

## St. John the Evangelist

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Vancouver, WA 98662  
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office@stjohnvancouver.org  
www.stjohnvancouver.org  
Office Hours:  
Mon-Fri, 9:00 am — 4:00 pm  
Facebook: "stjohnvancouver"

**St. Vincent de Paul Helpline:**  
(360) 573-7199



## Sacred Heart

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Battle Ground, WA 98604  
Mailing Address:  
PO Box 38  
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(360) 687-4515  
info@sacredheartbg.org  
www.sacredheartbg.org  
Office Hours:  
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Facebook: "Sacred Heart Parish"  
Instagram: Sacredheartbg

## St. Joseph the Worker

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Yacolt, WA 98675  
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## St. Philip

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www.stphilipwoodland.com  
Office Hours:  
Monday, 12 — 4:30 pm  
Tues-Fri, 9:30 am — 4:30 pm

## St. Mary of Guadalupe

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Mailing Address:  
PO Box 2169  
Woodland, WA 98674

**St. Vincent de Paul Helpline:**  
PO Box 1150 Woodland, WA 98674  
(360) 841-8734

# Parish Family 44

*A Roman Catholic Parish*

## Archdiocese of Seattle

www.archseattle.org

**Pastor:** Fr. Temo Ramirez

**Parochial Vicars:** Fr. Vu Tran

Fr. Nicholas Kayongo

**Deacons:** Adolfo Carbajal,  
Steve Reeves, Jack Roscoe

**January 4, 2026**



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star  
at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:2

## DÍA DE LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR

"¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que acaba de nacer?  
Porque vimos surgir su estrella y hemos venido a  
adorarlo". - Mt 2, 2



## PASTOR'S LETTER

# SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Epiphany in Greek means "manifestation." In the West, we remember the visit of the Magi: through this event, the Lord "manifests" himself to the Gentiles, and therefore, to the world. In the Eastern Churches, this solemnity emphasizes the Trinitarian "manifestation" during the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. In his homily for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Pope Francis tells us: "The Magi testify that they set out on a journey, which changed their lives, because they saw a new light in the sky. I would like us to reflect on this image as we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord in the Jubilee of Hope; and I would like to highlight three characteristics of the star that the Evangelist Saint Matthew speaks of: It is luminous, visible to all, and points the way. First and foremost, the star is luminous. Many rulers in Jesus' time called themselves "stars" because they felt important, powerful, and famous. But it wasn't the light of any of them that revealed the miracle of Christmas to the Magi. The artificial and cold splendor they possessed, the product of calculations and power struggles, was incapable of responding to the need for novelty and hope of these people in search of meaning. Instead, another kind of light did, symbolized by the star, which illuminates and warms by burning and allowing itself to be consumed. The star speaks to us of the only light that can show us all the path to salvation and happiness: the light of love. That is the only light that will make us happy. Above all, the love of God, who, by becoming man, gave himself to us, sacrificing his life. Then, as a reflection, there is the love with which we too are called to give ourselves to one another, becoming, with His help, a reciprocal sign of hope, even in the darkest nights of life. The second characteristic of the star: it is visible to all. The Magi are not following the instructions of a secret code, but rather a star they see shining in the sky. They notice it; others, like Herod and the scribes, are not even aware of its presence. The star, however, always remains there, accessible to anyone who raises their eyes to the heavens, searching for a sign of hope. Let us ask ourselves: Am I a sign of hope for others? And this is an important message: God does not reveal himself to exclusive circles or a privileged few; God offers his companionship and guidance to those who seek him with a sincere heart (Psalm 145:18). Moreover, He often anticipates our own questions and comes to find us even before we ask Him (Rom 10:20; Is 65:1). Precisely for this reason, in the Nativity scene, we depict the Magi with characteristics that encompass all ages and all races—a young man, an adult, an elderly man,

