



# St. Clare Parish

**Dec. 14, 2025**

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	Santo Graziano	x102
Children's Faith Formation	Debbie Henkelman	x103
Administrative Assistant	Laurie Zupsic	x100

## School

1807 SW Freeman St Portland, OR 97219 503.244.7600

info@stclarepdx.org www.stclarepdx.org

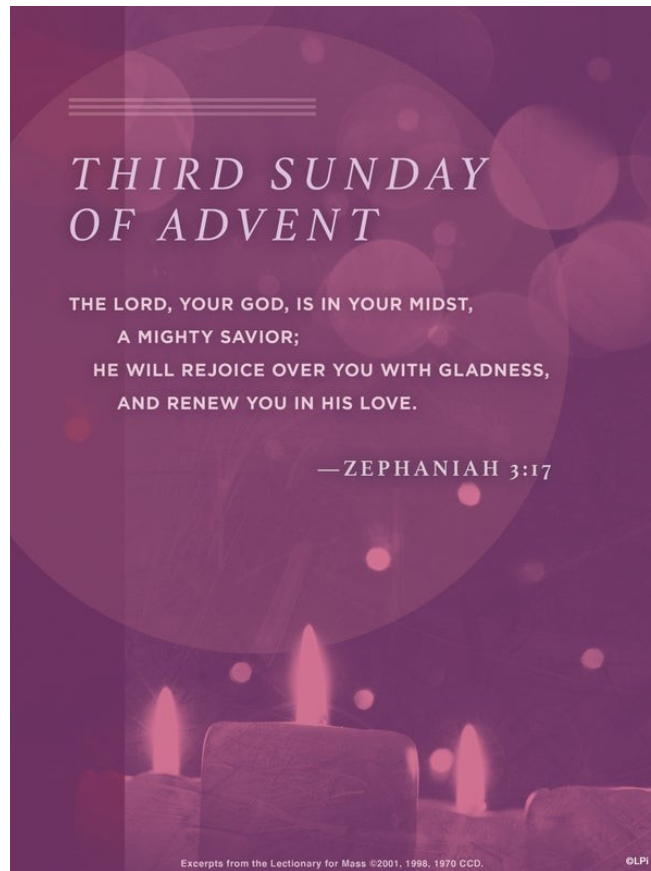
Principal	Chris Harris
Office Manager	Donna Parker MacNeur

## 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](http://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](http://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 Teens & Children:** Contact Debbie Henkelman.

## 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 Inspirations**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
 Dec. 14, 2025

“Go and tell what you have seen and heard,” Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We have heard. We have seen. We must go and tell. Let’s let our actions do the talking. Who do we think Jesus is? ©LPi

**Week-at-a-Glance**

**Saturday, Dec. 13**

9:00am Advent Morning Reflection & Retreat Parish Hall  
 4:00pm Confession (until 4:30pm) Church  
 5:00pm Vigil Mass + *James Shand* Church

**3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 14** (*Gaudete Sunday*)

8:30am Mass *For the People* Church  
 10:45am Mass + *Ruth E. Prissel* Church  
 9:30am Giving Tree Donation Drop-off (ends 12:30pm)  
 Parish Office Garage

**Monday, Dec. 15**

8:30am Daily Mass Church

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**

7:00pm Giving Tree Donation Drop-off (ends 9:00pm)  
 Parish Office Garage

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**

8:30am Daily Mass Church

**Thursday, Dec. 18**

8:30am Daily Mass + *Barbara Gruenfeldt* Church

**Friday, Dec. 19**

8:30am Daily Mass Church

**Saturday, Dec. 20**

9:00am Giving Tree Delivery Day (ends at 12pm)  
 Parish Office Garage  
 4:00pm Confession (until 4:30pm) Church  
 5:00pm Vigil Mass + *Irving Digregorio* Church

**4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21**

8:30am Mass *For the People* Church  
 10:45am Mass + *Stan Bozich* Church

**Scripture Readings**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**  
 Dec. 21, 2025

Reading 1 - Is 7:10-14  
 Psalms - Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
 Reading 2 - Rm 1:1-7  
 Gospel - Mt 1:18-24

For daily readings, please visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

***Fr. Don's Musings . . .***

It's only one and one half weeks to Christmas. The children are very excited. The adults are perhaps a bit stressed out . . . Here are a few suggestions to keep our celebration focused on the most important part of Christmas, the birth of Jesus.

