

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

CATHOLIC PARISH

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 21, 2025
Fourth 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



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 24

4 PM Children's Mass

7 PM

10 PM Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Thursday, Dec. 25

10 AM

WINTER BREAK SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be
closed Wednesday, Dec. 24 and
Thursday, Dec 25.

We will be back to normal
hours Monday, Dec 29.

May you all have a very merry
and blessed Christmas!

**Holy Day: Solemnity of
Mary, Mother of God
Wednesday, Jan. 1**

Dec. 31, 5pm (Vigil)
Jan. 1
10am



WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

By Fr. Vincent Gilmore

Dear Parishioners,

I was very touched this past October when I was in Greccio, Italy. It is the place where St. Francis of Assisi did something that has impacted the world ever since. The first nativity scene, or Creche, was presented by Francis. Francis was friends with the mayor of Greccio, a small hillside town near Assisi. Francis asked the mayor to help him to set up a cave to make it look like the cave in Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

Francis had visited the Holy Land and while there he visited the grotto where the Christ child was born. Jesus, the Son of God, both God and man, was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary in a cave/stable where animals were kept and placed in a manger. The fact of God become man, the Incarnation, shows the immense love God has for mankind and demonstrates the humility of God. It is this image of the Incarnation, God becoming man, that Francis wanted to communicate to the people of his day. Seeing the live nativity scene, he hoped to stir the hearts and affections of the people to the love of God.

And so, it came at the Christmas Eve Mass in 1223, that a cave near Greccio was set up for Mass. Around the altar was placed hay like a stable, complete with a donkey and ass. And placed there was a crib for a baby and a woman as Mary. It was a live nativity scene. Francis, as a deacon, read the Gospel story of Jesus' birth and preached on the love God has for mankind by becoming a little child in such poor circumstances.

Francis pointed to the altar indicating that there on the altar in the Eucharist at consecration, the Christ child is present and comes to us in the form of bread and wine, his precious body and blood.

As we celebrate another Christmas, the Incarnation, and we gaze upon the nativity scene, may each of us, like Francis, be touched by the reality of what is happening and our hearts and minds stirred by the reality of God's love for us. It was out of love the Jesus became a baby and born of a virgin in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. May we be like the shepherds, who, when they heard the good news of Jesus birth, they came to the manger to adoration the newborn Christ child and say:

Lord Jesus, as I kneel before your manger in adoration, let my Christmas word be thank you! Thank you, Gift of the Father, for coming into our world and saving us.

On behalf of our parish and our staff here at Our Lady of Fatima, I wish everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas. May your Christmas be filled with the joy and peace of the Lord!

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

Mailing Address: 1517 E 33rd Avenue | Church Address: 3327 S Perry | Spokane, WA 99203

Email: ourladyoffatimaspokane@gmail.com

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GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR DEC 21, 2025

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-24 : An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

(Source: *Loyola Press Sunday Connection*)



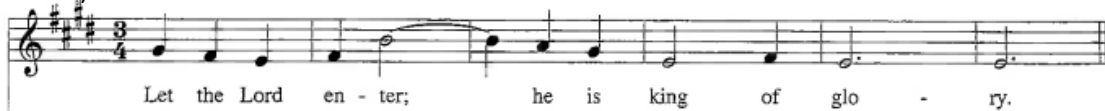
As Advent comes to a close, we look ahead to Christmas and the seasonal changes in our liturgy. During the Christmas season, we will once again sing the Glory to God (Gloria) at Mass. Our setting of the Gloria will be the familiar Mass of Wisdom, with Richard Proulx's Community Mass for the Holy, Holy (Sanctus) and Lamb of God (Agnus Dei). The Penitential Rite will be sung from Chant Mass VIII (Missa de Angelis).

Some of this music may be new, and all are encouraged to participate at a level that feels comfortable, remembering the Church's call to full and active participation in the liturgy.

