

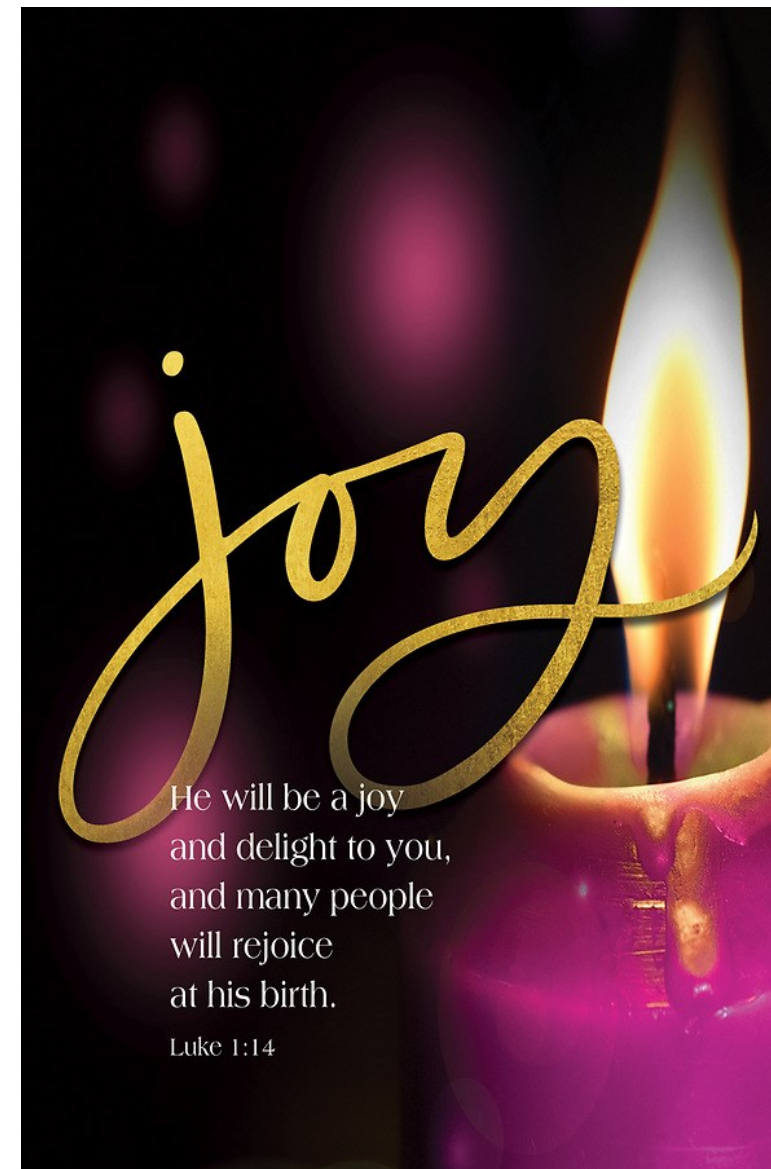
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Holy Family Catholic Church

December 17, 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent



He will be a joy
and delight to you,
and many people
will rejoice
at his birth.

Luke 1:14

My Parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. It will be holy, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will be prayerful, if I pray. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them in. It will be a place of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity, and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be.

Parish Office Hours

Parish Office
917 Chestnut St.
Clarkston, WA 99403
509-758-6102

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:00pm

**Youth & Family
Life Center**
1102 Chestnut St.
Clarkston, WA 99403

Confessions
Wednesdays
After Mass
Saturday
3:00pm—3:30 pm

Contact us

Pastor

Rev. Jeff Core: jacore@dioceseofspokane.org

Pastoral Assistant

Danielle Paris: dparis@dioceseofspokane.org

Bookkeeper

Sheri Sargent: ssargent@dioceseofspokane.org

Website: hfparish.com

Office Email: holyfamily@dioceseofspokane.org

*Special Monthly Collections
For 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.***

Third Advent Candle/Sunday: Joy – "Gaudete Sunday"

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'" (Luke 2:10-12)

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy. This Advent, light the third candle on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

<https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/>

Holy Family Catholic School
 1002 Chestnut Street
 Phone: 509-758-6621
 Web Page: holyfamilyclarkston.com

School Principal: Sheri Gehring
 Email: sgehring@holyfamilyclarkston.com
 Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



As we joyfully embrace the magic of the Christmas season, I want to extend warm wishes to you and your loved ones. May the spirit of Christmas, and the birth of our Savior, fill your hearts with love, peace, and joy. Your presence as a part of Holy Family School enriches our community, and we are grateful for that gift. May this holy season bring you moments of warmth and togetherness, creating cherished memories that last a lifetime.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Sheri Gehring, principal

Artwork above by HF Middle School student, Eli

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Savior's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds.

