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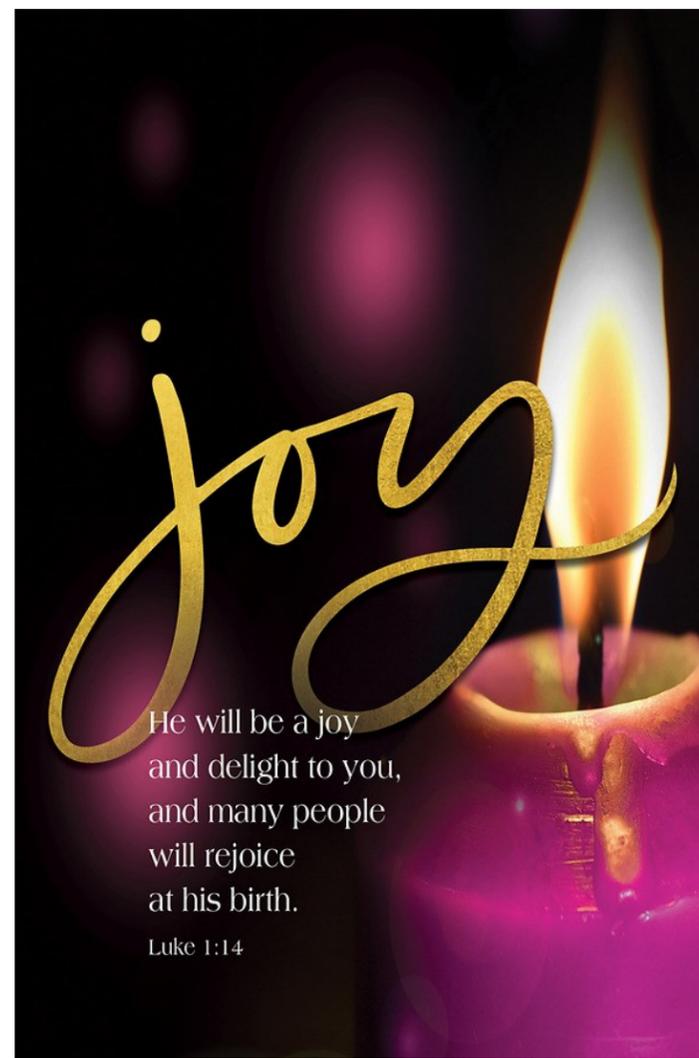
  
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 Fax. 877-289-6217

# Holy Family Catholic Church



**December 15, 2024**  
**The Third Sunday**  
**of Advent**

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

**Joy-filled giver of Life,**  
**let the anticipation**  
**of your birth**  
**fill us with overflowing joy.**  
**May our excitement**  
**and anticipation**  
**be a sign to the world**  
**that you are always near**  
**Amen**

## Daily Mass Schedule and Mass Intentions

Saturday	12/14/24	4:00pm	Dr. Mark Baldeck †
Sunday	12/15/24	9:00am	People of Holy Family
Monday	12/16/24	8:00am	Gavin Dobbs
Tuesday	12/17/24	—	No Mass
Wednesday	12/18/24	8:30am	Tim Wanta
Thursday	12/19/24	—	No Mass
Friday	12/20/24	8:00am	Gary Broemeling †
Saturday	12/21/24	4:00pm	Calvin Hanley
Sunday	12/22/24	9:00am	People of Holy Family

## 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

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

# Ministries Schedule

If you are scheduled and not able to fill your Ministry please request a Substitute on the MSP App. Also, make sure you know when you are scheduled. Thank you!