with the physical features of the diverse peoples of the earth—to remind us that God seeks everyone, always. God seeks everyone, everyone. And how much good does it do us today to meditate on this, in a time when people and nations, although endowed with increasingly powerful means of communication, seem less willing to understand, accept, and encounter one another in their diversity. The star, which in the sky offers its light to all, reminds us that the Son of God came into the world to meet every man and woman on earth, regardless of ethnicity, language or people to which they belong (Acts 10:34-35; Rev 5:9), and that he entrusts to us the same universal mission (Is 60:3). In other words, it calls us to put an end to any form of favoritism, marginalization, or rejection of people; and to promote among ourselves and in the environments where we live, a strong culture of welcome in which the barriers of fear and rejection are replaced by open spaces of encounter, integration, and sharing safe places where everyone can find warmth and refuge. That is why the star is in the sky. And from here we move to the last characteristic of the star: which is to point the way. This, too, is a topic for reflection, especially in the context of the Holy Year we are celebrating, where one of the characteristic gestures is pilgrimage. The light of the star invites us to undertake an inner journey that, as John Paul II wrote, frees our hearts from all that is not charity, so that we may "fully encounter Christ, confessing our faith in him and receiving the abundance of his mercy." And we, contemplating the star, can also renew our commitment to be women and men "of the Way," as the early Christians defined themselves (Acts 9:2). May the Lord thus transform us into lights that guide us to him; like Mary, generous in giving, open in welcoming, and humble as we walk together; so that we may find him, recognize him, and adore him. And in this way, having found him, we may begin anew, bringing the light of his love to the world. With this homily from Pope Francis, we can understand how the Epiphany fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah, which the liturgy has chosen as the first reading: "Arise, and clothe yourself with light, for your light is coming" (Isaiah 60:1ff), as if to say: don't close yourself off, don't be discouraged, don't remain imprisoned by your convictions, don't become demoralized, react, look up! Like the Magi, look to the stars and you will find "the star," Jesus.

SOURCE: [vaticannews.va](http://vaticannews.va)—[vatican.va](http://vatican.va)

## STEWARDSHIP

### *The Epiphany of the Lord A Reflection on Discipleship and Stewardship*

This Sunday we celebrate the **Epiphany of the Lord**, the feast that proclaims Jesus Christ revealed to all nations. The Gospel tells us that *“Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem”* (Matthew 2:1) following a star that led them to Bethlehem. When they found the Child with Mary His Mother, *“they prostrated themselves and offered Him gifts”* (Matthew 2:11).

Epiphany teaches us that Christ is the Light for every nation and every heart. But it also teaches us something essential about **stewardship**. The Magi show what true disciples do: they **seek**, they **follow**, and they **offer**.

#### **Seeking**

The Magi were willing to be led by God. They followed the small light they had—even when the path was uncertain. In the same way, we are invited to seek Christ daily in prayer, worship, and holy living. Stewardship of **time** begins by giving God space in our hearts and schedules.

#### **Following**

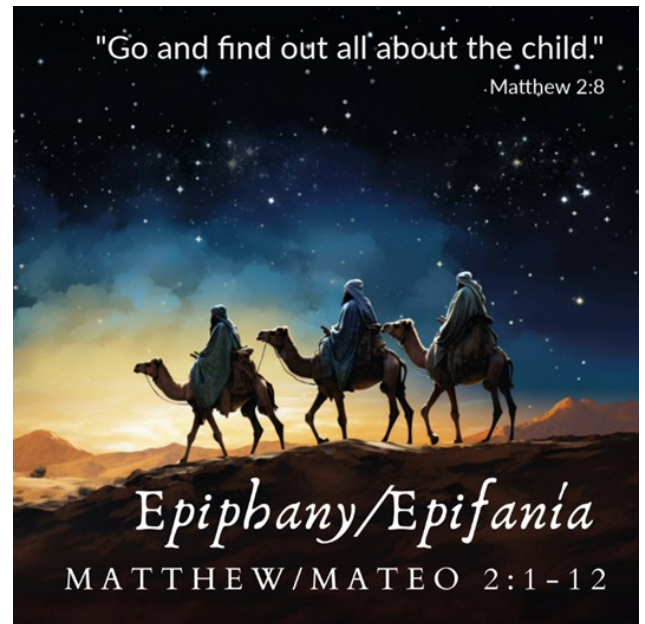
The Magi persevered through obstacles and distractions. Their faithful journey reminds us that discipleship requires commitment. Stewardship of **talent** means placing our God-given abilities at the service of the Church and those in need, even when the road is demanding.

