

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

CATHOLIC PARISH

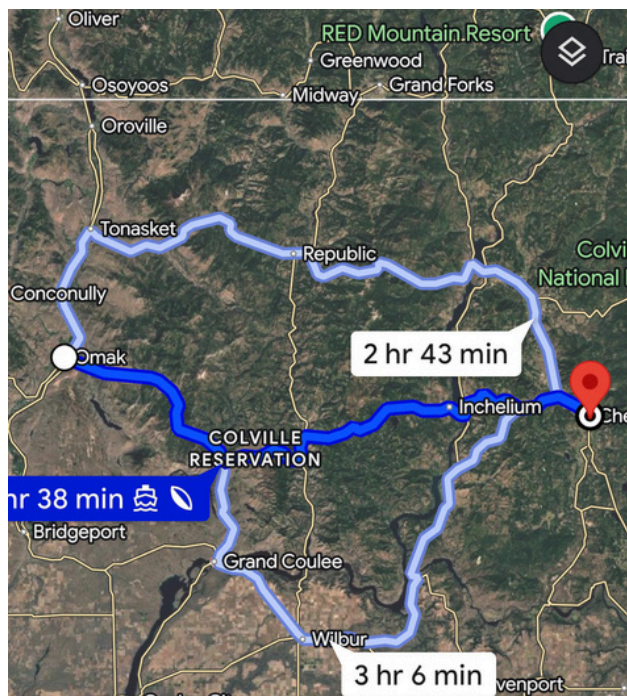
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

WEEKENDS: SATURDAY VIGIL: 5 PM | SUNDAY: 8 AM & 10:30 AM | CONFESSION: SATURDAY AT 4:15 PM

WEEKDAYS: 9 AM MASS (T-F) | 8:30 AM CONFESSION (TUES/THURS) | ROSARY BEFORE EACH MASS

CHECK YOUR GPS



By Fr. John Kibombo

It was the evening of July 20, 2025, after celebrating Sunday Mass, and I was preparing to drive from St. Mary of the Rosary in Chewelah to Okanogan (a nearly three-hour drive) for a quinceañera celebration. I initially planned to leave late from the celebration, around 8 pm, to enjoy the lingering summer light.

After the celebrations and setting my phone's GPS, I was presented with an exciting, supposedly shorter new route that cut through Omak and the Colville reservation. My initial reaction was pure, joyful excitement: "I'm learning a new, quicker way back!" I didn't bother to scrutinize the details of this seemingly more efficient path.

I set off around 8:30 pm, the anticipation of the celebration and the thrill of the new road filling my heart, amplified by the cool strains of my favorite reggae music. Later on when I checked my GPS, it only increased my joy—the arrival time kept showing I was less than 30 minutes from home! I focused solely on the speed and efficiency of the projected arrival time, completely neglecting to read the fine print of the journey itself.

Then, around 10 pm, as I drove through the darkness, I saw the sign: "Welcome to Inchellium Ferry Landing." A slight unease began, but I pressed on, thinking, "Surely there's a road around the ferry." I followed the GPS right to the letter... until I reached a closed gate. The ferry was shut down until morning.

My short-lived excitement instantly curdled into inner panic. The quicker route had turned into a spiritual dead-end. My network failed, and my pre-downloaded map was useless. I had to backtrack, driving ten tense minutes until I found a little network. Silence replaced my music; the celebration mood vanished. Manually, I zoomed in and found an alternate route toward Kettle Falls, praying that this path would safely connect me to my destination.

Thankfully, it did. I drove the remainder of the way in sober silence, arriving at the parish past midnight—safe, but significantly delayed. I had reached my goal, but the detour had cost me precious hours.

As we celebrate the Third Candle of Joy, this journey offers a crucial lesson. The joy we feel is a glimpse of the ultimate destination—Heaven—but we have not yet arrived. We still have work to do; we still have a week of Advent and a life to live.

Do not allow the excitement of the "Christmas Season" (the reggae music and the party mood) to lull you into neglecting your spiritual GPS: your conscience and your faith status. You never know which "ferry" might be waiting on the "short route" you've taken. That enticing, seemingly faster path—be it a shortcut around forgiveness, a quicker way to worldly pleasure, or a neglect of prayer—could lead to a spiritual dead end.

Don't just check the ETA (Estimated Time of Arrival) of your life. Don't just assume "I have time." Focus on the details of the road: Are you following the Lord's commandments? Are you practicing charity?

We are given opportunities, like the Sacrament of Reconciliation (December 16th and beyond), to pull over, find a signal, and re-route ourselves back onto the safe, direct path. We could be so caught up in our celebrations that we arrive late and miss the Lord entirely.

My sister, my brother: Check your GPS as you journey to meet the Lord. Do you need to stop and re-read the map of your life?

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH OFFICE:

Hours: M-TH 9 am - 1 pm | Phone: 509-747-7213 | Fax: 509-747-7217 | Web: www.fatimaspokane.org

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Middle Building: 1428 E. 33rd; 509-624-5712 | Primary Building: 3406 E. 18th; 509-534-1098

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR DEC 14, 2025

Gospel Reading - Matthew 11:2-11: Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God. The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

(Source: Loyola Press Sunday Connection)



REMINDER: The deadline to order Memorial Poinsettias is this Tuesday Dec 16th. Orders can be placed at the Parish office M-Th 9am-2pm

Advent Prayer Service & Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 PM

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, all are invited to a peaceful Advent Prayer Service. Come rest in Scripture, silence, and song as we enter more deeply into this sacred season of hope.

