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## Special Monthly Collections

**December** - Holy Family School Foundation, Building Maintenance Fund, Holy Family School, Christmas Collection.

*If you have your weekly/monthly donations automatically taken out of your bank account, here is a list of the "special collections" you may not know of: **Thank you.***

Mass Intentions			Day	Time	Intention
Day	Time	Intention	Thursday 12/7/2023	---	No Mass
Saturday 12/2/2023	4:00pm	People of Holy Family	<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		
			Friday 12/8/2023	8:30am	People of Holy Family
				6:00pm	Souls in Purgatory
Sunday 12/3/2023	9:00am	Joyce Flerchinger †	Saturday 12/9/2023	4:00pm	Mark Keller
Monday 12/4/2023	---	No Mass	Sunday 12/10/2023	9:00am	People of Holy Family
Tuesday 12/5/2023	--	No Mass	<b>First Advent Candle</b> <i>"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." – C.S. Lewis</i> It is only fitting that the first candle on the Advent wreath represents Hope – the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. The first candle is purple, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus. This Advent, light the first candle on Sunday, December 3, 2023. <a href="https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/">https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/</a>		
Wednesday 12/6/2023	8:00am	Lynda Hiller			

**Social Concerns Committee**  
**Advent Bag Schedule**  
 Please return the bags to the SOUTH ANNEX each week.  
 Thank you for your donations.  
**1st Week of Advent - St. Vincent de Paul**  
**2nd Week of Advent - Asotin Co. Food Bank**  
**3rd Week of Advent - YWCA**  
**4th Week of Advent - Life Choices**

**The Social Concerns Committee** would like to thank everyone who have graciously donated to the baby bassinet in the back of church. We have been so blessed with your contributions, which are taken to St. Vincent De Paul and they help new mothers in need of baby items. Some suggested donations diapers, baby wipes, lotions, shampoo, crib sheets, baby blankets, and baby clothes, (often found at yard sales in good condition for a reasonable price). Please consider helping us with this important ministry no donation is too small.

**December Ministry Schedules** are out in the SOUTH ENTRY. Please make sure you stop and pick one up. There are several Holy Days that we are seeking volunteers for. Please use your MSP App to sign up. Thank you!

# Holy Family Catholic School

1002 Chestnut Street  
 Phone: 509-758-6621  
 Web Page: [holyfamilyclarkston.com](http://holyfamilyclarkston.com)

School Principal: Sheri Gehring  
 Email: [sgehring@holyfamilyclarkston.com](mailto:sgehring@holyfamilyclarkston.com)  
 Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Lord Jesus, we wait in joyful hope for you. Come into our hearts so that when the time comes we will be prepared to join you in everlasting joy.

**Christmas Concert** Join us for our **Christmas Program**, Wednesday, December 6th, at 6 p.m.! Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. We can't wait to present our beautiful music to you. The kids have been working so hard with Mrs. Ravanera to prepare.



Are you planning to give **gift cards** for Christmas this year? Please utilize our school SCRIP program to purchase them AND **SHARE the opportunity** with family. The school gets a percent of every purchase. Please promote this great program to your family and friends. Our next order is **due December 5th**. Grab a form from the entryways and send it to school/call to place your order. Visit [raiseright.com](http://raiseright.com) and check out all the additional vendors available to purchase gift cards from.



### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Wed 12/6 - Christmas Program, Pre-8th, 6 p.m.; doors will open at 5:30 p.m.
- Fri 12/8 - Mass 8:30 a.m. (by 3rd) - Holy Day (no school children mass on Wed)
- Wed 12/13 - Dec & Jan birthday brunch (4th hosting) following 8:30 a.m. mass (by 8th)
- Fri 12/15 - Early Release for Christmas Break, 11:30 a.m.
- 12/15-1/2 - Christmas Break
- 1/18 - **Blood Drive for STEM** grant, HF parish hall, 1:30-6 p.m.



Our Mission: Holy Family School is a faith-filled community dedicated to the moral development of students who live to serve Christ. Our staff and parents strive to educate the whole child in academic excellence, a deep appreciation of the Catholic faith, spiritual growth and nurture socially responsible members of society in a safe learning environment.

# What's going on at Holy Family Parish...

This week's topic at OCIA will be "The Seasons of Advent and Christmas"

If you or someone you know are interested in joining the Catholic Church, our OCIA program has started in the church hall at 11:00am after coffee and donuts. Please join us!

## The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day)

December 8th.

Mass will be at 8:30am & 6:00pm

To sign up for the 6:00pm Ministries

Please log into your MSP Account.



## Stewardship: A Way of Life!

### Talent:

Thank you to the Holy Family School Foundation for decorating flower pots at the Church and School. They are beautiful.

### Treasure:

The collection for the week of 11/26/2023  
Actual \$9,122

## Question:

If the laity should not use the priestly posture of hands outstretched during the Lord's Prayer, why aren't we so instructed?

