



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit, We Live the Good News of Christ  
Through Worship, Community, and Stewardship*

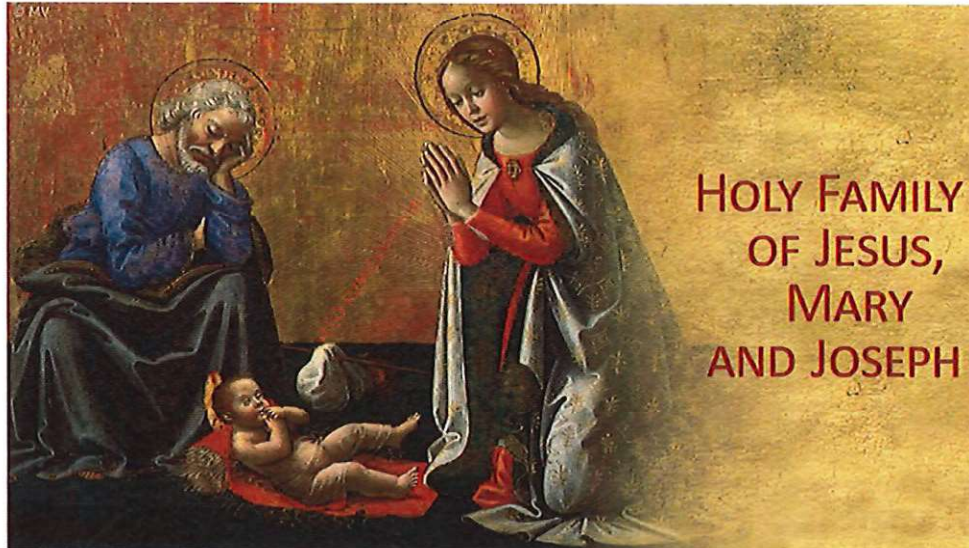
820 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. Seattle, WA 98122

[www.icseattle.org](http://www.icseattle.org)

Parish Family with: St. James Cathedral and Christ Our Hope

**December 28, 2025**

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



The Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—shows us how families can love God and one another. They prayed together, listened to God, and cared for each other every day. Even when life was hard, they trusted God and stayed close as a family. This feast reminds us that our homes can be filled with love when we are kind, forgiving, and put God first.

**Reading 1: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**

**Responsorial Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (1)**

*"Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways"*

**Reading 2: Colossians 3:12-21**

**Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

### **Pray for our Parishioners**

For the eternal repose of the souls of all members of the Immaculate Conception and our parish family who have passed before us. May they rest in peace and light of Christ.

**Healing Prayers** for all members of the Immaculate Conception and our parish family who are suffering from ongoing illnesses. May God grant them strength, comfort, and renewed hope, and may they experience peace and joy during this Christmas season.

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

ONE PARISH FAMILY WITH ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL & CHRIST OUR HOPE.

December 28, 2025

My Friends,

As we gather to celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family, just three days after our celebrations of Christmas, we are reminded that Jesus was born into a real human family. He lived at a particular time and place, with all of the joys, as well as the dangers of his day. In today's Gospel, St. Matthew describes a particular threat to the Holy Family.

Herod is threatened by what he hears of this newborn who could be a rival to his rule, at least in the minds of some. Joseph becomes aware of this threat through a message from an angel. In that dream he is convinced that he must take Mary and Jesus and flee to another country to save them.

As we reflect on this story in the life of Jesus, we recognize how radical God's love is in coming among us as a human being. What we celebrate at Christmas, the Incarnation, means that God became subject, in the human person of the Son, to all the threats and uncertainties of the most vulnerable among us. God is not distant from these struggles, and in Jesus, plunges right into the midst of them with us.

That truth of Christmas celebrates not only what happened to Jesus, Mary and Joseph two thousand years ago in a little corner of the Roman Empire, but also reflects God's ongoing solidarity with us in our human joys and struggles. The coming of God in flesh and blood means that nothing in the human experience is foreign to our God. As the first Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation says so well of God's relationship with us, "...you have bound the human family to yourself through Jesus your Son, our Redeemer, with a new bond of love so tight that it can never be undone."