#### **Offering**

When the Magi encountered the Christ Child, they opened their treasures:  
**gold**, acknowledging Him as King;  
**frankincense**, honoring Him as God;  
**myrrh**, foreshadowing His saving sacrifice.

Their generosity becomes a model for us. Stewardship of **treasure** is not simply giving from what we have, but offering our gifts with love and gratitude, recognizing that everything we possess is first given to us by God.

This Epiphany, may we allow Christ’s light to shine in us and through us. Like the Magi, may we be people who listen for God’s guidance, persevere in discipleship, and offer our gifts generously for His glory and the good of others. When we do, we become living signs of the light that has come into the world  
a light no darkness can overcome (John 1:5).





## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### ● SH Sacred Heart

Wed. (1/7) 9:00 am: Magdalena Funtlen  
 Friday (1/9) 9:00 am: Jerry & Marie Weber+  
 Sat. (1/10) 5:00 pm: John & Sylvina Salfer+  
 Sunday (1/11) 8:30 am: Beth Johnson  
 10:30 am: Rhoda Brick

### ◆ SJW St. Joseph the Worker

Sunday (1/11) 12:30 pm: Edgardo Yumul

### ▲ SP St. Philip

Wed. (1/7) 9:00 am: Mathew Eleazer  
 Friday (1/9) 9:00 am: Stavros Moreno  
 Sunday (1/11) 8:30 am: Carol Lester+  
 1:00 pm (Spanish): Pro Populo  
 1st Sat.(2/7) 9:00 am: Souls in Purgatory

### ◆ SM St. Mary of Guadalupe

Wed. (1/7) 6:00 pm: Molly Albright  
 Thurs. (1/8) 9:00 am: Ben Chromey  
 Sunday (1/11) 10:30 am: Dominique Duhart+

### ■ SJE St. John the Evangelist

Monday(1/5) 9:00 am: (RIP) David & Carmen Cabrera  
 7:00 pm: (RIP) Enrique Lopez  
 Tues. (1/6) 9:00 am: (RIP) David & Carmen Cabrera  
 Wed. (1/7) 9:00 am: (RIP) David & Carmen Cabrera  
 Friday (1/9) 9:00 am: (RIP) David & Carmen Cabrera  
 Sat. (1/10) 5:00 pm: (RIP) Jaime Pangilinan, David & Carmen Cabrera  
 Sunday (1/11) 9:00 am: (RIP) Brendan O'Sullivan  
 11:00 am: (Spanish) (SPI) Jaime y Antonia Blas, Luis, Bianca, Ky Blas  
 5:00 pm: (Spanish) (SPI) Brenda y Jaime Blas

## CONFESSION

### ● SH Sacred Heart

Saturday (1/10) 3:30 pm-4:40 pm

### ▲ SP St. Philip

Wednesday (1/7) 8:30 am  
 Friday (1/9) 8:30 am  
 1st Saturday (2/7) 8:30 am & 9:30 am

### ◆ SM St. Mary of Guadalupe

Wednesday (1/7) 5:30 pm  
 Thursday (1/8) 8:30 am

### ■ SJE St. the Evangelist

Monday (1/5) 8:00 pm  
 Saturday (1/10) 3:30 pm-4:45 pm

## PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

### ● SH Sacred Heart

Wednesday (1/7) 8:30 am: Rosary  
 9:30 am-11:00 am: Adoration  
 1st Friday (2/7) 9:30 am: Anointing of the Sick

### ◆ SJW St. Joseph the Worker

Thursday (1/8) 11:00 am: Rosary

### ▲ SP St. Philip

Wednesday(1/7) 8:30 am: Liturgy of the Hours  
 9:30 am: Rosary & Divine Mercy  
 6:00 pm: Men's Prayer Group,  
 Thursday (1/8) 6:00 pm: (Spanish) Divine Mercy,  
 1st Friday (2/6) 8:30 am: Liturgy of the Hours  
 9:30 am-11:00 am, Anointing of the Sick, followed by Adoration  
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm (Spanish)

### ◆ SM St. Mary of Guadalupe

Sunday (1/11) 7:00 pm: Charismatic Prayer Group  
 1st Thursday (2/5) 9:30 am-12:00 pm: Anointing of the Sick, Rosary and Adoration  
 6:00 pm Ridgefield ADORE (Adoration)

