

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

10243 12TH AVENUE SOUTH  
SEATTLE, WA 98168

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 69206  
SEATAC, WA 98168 - 9206

206-735-7598

[WWW.DUCMELODUCSEATTLE.ORG](http://WWW.DUCMELODUCSEATTLE.ORG)

**WELCOME!**

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

## MASS SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

### TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

### SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

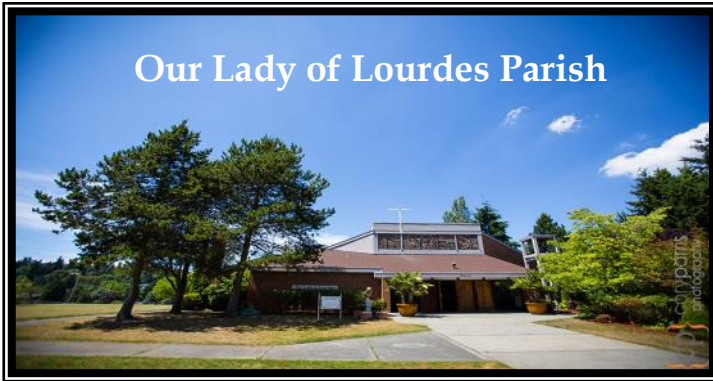
## ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration  
6:00 pm Mass

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am  
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



### PARISH STAFF

#### PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL  
Frjoseph.vu@ollpsea.org  
206-735-7598 ext. 1

#### Parochial Vicar

Fr. Peter Doan, S.D.D.  
Frpeter.Doan@ollpsea.org  
206-735-7598 ext. 2

#### Parish Secretary

Thu Thai Duong  
thu.duong@ollpsea.org

#### PA Administration/Bookkeeper

Jadelyn Manuel  
jadelyn.stoll@gmail.com

#### Administration/Data Entry

Michelle Miller  
Michelle.Miller@ollpsea.org

#### Administration/Data Entry

Monica Schwarz  
Monica.schwarz@ollpsea.org

#### Liturgy Coordinator

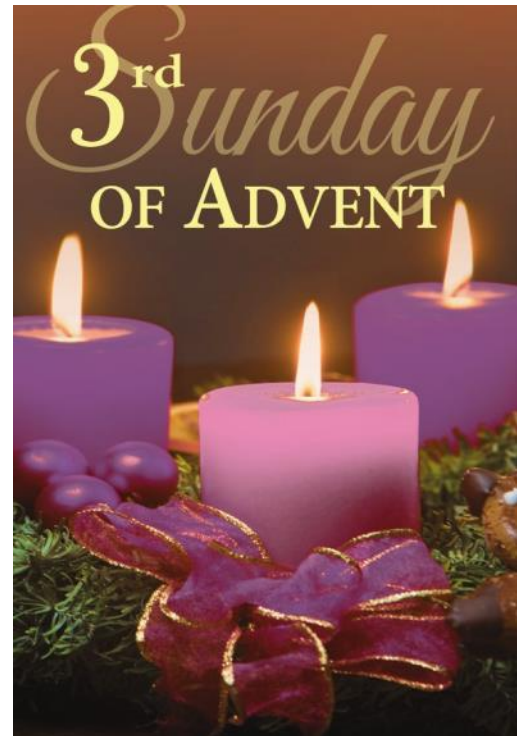
Barb Ridge  
ollstlliturgy@aol.com

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

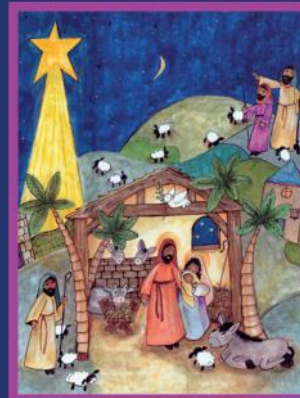
Monday: Closed  
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment  
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (DECEMBER 3RD – 4TH)