- \* Pray at your manger scene. This is especially helpful for children to focus on the core of Christmas.
- \* Have a birthday cake for Jesus on Christmas. Again, this is especially good for children.
- \* Don't say "Happy Holidays", but rather "Merry Christmas". This isn't just another holiday, it's CHRISTmas.
- \* Last week I suggested to replace F.O.M.O. (fear of missing out) with J.O.M.O. (joy of missing out). Sometimes it's good to slow down, not try to do too many seasonal activities, in order to focus on the most important things. It helps us to be less stressed and consequentially more present in the moment.

Invite family, friends, and neighbors to join you at Christmas Mass here at St. Clare.

I am praying for you all as we approach Christmas. May this be a holy season for you!

~ Fr. Don

***Rejoice!***

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, the lighting of the rose candle on our Advent Wreath represents *Gaudete* Sunday, a time of rejoicing at the closeness of Christmas.



***2025 Christmas Mass Schedule***

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday Dec. 24**

4pm Family Mass with our Children's Choir

6pm Mass with Joyful Noise

Carols begin at 5:30pm

10pm Mass with our St. Clare Choir

Carols begin at 9:30pm

**Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25**

10am Mass with our St. Clare Choir

Carols begin at 9:30am

## ***“This and That” from Deacon Bill . . . St. John the Baptist***

Here we are at the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent already! Today we hear about John the Baptist’s role in Salvation History. Here are some thoughts from St. Augustine.



John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever. Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but not the heart. However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find a place in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and it is still in mine. When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: *The word ought to grow and I should diminish?* The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and gone away, as though it was saying: *My joy is complete.* Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John’s baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ’s baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out. Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word, but the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offense to the word. *I am not the Christ*, he said, *nor Elijah the prophet.* Then the question came: *who are you then?* He replied: *I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord. The voice of one crying in the wilderness* is the voice of one breaking the silence. *Prepare the way of the Lord*, he says, as though he were saying: “I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come to where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him.”

*To prepare the way* means to pray well; it means thinking humbly of oneself. We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his glory. If he said, “I am the Christ,” you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself. He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was the lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

~ Deacon Bill



December 14, 2025

*Thank  
You*

Many thanks to all donors and volunteers for supporting our Giving Tree families during this Advent Season.

**Delivery Day is Coming!**  
**Saturday, Dec. 20,**  
**9-12pm Parish Office**

**Turkeys, Hams and More Drivers are still needed...**

\* Sign up [HERE](#) or scan the QR code to lend a hand:



### Questions?

\* Please contact Theresa Duda at [pntduda@gmail.com](mailto:pntduda@gmail.com)



## FINAL Donation Drop-Off Events at the Parish Office Garage: Sunday, Dec. 14, 9:30am - 12:30pm & Tuesday, Dec. 16 7 - 9pm

Please bring your Giving Tree donations to one of our two final donation events on Dec. 14 or 16. If needed, the non-perishable items may also be left at the front porch of the parish office on Monday-Friday from 8:30am-6:30pm. Please do not leave turkeys or hams unattended.



- \* Soap - Bath, Dish & Laundry
- \* Dishwasher Detergent
- \* Shampoo
- \* Toilet Paper
- \* Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- \* Christmas Candy & Nuts
- \* Checks payable to St. Clare Church.  
Write "Giving Tree" on the memo line.

- \* **Turkeys (under 16 lbs) and Hams STILL NEEDED!**
- \* To donate, please click [HERE](#).
- \* For questions, contact Theresa Duda at [pntduda@gmail.com](mailto:pntduda@gmail.com).
- \* Bring to one of our drop off donation events or to the parish office during business hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30am-12:30pm; 2-4:30pm.

