

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

Parish Mission Statement: *To love God and our neighbor through worship in our Catholic tradition, committed witness, and good works.*

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Fifth & W. Waldrip, Elma, Washington

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| Confession | Sunday | 8:15 a.m. |
| Mass | Sunday | 9 a.m. |
| Mass | Wednesday | 6 p.m. |
| Mass | Friday | Noon |

St. John's Catholic Church

414 E. Broadway St., Montesano, Washington

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| Confession | Saturday | 4:15 p.m. |
| Mass | Saturday | 5 p.m. |
| Mass | Sunday | 11 a.m. |
| Mass | Tuesday | 6 p.m. |
| Mass | Thursday | Noon |
| Adoration | Wed. & Fri. | 10 a.m. to Noon |



Holiday Mass Schedule

Christmas Vigil (12/24)

- 7 p.m. St. Joseph
- 9 p.m. St. John

Christmas Day (12/25)

- 9 a.m. St. Joseph
- 11 a.m. St. John

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (1/1/2021)

- 10 a.m. St. Joseph
- Noon St. John

Confession Schedule

12/18 - 6-7 p.m. St. Joseph
12/19 - 4-5 p.m. St. John

Priest Administrator: Father Arulanandu David

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Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Download the Online Giving app on your mobile device to make it easy to support your parish:

<https://www.osvonline.giving.com/2942>



The Knights of Columbus meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month.

Visit us online at www.twosaints.us

Third Sunday of Advent - December 13, 2020

Gaudete Sunday - December 13, 2020 What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent?

For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.



During Advent, we remember Mary's journey to motherhood. Today, many women are in need of support. Take the pledge to pray and serve women facing challenging or unexpected pregnancies and learn more about how you can help. Visit

<https://www.walkingwithmoms.com>

We are accepting donations for Christmas flowers at St. John's and St. Joseph's. The Alter Societies will be purchasing them.



Pope Francis's Birthday is Thursday, December 17, Pope Francis celebrates his 84th birthday!



St. Placid Priory has a new ministry: The Priory Arts Shop.

This is an on-line site where you can find fine arts as well as handmade and hand-decorated items fashioned by the sisters and their friends.

Go to stplacid.org/shop to view the creations and make purchases. When you buy from this site you support the community of St. Placid Priory and its ministries. Christmas is coming and we



Important Dates

December 25 – Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

December 27 – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 31 – New Year's Eve

Baptism, Marriage, Other Services, Scheduling Appointments with Father David:

Know someone who is no longer attending Mass? Do you need home Communion?

Call the office at 360-482-3190 to schedule a time.

Anointing of the Sick

Call parish office
360-482-3190
Or call Fr. David at
307-723-0004

Special Intention Mass

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your special intention. Contact the parish office to schedule a weekday Mass intention.

Deadline for items placed in the bulletin
Wednesday noon
p hm.twosaints@gmail.com



The “O Antiphons” of Advent

The Roman Church has been singing the “O Antiphons” since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative “Come!” embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.



In the last days of Advent, you may wish to add these “O Antiphons” to your evening prayer, your prayer at table, or your bedtime prayer.

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse’s stem,
sign of God’s love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!





Fact of Faith

Advent: A Biblical Journey of Hope

by Marcellino D'Ambrosio

Advent is simply the Latin word for “coming.” If we can manage to meditate on any “coming” in December besides the comings and goings of Christmas shopping, it’s usually Christ’s coming to Mary in a stable.

But the Scripture readings of Advent mainly focus on another coming: the second and final coming of Jesus at the end of time.

From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus’ promise to come back. Many have claimed to recognize the signs of his imminent return and have even tried to predict the date.

But our Advent scripture readings tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down, neutralized and utterly distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36).

Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 3 to work to make greater progress in the life of holiness, putting on the character of Christ.

But as we engage in the challenging work of preparation, we are to labor in joyful anticipation. For Advent is a season of hope. Yes, mountains need to be leveled and valleys must be filled in (Is 40). But that is primarily God’s task. And he will do it. For “God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory,” says the prophet Baruch (5:9).

In fact, the third Sunday of Advent is so much about rejoicing that it is called *Gaudete* (Rejoice)

Sunday. “Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again, Rejoice!” commands the apostle Paul (Phil 4:4-7).

Yet the Gospel from this same Sunday features the stark figure of John the Baptist, calling people to repent and reform their lives in preparation for the coming of someone who is much mightier than John . . . We, like John, are also to prepare the way by calling others to Christ. Think about inviting someone to church during Advent. Evangelization can be as simple as that.

The final Sunday of Advent seems to fit in more with our idea of the holiday spirit: Mary visits Elizabeth and the talk is about the two babies to be born. John leaps for joy in his mother’s womb, Elizabeth acclaiming Mary, and Mary magnifies the Lord (Lk 1:26-38).

But bear in mind that Mary, newly pregnant, has just made a bumpy 70-mile donkey ride and has two more to go before she gives birth in a stable. And Elizabeth, of advanced age, is about to have her first child (by modern standards, a high-risk pregnancy). Advent joy is not always comfortable.

Of course, there is no birth without labor. So, as we rejoice in hope over the imminent coming of Christ, perhaps we ought to do everything possible to make sure that the labor goes successfully.

For if Christ is born anew in us this Advent, there’ll really be something to rejoice about come Christmas morning.

D’Ambrosio writes for the Catholic News Service from Texas. He is co-founder of Crossroads Productions—www.crossroadsinitiative.com—an apostolate of Catholic renewal and evangelization.