Ministries for	Altar Servers	Reader	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Ushers
<b>Saturday December 21st 4:00pm</b>	Aubree Aceveda Ella Miller	Linda Kazda	Addy Aceveda	Leonard Babino Ron Flerchinger Jerry Hume John Zeller
<b>Sunday December 22nd 9:00am</b>	Bailey Blaydes Charlotte France	Tina Cunningham James Browitt	Linda Wolf	Brian Babino Greg Paris Bob Uptagrafft Pat Wolf
<b>Tuesday December 24th 4:00pm</b>	Gabe Arnzen Bailey Blaydes	Linda Rossiter Addy Aceveda	Pat Petty	<b>Not Filled</b> <b>Not Filled</b> <b>Not Filled</b> <b>Not Filled</b>
<b>Wednesday December 25th 9:00am</b>	<b>Not Filled</b> <b>Not Filled</b>	Cindy Nightingale <b>Not Filled</b>	Bob Uptagrafft	Mark Flerchinger <b>Not Filled</b> <b>Not Filled</b> <b>Not Filled</b>

## Sunday, December 15th:

- Mass 9:00am
- Knights Pancake Breakfast
- Catholic Daughter Cookie Sale
- OCIA 11:00am

## Monday, December 16th:

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

## Tuesday, December 17th:

- No Mass

## Wednesday, December 18th:

- Mass 8:30am
- **All Saints Reconciliation Service 6:30pm**

## Thursday, December 19th:

- Mass 8:00am
- Mass at St. Joseph Hospital Chapel 12:30pm
- Holy Hour 7:00pm

## Friday, December 20th:

- Mass 8:00am

## Saturday, December 21st:

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

## Sunday, December 22nd:

- Mass 9:00am
- Coffee & Donuts
- OCIA 11:00am

**No Sacrament Classes  
until January 5th and  
class time will change to  
10:30am -12:00pm.**



*"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."*

**Pope Benedict XVI**

## Nota Bene

As the Advent Season begins and Christmas approaches, there are several events occurring at Holy Family Church, especially in Fr. Root Memorial Hall. Please be sure that your group checks with the parish office before coming to the church or hall for an unscheduled gathering or event. If you would like to check for availability, call Danielle during regular office hours. This will help ensure that events do not overlap or conflict.

Thank you,  
Fr Jeff Core



Fulfill your Advent Obligation at All Saints Catholic Church. Join us for Advent Reconciliation Service on December 18th at 6:30pm.

# 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!

As we move into the third week of Advent we focus on the theme of **Joy** and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. The angels describe Jesus' birth as "**good news of great joy**" because he came to be our Savior! What are you thankful for? Look back at the first two weeks of Advent and reflect on how you are preparing for our savior's birth. I want to applaud and **thank** all of our staff and students for bringing great joy to our community in their presentation of the Nativity, with songs of joy during our Christmas Program. We are the servants of the Lord! Thank you to all of our families for joining us and entrusting your children to our care. We are Holy **FAMILY** Catholic School.

The first trimester ended, and teachers have finalized **report cards**. They will be coming home with students (K-8) today. (Friday 12/13) Please review the progress your child is making and encourage them to keep doing their best. It's a great time to set a goal with your child for trimester 2. Please be sure to confirm the receipt of the report card with teachers. Great job to all of our students who are learning and working hard, we are proud of your accomplishments!

Next week is our **last week** of school before Christmas and break. Classrooms will be busy soaking in the **learning time** and we encourage you to remind your child(ren) to finish strong. The anticipation of Christmas is such an exciting time.

If you'd like to **bless** staff or your child's teacher, there are stockings hanging by the office. Feel free to slip a treat in their sock. Thank you to those who donated to the teacher blessings, we were able to get each staff member a \$5 coffee card!

Advent resources for your family: <https://bit.ly/Advent2024info>

## Upcoming dates:

12/14 - HFS Choir sings at 4 p.m. Mass

12/18 - Dec & Jan birthday Mass 8:30 a.m. (3rd) & Brunch (4th) to follow in the cafeteria

12/20 - Early Release at 11:30 a.m. for Christmas break (no lunch or Extended Care)

12/21-1/6 - Christmas Break

1/7 - School resumes at 8 a.m.!

1/9 - January SCRIP gift card orders are due

Donations Needed (every \$20=1 hour of volunteer time):

- Stamps (regular & postcard)
- Toilet Paper

Thank you to our donors! We appreciate it!

