



# St. Clare Parish

**Sept. 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	TBD	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

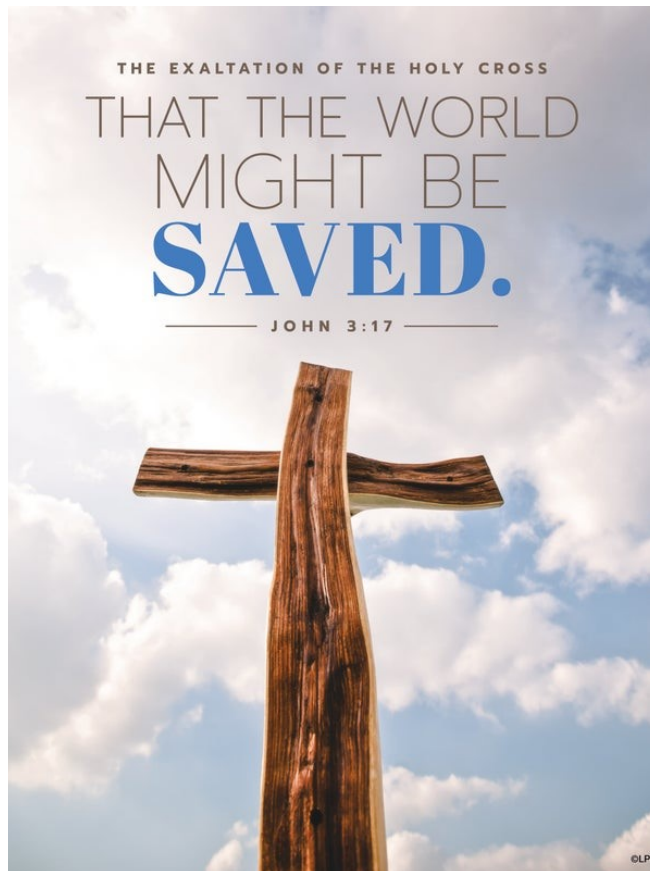
Principal	Chris Harris
Office Manager	Donna Parker MacNeur

## 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**  
**Feast of the Exaltation  
of the Holy Cross**  
Sept, 14, 2025

God did not send his son into the world to condemn it. The cross is not a symbol of judgment — the cross is what mercy looks like when it is lived out. How will we bring the cross into our lives this week? How will we live the mercy which has saved us? ©LPi

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

'Twas a great combined Mass and Picnic last week! There are so many neat things about St. Clare Church, School, and Preschool, and last week's event continues to prove that. Great stuff!

September 13 is my anniversary of ordination. I was ordained in 1991, 34 years ago at the cathedral here in Portland. I love being a priest. And I love being a priest here at St. Clare Church with all of you!

I hope there are some young men in our parish who want to follow in my footsteps. We had Rick LeFaivre of our parish ordained 8 years ago. I hope we have more young men follow his example. Serving God as a priest has been a very rewarding life for me: I get to be around lots of exceptional people and best of all, I get to help them experience God's goodness. It's not an easy life. It includes lots of long days, being with people at some of the most difficult times in their lives, but also at some of the happiest times of their lives. It requires total dedication, but it's worth every minute of it. God gives us priests the grace we need in order to accomplish God's work. I thank God for allowing me to live my life as a priest.

This weekend we have the Blessing of Backpacks for all the students. This is a blessing for a really good school year for everyone who is a student, whether they are at St. Clare School, Capitol Hill, Wells, Jesuit... all students. We pray that they have a great year with lots of learning and good human development.

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

### **Week-at-a- Glance**

#### **Saturday, Sept. 13 Backpack Blessing at 5pm Mass**

4:00pm	Confession (until 4:30pm)	Church
5:00pm	Vigil Mass +Linda Conti	Church

#### **Sunday, Sept. 14 Backpack Blessing at both Masses**

8:30am	Mass +James Digregorio	Church
10:45am	Mass	Church

#### **Monday, Sept. 15**

8:30am	Daily Mass +Paulette Sonnen	Church
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#### **Wednesday, Sept. 17**

8:30am	Daily Mass +James Shand	Church
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#### **Thursday, Sept. 18**

8:30am	Daily Mass	Church
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#### **Friday, Sept. 19**

8:30am	Day Mass Kris Vala	Church
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#### **Saturday, Sept. 20**

9:30am	Sisters in the Spirit Gathering	Parish Office
4:00pm	Confession (until 4:30pm)	Church
5:00pm	Vigil Mass +Laura Digregorio +Linda Conti	Church

#### **Sunday, Sept. 21 Ministry Fair**

		Parish Hall
8:30am	Mass +James W. Starr	Church
10:45am	Mass	Church



*Thank you for another incredible turnout and the support we received at this year's St. Clare Picnic. It was a wonderful day filled with laughter, good food, and great company.*

*We are especially grateful to our volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the picnic possible.*

*We also thank our community partners: Fujii Produce, Banning's Restaurant, Safeway, and Chef's Store for their generous contributions.*

*The St. Clare community is blessed with a strong spirit of faith, fellowship, and generosity. We look forward to continuing these traditions and building more opportunities to celebrate together.*

*Future events are in the works, so stay tuned!*

*~ Debbie Henkelman*

***“This and That” from Deacon Bill . . .***



This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. If a Solemnity, falls on a Sunday, and there are about 17

of them, the regular readings are put aside. Attached is a homily for the Triumph of the Cross from St. Andrew of Crete, an 8<sup>th</sup> century bishop.