**Answer:** The Church seems to be relatively silent on this matter. However, just because the Church is silent does not mean something is permitted. After all, no document states the laity cannot stand on their heads for the Our Father during Mass, yet we'd universally consider it inappropriate to do so.

The general rule of thumb to remember is: "no other person, even if he be a priest, may add, remove, or change anything in the liturgy on his own authority" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 22.3).

So the question for us becomes: is the orans posture an addition to the liturgy? In my opinion, yes. My reasoning is that the General Instruction of the Roman Missal references the orans posture with the phrase "with hands extended." It is instructed to be done twenty-eight times and is used as a direction only for the priest(s)—the laity are never directed to pray "with hands extended." Given that it is clearly a directive in the GIRM, to add it to any other part of the liturgy would be a violation of the above stated liturgical rule.

As to the reason why this matter is rarely addressed, that most likely has to do with pastoral sensitivity. If a handful of people are innocently praying in that position, the priest is not going to go out of his way to embarrass them or cause them to feel uncomfortable. Their action, while not liturgically correct, is probably not a distraction to anyone around them.

The only time I could see a priest feeling pastorally required to address such a situation would be if people were being instructed by others to use the orans posture, or if it was so widespread that those who chose not to do so were made to feel uncomfortable.

<https://www.catholic.com/qa/orans-posture-at-mass>



## Week 3

Tom & JoAnn Harvey  
Eileen Jeffreys  
Irene Cicrich  
Don Brooks  
Mike & Ann Elsensohn  
Gus Fontaine  
Joy Nye  
Donna Miles  
MaryAnn Robertson  
Keela Carter  
Vivian France  
Courtney & Adeline Paterson  
Gene Breeding  
Theresa Swartz  
Richard Fanning

## Week 4

Bob Sheppard  
Dona McCann  
Joan Sperry  
Caleb Parry  
Stapleton Family  
Pat Williams  
Erica Pena  
Sue Buratto  
Russ Bashore  
Nick Menegas  
Linda Entel  
Betty Eggleston  
Jo Caetano  
Nancy DiMeo  
Kelly Evans  
Evelyn Nanik

## Week 1

Pat & Melva Boyle  
Sheila McDougall  
Wessels Family  
Dave Massaro  
Carol Stegner  
Kauffman Family  
Michael Cheek  
Yvonne Pecora  
Dick Jacobs  
Lisa Carey  
Tina Flerchinger  
Vivian Piatt  
Gayle Williams  
Mike B  
Mary Gocke  
Zach Paris  
Kathy Dobbs  
Reid Wagner

## Week 2

Sherry Domaskin  
Marty & Chierie  
Nelson & Family  
Mary Ellen Hill  
Caitlyn Graves  
Christian Morgan  
Verla Day  
Thelma Fales  
Melanie Stellmon  
Joel Babino  
Jo & Leonard Castle  
Bill Dahmen  
Tim Wanta  
Lisa Heath  
Renee Ellis  
Blake Piekma

Please contact Cheryl Fuqua at 758-6936, Linda Wolf at 751-2370 or the parish office at 758-6102 or email to [dparis@dioceseofspokane.org](mailto:dparis@dioceseofspokane.org) if you would like someone to be added.



## Sunday, December 3rd:

- Mass 9:00am
- Coffee & Donuts
- OCIA 11:00am in the Parish Hall

## Monday, December 4th:

- No Daily Mass
- Ladies Group 8:45am

## Tuesday, December 5th:

- No Mass

## Wednesday, December 6th:

- Mass 8:00am
- Holy Family School Christmas Program 6:00pm

## Thursday, December 7th:

- Mass 8:00am

## Friday, December 8th:

- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)  
Mass 8:30am & 6:00pm

## Saturday, December 9th:

- Confessions 3:00pm
- Mass 4:00pm

## Sunday, December 10th:

- Mass 9:00am
- *Knights of Columbus Breakfast after Mass.*
- OCIA 11:00am in the Church Office

THE TRUTH IS LIKE A LION. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND IT. LET IT LOOSE. IT WILL DEFEND ITSELF.

ST AUGUSTINE

## Ministries Schedule

Ministries for	Reader	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers	Ushers
<b>Saturday December 9th 4:00pm</b>	Linda Rossiter	Pat Petty	<b>NOT FILLED NOT FILLED</b>	Ron Flerchinger Jerry Hume Gene Kasper <i>Sub Requested</i>
<b>Sunday December 10th 9:00am</b>	Jordan Starr Christian Leer	Catherine Starr	Thang Dao Charlotte France	Marvin Entel Mark Flerchinger Thomas Stapleton Bob Uptagrafft

Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus will be having their **Christmas Dinner** Monday, December 11th in the Holy Family Church Hall. 6:00PM is social hour, and 6:30 PM is dinner. We will be having the Holy Family Choir as entertainment. Knights of Columbus will bring the meat and Catholic Daughters are to bring side dishes (including dessert).