Please support our local businesses that support our school and auction:

## Our Mission:

*Serving as disciples, nourished by Christ,  
growing in faith, values, and overall excellence.  
We are Holy Family Catholic School*

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## The Best Christmas of Your Life

It is our hope and our humble but fervent prayer that every Christmas that you celebrate will be filled with more intense longing, love, and welcoming of the Infant Baby Jesus who came into the world to save us. The primary purpose of the Incarnation, Birth, life, Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus is for our eternal salvation. The name *Jesus* actually means *Savior*. The Archangel Gabriel told Mary: *His name is Jesus because He will save the people from their sins.*

Therefore, it is up to each and every one of us individually to make a concerted effort to prepare for Christmas—the birthday of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How can we do this? We will offer ten brief, concrete, and practical steps we can take so that Jesus will be born not only in the stable of Bethlehem, but also in the very depths of your heart.

**1. Clean the stable of your heart** - Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas, is a very propitious time to clean our heart, mind, soul and total being by means of making a good Sacramental Confession. Even with only a few days of Advent, it's still a great way to prepare for the Lord. Sin sullies or dirties the inner beauty of our soul; a good sacramental confession sweeps out the dirt and makes us clean. The Prophet Isaiah expresses this clearly: *Though your sins be as scarlet they will be made white as the snow* (Is. 1).

**2. Seek silence** - Strive to cultivate a silent and recollected heart. Try to avoid all unnecessary noise. When we have moments of silence it is then that God's Holy Spirit can speak to us, give us certain lights or insights, and send heavenly inspirations. In a world filled with so much noise — you might even call it *noise pollution*—we really need more silence. Pope Paul VI in one of his reflections for the Christmas Season states that the Holy Family prayed, worked, and appreciated silence. So should we!

**3. More frequent and fervent prayer** - Saint Paul states that we should pray constantly and give thanks to God in our hearts. Jesus also said that it is necessary to pray always without giving up hope. (Lk. 18:1) However, offering fervent and frequent prayers is even more necessary in the strong seasons of the year—both Advent and Lent. Set aside more time to talk to the Lord, Mary, and Saint Joseph in the depths of your heart.

**4. A Christmas Carol** - To set the stage for a fruitful Christmas viewing a good movie or two can be exceedingly fruitful. One of the greatest classics is a movie that came from a novel written by the great English novelist Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*.

**5. Find joy in giving more than having** - The essential message of *A Christmas Carol* is that true joy can only be attained inasmuch as we learn the art of giving freely, generously, and continually to others. Scrooge lived a really miserable life until he dreamed of his mortality — one day he would surely die — which rocked his comfortable and materialistic existence. Let us seek out ways that we can give to others, especially those most in need. Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta asserted: *Give until it hurts!*

**6. Live out the Mass in your life** - In a real sense, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a *daily Christmas*. How, you might ask? Very simply: the priest consecrates the Host which is transformed into Jesus. He is really born in the hands of the priest. Then, when you approach to receive Holy Communion with a pure and loving heart, Jesus is born in your heart. Your soul becomes a real *Bethlehem—House of Bread*. Therefore, try to attend Holy Mass as often as possible and let Jesus be born in your heart in the worthy reception of Holy Communion.

**7. Visit the poor, the aged, the sick, and abandoned** - Living out the Gospel of love is a perennial task. However, to really live out Advent to the fullest extent possible and experience the joy of the Lord Jesus born in Bethlehem, we should seek out helping those in our society who suffer most. Remember the words of Jesus: *Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you have done to me.*

**8. Reconcile** - The great English poet Alexander Pope wrote: *To err is human, to forgive is divine*. Christmas is not a time in which we should be at enmity with others, especially members of our own family. Two of the most difficult but important phrases that should issue from our hearts and lips are: *I am sorry... and... I forgive you!!!* If you are angry, resentful, bitter, and even hateful towards anybody, now is the time to reconcile. Be humble! Take the initiative and reconcile. Even though possibly very difficult, this gesture of reconciliation is very pleasing to God and will fill your heart with a deep peace that maybe you have not experienced in years!