We are also delighted to welcome back the choir for our Christmas services. These volunteers generously share their time and talent, and we are truly blessed by their ministry. That said, we are always in need of more singers! If you enjoy singing and feel called to join, please reach out—we would love to welcome you. Merry Christmas to you all.

Responsorial Psalm

Cantor, then All



Communion Proper Translation:

Behold, the Virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DEC 22
NO MASS

TUESDAY, DEC 23
(8:30 am Confession)
9 am, Fr. Vincent

WEDNESDAY, DEC 24
4 pm (Children's Mass)
7 pm
10 pm, Fr. John

THURSDAY, DEC 25
Christmas Day
10 am, Fr. John

FRIDAY, DEC 26
9 am, Fr. John

SATURDAY, DEC 27
(4:15 PM Confession)
5 PM, Fr. Vincent

SUNDAY, DEC 28
8 am, Fr. John
10:30 am, Fr. John

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 10 - Dec 17:
Tithe: \$11,805
Poor: \$95
Guatemala Fund: \$888

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER - CANDLE OF LOVE



Gracious God,
As we light the fourth candle of Advent,
We are reminded of Your great love for us.
You sent Your Son, Jesus, as the ultimate gift
of love. May His love fill our hearts and
overflow into our actions, Bringing hope,
peace, and joy to those around us. Amen.



Welcome to our newest parish families!

Mr. Richard Peterschick
Joseph and Mary Jo Heffron
Rob and Kelley Daugherty
Ms. Nicole Ramos & Mr. Colton Fitzgerald, who are
currently preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage
We're so glad you're here—please keep them in your
prayers and give them a warm hello!

THANK YOU, PARISH FAMILY! 🎄🌟

A heartfelt thank you to all the Our Lady of Fatima parishioners who so
generously gave to our Tree of Sharing. Every single tag was taken and
filled! Because of your kindness, compassion, and joyful giving, this
Christmas will be a little brighter for many of Spokane's little ones. What a
beautiful witness of God's love in action—well done, Fatima family!



Generation Bridge

Dear Parishioners,

We want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Our next Generation Bridge meet and greet will be on Friday, January
9th after Mass. We look forward to meeting you there!

Blessings~

All Saints Catholic School 8th graders



*The Memorial Poinsettias adorning our church
this Christmas season are given in loving memory
of the following individuals. They will be
prayerfully remembered at Mass on January 1st,
the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.*

Joel Kevin Lange	Nicolette Kennedy	Don Davis	Gary Henderson
John Small	Bryan & Maura Kennedy	Marge Kerwin	Terrina McMichael
Lucy Hromek	Kitty Byrne	Callahan Karstetter	Mike Eaton
Margaret O. Wilson	Bob & Freda Armstrong	Michael Harvey	Donald R. Doyen
C.R. Wilson	Joanie Reger	Bud Moore	Margaret R.E. Doyen
		Katie & Kelsey Sullivan	Nicholas Schultz

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Dec 23

Emerejilda Kanney+
Req. by Kika Finch

Friday, Dec 26

Bob Leeds+
Req. by Carolyn & Mike
Widhalm

DAILY READINGS

2025 DEC. 22 MONDAY

First Samuel 1:24-28; Psalm,
First Samuel 2:1, 4-8; Gospel,
Luke 1:46-56

2025 DEC. 23 TUESDAY

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalms
25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; Gospel,
Luke 1:57-66

2025 DEC. 24 WEDNESDAY

Second Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16;
Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29;
Gospel, Luke 1:67-79

2025 DEC. 25 THURSDAY

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalms 98:1, 2-
3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1:1-6;
Gospel, John 1:1-18

2025 DEC. 26 FRIDAY

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalms
31:3-4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 21; Gospel,
Matthew 10:17-22

2025 DEC. 27 SATURDAY

First John 1:1-4; Psalms 97:1-
2, 5-6, 11-12; Gospel, John
20:2-8

2025 DEC. 28 SUNDAY

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalms
128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Colossians
3:12-21; Gospel, Matthew 2:13-
15, 19-23

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