



St. Clare Parish

Dec. 7, 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

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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

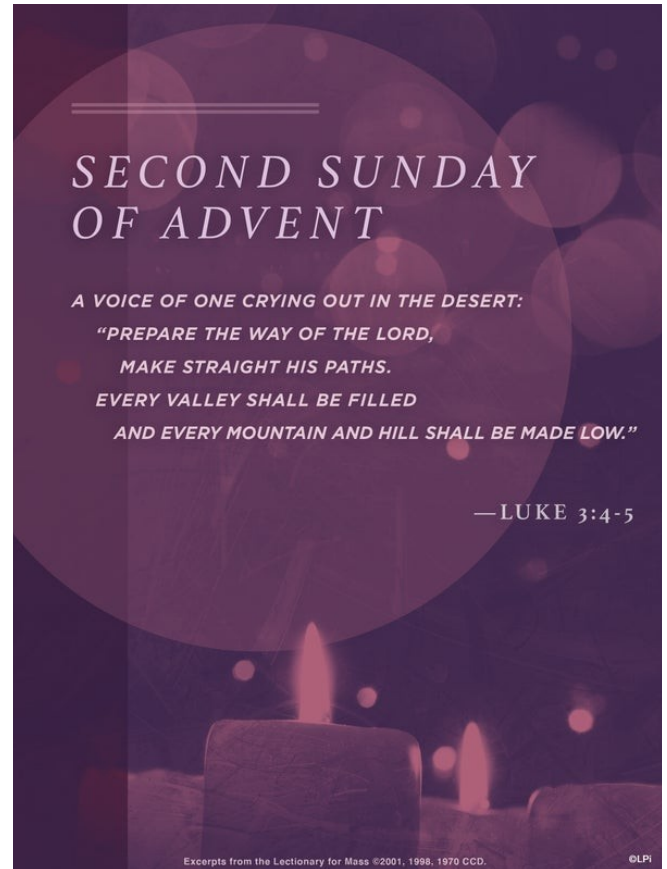
Principal	Chris Harris
Office Manager	Donna Parker MacNeur

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 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 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 **2nd Sunday of Advent** Dec. 7, 2025

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance? ©LPi

Week-at-a-Glance

Saturday, Dec. 6

9:30am	Cocoa with Santa (ends at 12pm)	Parish Hall
2:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
4:00pm	Confession (until 4:30pm)	Church
5:00pm	Vigil Mass <i>Korzinevski Family</i>	Church
4:00pm	Christmas Bazaar (ends at 7pm)	Parish Hall

2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 7

8:30am	Mass <i>For the People</i>	Church
9:00am	Christmas Bazaar (ends at 2pm)	Parish Hall
10:45am	Mass <i>+John McCormick</i>	Church

Monday, Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception

8:30am	Holy Day Mass (with school students)	Church
12:00pm	Holy Day Mass	Church
7:00pm	Holy Day Mass	Church

Wednesday, Dec. 10

8:30am	Daily Mass <i>+Barbara Sheridan</i>	Church
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Thursday, Dec. 11

8:30am	Daily Mass <i>+David J. Prissel</i>	Church
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Friday, Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30am	Daily Mass <i>+Jim Sheridan</i>	Church
7:00pm	Advent Penance Service	Church

Saturday, Dec. 13

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

3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 14

8:30am	Mass <i>For the People</i>	Church
10:45am	Mass <i>+Ruth E. Prissel</i>	Church

Fr. Don's Musings . . .

One of the themes of Advent is reconciliation. Jesus was born on that first Christmas to unite us with God, and part of the unity includes being reconciled from our sins. Our sins separate us from God and obviously that hinders our unity with God. The more united we are with God, the more we are able to be our best selves. We were created in the image and likeness of God, and sin goes counter to that. So, in Advent we turn to be reconciled with God.

Here at St. Clare Church I want to make it as easy as possible for you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this season. Besides our regular Confession times every Saturday from 4-4:30, I will be available for Confessions after every weekend Mass, and we'll also have an Advent Reconciliation Service this Friday at 7pm. I am also available by appointment if the other times don't work for you.

Some people haven't been to Confession for many years. That's all the more reason to come to the sacrament this Advent. I'll be glad to lead you through it if you don't remember the format. And remember, everything you say in the Reconciliation Chapel is confidential, and God also helps by giving us priests what I call the "gift of forgetfulness" (I usually don't remember what is said in the Confessional). It is healing to express your sinfulness and to hear the words of the priest that assures you of God's forgiveness. I go to Confession myself once a month because it helps me to be the best version of myself.