That tight bond means that God knows from the inside of human experience what it is to struggle, to be vulnerable, and to be threatened by those more powerful. God chose this kind of vulnerability in coming among us as a human being.

The Holy Family, at the very beginning of their life together as a family, became refugees. Their life was threatened by a power that wanted to destroy them, and so they fled. That story is repeated in our day over and over again. Fathers and mothers are gathering up their children and fleeing for their lives. What drives them to make the tragic choice to leave their homes is the same thing that drove Joseph and Mary to flee with Jesus - a desire to protect and to give their family a chance to survive.

The "bond of love" that God has with us compels His Body, the Church, to be in solidarity with those who today flee for their lives in order to protect themselves and those they love. It is for this reason that the Bishops of the United States issued a special message last month on immigration. In that message the bishops wrote:

*As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones... To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone!*

While the bishops' statement addresses a contemporary situation that has political ramifications, it is fundamentally a statement rooted in our faith and in our God's relationship with the human family.

As we gather to celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family, may the Lord continue to guide and strengthen all our families, especially those who are facing very challenging situations that sometimes threaten their very existence. And may we, as Church, the Body of Christ, accompany them on the journey, assuring them of the bond of love that will never be undone.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Gary Lazzeroni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Gary Lazzeroni  
Pastor

## The Life of Our Community

### SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

**Hospitality** - Need sponsor for the 3rd Sundays. We are looking for **individuals, families, groups of friends, or ministries** to sponsor our **Sunday Fellowship** on the following dates: **Jan 4, Jan 18, and March 15**. This is a beautiful opportunity to build community by offering light hospitality after Mass. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact the parish office at [office@icseattle.org](mailto:office@icseattle.org) or call **206-322-5970**.

**Earth Stewardship and Fellowship Update** - Immaculate parishioners are doing their part to be good stewards of our planet. We are almost 100% accurate when sorting Trash into Compost, Clean Recycle, and Garbage at Fellowship after Mass. As we continue to reduce waste, we ask that parishioners do not donate bottles of water or non-compostable dishes and cutlery. Thank you!

*Thank you for helping us grow in fellowship and faith!*

### Diaper Drive coming on January 25

The first will be **January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Your donation of diapers or pull-ups will support families in need. Drop-off diapers before or after Mass at Immaculate Conception on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Future diaper drives will be in April, July, and October.

## 2026 Mardi Gras - Save the Date Friday, February 13th, 2026

So start looking for your masks, beads and fans! More to come in the weeks. If you'd like to be part of the Planning Team, please see Deacon Joseph Connor or Toni Hall.

### Upcoming Events

<b>Jan 25 (Sun) - 11AM</b>	The Feast of Baby Jesus (Santo Nino)
<b>Jan 25 (Sun) - 11AM</b>	Diaper Drive
<b>Feb 13 (Fri) - 5:30PM</b>	Immaculate Conception's Annual Fundraising Event - Mardi Gras

#### MASS SCHEDULE:

11:00 AM SUNDAYS (10:30 Holy Rosary)

Also live streamed at

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmaculateConceptionSeattle>

8:00 AM SUNDAYS – Eritrean Community

**Pastor** – The Very Reverend Gary F. Lazzeroni

**Parochial Vicars** – Rev. Francis Thumbi &

Rev. Sylvester Chanda

**Pastor Emeritus** - Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

**Deacon Joseph Connor** [deacon@icseattle.org](mailto:deacon@icseattle.org)

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hrs: M-F 9 AM to 3 PM or By Appointment.

Please call (206) 322-5970

Alice Davis x602 [paa@icseattle.org](mailto:paa@icseattle.org)

Pastoral Assistant for Administration and Facilities

Grace Neri x601 [office@icseattle.org](mailto:office@icseattle.org)

Administrative Assistant

**Pastoral Council Chair** Maria Batayola, Connor Trapp,

Deacon Joe Connor, Fred Verzosa, Marisa Harvey, and

Sharon Pitre-Williams.