### ■ SJE St. John the Evangelist

Monday (1/5) 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm: Adoration  
 Wednesday( 1/7) 6:00pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy in the O'Shea House  
 Friday (1/9) 9:00 pm to 11:45 pm Men's Nocturnal Adoration  
 Saturday (1/10) 12:00 am to 6:00 am Men's Nocturnal Adoration

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Laurie Thompson, Bob Clark, Scott Clark, Lynn Hainley, Faye Lister, Jeff Rice, Mike Speilman, Al Strickfaden, Anne Flynn, Ellen Olson, George & Carmen Brandreth, Ron Marquez, Arlan Byrd, Carolyn Carpio, Adam Wingfield, Maura M., Steve Flyn, Kari Groshell, Donna Reeder, Bob Sabol, Carolyn Mackes, Joni Concannon, Manuel Juscefh Maciel, Linda Pope, Gibson, Jaxon Pacheco, Amber Naramore, Ruby Duncan, Sean Knowles, Marie Vallentyne, Thomas MacDonald, Shirley Keller, Don Mass, Tony Giovingo, JoAnn Heichel, Patrick McIntire, Butch and Margaret Martin, Olivia Branch, Jack Otokichy, Flor Carrillero Baltazar, Mary Jo Piazza, Ron Hertz

Those who are sick and unable to join us today, the men and women in our Armed Forces, and all the faithful departed, especially Francine Carpio Scott+.

Names will be kept on the list for two months. To add or remove a name to our prayer list, please contact Garri Linardos in the Sacred Heart office. (360) 687-4515, or email [g.linardos@sacredheartbg.org](mailto:g.linardos@sacredheartbg.org)

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**Hilda Morales, (habla Español)**

Liaison for Hispanic Ministry

**Eveline Mahoney, Ext. 3**

Bookkeeper

## EVENTS

### SH Sacred Heart

Monday (1/5)

10:00 am

Red Cross Blood Drive

5:00 pm

OCIA Family Night, Hall

Tuesday (1/6)

5:30 pm

CGS Level 2, Hall

Wednesday (1/7)

10:00 am

CGS Levels 1 & 2, Hall

5:30 pm

CGS Levels 1, 2 & 3, Hall

Thursday (1/8)

1:00 pm

Parish Family 44 Staff Meeting, Hall

Friday (1/9)

6:00 pm

PFAC Meeting, Hall

### SJW St. Joseph the Worker

#### SP St. Philip

Monday (1/5)

6:30 pm

OCIA Adult (Spanish)

Tuesday (1/6)

6-8:00 pm

Choir Practice, Church (Spanish)

Wednesday (1/7)

6:00 pm

NO CLASS (Jr./Sr. High Youth Group)

Thursday (1/8)

5:30 am

OCIA Youth/Children Class

Sunday (1/11)

11:00 am

Elementary Faith Formation, Hall

#### SM St. Mary of Guadalupe

Sunday (1/11)

9:00 am

Elementary Faith Formation, in the Hall

10:30 am

Feed My Lambs Collection

Sunday (1/18)

10:30 am

Youth Mass

6:30 pm

Youth Group, 6:30-8 pm in the Hall

### SJE St. John the Evangelist

Monday, 1/5

5:30 pm

OCIA, (English) Vogel Hall

6:00 pm

Children's Choir Practice, Room K

Tuesday, 1/6

9:45 am

Bible Study (English), Fireside Room

1:00 pm

SVDP Monthly Meeting, Fireside Room

Wed, 1/7

5:30 pm

+++++ CDA Monthly Meeting, Fireside Room

Thursday, 1/8

5:30 pm

OCIA (Spanish), Vogel Hall

Friday, 1/9

9:30 am

Women's Retreat Set Up, Vogel Hall

Saturday, 1/10

9:00 am

CDA Women's Retreat 9 am to 4 pm, Vogel Hall

Sunday, 1/11

6:00 pm

Confirmation Class, Fireside Room

## Epiphany Blessing, Explained

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase Christus mansionem benedicat: "May Christ bless the house."