There's lots of opportunities in the next few weeks to be reconciled with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Take advantage of it. Let God forgive you and let God give you his healing grace to help you resist sin better in the future.

Let's keep praying for one another ~ *Fr. Don*

Special Masses this Week Celebrating Mary

Immaculate Conception

Monday, Dec. 8 ~ Holy Day of Obligation

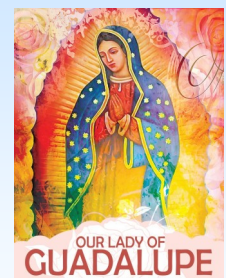
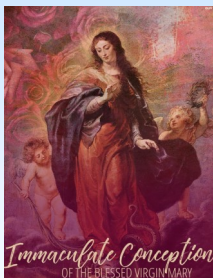
Masses at 8:30am (with the school students), 12pm and 7pm

Honors Mary for being born free from Original Sin,
so she could be the pure vessel to bring Jesus into the world.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Friday, Dec. 12 ~ Mass at 8:30am (with the school students)

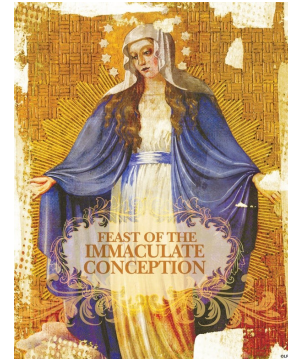
Commemorates Mary's apparitions in Mexico 500 years ago causing an explosion of faith there.



“This and That” from Deacon Bill . . . Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

This Monday, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *“Mary said, ‘Behold I am the handmade of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your Word’ (Lk 1:38).* With that simple yes, Mary conceived Jesus the Son of God.

Here are some thoughts from St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury (1033 -1109), on how important Mary was in God’s plan and for our salvation. He was known as the Father of Scholasticism and his motto was “faith seeking understanding”.



Blessed lady, sky and stars, earth and rivers, day and night – everything that is subject to the power or use of man – rejoice that through you they are in some way restored to their lost beauty and are endowed with inexpressible new grace. All creatures were dead, as it were, useless for men or the praise of God, who made them. The world, contrary to its true destiny, was corrupted and tainted by the acts of men who served idols. Now all creation has been restored to life and rejoices that it is controlled and given splendor by men who believe in God. The universe rejoices with new and indefinable loveliness. Not only does it feel the unseen presence of God himself, its Creator, it sees him openly, working and making it holy. These great blessings spring from the blessed fruits of Mary’ womb.

Through the fullness of grace that was given to you, dead things rejoice in their freedom, and those in heaven are glad to be made new. Through the Son who was the glorious fruit of your virgin womb, just souls who died before his life-giving death rejoice as they are freed from captivity, and the angels are glad at the restoration of their shattered domain. Lady, full and overflowing with grace, all creation receives new life from your abundance. Virgin, blessed above all creatures, through your blessings all creation is blessed, not only creation from the Creator, but also the Creator himself has been blessed by creation.

To Mary God gave his only-begotten Son, who he loved as himself. Through Mary God made himself a Son, not different but the same, by the nature of God and the Son of Mary. The whole universe was created by God, and God was born of the virgin Mary. God created all things, and Mary gave birth to God. The God who made all things gave himself form through Mary, and this he made his own creation. He who could create all things from nothing would not remake his ruined creation without Mary.

God then, is the Father of the created world and Mary a mother of the re-created world. God is the Father by whom all things were given life, and Mary the mother through whom all things were given new life. For God begot the Son, through all things were made, and Mary gave birth to him as Savior of the world. Without God’s Son, nothing could exist; without Mary’s Son nothing could be redeemed.

Truly the Lord is with you, to whom the Lord granted all nature should owe as much to you as to himself.

~ Deacon Bill



December 7, 2025

Important Dates Giving Tree 2025

Drop-off Donation Sunday Mornings

Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & Dec. 14
9:30am-12:30pm
Parish Office Garage

Drop-off Donation Tuesday Evenings

Dec. 2, Dec. 9 & Dec. 16
7-9pm
Parish Office Garage

Donation Sorting

All sorting spots are filled.

~~Monday, Dec. 15 7-9pm~~
~~Tuesday, Dec. 16 7-9pm~~
~~Wednesday, Dec. 17 7-9pm~~

- Downstairs at the Parish Office
- Volunteers, ages 12 and older only

Delivery Day

Saturday, Dec. 20

- Parish Office Parking Lot
- Car loaders needed 8:45am-12pm
All car loading spots are filled.
- Delivery drivers needed 9am-12pm
- Sign up is mandatory. Click [HERE](#).