The Catholic Daughters will be having their **Cookie Sale December 16th and 17th after Mass.**

Cookie plates will be \$10/plate, \$5/small plate.



## Advertiser of the Week

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Proud Parishioners & Supporters of Holy Family Parish and School.

# Letter from Father

3 December 2023  
1st Sunday of Advent  
Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Greetings,

We enter into the season of Advent in the usual way. Once again, it has snuck up on us and we are surprised at how quickly this last year has passed. It seems to be the usual process that, now aware of the rapid approach of Christmas, we will engage in the busyness that is attendant to these next four weeks. The world has put these practices in place and beckons to us to engage in them. Panic about how we are going to attend all of the parties, programs, dinners, and events that our lives seem to accumulate every year, sets in and we are constantly under pressure to shop for this “must have” gift or to perfect that Pinterest project that has been glaring at us for the last month in order to finish before guests arrive. This is how the world wants us to live the season of Advent; but God has other ideas.

*Adveniat regnum tuum* is the Latin translation of “Your kingdom come”. We say these words so often that I wonder if we really notice them when we say them and if we really know for what we are praying. “Your kingdom come” is the perfect mindset for living the season of Advent. Instead of embracing the chaos of the worldly weeks before Christmas, it would be better for all of us to focus instead on what it is we are celebrating.

If we try to make the world into the kingdom of God, we create idolatry. If we try to make this world itself into the kingdom, we will always be resentful and disappointed. If we make heaven into the kingdom, we miss most of its transformative message. We are not waiting for the coming of an ideal church or any perfect world here and now, or even just for the next world. The kingdom is more than all of these. It is always here and not here. It is always now and not yet. No institution can encompass it. That is rather clear in the texts where Jesus describes the kingdom. All false religion proceeds in a certain sense from one illusion. When people say piously, “Thy kingdom come” out of one side of their mouth, they need also to say, “My kingdom go!” out of the other side. The kingdom of God supersedes and far surpasses all kingdoms of self and society or personal reward.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples, “No one can serve two masters, he will always love one and ignore the other”. Our first and final loyalty is to one kingdom: God’s or our own. We really can’t have it both ways. Our success in living for the Kingdom comes to fruition when God’s work and will is central, and we are happy to surrender our will to His. This is “doing the will of my Father in heaven” and allows the larger work of life to be revealed.

The good thing is that our lives get bigger and better because the proclamation of the kingdom of God frees us from social idolatries too. We can’t keep saying “Thy kingdom come” when we are actually trusting in our own nations, political parties, banks and institutions to save us. On some level, they have to be relativized too if the Kingdom of Heaven is ever going to come, which is why Pope St. John Paul II so often spoke of “structural sin” and “institutional evil.” We can use the systems of this world, I hope wisely, but we must never “believe” in them. We only believe in God. Any universal church, any truly “Catholic” people should be first in line to understand this: “Come, Lord Jesus” means we do not spend too much time trusting that other kingdoms or institutions will ever finally save us.

We pray and live for God’s Heavenly Kingdom to come. This is what we truly anticipate. Our greatest hope in this is to surrender ourselves completely to His will and to forgo the power of the world in our lives.

Blessings,

Fr Jeff Core

## The First Sunday of Advent

For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the First Sunday of Advent, opening the Advent season. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a ‘vigilant’ disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

*‘Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,” is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.’*

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the ‘Light’ to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

As Saint John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: “Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This ‘vigilance’ means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living ‘wait.’ To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today’s reading to the Romans: ‘Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed’ ” (Rm 13:11).

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the ‘armor of light’ and so seek only to do God’s work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord’s coming because we don’t know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Mt 24:39-44).

*1 Pope Benedict XVI, Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, Vatican Basilica, December 2006*

*– Excerpted from Dicastery for the Clergy*

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2023-12-03>

*ADVENT Is a journey towards Bethlehem.*

*May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.*

*Pope Francis*

### From Saint to Santa

FREE FAMILY EVENT: The jolly magical Christmas figure we know as Santa Claus has a basis in the life of a real saint carried down through history. Bring your kids and grandkids to a special event for families with St. Nicholas! **Saturday, December 16, 2023, 10:00am-12:00pm at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center.** Please register in advance: 509-448-1224 or visit [www.ihrc.net](http://www.ihrc.net)

### Annual Christmas Concert for Vocations

*Featuring Cathedral of our Lady of Lourdes Choir and the Diocesan Youth Choir.*

Join us December 9th at 1:00pm at the Kubiak Theater at Gonzaga Prep High School. Tickets are \$15 for an adult and \$5 for children.

Call for more information 509-385-4742