We are celebrating the feast of the cross which drove away darkness and brought in the light. As we keep this feast, we are lifted up with the crucified Christ, leaving behind us earth and sin so that we may gain the things above. So great and outstanding a possession is the cross that the person who wins it has won a treasure. Rightly could I call this treasure the fairest of all fair things and the costliest, in fact as well as in name, for on it and through it and for its sake the riches of salvation that had been lost were restored to us.

Had there been no cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to a tree. And if life itself had been not nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality flowing from Christ's side, blood and water for the world's cleansing. The legal bond of our sins would not have been canceled, we should not have obtained our freedom, we would not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree of life and the gates of paradise would not stand open. Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden under foot, nor hell despoiled.

Therefore, the cross is something wonderfully great and honorable. It is great because through the cross the many noble acts of Christ found their consummation – very many indeed, for both his miracles and his sufferings were fully rewarded with victory. The cross is honorable because it is both the sign of God's suffering and the trophy of his victory. It stands for his suffering because on it he freely suffered unto death. But it was also his trophy because it was the means by which the devil was wounded and death conquered; the barred gates of hell were smashed, and the cross became the one common salvation for the entire world.

The cross is called Christ's glory; it is saluted as his triumph. We recognize it as the cup he longed to drink and the climax for the sufferings he endured for our sake. As to the cross being Christ's glory, listen to his words: *Now is the Son of Man glorified, and in him God is glorified, and God will glorify him at once.* And again: *Father, glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world came to be.* And once more: *Father, glorify your name. Then a voice came down from heaven: I have glorified it and will glorify it again.* Here he speaks of the glory that would accrue to him through the cross. And if you would understand that the cross is Christ's triumph, hear what he himself also said: *When I am lifted up, then I will draw all men to myself.* Now you can see that the cross is Christ's glory and triumph.

From the stations of the cross, let us pray: *We adore you Christ and we praise you, because of your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

*~ Deacon Bill*



# COME HOLY SPIRIT



## New this Year! Dinner Talks - Where is the Spirit leading YOU?

**Come to the Feast! Strengthen your Faith and Build Fellowship.**

Join us for a light dinner, listen to our guest speaker, and share your journey with others from our St. Clare Community on the following Thursday evenings in the Parish Hall from 5:30-7pm.

Date	Topic	Speaker
Oct. 23	Prayer	Jerry Roussell
Nov. 20	Holy Spirit	David Villegas
Feb. 5	Evangelization	Fr. Don Gutmann
Mar. 5	Vocation	Dcn. Bill McNamara
Apr. 16	Discipleship	Pia de Leon

Please register for each date at: <https://www.osvhub.com/saintclarechurch/forms/dinner-talks-1>



## Sunday, Sept. 21 in the Parish Hall after both Masses

Want to know what's happening at St. Clare?

How can I get involved? How can I volunteer?

Join us for the Ministry Fair, where all your questions will be answered!

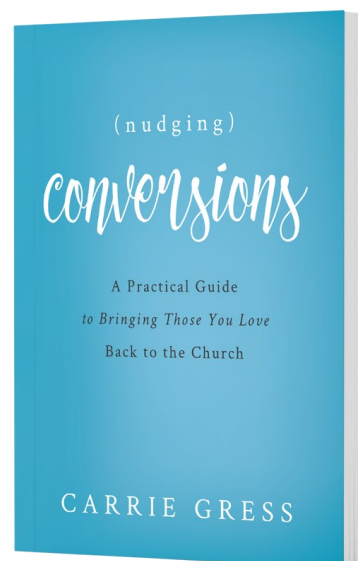
## Wednesday Small Group Study

**Starts Sept. 17 9-10:30am Parish Office Downstairs**

### *Nudging Conversions by Carrie Gress*

We all want our family and friends to know the joy and peace we've discovered in the being Catholic, but the last thing we want to do is force our faith on them. So how can we bring our loved ones back to the church? *Nudging Conversions* by Carrie Gress offers a practical roadmap for reaching out to those around us by learning the art of asking questions, when to speak, and when to keep quiet.

Come and learn basic tools for talking to each other about Jesus, how to answer questions about the faith and more.





## Faith Formation

### ***Sign-up NOW for Children's & Youth Programs!***

\* Parents and students should plan to attend the first sacramental preparation class meeting together on the dates listed below:

#### **\* First Communion**

Grades 2-3 and Grades 4-6  
Sunday, Sept. 21 9:35-10:35am BASC Room

#### **\* Confirmation**

Grades 7-12  
Sunday, Sept. 28 12-1pm Church

#### **Youth Group**

Grades 6-12  
Begins on Saturday, Oct. 11  
at the 5pm Youth Mass. Come and join us!