©LPi



## Bulletin Articles

Following are submittal timelines for any news or announcement your group or ministry wants published in an upcoming bulletin. You can submit your articles to your parish office, or to Garri Linardos at g.linardos@sacredheartbg.org

**January 18 bulletin: submittals due to parish office by Jan 5**

**January 25 bulletin: submittals due to parish office by Jan 12**

# Women's Retreat

## *The Holy Spirit*

Sign-up will begin  
the weekend after Christmas  
at the Welcome Desk after all Masses at  
St. John the Evangelist

**Open to all women ... Come without cost**

(Bring your own brown bag lunch)

**Presentation in English**

**Saturday  
January 10, 2026  
9:30-2:00 pm**

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
8701 NE 119th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661

### **Agenda**

Registration ... 9:30 am  
Morning Session ... 10-11:30 am  
Lunch (your own) ... 11:30-12:30 pm  
Afternoon Session ... 12:30- 2:00 pm

### **Topic Presenters:**

Geralyn Ballo  
Sister Anne Marie Warren  
(Our Lady of Peace Retreat House, Beaverton)

**Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

## **OUTREACH**

### **St. Mary OUTPOST Ministry Update**

We are adding a monthly Dinner at the Outpost starting January 25th. We will be doing signups before and after mass on Jan. 4th and Jan 11th. Please stop by the table for more information about this wonderful ministry.

OUTPOST Ministry ACTIVITIES:  
JANUARY 25 DINNER FOR THE OUTPOST  
JANUARY 28-31 Prepare OUTPOST LUNCHES

### **St. John the Evangelist Prepares Service Dates and Hours**

- 2nd Sunday of the month- Diaper distribution from 12:30 pm
- 4th weekend of the month—Baby & Infant store open after all weekend Masses

We are currently in need of diapers sizes 5, 6, 7, and baby wipes. Donations can be dropped in the Narthex. We appreciate your support!

For more information on ways you can support this ministry, or to schedule an appointment to obtain diapers and other items at no cost, please contact Marina Diaz at 360-521-4981. Please remember, we only accept baby and infant clothing donations, NO adult clothing

### **Sacred Heart Meal Train**

If you are in need of meal delivery or would like to volunteer to provide meals please contact Shirley Howard [howardkska@gmail.com](mailto:howardkska@gmail.com)

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

### **Sacred Heart KofC Padre Pio Council 7117 update**

The Knights gathered at Nathan and Carrie Mitchells home to cut, split and stack wood for their winter supply. We were 15 strong and finished in 4 hours, The Mitchells were very grateful and appreciated the assistance while Nathan is undergoing cancer treatment, and Carrie is holding the fort down. There is also a meal train set up for the Mitchells and we encourage others to participate if possible.

Friends of the Poor Walk SVDP needed assistance setting up, cooking and distributing water during the event. We were able to assist in these area in order for the SVDP council to run the main event. We were able to contribute \$750 towards the sponsorship of this great cause.

Purchase of two wheelchairs, one donated to St. Joseph the worker, and the other was donated to K C Help, an organization within

the State of Washington dedicated to loaning out good medical supplies for those in need, at no cost.





## FAITH FORMATION

### ● Sacred Heart CGS Faith Formation

Please enjoy the winter break. Classes resume Tuesday and Wednesday, January 6th & 7th.

### ● Sacred Heart ~ Youth Group Q & A with

**Fr. Nick, Sunday, Jan. 11, 6-8 pm**

This newly formed youth group (for grades 9-12) meets on the second Sunday of the month, October through June, from 6pm to 8pm.



### ◆ St. Mary of Guadalupe Elementary Faith Formation ~ K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Welcome back! Hope you all had a great Christmas break! Classes are on Sundays from 9 am to 10:15 am in the Hall.

### ◆ St. Mary of Guadalupe Youth Group ~ 6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grade

We meet 1st and 3rd Sunday from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Hall. Youth Mass is the 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30 am. Youth Mass January 18th, 2026 @10:30 am. Youth Group 6:30-8pm.

### ▲ St. Philip ~

#### Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Session Dates; January 11 & 25; February 8 & 22; The Rite of Election: February 24th, March 8 & 22. Easter Vigil on April 4. We meet immediately following the 8:30 AM Mass at St. Philip in Woodland, in the church. All are welcome! Inquirers into the Catholic Faith or Catholics who want a refresher.

