



# St. Clare Parish

**Dec. 21 and Christmas, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ New Parishioner
- ☐ New Phone Number

- ☐ Returning Catholic
- ☐ New Address

- ☐ Moving (please remove from parish directory)
- ☐ Please send Sunday Offertory envelopes



**Weekly Inspiration**  
**4th Sunday of Advent**  
 Dec. 21, 2025

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us. ©LPi



*To our St. Clare Parishioners,  
 Families, and Friends,*



*From Fr. Don and the Parish Staff*

**Week-at-a-Glance**

**Saturday, Dec. 20**

4:00pm	Confession (until 4:30pm)	Church
5:00pm	Vigil Mass + <i>Irving Digregorio</i>	Church

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

8:30am	Mass <i>For the People</i>	Church
10:45am	Mass + <i>Stan Bozich</i>	Church

**Monday, Dec. 22**

8:30am	Daily Mass + <i>Stephen Loomis</i>	Church
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**Wednesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve**

4:00pm	Family Mass	Church
6:00pm	Mass	Church
10:00pm	Mass <i>Mary Daniels</i>	Church

**Thursday, Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord**

10:00am	Mass + <i>Irving and +Laura Digregorio</i>	Church
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**Friday, Dec. 26**

8:30am	NO Daily Mass	
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**Saturday, Dec. 27**

4:00pm	Confession (until 4:30pm)	Church
5:00pm	Vigil Mass + <i>Ronnie McCarthy</i>	Church

**Sunday, Dec. 28 Solemnity of the Holy Family**

8:30am	Mass + <i>Jerry Kroetch</i>	Church
10:45am	Mass <i>For the People</i>	Church

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

I pray that you all have a Merry Christmas!

As Christians we have a lot to celebrate right now. We celebrate God becoming human in Jesus. We celebrate Jesus' life, teaching, miracles, death and resurrection. His birth is the beginning of our salvation, it's the beginning of our being able to relate to God as our friend and the one who will lead us to heaven when this life is over. The birth of Jesus changes everything.

I hope you have good Christmas celebrations with your family and friends. I'll be heading to Hillsboro on Christmas afternoon where most of my family will be gathered for a big meal. I'm blessed with a good family that always enjoys getting together.

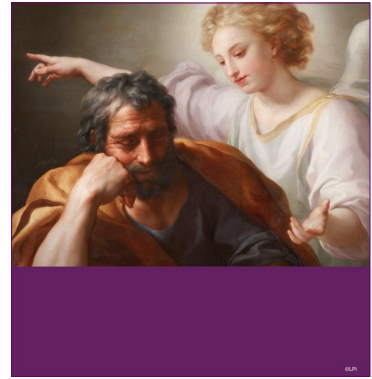
A lot of people have stepped up to help with our Advent and Christmas activities here at St. Clare. We couldn't do it without all our good helpers. Thank you to all of our Giving Tree volunteers, to our Burnside soup kitchen Christmas dinner cooks and servers, our musicians, church decorators, and to everyone who has helped during this special season.

Our Christmas Masses always bring in lots of visitors. I pray that some of our visitors choose to return regularly to worship Jesus with us. His birth changes everything and it's worth celebrating him not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

God bless you all! ~ Fr. Don

## ***“This and That “from Deacon Bill . . . 4th Sunday of Advent***

The gospel readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent prepare us for Christmas since they are taken from the infancy narratives of St. Luke and St. Matthew. In St. Mark’s Gospel, we hear about John the Baptist and then skip all the way to the Baptism of the Lord, as a result nothing is heard about Jesus’ early years. The last two years, the Annunciation and Visitation of Mary have been included, and rightfully so, since she was the most important person in God’s plan to come into our world as one of us. However, this year St. Matthew’s account of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of St. Joseph will be read.



St. Joseph is an extremely important individual in the birth and early years of Jesus, being his earthly father and head of the Holy Family whose feast we will celebrate the weekend after Christmas.

The Gospels tell us very little about Joseph except that he is a dreamer and a man of action. Not one word from his mouth appears in any Gospel. In the lineage presented by Matthew, he is an ancient relative of King David. This is so important because the ancient prophets foretold that the Messiah would come from the line of David.