**Finance Council Chair** Jane Powers [jpowers@ewingandclark.com](mailto:jpowers@ewingandclark.com)

**Stewardship:**  
Caring for Our Church and Community

### Year-to-Date Collection Stewardship of Treasure Report

As of 12.16.2024 - \$75,222.00

As of 12.14.2025 - \$62,657.45

### Blessings and Thank you!

#### REPORTING ABUSE

Helpline 800-446-7762 [helpline@seattlarch.org](mailto:helpline@seattlarch.org)

[protectandheal.seattlearchdiocese.org](https://protectandheal.seattlearchdiocese.org). Report any suspicion of abuse by any church personnel to the local law enforcement. Call the Helpline if you know of sexual abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee, or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Seattle. The Archdiocese of Seattle has a longstanding commitment to transparency, accountability, and assistance to persons sexually abused by clergy or anyone working on behalf of the church. For children's safety and victim assistance see

<https://preventionusccb.org/resources>



## 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.





Join us for the  
**2026  
MARTIN  
LUTHER  
KING JR.  
MASS**

*Mass starts at 11am, followed by a talk, "Power that is moral is essential for justice and equality"*

January 19, 2026

Seattle University, St. Ignatius Chapel

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Sharon Spence-Wilcox**



**MASS PRESIDER**  
**Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.**



Scan here for all  
the details



## Emergency Relief Fund

Historic flooding across Western Washington is causing widespread damage and forcing evacuations throughout the Skagit and Snoqualmie valleys as well as other parts of the region. In response, the Archdiocese of Seattle opened the **Emergency Relief Fund**, which provides immediate financial assistance to parishes and schools during an emergency or disaster. Gifts to the Emergency Relief Fund will support flood-related needs and will also be available in the future for other local emergency or disaster relief efforts.

**As Catholics, we are called to accompany those in need. Your gift today will bring hope, relief, and the love of Christ to communities impacted by this disaster.**

Please consider donating today: <https://archseattle.org/flood/>



# Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Saturday, January 31, 2026 | 10:30am  
Father Gary F. Lazzeroni, *presider*

Immaculate Conception Church  
820 18th Avenue, Seattle

In observance of the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, we gather as a family of parishes for the communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. We will conclude our Mass with a procession to Immaculate Conception's Lourdes Grotto, which has been a place of prayer and hope for generations.

## What is the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Like the sacrament of reconciliation (confession), it is a sacrament of healing. Our understanding of this sacrament has changed with time. In the early Church it was seen as a sacrament of healing, but later it came to be known as "Extreme Unction" – literally, "last anointing" – and was not administered until death was imminent. With the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the Church has returned to the more ancient practice with regard to this sacrament.

## Who can receive this sacrament?

Catholics, both children and adults, who are *seriously ill, facing surgery, or experiencing the weakness that comes with old age* should seek this sacrament. Those with serious, chronic mental or physical illness may also receive the anointing of the sick.

## What happens during the Rite of Anointing?

The Rite of Anointing will be celebrated in the context of a special Mass on Saturday, January 31 at 10:30am. After the homily, the Liturgy of Anointing begins. The priest leads a litany in which all pray for the healing and forgiveness of the sick person, as well as for doctors, nurses, and caregivers. Then, in silence, the priest lays his hands on the head of the sick person, an ancient gesture of prayer that is used in connection with many of the sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Orders.

After the laying on of hands, each sick person is anointed with the Oil of the Sick (pure olive oil, blessed each year by the Archbishop at the Chrism Mass). The sick person is anointed on the forehead and then on the hands, and simple words accompany the anointing: "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up." A concluding prayer follows, and then the Liturgy of the Eucharist continues as usual.

No RSVP is required.

Information, Corinna Laughlin, [claughlin@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:claughlin@stjames-cathedral.org).

[www.stjames-cathedral.org](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org)

