

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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



"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- John the Baptist

**December 6-7, 2025**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**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](http://stjosephcolbert.org/prayer-chain)

**PARISH REGISTRATION**

[stjosephcolbert.org/registration](http://stjosephcolbert.org/registration)

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve 5:00 PM  
(Children's Liturgy)

Christmas Eve 8:00 PM

Christmas Day 10:00 AM

# PARISH CALENDAR

## Monday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass 6:00 PM

## Tuesday, December 9

Daily Mass 8:30 AM

Bingo & Potluck 12:00 PM

## Wednesday, December 10

Daily Mass 8:30 AM

Adoration & Reconciliation 9:00 AM— 2:00 PM

## Friday, December 12

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

## Saturday, December 13

Men's Fellowship & Breakfast 7:00 AM

Women's Health & Fitness 8:30 AM

Religious Education Choir practice 11:00 AM

## Sunday, December 14

Religious Education classes 11:15 AM

OCIA Class 11:15 AM

Faith in Action Ministry meeting 11:15 AM

## Tuesday, December 16

Daily Mass 8:30 AM

Book Club 1:30 PM

## Wednesday, December 17

Daily Mass 8:30 AM

Adoration & Reconciliation 9:00 AM— 2:00 PM

## Friday, December 19

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

## Saturday, December 20

Women's Health & Wellness 8:30 AM

Religious Education Choir practice 11:00 AM

## 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, Chair

Paul Hittson | Lara McHenry

Ellen Stoner | Joe Winkler

## Finance Council

Joleen Cooney | Ric Gaunt | Jim Novello

Richard Vann | Joyce Woodard

## Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors

### Saturday, December 13

Renee M., Peg E. **Lector:** Terry C.

### Sunday, December 14

Bob P., Lehsley W., Linda H., Janet E.

**Lector:** Lara M.

# Children's Choir

The Children's Liturgy is on Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM.

Several children are already signed up to participate. We will have 2 practices--Saturday, December 13 from 11:00-11:45 and Saturday, December 20 from 11:00-11:45. We also ask that the children arrive at church on Christmas Eve by 4:00 p.m. Contact Emily Busch (RE Coordinator) for more information.

# Adult Choir

## Do you feel called to share your voice in song?

St. Joseph's Parish choir is looking for new members! If you'd like to join, please reach out to Marie O'Neal or Ric Gaunt after Mass, or send a text to one of the numbers listed below.

- **Commitment:** One day a month—Saturday or Sunday.
- **Preparation:** We rehearse 1 hour before each Mass.
- **Resources:** Weekly song lists are sent by email, and if you're new to the music, you can easily listen and learn through YouTube.

With Advent here, and Christmas approaching, this is the perfect time to lift your voice and be part of something joyful. Come sing with us—you'll bless others and be blessed yourself!

**Marie O'Neal (206-915-9231) :: Ric Gaunt (509-981-3588)**

INCOME	Budget/week	Actual/week
Envelopes	\$ 3,385.00	\$ 3,186.00
Plate	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,083.00
Online gifts	\$ 1865.00	\$ 2,025.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,354.75</b>
Kids collection		\$ 36.37

**First Reading** *Isaiah 11:1-10*

**Responsorial Psalm** *72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17*

**Second Reading** *Romans 15:4-9*

**Gospel Reading** *Matthew 3:1-12*

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In this week's Gospel Reading, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: "... the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

*Sunday Connection, Loyola Press*

### MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 6 - St. Joseph Parishioners

Sunday, December 7 - Bob Watkins+

Tuesday, December 9— Andy Keon+

Wednesday, December 10—Eleanor Sears+

Saturday, December 13- St. Joseph Parishioners

### Spotlight on Young Saints

St. Catherine of Alexandria was a 4th-century Christian martyr, celebrated for her intellect and steadfast faith in the face of persecution. According to legend she debated and converted many pagan philosophers, including the emperor's own scholars, before being sentenced to be tortured on a spiked wheel.



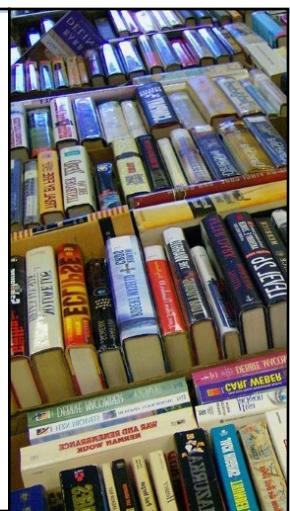
Born a noblewoman in Alexandria, Egypt, Catherine was a gifted scholar. She converted to Christianity after receiving a vision, and at age 18, confronted Emperor Maxentius about his persecution of Christians. Maxentius challenged her to a public debate with 50 of his best philosophers, who were so impressed by her wisdom that they converted to Christianity. Approximately 200 soldiers and members of the royal family also converted.

Condemned to death on a spiked breaking wheel, Catherine touched the wheel, and it shattered, killing those around it instead. Unable to execute her with the wheel, the emperor then had her beheaded.

According to tradition, angels carried her body to Mount Sinai, where the St. Catherine Monastery was later built in the 6th century. She is the patron saint of philosophers, students, librarians, and is often depicted with a broken wheel. Her feast day is November 25.

—Catholic Apostolate Center

**Faith in Action Ministry's** next Book Sale is January 17-18 and 24-25. If you have books to donate, please bring them to church before January 12, and put them in the hallway to the left of the dining room.



**Please DO NOT** bring magazines, large coffee table books or old text books.

Call Peggy with questions  
509-994-6001.



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