Advent video for week 3: <https://youtu.be/k7K2Jd2ekv4?si=6l2M5etHyFAqGwQl>

Dates to know:

- Christmas break -- Dec 16-Jan 2 (School and Office are closed)
- 1/3 -- Parent Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 5th grade room (Catholic Schools Week discussion)
- 1/4 -- SCRIP Orders due
- 1/18 -- Blood Drive for STEM grant, HF parish hall, 1:30-6 p.m.

Volunteers needed:

- * Crossing Guard duty in front of school 7:40-8 a.m. (M-F)
- * Lunch recess duty 11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
- * Lunchroom help 10:50 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (Mon-Fri)

DONATIONS NEEDED:

- * STAMPS
- * ZIPLOC BAGGIES (ALL SIZES)
- * CLOROX WIPES
- * AA BATTERIES

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.*



**Social Concerns Committee
Advent Bag Schedule**

Please return the bags to the SOUTH ANNEX each week.

Thank you for your donations.

3rd Week of Advent - YWCA

4th Week of Advent - Life Choices

Stewardship: A Way of Life!

Talent:

Thank you to all of our parish volunteers.

You are appreciated.

Treasure:

The collection for the week of 12/10/2023

Actual \$9,067

Daily Mass Schedule and Mass Intentions

Saturday	12/16/2023	4:00pm	People of Holy Family
Sunday	12/17/2023	9:00am	Dale Flerchinger
Monday	12/18/2023	8:00am	Doug Richardson †
Tuesday	12/19/2023	— — —	No Mass
Wednesday	12/20/2023	8:30am	Lynda Hiller
Thursday	12/21/2023	8:00am	Gordon & Delores Flerchinger †
Friday	12/22/2023	8:00am	Chris Osborne
Saturday	12/23/2023	4:00pm	Greg Buratto †
Sunday	12-24-2023	9:00am	People of Holy Family

Prayer Blanket Ministry

- This ministry is to provide hope, comfort and healing. It is a unique way of reaching out to the community in a very simple and tangible way. A prayer blanket can be seen as a symbolic "hug" from God. Spreading the message of God's mercy, love and compassion. If you would like a prayer blanket please stop by the parish office during office hours.

December 17th 2023 Readings

First Reading: Isiah 61: 1-2A, 10—11

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1 46-54

Second Reading :1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel: John1:6-8, 19-28

*ADVENT IS A TIME OF WAITING FOR OUR LORD, WHO WILL VISIT US ALL IN OUR OWN HEARTS.
THE LORD IS COMING! LET US WAIT FOR HIM!
POPE FRANCIS*

This week's topic at OCIA will be "Called to Love"

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!

6 Ways to Keep Your Advent Holy

In the words of the popular Christmas song, "It's the most wonderful time of the year ..." But for many of us, the weeks leading up to Christmas can also be the busiest, most stressful and downright challenging time of year for our family to grow in holiness.

With all the demands of the season — the shopping, the shipping, the baking, the decorating, the entertaining — it's all too easy to take our eyes off Jesus, the reason for the season.

So, how can we make this Advent any different?

First things first. Give Jesus the first place by scheduling on the calendar a few simple but poignant activities to remind you and your family what this season is all about, and then schedule the rest of the celebratory rituals. Having raised four boys, I'm all about solutions that are simple, attainable and easy to remember. That's how I developed my six ways to keep the Advent season holy: by using the six letters of Advent to keep me and my family on track each year:

A is for Adoration. The Three Wise Men were the very first adorers of Jesus, traveling from afar to worship the Newborn King as he lay in the manger. We do not have to travel far at all to imitate this gesture. We can adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at our own local parish, where he waits patiently for our visit. Sometime before Christmas, make a date with Jesus. Choose one hour, at your convenience, when it's just you, your family and him. Simply rest in his presence before the tabernacle and soak in how much he loves you and wants to be with you.

D is for Divine Word. Give your family a 10-minute break each day of Advent. Carve out those precious minutes when it works best for your family — at dinnertime, at bedtime or in the evening before watching a Christmas movie. Curl up with the greatest book of all: the Bible. Read a small portion of the Gospels, and let the words enter your hearts and minds. What are God's love letters trying to say in a special way to your family today? Ask each of your children to share their thoughts.

V is for the Virgin Mary. We all need companions for the journey. No one is meant to go through this life alone. The Blessed Mother is the perfect Advent companion when we allow her to wrap our family in her mantle of protection, model the virtues for us, and intercede for all our needs. There are two special Marian feast days that occur every December: the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8 and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12. Make plans to attend these Masses, if possible, as a family. Make the days extra special with a party for Mother Mary, a family Rosary or a Mexican-themed dinner.