There are very few verses in Matthew and Luke that provide enough information to show us why he was the divine choice to become the husband of Mary and the earthly father of Jesus. Joseph was genealogical perfect as a distant descendant of King David and from Bethlehem, the city from where the scriptures predicted the Messiah would come. *But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah . . .* (Mic 5:1). *Is he not the carpenter’s son?* (Mt 13:55) Joseph was poor which would have been a preference of Christ. Matthew also tells us that God communicated with Joseph by dreams: *to take Mary as his spouse* (Mt 1:20), *to take the Holy Family to Egypt* (Mt 2:13), *the return to Israel* (Mt 2:20), and *to change his plans and head to Nazareth in the region of Galilee* (Mt 2:22). All those dreams fulfilled Old Testament prophecies: virgin birth in Isaiah, to relive the Exodus experience, and so Jesus could be called a Nazorean. There is no mention of Joseph’s death anywhere, but there was a stained-glass window in the church I ministered at in NY depicting Joseph dying a peaceful death with Jesus and Mary present depicting how Joseph most likely died.

From a homily by St. Bernardine of Siena: “What then is Joseph’s position in the Church? Is he not a man chosen and set apart? Through him and, yes, under him Christ was fittingly and honorably introduced into the world. The Holy Church in its entirety is indebted to the Virgin Mother because through her it was judged worthy to receive Christ. But after her we owe special gratitude and reference to Saint Joseph.”

St. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers, the Church, workers, China and Peru. His feast days are March 19 and May 1.

St. Joseph, pray for us.



# Today is Born Our Savior!

## 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

## Scripture Readings

### The Nativity of the Lord

Dec. 25, 2025

Reading 1 - Is 9:1-6

Psalms - Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13

Reading 2 - Tit 2:11-14

Gospel - Lk 2:1-4

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



## Weekly Inspiration

### The Nativity of the Lord

Dec. 25, 2025

"Glory to God in the highest," proclaimed the angels.  
"And on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."  
God's favor always finds its way to the heart which truly desires it. May we seek God's friendship this Christmas, and every day. ©LPi

## Family Christmas Blessing



On this blessed Christmas day,  
may the joy and goodness  
of the sweet baby Jesus fill our home and our hearts.  
Jesus, bless every member of our family, near and far.  
May peace prevail, goodness reign,  
and love triumph. Amen. ©LPi

## Thou Shalt Know Him

(anonymous)



Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by any din of drums,  
Nor by his manners, nor his airs,  
Nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by a crown nor a gown,  
But his coming known shall be,  
by the holy harmony  
Which his coming makes in thee.

~ Shared by Deacon Bill



*THANKS to all the donors and volunteers who helped make this year's Giving Tree a success! Each of the almost 100 families made up of 400 individuals received gift cards and well-filled boxes of toiletries and food (almost 4 tons lbs).*

*With much gratitude from the 2025 Giving Tree Team*

## Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed for the holidays  
from 12pm Wednesday, Dec. 24  
until Monday, Jan. 4.

However, Fr. Don and the parish staff  
will periodically check voice mail  
and return phone calls as needed  
throughout the week.

## Scripture Readings

### Feast of the Holy Family

Dec. 28, 2025

Reading 1 - Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalms - Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Reading 2 - Col 3:12-21

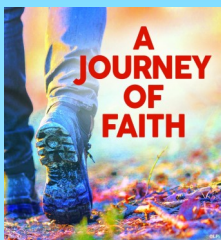
Gospel - Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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

## 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 discipline 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).



**BROTHERS  
IN SPIRIT**

**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 grounded 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).

### ***Women of St. Clare***

Deepen your faith and build community.



It's time to register for the  
**St. Clare Women's ACTS Retreat**  
March 12 - 15.

Come and immerse yourself in  
Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service  
during this enriching weekend retreat.

For more details and to register, go to  
[www.saintclarechurch.org/acts-retreats](http://www.saintclarechurch.org/acts-retreats)  
or scan the QR code:



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

## Community Life

*Save THE Date!*

Italian Dinner Saturday, Feb. 7  
Hosted by St. Clare 2026  
Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors

### ***Quiet Moments for Moms to Meet with Jesus***

Want to press pause on all the responsibilities of running a home, raising children, working and volunteering? Come refresh your soul and recharge your spiritual batteries from the busyness of life through devotional books, podcasts & community.

Let's create more calm in the midst of all the noise and chaos of everyday life.

