thanks to all who contribute!

Offertory Report

	Actual Offertory	Average Offertory Goal	Amount Over (Under) Goal
W/E 12.10.23	\$14,464	\$10,779	\$3,685
Dec. 1-10 only	\$24,234	\$21,558	\$2,676
Fiscal Year 23/24	\$281,464	\$258,696	\$22,768

***FY 23/24 Offertory Goal: \$10,779 per week to fund the current programs, personnel and facilities of the church.**

- Due to the holiday bulletin printing deadlines, the reports from Dec. 17, 24 and 31 will be included in the Jan. 7 bulletin.
- Interested in Online Giving? Donations may be made online at osvhub.com/saintclarechurch/funds.
- End of the year reminder: Please note all final 2023 donations may be placed in the offertory basket on Dec. 24 and 31, brought to the parish office drop slot by Dec. 31, or sent via US Mail postmarked on or before Dec. 31.

From the Administrative Council . . .

Ways to Support St. Clare Church in addition to your Offertory Donations

Reduce your taxable income by giving your IRA distribution to charity . . .

If you're 70½ and would like to reduce your taxable income, consider making a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) from your IRA distribution to St. Clare Church. It can lower your taxes, because a QCD is excluded from your taxable income. It also counts toward your required minimum distribution. Any amount can be given up to \$100,000 per year. The QCD rule allows you to reduce your income and make a charitable contribution without having to itemize deductions.

Include St. Clare Church in your will and estate planning . . .

By leaving a set portion or percentage of your assets to the church, you are helping St. Clare Church continue to be a vibrant church family even after you have departed this world and gone to heaven.

Thank you for considering these options.

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 24, 2023



The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller

Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts. but when they caught in one of their antics. Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.



Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



The 12 Days of Christmas

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season.

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



Weekly Inspiration

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Jan. 31, 2023

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word. ©LPi

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Jan. 1, 2024

Today we honor Mary, the Mother of God. But she is also the Mother of the Church drawing us more deeply into the mystery of Christ and the Church through her love and prayer.

Taken from Reflection for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Msgr. Joseph G. Celano, immaculateconception.org

Week-at-a-Glance

Saturday, Dec. 30

4:00pm Confessions until 4:30pm Church
5:00pm Vigil Mass +*Viola Wray* Church

Sunday, Dec. 31 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30am Mass +*Sus Ramirez & Family* Church
10:45am Mass *For the People* Church
7:00pm Vigil Mass (The Solemnity of Mary) Church

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 The Solemnity of Mary

10:00am Mass +*Jim Sheridan* Church

Wednesday, Jan. 3

8:30am Daily Mass Church

Thursday, Jan. 4

8:30am Daily Mass Church

Friday, Jan. 5

8:30am Mass Church

Saturday, Jan. 6

9:30am Sisters in the Spirit Gathering Church
2:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Church
4:00pm Confessions until 4:30pm Church
5:00pm Vigil Mass +*Luigi Conti & Diodato Digregorio*

Sunday, Jan. 7

8:30am Family Mass +*Mack McLoughlin* Church
10:45am Mass *For the People* Church

Scripture Readings

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Jan. 31, 2023

Reading 1 - GEN 15:1-6;21:1-3
Psalms - 105:1-2, 3-2, 5-6, 8-9
Reading 2 - HEB 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Gospel - LK 2:22-40

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Jan. 1, 2024

Reading 1 - NM 6:22-27
Psalms - 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Reading 2 - GAL 4:4-7
Gospel - LK 2:16-21

The Epiphany of the Lord

Jan. 7, 2024

Reading 1 - IS 60:1-6
Psalms - 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Reading 2 - EPH 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel - MT 2:1-12

For daily readings, please visit www.usccb.org

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation ~ Jan. 1

Masses: 7pm on Dec. 31 & 10am on Jan. 1

Community Life

St. Clare Women's Ministry

Sisters in the Spirit

Next Gathering: Saturday, Jan. 6
9:30-11am Downstairs at the Parish Office



All women of the parish are invited to join us for connection, spiritual joy and refreshments!

Questions? Contact Joanie at joanieq143@gmail.com.

For more information about the Sisters in the Spirit, visit sis-ministry.mailchimpsites.com/



Saturday, Jan. 6, 2-4pm

Come and spend a few minutes with the Lord in prayer.

Benediction begins at 3:45pm.



Outreach

Junque & Jewels

Saint Clare Parish Rummage Sale

Reminder: As you clean out your closets, drawers and garages during the new year, please save your gently used, re-sellable items for our annual rummage sale on June 21-23, 2024. Collection will begin on Father's Day weekend.

Beyond St. Clare



You Can Help Your Marriage

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) is a marriage ministry program designed to help couples heal and renew their marriages. It is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication.

Plan now to join Oregon Retrouvaille as they host a working weekend for couples struggling in their marriages. During the weekend phase of Retrouvaille, a series of presentations are given by a team of three couples and a priest. The team presents a technique of communication that enables you to take a good look at most areas of your relationship. After each presentation you have time in the privacy of your room to discuss the previous presentation.

For confidential information about or to register for the next program starting the weekend of Jan. 26-28 at Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center in Beaverton, contact portland@retrouvaille.org, call 503.225.9191, or visit www.helpourmarriage.org.

Outreach



Knights of Columbus Essay Contest Results

The John Clare Council held an essay contest for the 8th graders at St. Clare and St. John Fisher. The theme this year was "How can people your age evangelize online?" We had 52 entries total, 28 from St. Clare and 24 from St. John Fisher. All of the essays received this year were excellent indeed!

We're proud to announce the following St. Clare winners and prizes awarded on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at the Council holiday potluck.

Congratulations to these young people!

1st Place, Anabelle, \$100

2nd Place, Mack, \$50

3rd Place, Madeline, \$20

St. Clare School



Discover St. Clare School!

All School Open House
Sunday, Jan. 28 12-2pm

Come and learn all about St. Clare School and what makes us the "Small School with the BIG heart!"

Don't miss this once-a-year event, a great opportunity to meet our faculty and staff, learn about our curriculum and programs, have one-on-one conversations with current parents and students, and tour our building and facilities, and more! Private campus tours will be available or you can explore on your own.

This event is free and for the whole family: Parents, students, and siblings are all welcome to attend! We encourage new families and returning families with younger children entering kindergarten to attend the Open House. If you have any questions, please reach out to Emily Bridge (ebridge@stclarepdx.org), Director of Enrollment and Marketing.

St. Clare School is a K-8, Catholic parish-school community rooted in Gospel values and is dedicated to the spiritual and educational development of the whole child. St. Clare School offers small class sizes, learning support, classes in Art, PE, Spanish, Music, Technology, Drama, Library, and more. Financial aid is available.



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Chrissy Hanson Parishioner

503.547.5353 ChrissyHansonRealEstate.com

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