E is for Examination of Conscience. With the Holy Spirit's assistance, reflect on where you need to make straight your ways for the coming of the Lord. Invite the whole family to do the same. Then treat yourselves to the ultimate unburdening: the sacrament of reconciliation, or confession. Feel lightened, relieved, refreshed and, most of all, joyful to receive the beauty of the season. There is no better way than confession to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming. Go as a family to receive this sacrament and then go out afterward for ice cream or to see holiday lights. Christ's forgiveness is truly cause for celebration.

N is for Neighborliness. What better gift to give Jesus for his birthday than a little extra TLC for our neighbors, particularly the poor, the widowed, the orphaned, the lonely and the marginalized. December is chock-full of opportunities to donate gifts to less fortunate families, work at a soup kitchen, or visit a shut-in, bringing with you some fellowship and cheer. It presents a great teaching moment for your family to learn about the works of mercy: Choose one of them that your family can do together, extending Christian charity as a domestic church.

T is for Traditions. Give your family a daily reminder of the sacredness and holiness of Advent by incorporating some special family traditions in your home. There are lots of them to choose from: the Advent Wreath, the Jesse Tree, the Advent calendar and decorating the house with purple, just to name a few. It's a great way for your family to stay bonded and grounded, while at the same time building anticipation and excitement for the Incarnation of the Lord.

And the last tip: The best way to protect and enhance your family's Advent is to plan early and have reasonable expectations. Gather the family together (Thanksgiving weekend is a great time to do this) and talk about the upcoming Advent season. Come up with a family plan of action to honor and celebrate this unique liturgical season. Put those ideas on the calendar immediately, so you are well prepared and your well-intentioned plans do not come to disappointing results.

<https://www.ncregister.com/features/6-ways-to-keep-your-advent-holy>

This week at Holy Family...

Sunday, December 17th:

- Mass 9:00am
- Coffee & Donuts
- Catholic Daughters Cookie Sale after Mass
- OCIA 11:00am in the Parish Hall

Monday, December 18th:

- Mass 8:00am
- Ladies Group 8:45am

Tuesday, December 19th:

- No Mass

Wednesday, December 20th:

- Mass 8:30am
- Sacrament Class 4:00pm

Thursday, December 21st:

- Mass 8:00am

Friday, December 22nd:

- Mass 8:00am

Saturday, December 23rd:

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

Sunday, December 24th:

- Mass 9:00am (4th Sunday of Advent)
- Coffee & Donuts
- Mass 4:00pm (Christmas Vigil)

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Holy Family Parish and School.*



- Reconciliation at Holy Family: Every Wednesday after Mass & Saturday at 3:00pm.
- Communal Reconciliation and Advent Penance Service on December 20th at 6:30pm at All Saints Catholic Church in Lewiston.

Ministries Schedule

Please register for open positions on your MSP app or call the parish office. Thank you!

Ministries for	Reader	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers	Ushers
Saturday December 23rd 4:00pm	Brian Shinn	Lynette Ausman	Bailey Blaydes Addy Aceveda	Leonard Babino Ron Flerchinger Gene Kasper John Zeller
Sunday December 24th 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00am	Cindy Nightingale NOT FILLED	NOT FILLED	Charloette France NOT FILLED	Tom Stapleton Mark Flerchinger Bob Uptagrafft NOT FILLED
Sunday December 24th Christmas Vigil 4:00pm	Linda Rossiter Jack Sullivan	NOT FILLED	Bailey Blaydes Addy Aceveda	Mark Ackerman Mark Flerchinger NOT FILLED NOT FILLED
Monday December 25th Christmas Day 10:00am	Cindy Nightingale NOT FILLED	Tom Stapleton	Gabe Arnzen NOT FILLED	Tom Stapleton Bob Uptagrafft NOT FILLED NOT FILLED

Letter from Father

17 December 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent
Finding Joy, Even In Sorrow

Greetings,

I have a dear childhood friend who is observing a terrible anniversary this Christmas. She and her husband lost their youngest son to suicide last year on the day after Christmas, he was 15. She called me the day that it happened and was, understandably, quite upset. But what impressed me about her was her determination that, even in the midst of this great sadness, God was present to her and would help her through her grief. She was, by her own description, filled with joy at the prospect.

It is often the case that we confuse happiness with joy. Happiness is an emotion, something we feel when everything is going well, when we feel good, our children are behaving, our bosses are being reasonable, and groceries are affordable. Joy is something that occurs in a much deeper place. Joy is not an emotion but a condition brought about when we become aware of God's grace and mercy and begin to believe that we have a wonderful opportunity for eternal salvation.