**Note: Monetary donations for Giving Tree may be made online at <https://osvhub.com/saintclarechurch/giving/funds/giving-tree>.**

### Delivery Driver notes for food box pick-up on Saturday, Dec. 20.

- \* Pick up boxes at your selected time. Many drivers return to St. Clare and make multiple trips.
- \* Drivers will use a drive-thru procedure to pick up boxes entering from SW Spring Garden St. and exiting onto SW 19th Ave.
- \* Drivers do not need to exit their cars; volunteers will load items and boxes into the cars for you.





## Liturgy

### ***Prayer for the 3rd Sunday of Advent***

Dear Lord, Give us boldness as we move  
through the motions of the holiday season,  
to reflect and remind those around us  
of Your deep and abiding love for them.  
Allow them to encounter Your love, through us.  
Amen. ©LPi

### ***Nativity Scene Volunteers Needed!***



### ***Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4pm***

Parents, if your child would like to participate,  
please register by Sunday, Dec. 14 at  
<https://evite.me/WQwgcC2EFU>.

(Note - Members of the Children's Choir sing  
during the Nativity, so they are not able to participate.)

Participants should plan to attend  
a 30-45 minute meeting on  
Sunday, Dec. 21 at 11:45am in the church  
for costume distribution and a short rehearsal.

Donation Opportunity for all Parishioners:  
A few new costumes have been purchased  
to refresh the look of our Nativity.  
If you would like to contribute to the cost,  
please scan the QR code below:



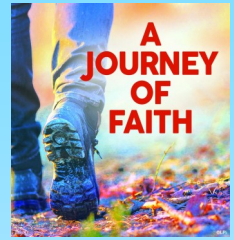
Thank you for your support and participation  
in making this year's Nativity special!

Questions? Please contact Kim Zea at  
[kim@saintclarechurch.org](mailto:kim@saintclarechurch.org) or x104.

## Faith Formation

### ***Exodus 90 - A 90-Day Spiritual Journey for Men*** Begins on Monday, Jan. 5

Men of St. Clare are invited  
to take part in *Exodus 90*, a  
transformative 90-day Catholic  
spiritual exercise designed to  
renew the heart through prayer,  
asceticism, and fraternity. This  
proven program helps men  
break free from spiritual distractions, grow in disci-  
pline and virtue, and strengthen their relationship  
with Christ.



Participants commit to:

- Daily prayer and Scripture reflection
- Ascetic practices that foster interior freedom
- Weekly Zoom gatherings for support and accountability
- Assigned prayer partners for ongoing encouragement

Exodus 90 begins on Jan. 5 and concludes at Easter,  
offering a powerful path of renewal and preparation  
for the Lenten season.

Signup QR codes are available at each church  
entrance, along with informational flyers for those  
wishing to learn more.

For additional questions, please contact Dr. David  
Villegas at [drdavevillegas@gmail.com](mailto:drdavevillegas@gmail.com).



**NEW!** Monthly Men's Faith Formation Group  
Begins on Saturday, Jan. 10  
9am - 11am Downstairs at the Parish Office

All men of the parish are invited to participate in  
*Brothers in Spirit*, a new men's faith formation group  
devoted to spiritual growth, prayer, and fraternity.

Our mission is to form faithful Catholic men ground-  
ed in Scripture, the Sacraments, and brotherhood —  
equipped to live their faith courageously in family,  
work, and society.

For further information or to express interest, contact  
Dr. David Villegas at [drdavevillegas@gmail.com](mailto:drdavevillegas@gmail.com).

# GIVING TUESDAY

**Your generosity made a beautiful difference -  
thank you, St. Clare Community!**

We are filled with deep gratitude for the generosity you showed during this year's Giving Tuesday campaign. Thanks to your participation, we raised nearly **\$37,000** so far to support our Parish Maintenance Reserve Fund. Every gift reflects the tremendous love and commitment you have for our Parish family. Thank you for being a community that shows up, cares, and gives from the heart.