**9. Kind words and a word of cheer** - In our social dealings one of the most important things we can do is to be kind to others. Get into the habit of saying kind words to others, especially to your family members. A *compliment*, a *thanks*, a word or two of *encouragement*—all of these can change a sad and desolate heart into one of joy and exultation! Remember the Golden Rule and apply it to your speech: *Do to others what you want them to do to you... say to others what you would like them to say to you!*

**10. Mother Mary & Christmas** - Of course, Christmas would not have taken place if it were not for the generous *yes of Mary!* Stay close to Mary. Pray the Rosary, especially the Joyful Mysteries. Accompany Mary in her journey to Bethlehem. Be with her in the stable as she brings forth Jesus for your salvation. Place Mary in Advent and Christmas and Jesus will be born in the depths of your heart.

<https://catholicexchange.com/10-simple-ways-prepare-christmas-week/>

### Stewardship: A Way of Life!

#### Treasure:

The collection for the week of 12/08/2024

Actual: \$7,664

### Special Monthly Collections

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

**January** - Building Maintenance Fund, Holy Family School, St. Vincent de Paul.

*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.***



**Catholic Daughters will have their annual Christmas Cookie Sale this weekend December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be selling cookies after the Saturday 4 pm Mass and after the Sunday 9 am Mass. Cookies will be for sale for \$10 a plate.**



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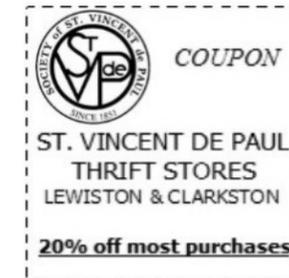
#### Advent Bag Schedule

Please return the bags to the SOUTH ANNEX each week.

**Thank you for your donations.**

**4th Week of Advent - Life Choices**

### Advertiser of the Week



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**I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming.**

**Luke 3:16**

<i>Prayer Requests</i>	
<p><b>Week 1</b> Tom &amp; JoAnn Harvey Irene Cicrich Don Brooks Mike &amp; Ann Elsensohn Joy Nye Keela Carter Gene Breeding Richard Fanning Larry &amp; Patty Dwyer &amp; Family Joan Anderson Charlie Hill Garrett Dobbs Brighton &amp; Emery Schumacher Ginny Kaufman Doreen Isaac</p>	<p>Brenda Irvin Gayne Bafus Gary &amp; Betty Riebe Amy Phillips Emily Segebartt Charlie Sprayberry Amanda Anderson</p> <p><b>Week 2</b> Bob Sheppard Dona McCann Pat Williams Erica Pena Sue Buratto Russ Bashore Linda Entel Betty Eggleston Joe &amp; Marjorie Caetano Nancy DiMeo Evelyn Nanik Liz Samayoa Dan Grassel Eileen Jeffreys</p>
<p><i>Please contact Cheryl Fuqua at 758-6936, Linda Wolf at 751-2370 or the parish office at 758-6102 or email to <a href="mailto:dparis@dioceseofspokane.org">dparis@dioceseofspokane.org</a> if you would like someone to be added.</i></p>	
<p>Donna Heimgartner Joan Baune Donna Jongeward</p> <p><b>Week 3</b> Melva Boyle Sheila McDougall Wessels Family Dave Massaro Kauffman Family Stapleton Family Michael Cheek Yvonne Pecora Dick Jacobs Lisa Carey Tina Flerchinger Vivian Piatt Mike B Mary Gocke Zach Paris Janeen Smith John &amp; Viola Keller &amp; Family Kathy Renggli Libby Camron Anne Anderson Sandy Wanta</p>	<p><b>Week 4</b> Marty &amp; Chierie Nelson &amp; Family Mary Ellen Hill Christian Morgan Verla Day Thelma Fales Melanie Stellmon Val Godwin Mary Lou Scharnhorst Marv Kinzer Kathy Ross Ronald Cooney Don Tuschoff Shannon Tuschoff Ellen Boatman Meredith Janelle Williams Lou Fanning Dee Johnson</p>

# Letter from Father

15 December 2024  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Joy in a Time of Darkness

Greetings,

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete* Sunday. Translated from the Latin, it is the Sunday of Rejoicing—Christmas is less than two weeks away. But the call to rejoice today might give us pause. Vulnerability, brokenness, and real tragedies often mark this time of year for many people. The sadness of missing loved ones, the anxiety of painful family situations, and the loneliness of everyday life can be all the more acute standing stark against the merriment and anticipation that almost shout this time of year. Vulnerability, brokenness, and real tragedies are perhaps no more present today than any other day, but during this season we, are more attentive, more aware, perhaps, of the strangeness of rejoicing amidst the brokenness of our world.