Donation	\$5,231.00
Donation Online	\$1,475.00
Maintenance Fund	\$35.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$6,741.00</b>



#### A Prayer for the Poor



Lord, let Your Light shine where people feel forgotten and hopeless.  
Let Your Light comfort the ill, the abandoned and the abused.  
Let Your Light lift up those who suffer at the hands of hate and prejudice.  
Help us be Your ears, listening to the cries of the poor.  
Help us be Your voice, speaking out of love and compassion.  
Help us be Your hands, feeding, clothing, and sheltering those most in need.  
Help us bring Your Light and Hope to those in this world who feel lost and unloved.  
Lord, hear our prayer.  
*Amen*



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**THANK YOU to all who supported the 2022 Annual Appeal for the Poor. 94 cents of every dollar you donated will go back to our community**

**GIFTS RECEIVED \$2,698.00**



# Christ Is the Source of True Joy

## Homily for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

We just heard the word "joy", in one form another, six times.

Do you think God is trying to tell us something?

We have put away our dark vestments today; we have traded our purple and midnight blue vestments for rose vestments.

Do you think the Church is trying to tell us something?

The dark night in which the world waited helplessly for its Savior is coming to an end; Christmas is drawing closer; Christ will soon be born.

- Christ himself is the sun that lights up the dark night sky, and he is drawing near; the horizon is beginning to glow with a pale, rose-colored light.
- The rose vestments are a visual echo of the words of the First Reading, which called us to rejoice.
- Today is "Gaudete" [g-ow-DEH-tay] Sunday, the Sunday of Rejoicing.

But isn't this a naive, childish thing to do in today's world?

After all, the world is still flooded with sin.

- Every day the news reports about death in Iraq, violence in the Middle East, genocide in Africa, natural disasters in Asia and South America.
- Every day thousands of babies are killed by abortion, innocent women and children are sold into slavery on the black market, people who seem to have everything plunge into despair and commit suicide.

Isn't it selfish and foolish to rejoice in the middle of such a suffering world?

Not at all.

- We do not rejoice because we believe Jesus came to bring heaven down to earth.
- Rather, we rejoice because we know that Jesus came to open a path from earth into heaven.
- The joy of the Christian is the joy of a hope guaranteed by God himself. This is true joy, the joy of hope, and Christ is its source.

## Setting Up the Manger Scene

It is not hard to let this spirit of true joy brighten up our lives these days, as Christmas comes closer.

Even though consumerism has learned to take advantage of this season in many places, it has done so by surrounding us with decorations, images, and music that can serve as excellent reminders of the truth that Christ has come to live among us - the truth that is the source of Christian joy.

- The evergreen wreaths and Christmas trees are a symbol of God's undying love, always green and fresh, even in the middle of darkest, coldest winter.
- The lights and glittering bulbs remind us that Christ's light came to conquer the darkness of sin and ignorance, and that it will always continue to shine, leading us to true happiness.

But above all, the manger scenes that abound this time of year vividly portray the most amazing fact in human history:

- God actually became a human being.
- He was actually born once as Mary's little baby, so that by our faith in him we could be born again as children of God.
- The manger in Bethlehem, in fact, is the reality that all the other symbols point to.

In many places of the world, Catholics have a long tradition of setting up their family manger scenes right after celebrating the Immaculate Conception,

- "as if to relive with Mary those days full of trepidation that preceded the birth of Jesus" (Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, Third Sunday of Advent, 2005).
- It's a good tradition, one that can help all of us live these days more profoundly and joyfully.

Today, as Christ renews his presence among us in the Eucharist, let's promise that as we approach the celebration of Christmas, we will let that presence bring joy to our hearts - true joy, the kind that only Christ can give.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God and God transforms the darkness into light.

"Be strong, fear not!" Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life's roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life's unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again?



As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God's merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God's child.

Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist's message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this?

*Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." - Mt 11:4-5*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

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