#### OCIA -Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

(Spanish) Class resumes January 5th! Are you or someone you know considering becoming a Catholic? We will have classes in Spanish to explore the Catholic Faith on **Mondays**, 6:30-8:30 pm. Email us at: [churchoffice@stphilipwoodland.com](mailto:churchoffice@stphilipwoodland.com)

#### OCIA - for Children / Youth

It's a special faith journey for children aged 7-17 who want to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.) **January 8th, @5:30pm in the Parish Hall.** if you know someone who is interested and have questions, please call the church office: (360) 225-8308. Email us at: [churchoffice@stphilipwoodland.com](mailto:churchoffice@stphilipwoodland.com)

#### Elementary Faith Formation ~ 1st - 5th Grade

Class resumes Sunday, Jan. 11th @ 11:00 am to 12:15 pm in the Parish Hall.

#### Jr./Sr. High School Faith Formation

~ 6th - 12th Grade

Classes will resume on January 15th! Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ● Red Cross Blood Drives: Sacred Heart

Our next Red Cross blood drive will be on Monday, **January 5th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.** Go to [RedCrossBlood.Org](http://RedCrossBlood.Org) and schedule your appointment today. Look for the Sacred Heart link on January 5th. Ask a friend to donate at the same time. You can support each other and do twice as much good.

### ● Sacred Heart Book Club

We are taking a break in January and will resume on February 3 with "A Song for Nagasaki" by Paul Glynn, for our Lenten reading.

### ● Sacred Heart

#### Sunday Scripture Prayer Group:

Breaking Open the Word ~ Journey of Faith

9:45 am to 11am ~ Fridays at Sacred Heart

We meet for faith sharing and contemplating what meaning the readings have for you and what actions you might take in your daily life, what action God is calling you to do. All are welcome.

### ▲ St. Philip Women's Group

The monthly Women's Group regular meeting resumes **Friday, January 9, 6-8 PM** in St. Philip Hall. Please join us for a potluck meal and time of prayer and fellowship with the women of our parish.

### ■ St. John the Evangelist Faith Sharing Group

Faith Sharing Group will resume meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 9:45am in the Fireside Room.

### ● Save the Date: February 21st Reserve la fecha: 21 de febrero

Apúntalo en tu agenda. El Crab or Steak Feed se acerca. A pesar del aumento en los precios de los alimentos, mantendremos un precio razonable para las entradas, con el fin de que nuestra comunidad pueda reunirse y disfrutar de una agradable velada.



### "We Are Carried: Journeying Through Grief & Loss"

Parish Family 45 Grief Retreat

Please join us on January 24 from 9:00 am

– 3:00 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, for a Parish Family Grief Retreat. We are happy to be joined by our Keynote Speaker, Colleen Storey, a Grief Recovery Specialist and Holistic Care Supervisor for PeaceHealth Hospice. The \$25 registration fee includes lunch! To register or to learn more please visit [parishfamily45.org/events/grief-retreat](http://parishfamily45.org/events/grief-retreat) or scan the QR code."



# Celebrate the Feasts and Solemnities of the 2025 Christmas Season



**CHRISTMAS**  
12/25



**FEAST OF  
SAINT STEPHEN**  
12/26



**FEAST OF  
SAINT JOHN**  
12/27



**FEAST OF THE  
HOLY FAMILY**  
12/28



**SOLEMNITY  
OF MARY**  
1/1



**EPIPHANY**  
1/4



**FEAST OF THE  
BAPTISM OF  
THE LORD**  
1/11



Archdiocese  
of Seattle





## What comes after Christmas day? More Christmas!

December 25–January 11

When the secular world moves on after Christmas day, let's keep our lights on and candles lit while celebrate the joy of Christ's birth and his gift to all of us. The Christmas season lasts 18 days and is filled with beautiful feasts and solemnities, including the Feast of the Holy Family, Solemnity of Mary and Epiphany.

### Ways to keep celebrating Christmas all season long:

- Come to Mass on the 7 feasts of solemnities of Christmas this year
- Keep the Christmas carols playing, especially those that focus on the birth of our savior
- Keep the creche out, tree up and lights lit until Epiphany
- Plan a 12th Night or Epiphany celebration with your family or friends
- Spend time in prayer in front of the creche at your parish

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Go to [archseattle.org/Christmas](http://archseattle.org/Christmas) for all the feasts and solemnities of Christmas and more ways to celebrate the peace and joy of Christmas all season long.