For more information, please contact  
Melissa at [melissa.grelli@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.grelli@gmail.com)  
or Sarah at [sfreepons23@gmail.com](mailto:sfreepons23@gmail.com)



## Outreach

After the Christmas season,  
St. Clare parishioners continue to assist  
our neighbors through our

### St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry



Each week the bulletin requests specific foods  
for the pantry, but these items are always needed:

- Peanut Butter & Jelly • Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Canned Tuna & Chicken
- Canned Fruits, Vegetables, & Soups
- Dry Pasta & Pasta Sauce • Hot & Cold Cereals

Donations may be placed in the baskets at church  
or brought to the parish office.

Monetary donations are also accepted  
for rent and utility assistance, and  
to enable our volunteers to purchase perishables.

THANKS to ALL for being part of the SVDP mission!

## Mark your 2026 Calendars!

### Junque & Jewels

Saint Clare Parish Rummage Sale

**Sale dates: June 19, 20, & 21**

As you enjoy those new presents,  
please save all those gently used re-sellable items  
for our annual parish rummage sale.

**Donations accepted: June 13 to 16**

**Volunteers Needed: June 12 to 22**



### Red Cross Blood Drive

Our blood drive on Dec. 4  
was very successful  
thanks to our donors and volunteers.

**28 units were collected  
surpassing our goal of 20!**

Be sure to mark your calendars  
for our next blood drive on Thursday, Feb. 26.

## Beyond St. Clare



### A Lifeline for Marriage

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times  
in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools  
to help get your marriage back on track, the opportu-  
nity to rediscover each other, and examine your lives  
together in a new and positive way. This program  
has helped tens of thousands of couples. Retrouvaille  
is for any couple who would like to rediscover their  
marriage and improve communication.

Join Oregon Retrouvaille as we host a working  
weekend for couples struggling in their marriages  
by couples who have been there in the struggle.  
Come Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2026 in Canby, Oregon.

For confidential information or to register, email  
[StevenAndSuzanne@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:StevenAndSuzanne@helpourmarriage.org), call  
503.225.9191 or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

## Many thanks to all who contribute!

### Offertory Report

	Actual Offertory	Average Offertory Goal	Amount Over (Under) Goal
W/E 12.14.25	\$11,794	\$12,472	(\$678)
Total December	\$29,141		
Fiscal Year 25/26	\$274,025	\$299,319	(\$25,294)

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

- **End of the year reminder:** Please note all final 2025  
donations may be placed in the offertory basket on  
Dec. 20-21, 24-25 and 27-28, brought to the parish  
office drop slot by Dec. 31, or sent via US Mail post-  
marked on or before Dec. 31.
- Interested in Online Giving? Donations may be made  
[osvhub.com/saintclarechurch/funds](https://osvhub.com/saintclarechurch/funds) or by scanning  
the QR code below.

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





**January Youth Group Outing**  
**Sign up by Dec. 31**

**ST. CLARE YOUTH MINISTRY**

Youth Directed Liturgy  
Dinner  
Roller Skating

**REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER, 31, 2025**

**WAIVERS**  
All students and volunteers participating in roller skating at Oaks Park must complete an ONLINE WAIVER. Waivers for minors must be completed by a parent or guardian. Any individual who does not have a waiver on file will not be able to skate



**January 10, 2026**  
**5:00 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**Oaks Park Skating Rink**

**SKATE NIGHT**

***Discover St. Clare School!***

**All School Open House**

Sunday, Jan. 25 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! The Open House is 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!

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 at [ebridge@stclarepdx.org](mailto:ebridge@stclarepdx.org), Director of Enrollment and Marketing.

**Open House RSVP Link:** <https://forms.gle/siHkCPeWrmrA3NyX6>

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, before and after school care, learning support, classes in Art, PE, Spanish, Music, Technology, Drama, Library, and more. Founded in 1914, St. Clare School has proudly served students for 110 years! Financial aid is available.

**REGISTER FOR CAMP HOWARD NOW**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**



[cyocamphoward.org](http://cyocamphoward.org)



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- Five week-long sessions: July 5 – Aug 7.
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**Questions? Call 503-231-9484 or email [campdirector@cyocamphoward.org](mailto:campdirector@cyocamphoward.org)**



  
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