

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

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

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



Lord Jesus Christ, being subject to Mary and Joseph, You sanctified family life by Your beautiful virtues. Grant that we, with the help of Mary and Joseph, may be taught by the example of Your holy Family, and may after death enjoy its everlasting companionship.

Lord Jesus, help us ever to follow the example of Your holy Family, that in the hour of our death Your glorious Virgin Mother together with Saint Joseph may come to meet us, and we may be worthy to be received by You into the everlasting joys of heaven. You live and reign forever. Amen.

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Office Hours:
Tuesday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Online Giving
is easy,
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Download the Online Giving app on your mobile device to make it easy to support your parish:
<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/2942>



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

Visit us online at www.twosaints.us

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - December 27, 2020

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

Add an additional prayer to your family routine today and brainstorm ways you might help each other grow in faith throughout this New Year.



**Friday, January 1st
is the Solemnity of
Mary, the Holy
Mother of God**

**Mass Schedule
10 a.m. St. Joseph
Noon St. John**

"Mary is more blessed in receiving the faith of Christ, than in conceiving the flesh of Christ."
St. Augustine, *On Holy Virginity*, 3

For parents and students in Faith Formation and those still social distancing. Faith Formation in person has continued for many of our students during this pandemic. In class instruction will always be the best choice for our youth and adult parishioners, but here are 3 online tools for families to support their children's spiritual growth.

Faith and Life - <https://www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com/home.aspx?pagename=Category-Page>

Subscription \$21.00 Uses the current Faith Formation curriculum. (866) 981-8964. This is an annual subscription to the same series that the students are being taught in the classrooms by our Faith Formation Teachers.

Living Faith - <https://www.livingfaith.com/kids>. Daily Scripture readings from the Catholic Mass for Children 8-12. -\$16 (1 Year)

Crossroads Kids Club - <https://crossroadskidsclub.net>. FREE series of YouTube Old and New Testament Bible Videos with Accurate Biblical Teaching for Children pre K-6th Grade. A very fun and creative format for learning the basics bible stories and understanding salvation.

Para padres y estudiantes en Formación de Fe y quienes aún están en distancia. La formación en la fe en persona ha continuado para muchos de nuestros estudiantes durante esta pandemia. La instrucción en clase siempre será la mejor opción para nuestros jóvenes y adultos, pero aquí hay tres formas en las que las familias pueden ayudar en el crecimiento espiritual de sus hijos.

Fe y Vida - <https://www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com/home.aspx?pagename=Category-Page> Suscripción \$21.00 Utiliza el plan de estudios actual de formación en la fe. (866) 981-8964 Esta es una suscripción anual a la misma serie que nuestros maestros de formación en la fe enseñan a los estudiantes en las aulas.

Viviendo la fe - <https://www.livingfaith.com/kids> Lecturas diarias de las Escrituras de la Misa católica para niños de 8 a 12 años. - \$16 (1 año)

Club de niños Crossroads - <https://crossroadskidsclub.net/> Serie GRATUITA de videos bíblicos del Antiguo y Nuevo Testamento de YouTube con enseñanza bíblica precisa para niños de pre kínder a sexto grado. Un formato muy divertido y creativo para aprender las historias bíblicas básicas y comprender la salvación.

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
phm.twosaints@gmail.com



Christmas Season Reflection

“God’s love for us is fundamental for our lives, and it raises important questions about who God is and who we are” (Pope Benedict XVI, *God Is Love [Deus Caritas Est]*, no. 2).

Success Is in God’s Hands, Not Ours Alone

Christmas celebrates the fruit of Mary and Joseph’s trust in God. The long-awaited Messiah, sent to save us from our sins and win back the eternal blessedness lost by Adam’s sin, is born.

The Son of God is like us in all things but sin. We learn from the Incarnation that our success is in God’s hands. Without the Father’s love we would be lost of all eternity. Mary and Joseph sacrificed greatly to make the arduous journey to Bethlehem, to obey God’s directive to flee into Egypt, and to go to Nazareth to raise Jesus. Ambiguity, uncertainty, and brokenness touched the Holy Family. Their lives teach us that we cannot understand God’s designs. This wonderful lesson urges parts to put their families in God’s hands and trust that their efforts will bear fruit. Faithful parents are examples for us, single or married. We, too, are to put ourselves in God’s hands. In so doing,

God’s grace helps us realize better the depths of who we are and what we are called to become.

Pause to reflect on the importance of trusting God and putting our lives in his hands.

Questions for Reflection:

- 1. How can we imitate the Holy Family during difficult times, such as job loss, sickness, times of doubt, and death?*
 - 2. In what ways does Jesus’ coming at Christmas help us appreciate our need to put our lives in God’s hands? Let us pray, asking the Holy Spirit to give us courage in difficult times to imitate the Holy Family.*
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Good News of Great Joy

AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, THE INTRODUCTION FROM POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II'S ENCYCLICAL *EVANGELIUM VITAE* PROVIDES A RICH SOURCE OF REFLECTION ON GOD'S LOVE FOR HUMAN LIFE, WHICH HE CREATED IN HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS:

"At the dawn of salvation, it is the birth of a child which is proclaimed as joyful news: 'I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord' (Lk. 2:10-11). The source of this 'great joy' is the birth of the Savior; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfillment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn. 16:21)."

It is amazing to contemplate that the eternal Son of God became man and experienced every stage and aspect of the human condition, except sin. He was conceived in the Virgin Mary and took the form of a human being, beginning life like every human being—as a single-celled embryo.

According to Scripture, after the Incarnation of our Lord, Mary went in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant with John the Baptist. Given that it would have taken two to three days for Mary to reach Elizabeth, it's possible that Jesus had not yet implanted in Mary's womb (implantation occurs 5-7 days after conception) when His presence caused John to stir in Elizabeth's womb: "For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:44).

C. S. Lewis provides another source of reflection on the sanctity of *all* human life in *The Weight of Glory*: "The dullest and most

uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship. ... There are no *ordinary* people. ... Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses."

With these thoughts in mind, I cannot imagine a better way to celebrate the birth of our Lord in a humble stable in Bethlehem, and to celebrate the gift of every human life, than to support a local pregnancy help center or maternity home. These centers do extraordinary work and truly represent the heart of the pro-life movement's goal of making abortion unthinkable.

Another way to make a difference is through our prayers and sacrifices. Taking place in January, *9 Days for Life* (www.9daysforlife.com) is an annual period of prayer and action for life. Each day of the novena provides a different intercession, reflection, information item and suggested action. The novena is available in English and Spanish, and can be received in four ways: a free mobile app, text message, email, or social media.

May the good news of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ bring great joy to all—comforting the afflicted, deepening respect for all human life, and strengthening us to share the Gospel of Life.

Greg Schleppebach is Associate Director at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information about the bishops' pro-life activities, visit: www.usccb.org/prolife.