Your gifts go directly toward caring for the buildings and grounds that serve us every single day. The Parish Maintenance Reserve Fund provides essential support for things like roof and window repairs, HVAC and electrical work, safety improvements, preventative maintenance, and unexpected repairs. These aren't always visible projects, but they are vital to keeping our parish safe, welcoming, and fully functional.

Because of your generosity, we are able to care for the spaces where we worship together, where our children learn and grow in faith, where ministries serve our neighbors, and where friendships and community are formed. This is how we take care of the place that takes care of us.

From everyone on the Giving Tuesday team and from the entire parish staff: **thank you.** Your faithfulness, your participation, and your love for St. Clare Parish will continue to strengthen our community for generations to come.



We welcome our RCIA candidates to St. Clare.  
Please pray their journey will bring them  
closer to God's love and a home in our community.

Philip Pearson	Samantha McBride
Mollyanne Flemming	Nicole Chirouze
Virginie Vignolo	Julien Chirouze
Carolina Conway	Andrea Joy Oelfke
Alyssa Boileau	Tommy Solomon
Misty Randall	James Luckenbill
Students: Leo, Charlie, Rose, Ripley	

**Many thanks to all who contribute  
to our weekly offertory!**

## Offertory Report

	Actual Offertory	Average Offertory Goal	Amount Over (Under) Goal
W/E 12.7.25	\$17,347	\$12,472	\$4,875
Total December	\$17,347		
Fiscal Year 25/26	\$262,431	\$274,376	(\$11,945)

**\*FY 25/26 Offertory Goal: \$12,472 per week to fund the  
current programs, personnel and facilities of the church.**

**Scan the QR code  
to donate to St. Clare Church.  
Thank you for your support.**



**Women of St. Clare, YOU are invited to our first ACTS Retreat!**



## **St. Clare Women's Retreat**

**Thursday - Sunday, March 12 - 15**

**Register NOW at [www.saintclarechurch.org/acts-retreats](http://www.saintclarechurch.org/acts-retreats)**

**ACTS** stands for **A**doration, **C**ommunity, **T**heology and **S**ervice. Join us to revitalize your faith life, and spend time with our Lord and your sisters in Christ. Come and experience three days of joy, prayer, authenticity, and brotherhood. We are expecting this retreat to fill-up quickly, so don't delay. Sign up TODAY!

**When:** Thursday evening, March 12 - Sunday, March 15.

**Where:** Fr. Bernard Center in Mt. Angel, Oregon

**Depart:** 5:00pm March 12 from St. Clare. Transportation will be provided.

**Return:** Sunday, March 15 to St. Clare for 10:45am Mass and Luncheon.

Transportation back to St. Clare provided. Families are invited and encouraged to attend the Mass and Luncheon.

**Relationships require commitment.** For this reason, ACTS retreatants are required to attend from Thursday evening starting at St. Clare through the Sunday's closing Luncheon. Our team is committed to providing a weekend filled with joy, prayer and community.

**Finances should not prevent anyone from attending the retreat.** If you are unable to pay all or part of the fee, financial arrangements can be made by contacting Kim Zea, Pastoral Associate, at 503-244-1037 ext. 104 or [kim@saintclarechurch.org](mailto:kim@saintclarechurch.org).

**Cancellations:** In order for us to give you a full refund, we will need a cancellation notice by February 19. If you need to cancel after February 19 and we are able to fill your spot with someone on our waitlist, then you will receive a refund. If your spot is left vacant, we will be unable to refund your payment.

**Questions and Cancellation Notices:** Contact Kim Zea at [kim@saintclarechurch.org](mailto:kim@saintclarechurch.org).

### **Non-St. Clare Parishioners**

Non-St. Clare Parishioners may register for our ACTS retreats 2 weeks before the event. Please click on the Register for March Women's Retreat button on or after February 26. If there are available slots, we look forward to you joining us.



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