I have been thinking a lot about my best friend, Mark, who died suddenly last summer. His daughter posted the pictures of her wedding this week and I was reminded of the happiness and joy that his family celebrated that day and the sadness and sorrow that they experienced just a few short weeks later. The approach of *Gaudete* Sunday has been a reminder that God's Love and Mercy don't come to us just when times are good and happy but perhaps more intensely in our times of sorrow and pain, if we let Him work in those times.

To be invited to rejoice even though Christmas has not yet come, indeed is little different than what we are called to each and every day. We are called to continue to eagerly await peace on earth, for tidings of Good News, for *God with Us*. We await the fulfillment of the promise: *The old order passes away. I will wipe away every tear and there shall be no more death, no more mourning, and no more pain.*

Holy Mother Church invites us to rejoice, not because we are happy (we often are not) and not so we might become happy, but because it is the means by which we hope. It is the means, the only means by which we hold tightly to the promise of salvation. We experience Advent as the people of the Church no more today than any other day. But today, on this day of rejoicing, we wait more attentively. We pray *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* with more care, more attention to its words of hope.

Today is *Gaudete* Sunday. It is a day marked by hope in what is always coming and not yet fully come, by hope in the promise of the one who makes all things new. I include a prayer to Our Mother of Sorrows, who has shared with us the joys and happiness, the pain and sorrow of what the world brings us and intercedes to her Son for us always.

Blessings,

Fr. Jeff Core

*A Prayer to our Mother of Sorrows*

*Our mother of sorrows,  
with strength from above you stood by the cross,  
sharing in the sufferings of Jesus,  
and with tender care  
you bore Him in your arms, mourning and weeping.*

*Holy Mary,  
may we follow your example,  
and stand by all your children  
who need comfort and love.*

*Mother of God,  
stand by us in our trials  
and care for us in our many needs.  
Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.*

# Advent – Week Three

## Advent Reflection: Christ Even Now on the Way to Bethlehem

Evidently, in the mind of holy Church, neither the prophecy concerning Bethlehem Ephrata nor its fulfillment in the day of Caesar Augustus is to be considered merely a glorious divine disposition and achievement. No, the prophecy of Micheus is still being verified every day, but predominantly during the annual Advent season; for the selfsame incarnate eternal Son of God who journeyed to Bethlehem to be born there physically, now to the end of time comes to human souls as to spiritual Bethlehem's, there to be born anew, again and again.

But be sure to picture these merciful spiritual journeyings of Christ to the Bethlehem of souls as all too often sadly realistic spiritual repetitions of His first long journey over the rugged road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Meditate long on the wanton and malicious opposition He encounters on His way to them from souls that leave their senses and heart and mind to be ruled by earthly vanities, and their whole selves to be willing victims of the sensual and selfish illusions and witcheries of the seven capital vices.

Can you still fail to see why Isaias and the Baptist compare the hardships of the way of the world's Messiah-King to souls with a rough, crooked, and almost impassable road up steep hills and down precipitous valleys and through dangerous mountain passes? Do you wonder that these prophets of His coming insist so strongly that merely sentimental longings and routine prayers, however multiplied, cannot prepare us worthily for the entrance He must expect and the welcome He craves?

Pray very honestly, therefore, that you may begin to see the practical reasons for the Church's crying out in the desert world, and even into your own interior soul and heart:

*"Prepare ye the way of the Lord: Make straight in the wilderness His paths; Every valley shall be exalted; Every mountain and hill shall be made low; And the crooked shall be made straight; And the rough ways plain" (Is. 40:3, 4). Then shall you see the salvation of God!*

—Excerpted from *Our Way to the Father* by Rev. Leo M. Krenz, S.J.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2024-12-15>

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated *Veni* ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The term *Gaudete* refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.