Questions?

- Please contact Theresa Duda at pntduda@gmail.com



THIS Week's Donation Drop-Off Events: Parish Office Garage Sunday, Dec. 7, 9:30am - 12:30pm & Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7 - 9pm

Giving Tree items from the list below should be brought to one of our donation events on Sunday mornings or Tuesday evenings. 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. Thank you for supporting our Giving Tree families during this Advent season!



- * 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
- * To donate, please click [HERE](#).
- * For questions, contact Theresa Duda at pntduda@gmail.com by Friday, Dec. 12.
- * 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 Day Drivers & Turkey/Ham Donors STILL NEEDED!

Please sign up under Turkeys above or by using this link:

https://stclarepdx.ivolunteer.com/gt_2025 or QR code:



Special Note: If you are a St. Clare parishioner in need of assistance this Christmas season, we would like to help. Please contact the parish office at 503-244-1037. All information will be kept confidential.

Community Life

Important SIS Notice!

St. Clare Women's Ministry ***Sisters in the Spirit***

Due to the proximity to Christmas, and the same day as Giving Tree deliveries, our gathering is cancelled in December. Please see below for another exciting opportunity at St. Clare on Dec. 13!

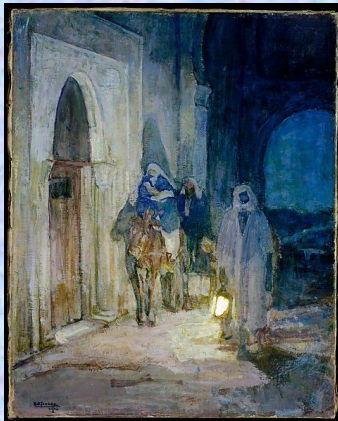
Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 17

Faith Formation



In the Steps of Saint Joseph: ***An Advent Morning of Reflection & Retreat*** ***Presented by Tanya Rybarczyk***

Saturday, Dec. 13
Hospitality 8:30am Program 9am-12pm
Parish Hall
Suggested Donation: \$10



What wisdom do we glean from Saint Joseph, who has not one spoken word in Scripture?

How does Joseph's life speak to ours today?

How does Joseph's relationship with our triune God inspire our own?

How might following in his footsteps carry us into this Advent Season and beyond?

To register: www.osvhub.com/saintclarechurch/forms/morning-reflection-on-st-joseph

Liturgy

Scripture Readings **3rd Sunday of Advent**

Dec. 14, 2025

Reading 1 - Is 35:1-6a, 10

Psalms - Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

Reading 2 - Jm 5:7-10

Gospel - Mt 11:2-11

For daily readings, please visit www.usccb.org

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 or x104.

When You Give
To Our Community,
Amazing Things Happen

GIVING TUESDAY

Thank you, St. Clare Community!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our second Giving Tuesday campaign! Your generosity, prayers, and support reflect the strength and spirit of our parish family!

We are deeply grateful to all who made a gift, who prayed for our efforts, and who helped spread the word. Your participation — at any level — strengthens St. Clare and helps care for the place that cares for all of us.

We will share campaign results as soon as they are available. In the meantime, thank you for being a blessing to our special parish community!

PS If you have not yet made a gift, you can join our parish effort here:

[www.osvhub.com/saintclarechurch/
giving/funds/giving-tuesday-campaign](http://www.osvhub.com/saintclarechurch/giving/funds/giving-tuesday-campaign)



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

Thanksgiving Food Boxes

Thank you for your generosity and great charity in providing Thanksgiving food boxes for 25 families. They were extremely grateful. Thank you to all who helped with donations, shopping and delivering. Many blessings to the St. Clare Community.

~ Mary Bunday

Current Food Pantry Needs

- Lentils • Jellies & Jams
- Tuna Fish • White, Brown & Jasmine Rice
- Canned Ravioli, Spaghetti & SpaghettiOs

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.

Fr. Jim Galluzzo's Toiletry Project

Special thanks to all who collected personal hygiene items and helped with the toiletry drive this year. **2275 bags** were assembled and will be distributed to 12 homeless centers and shelters!

~ Fr. Jim Galluzzo

Many thanks to all who contribute to our weekly offertory!

Offertory Report

	Actual Offertory	Average Offertory Goal	Amount Over (Under) Goal
W/E 11.30.25	\$11,939	\$12,472	(\$533)
Total November	\$53,672		
Fiscal Year 25/26	\$245,089	\$274,376	(\$29,287)

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

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

Answer:

While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "ark" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!

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