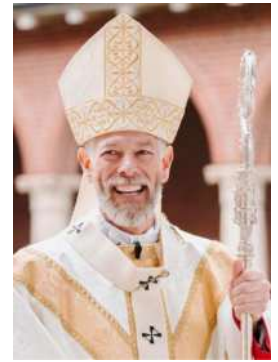
# Reflection on the Consecration to the Sacred Heart

by Archbishop Alexander K. Sample, Chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty

On November 11, the bishops of the United States voted to consecrate this nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The consecration will take place in 2026 to celebrate America's semiquincentennial, that is, the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. What does this mean? Why consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart?

Devotion to the Sacred Heart has developed over the centuries following the experiences of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the apparitions she witnessed in the seventeenth century. Popes have lauded the practice of consecration of the self, home, and even whole nations to the Sacred Heart.<sup>1</sup> In his encyclical instituting the Solemnity of Christ the King, Pope Pius XI, drawing on the teaching of Pope Leo XIII,<sup>2</sup> commended the "pious custom" of consecrating the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a way to recognize the kingship of Christ.<sup>3</sup> By celebrating this important national anniversary with this devotion, we have the opportunity to encourage all Catholics to honor our Lord and to "infuse the spirit of the Gospel into various communities and departments of life."<sup>4</sup>

With his encyclical, *Dilexit Nos*, Pope Francis brought devotion to the Sacred Heart to the forefront of our contemporary Catholic life and culture. He noted: "In contemplating the pierced heart of the Lord, who 'took our infirmities and bore our diseases,' we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others and confirmed in our efforts to share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love. As we meditate on Christ's self-offering for the sake of all, we are naturally led to ask why we too should not be ready to give our lives for others."<sup>5</sup> In *Dilexi Te*, Pope Leo invited us to contemplate Christ's love, which moves us out on our mission to attend to our sisters and brothers suffering in the world today, particularly in our care for poor and vulnerable people. As we reflect with gratitude on the blessings God has bestowed on our country, our devotion to the Sacred Heart demands that we consider how we might foster truth, justice, and charity in American life. We are called to bring our faith into the actions we take and the lives we lead in our communities. We celebrate the ways the Church has contributed to a more just world, and we invite all in our society to see the face of Christ reflected in each sister and brother. We welcome God's "kingdom of justice, fraternity and solidarity,"<sup>6</sup> remembering that "God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favor of the weakest."<sup>7</sup> This anniversary and consecration will be a great opportunity to promote the beautiful devotion to the Sacred Heart and to encourage the laity to offer their lives in service to God and their country.



**Novena for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: January 14th-22nd, ending on the day of the USCCB's day of prayer for the same. Look for the Novena booklet in you church vestibule.**

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PLEDGE TODAY.

December 15	Registered Families	Commitments Returned	% of Participation
Sacred Heart	439	54	12%
St. Joseph	34	3	9%
St. John	1989	165	12%
St. Mary	267	51	19%
St. Philip	399	36	9%

## PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITIES

### Holy Land Pilgrimage - October 2026

The tour provider will be hosting a zoom session to share details of the trip and to answer all of your questions: **Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6 PM**  
Contact Sacred Heart Parish Office for a [meeting link](#).  
Registration is already open! You can sign up and see trip details at: [https://schaefertravel.com/2026\\_Holy\\_Land](https://schaefertravel.com/2026_Holy_Land).  
I don't know about you, but I dream about living the Christmas story, traveling to Israel and seeing-feeling-experiencing all of the events in our Savior's life that we have only read-heard about! I imagine it will be overwhelming.

### Camino de Santiago - A walking pilgrimage - September 2026

This info session will be in person.  
**Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6 PM at St. Joseph Parish in Vancouver**  
Ffolks that walked the Camino with Fr. Kyle will be at the meeting to talk about their experience. Fr. Kyle and Angela will be on site to address your questions about this next trip. You can get a preview by looking at our [Camino Photo Gallery](#).  
Angela will make a brief mention at this meeting of the Fatima-Lourdes-Barcelona trip in 2027.



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