The story of Job helps us to differentiate happiness from joy. To the world, Job was happy; he had everything a man could want. He was blessed with a good wife, several children, wealth, property, and power, and he was healthy. But it was all taken away in a sudden and violent manner. All he was left with was his life and his wife and was tortured by the devil. His wife and best friends, seeing his plight, counseled him to, "Curse God and die!" But Job knew better. He knew that it was the joy of knowing God that was more valuable than any of the world's riches.

This time of year, it's easy to get caught up chasing happiness. While we all seek to be happy, it's important to remember that Christmas isn't about happiness. In fact, there are many people who may find it difficult to be happy at this time of year. Like my friend, they may be celebrating Christmas without a dear loved one who has passed, or perhaps a member of the family is far away, or even estranged, and there is great sadness in this absence. Others may be living with financial stress, or emotional stress, burdens which may go unseen to others, but not unknown to God. So, can Christmas be full of joy in the midst of such heavy circumstances? The answer is found in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians which tells us that prayer and thanksgiving lead us to peace and rejoicing. He wrote:

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

Only then do we find real joy—the kind that springs from the heart and fills the soul, even when the storms of life rage around you. As we observe the last week of this sacred season we look forward with joy in the knowledge that Christ has come already for our salvation. We prepare ourselves to receive Him again.

Blessings,

Fr Jeff Core

Reflection: A vision of a world made new

I have to admit: Sometimes, when I'm reviewing the readings for the week, I skip over the psalms. It's not that I dislike them; I just kind of forget about them when moving from the first reading to the second. But I'm really thankful that, in preparation for this week, I didn't skip the psalm, because it turns out this week's psalm is one of my favorite passages in the whole Bible: the Magnificat of Mary.

Taken from the Gospel of Luke—the gospel writer who by far paid the most attention to women in his work—Mary's song of praise is much more than the words of a young girl giving thanks to God. It is a radical vision of a world made new. The lowliest are called blessed. The hungry are satisfied. The rich are sent away empty. In the unabridged version, the mighty powers are brought low; the proud are scattered; the humble are exalted.

Unsurprising, perhaps, that this passage has been banned in several countries during periods of unrest, including in India during British occupation, Guatemala in the 1980s, and Argentina in the 1970s. German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was eventually executed by the Nazis, called it "the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung." It is a rallying cry for believers in God's kingdom on Earth, for the oppressed and downtrodden across time and space, and for those who seek justice in this life, not just the next.

This is among the most powerful scriptures we have. So what is it doing mixed in with all the readings about joy on Gaudete Sunday? Could it be that it is a roadmap toward building a world where joy can be shared by all, equally?

The Magnificat is a rare example in the Bible when we are given direct access not just to a woman's words, but to her thoughts, beliefs, even dreams. Mary's dream of the future and her skillful interpretation of what God is creating is full of joy, even amid the uncertainty of a changing world, even amid the strain of waiting for something new. She recognizes God's goodness within the disruption of the status quo, in the promise of justice and a better life. She envisions the world that Jesus's birth is meant to begin—a world of broken rules, radical generosity, and unabashed equity—and she finds it joyful to behold.

Let Mary's joy be our joy. Feed the hungry. Exalt the humble. Turn every hierarchy on its head. Do what Jesus and Mary both realized they were born to do, and what each of us was baptized to take on. Find joy in the disruptive work of birthing the Kingdom of God. Merry Christmas.

<https://uscatholic.org/articles/202312/a-reflection-for-the-third-sunday-of-advent-3/>



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 if you would like someone to be added.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Tom & JoAnn Harvey	Bob Sheppard	Pat & Melva Boyle	Sherry Domaskin
Eileen Jeffreys	Dona McCann	Sheila McDougall	Marty & Cherie
Irene Cicrich	Joan Sperry	Wessels Family	Nelson & Family
Don Brooks	Caleb Parry	Dave Massaro	Mary Ellen Hill
Mike & Ann Elsensohn	Stapleton Family	Carol Stegner	Caitlyn Graves
Gus Fontaine	Pat Williams	Kauffman Family	Christian Morgan
Joy Nye	Erica Pena	Michael Cheek	Verla Day
Donna Miles	Sue Buratto	Yvonne Pecora	Thelma Fales
Keela Carter	Russ Bashore	Dick Jacobs	Melanie Stellmon
Vivian France	Nick Menegas	Lisa Carey	Joel Babino
Courtney & Adeline Paterson	Linda Entel	Tina Flerchinger	Jo & Leonard Castle
Gene Breeding	Betty Eggleston	Vivian Piatt	Bill Dahmen
Theresa Swartz	Jo Caetano	Gayle Williams	Tim Wanta
Richard Fanning	Nancy DiMeo	Mike B	Lisa Heath
	Kelly Evans	Mary Gocke	Renee Ellis
	Evelyn Nanik	Zach Paris	Blake Piekma
	Liz Samayoa	Kathy Dobbs	
		Reid Wagner	