Multiple priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the service.

Whether you are returning after many years or come regularly, you are welcome.

Let us gather as a community, open our hearts to God's mercy, and make room for the joy of Christmas. All are welcome.



SHEPHERDS' TABLE NIGHT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

All parishioners are invited to join us Wednesday, **December 17 at 6pm** in the Parish Hall for a Christmas celebration! Join us for a relaxed evening of charcuterie, sparkling cider, and wine, and a wonderful chance to meet and connect with fellow parishioners. This will be our final gathering of 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!



MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DEC 15
NO MASS

TUESDAY, DEC 16
(8:30 am Confession)
9 am, Fr. Vincent

WEDNESDAY, DEC 17
9 am, Fr. John

THURSDAY, DEC 18
(8:30 am Confession)
9 am, Fr. John

FRIDAY, DEC 19
9 am, Fr. John

SATURDAY, DEC 20
(4:15 PM Confession)
5 PM, Fr. Vincent

SUNDAY, DEC 21
8 am, Fr. John
10:30 am, Fr. Vincent

If you are looking for baptism, marriage, Holy Eucharist for the homebound, or funeral services, please contact the parish office.

PARISH STAFF

Priest Administrator: Fr. Vincent Gilmore; **Senior Priest:** Fr. Patrick Hartin;
Parochial Vicar/Director of Faith Formation: Fr. John Kibombo; **Deacon:** Patrick Cheung;
Assistant Parish Administrator: Rachael Lentes; **Receptionist:** Mindy Muglia;
Music Director: Joel Cummings; **Bookkeeper:** Carolyn Berry;
Facilities Manager: Brandon Berry; **Knights of Columbus:** John Faerber (509) 990-3161
All Saints School Principal: Jen Lewis

WEEKLY DONATIONS

Dec 3 - Dec 10:

Tithe: \$11,974

Poor: \$25

Guatemala Fund: \$468

Cantor, then All

Responsorial Psalm



Communion Proper Translation:

Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! He comes to save us.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER - THE CANDLE OF JOY



Loving Father,

As we light the third candle of Advent,
We rejoice in the joy of Christ's coming.

Like Mary, may we magnify Your name
And find joy in the gift of Your love.

Help us to share this joy with all we meet,
Spreading the good news of Jesus' birth.

Amen.

MUSIC CORNER

The parish would like to share some clarification regarding the recent transition from Gather Comprehensive hymnals to Worship, Fourth Edition. In 2011, the Church implemented a significant revision to the English translation of the Mass, introducing the responses we pray today—such as “And with your spirit,” replacing the former “And also with you.” This change followed many years of prayerful discernment and is now the standard for our liturgical celebrations.

The Gather Comprehensive hymnals were published prior to this re-translation. While they have served us well, they no longer fully reflect the current liturgy and are no longer supported with planning resources by GIA Publications. Additionally, many of the existing hymnals had become worn and were in need of repair.

After carefully considering these factors, the decision to purchase new hymnals that more fully support our worship today and for years to come.

Some parishioners have asked about the absence of “Our Lady of Fatima” embossed on the covers of the new hymnals. While this option is available through GIA Publications, it would have required an additional expense. In an effort to be good stewards of parish resources, this cost was not included in the purchase.

Parishioners who wish to purchase a personal hymnal with “Our Lady of Fatima” embossed on the cover are welcome to do so. Please contact our Music Director, Joel Cummings, at jcummings@dioceseofspokane.org for more information. Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our parish liturgy.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Dec 16

Rita McDermott+

Req. by Faerbers

Wednesday, Dec 17

Joanie Reger

Req. by Veronica & Helga Reger

Thursday, Dec 18

Paul Kolar+

Req. by Faerbers

Friday, Dec 19

Barbara Winner+

Req. by Women's Bible Study Group

DAILY READINGS

2025 DECEMBER 15 MONDAY

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17; Psalms
25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Gospel,
Matthew 21:23-27

2025 DECEMBER 16 TUESDAY

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalms
34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Gospel,
Matthew 21:28-32

2025 DECEMBER 17

WEDNESDAY

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalms 72:3-
4, 7-8, 17; Gospel, Matthew 1:1-17

2025 DECEMBER 18 THURSDAY

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalms 72:1,
12-13, 18-19; Gospel, Matthew
1:18-24

2025 DECEMBER 19 FRIDAY

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Psalms
71:3-4, 5-6, 16-17; Gospel, Luke
1:5-25

2025 DECEMBER 20 SATURDAY

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalms 24:1-2, 3-
4, 5-6; Gospel, Luke 1:26-38

2025 DECEMBER 21 SUNDAY

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalms 24:1-2, 3-
4, 5-6; Romans 1:1-7; Gospel,
Matthew 1:18-24



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Whatever you do, work
heartily, as for the
father, and not for men.
Colossians 3:23

Greg Seethaler

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