

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

*“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples.
Preach the gospel to all people.”*

be
ready
for the Son of Man is
coming at an hour when
you do not think He will come

www.stjosephcolbert.org

509-466-4991 | stjosephcolbert@dioceseofspokane.org

First Sunday of
Advent

November 29-30, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 PM
Sunday Mass 10:00 AM
Tuesdays 8:30 AM
Wednesdays 8:30 AM

RECONCILIATION

Wednesdays 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ADORATION

Wednesdays 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

PRAYER REQUESTS

stjosephcolbert.org/prayer-chain

PARISH REGISTRATION

stjosephcolbert.org/registration

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



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Online

stjosephcolbert.flocknote.com/give

3720 E Colbert Road
Colbert, WA 99005

PARISH CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 2

Daily Mass 8:30 AM

Faith Formation: Gospel of John 10:00AM

Eucharistic Minister Training 5:00 PM

Parish Council 6:00 PM

Faith Formation: Gospel of John 6:30PM

Wednesday, December 3

Daily Mass 8:30 AM

Adoration and Reconciliation 9:00 AM— 3:00 PM

Friday, December 5

Share the Word (explore the Sunday readings) 9:00 AM

Saturday, December 6

Women's Health & Wellness 8:30 AM

Religious Ed Choir practice for Christmas 11:00 AM



Food Sunday is December 6-7. This month only the collected food will be given to the 20 families from Meadowridge Elementary being helped through the Tree of Sharing. Items that would be particularly helpful are pancake mix, syrup, bagels, and dry cereal.

THANK YOU to all those who so generously donated to New Hope in the past week or so in memory of Bob Watkins.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 29 - St. Joseph Parishioners

Sunday, November 30 - Jerry Kubat+

Saturday, December 6 - St. Joseph Parishioners

Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas K. Connolly, Pastor

Joe Schroeder, Deacon

Jeannie Saccomanno, Office Manager

Bill Ryan, Facilities Manager

Emily Busch, RE Coordinator

Sydney Wilson, Youth Group

Mary Green, Admin. Assistant

Parish Council

Kira Busch | Michael Grieshaber

Paul Hittson | Lara McHenry

Ellen Stoner | Joe Winkler

Finance Council

Joleen Cooney | Ric Gaunt | Jim Novello

Richard Vann | Joyce Woodard

Eucharistic Ministers & Lector

Saturday, December 6

Mary F., Valerie M.

Lector: Terri C.

Sunday, December 7

Cindy G., Dey S., Anita A.

Lector: Mike K.

November 29-30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Responsorial Psalm *122:1-2,3-4,4-5,6-7,8-9*

Second Reading *Romans 13:11-14*

Gospel Reading *Matthew 24:37-44*

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

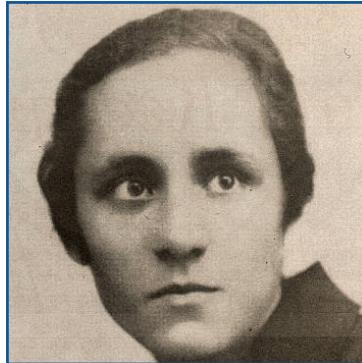
The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know *that* our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press

Spotlight on Saints

Saint Teresa of Calcutta
(known as Mother Teresa)
was an Albanian-born
Indian Catholic missionary and
nun who devoted her life to
helping those most in need.
She founded the Missionaries
of Charity in India in 1950, and
for over 45 years, she
ministered to the poor, sick,
orphaned and dying. At the
time of her death she ran over 500 missions in over 100
countries.



Mother Teresa served those who were most vulnerable and made many sacrifices in order to help others. She devoted her life to serving those in need without judgment.

From a young age, Teresa was fascinated with the exciting stories of missionaries who had served in Bengal, India. These stories were greatly influential to her, and by the time she was 12-years-old she had committed herself to a life of religion. At the age of 18, Teresa joined the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland with the intent of becoming a missionary. A year later, Teresa arrived in India to begin her novitiate and took her first religious vows in 1931. She chose to be named after Thérèse de Lisieux, the patron saint of missionaries, but because a nun in the convent had already chosen that name, she opted for its Spanish spelling—“Teresa”.

In 1937, Teresa took her solemn vows and began teaching at the Loreto convent school in Calcutta. There she served for nearly twenty years and was appointed as headmistress in 1944. It was during this time that she became aware of the immense suffering of those around her.

While traveling on a train from Calcutta to the Himalayan foothills for a retreat, Teresa experienced what she later described as “the call within a call.” The idea that all people are God’s children gripped her, and she heard Jesus telling her to quit her teachings to help those most in need by living amongst them.

Inspired by Jesus’ words in the Gospel, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,” Mother Teresa worked to serve “the poorest of the poor” on the streets of Calcutta. She gave away all of her possessions and lived in dire poverty with them in hopes of being better able to serve them.

—continued

Mother Teresa’s work was not easy. The conditions of the streets were deplorable and the poor she sought to help had no way out of their situations. She taught them tailoring, soap-making, basket-weaving, and candle-making, so they could earn money for themselves and their families.

During her lifetime, Mother Teresa became the world’s most recognizable symbol of selfless charity. She dedicated herself to lifting up the vulnerable people that had been cast out and overlooked by society. Mother Teresa treated everyone with compassion and supported them regardless of their religious beliefs or social status.

Her work made a difference.

—myneighbor.org

BITE 2 GO Program

No child should go hungry. Every child deserves a full belly and a bright future.

At Bite2Go, we unite compassionate neighbors to ensure that children at Midway Elementary have access to nutritious food every weekend during the school year. With recent cuts to vital food assistance programs, the need is greater than ever.

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, December 4 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Help Build Hope—One Kit at a Time

We’re inviting families to come together for a hands-on volunteer **EVENT** assembling food kits for those students in need. Children must be 14 years old to help.

SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY

November 22 or November 29

Kits are assembled at the
Wolff Family Child Hunger
Solution Center
402 N. Perry Street in Spokane.
Parking is available.



Path to the Pantry for December

Our community’s response to the recent chaos created during the government shutdown has been extraordinary. Neighbors in Elk/Chattaroy reached out generously to families in need of emergency food during those uncertain times. Schools, businesses and churches initiated food drives. Community groups collected cash donations, allowing us to purchase needed food at reduced costs. And individuals emptied their own cupboards to help out. People called to ask how they could help and what was needed, friends dropped by with donations of food, household products and even pet food. It has truly made a difference in serving those in need in our community. We thank you!

The volunteer garden crew had buttoned up our garden for the season, after a most productive harvest. We are so appreciative of this hearty group who works in rain, sleet and blazing sun to provide fresh produce for Pantry clients. They are already planning for the year ahead and are asking local gardeners to donate vegetable seeds for planting in our greenhouse beginning in February. If you can help, please call and leave a message for Chris, our garden manager, at 509-292-2530.



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