To view schedules and register,  
please visit [www.saintclarechurch.org](http://www.saintclarechurch.org).

On the homepage, click Sacraments  
then First Communion or Confirmation.

For Youth Group, click on Faith Formation >  
Youth Ministry > Youth Group.

Questions? Please contact Debbie Henkelman,  
Children's Faith Formation Coordinator,  
at [debbie@saintclarechurch.org](mailto:debbie@saintclarechurch.org) or x103.

### **Rite of Catholic Initiation**

RICA is for adults and children  
who are interested in becoming Catholic.

Sessions begin on Sunday, Sept. 21  
at 12pm in the Parish Hall.



To learn more about RCIA or to register,  
please visit [www.saintclarechurch.org/rcia](http://www.saintclarechurch.org/rcia).

Questions? Contact Kim Zea, Pastoral Associate,  
at [kim@saintclarechurch.org](mailto:kim@saintclarechurch.org)  
or 503.244.1037, ext. 104.



Deepen your faith and build community.

Save the date for the upcoming  
**St Clare Men's ACTS Retreat**  
November 13-16.

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

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



Next Gathering: Saturday, Sept. 20  
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](mailto:joanieq143@gmail.com)

For more information  
about the Sisters in the Spirit,  
visit [sis-ministry.mailchimpsites.com/](http://sis-ministry.mailchimpsites.com/)

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** When the unfaithful of the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. To heal us, God invites us to look upon the cross.

### **The Cross is Not Negotiable**

"Holiness isn't for wimps," Mother Angelica famously said. "And the cross isn't negotiable, sweetheart — it's a requirement."

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is *tough*, and to do it you have to make a decision to be *tough*, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today's readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

Holiness *is* for wimps, *because* the cross isn't negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses' staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the cross — the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn't do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn't right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We're wimps; that's what we do.

But the cross — the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross, we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

I have a friend who says she doesn't need to attend Mass because she prays to God every day. What are your thoughts on this justification?

#### Answer:

If the only reason for going to church were to talk to God, your friend might be right. Prayer is not something limited to a physical place or even a holy place. If the sole purpose of the Church were prayer, it would be a narrow purpose indeed. The Church is a community of believers, formed by "one Lord, one faith, one Baptism." It is an outward sign of our faith in God instituted by Christ, and the purpose of the Church is to give us grace, that is, a share in God's life.

Coming to Mass is not really for God's sake, but for ours. If we believe that Jesus is truly present in the holy Eucharist, then we will want to be in his presence. We will want to be fed by him. Our daily prayer and good works are strengthened by our authentic encounter with our Lord. For Catholics, it is at Mass that we celebrate the source and summit of our faith. If this is true, why would we ever stay away?

## Outreach



### Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, Sept. 25  
Parish Hall 2:15-7pm

Please register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
(Sponsor Code is St.ClarePortland)

If you need assistance with registering,  
call 800.RED.CROSS or contact Maria DaSilva,  
St. Clare Blood Drive Coordinator,  
at 503.260.3633 or [mariad8984@gmail.com](mailto:mariad8984@gmail.com).



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

#### **Food Pantry Needs**

- Canned Vegetables especially Green Beans
- Applesauce Jars & Cups
- Hearty & Chunky Soups • Hot & Cold Cereals

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.\**

### Scripture Readings

#### **25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sept. 21, 2025

Reading 1 - Amos 8:4-7  
Psalms - PS 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8  
Reading 2 - 1 Tim 2:1-8  
Gospel - Lk 16:1-13

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

## Community Life

### **Attention: 5pm Mass Attendees**

### After 5pm Mass Social

*Wondering what happened to our monthly socials  
after Saturday 5pm Mass?*

They have been on hold until an individual, family or  
group steps forward to host these simple gatherings  
on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Hosting involves planning and serving light snacks  
and beverages plus easy clean-up. Volunteer hours  
are 4:30-7:30pm with time allowed to attend 5pm  
Mass if desired.

Willing to lend a hand? Please contact Kim Zea at  
[kim@saintclarechurch.org](mailto:kim@saintclarechurch.org) at ext. 104.

### **Many thanks to all who contribute!**

#### **Offertory Report**

	<b>Actual Offertory</b>	<b>Average Offertory Goal</b>	<b>Amount Over (Under) Goal</b>
<b>W/E 9.7.25</b>	\$11,625	\$12,472	(\$847)
<b>Total September</b>	\$11,625	\$12,472	(\$847)
<b>Fiscal Year 25/26</b>	\$109,325	\$124,720	(\$15,395)

**\*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.**



**Save the Date! Saturday, Oct. 4 [www.rosarybowlnw.org](http://www.rosarybowlnw.org)**



**19th Annual Rosary Bowl NW**  
**9am-3pm | East Salem Community Center**  
**1850 45th Avenue NE, Salem, OR**

*~ A Eucharistic & Marian Celebration during the Jubilee Year ~*  
**In Honor of Our Lady of Hope**

#### **OUR SPECIAL GUESTS:**

**Auxiliary Bishop Peter Smith**  
**Father John Marshall**

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