

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

10243 12TH AVENUE SOUTH
SEATTLE, WA 98168

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206-735-7598

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday, December 24th

8:30 AM English
10:30 AM Vietnamese
5:00 PM Vietnamese
8:00 PM Vietnamese

Monday, December 25th

8:30 AM English
10:30 AM Vietnamese

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th 7:00 PM – End

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



PARISH STAFF

PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL
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Safe Environment & Facilities Manager

Tang Nguyen (Volunteer Staff)
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Please Call for Appointment

PARISH OFFICE 206-735-7598

Sacrament of Anointing the Sick: Ext. 1

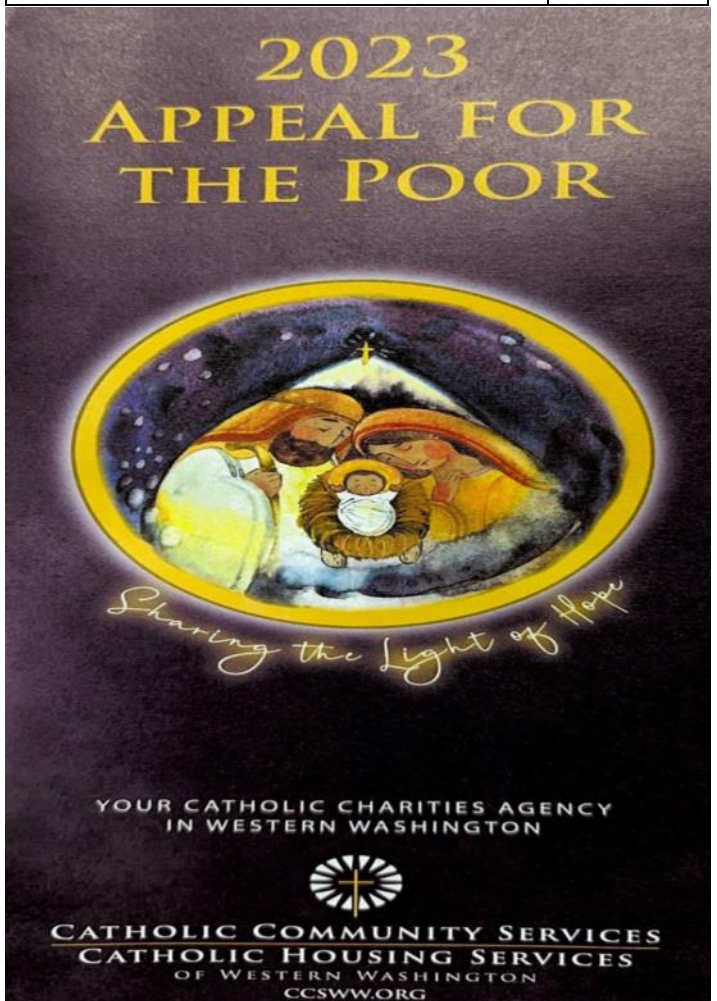
Parish Staff: Ext. 2

Administrative Support: Ext. 3

Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

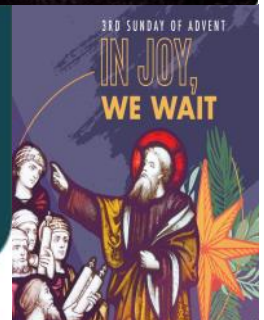
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (DECEMBER 9TH – 10TH)

Donation	\$5,014.00
Donation Online	\$2,070.00
Maintenance Fund	\$35.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$7,119.00



Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.



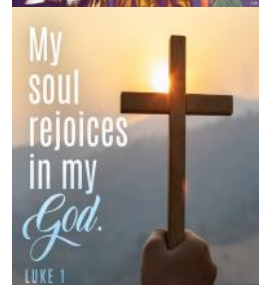
Observances for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOMILY BY FATHER JOSEPH VU

Christ Brings the Deepest Joy

Today is "Gaudete [gow-DEH-tay] Sunday."

- The word "gaudete" is Latin for "rejoice," and in the Latin version of today's Mass, it's the very first word.
- The liturgy for every Mass begins with a short verse from the Bible, called the "entrance antiphon."
- That verse can also be substituted by a hymn, but in the official liturgical books, every Mass begins with an entrance antiphon.
- The third Sunday of Advent has been "Gaudete Sunday" ever since the time of Pope St Gregory the Great, in the sixth century [original Catholic Encyclopedia].
- It's the reason for the rose-colored vestments and Advent candle.

Why is the Church inviting all believers to rejoice at the midpoint of Advent?

Because Christ's coming to earth, which Advent looks forward to, is the only source of the true, lasting joy. Joy is the deep satisfaction experienced whenever we come into possession of something good.

- But all the good things in this world, apart from God, are temporary and fragile.
- Money, success, health, even friendship and being in love - all these things are limited.
- If circumstances change or enough time passes, we either become tired of them, or they go away.
- And so, the joy that comes from possessing them is only a temporary joy.

But our hearts are thirsty for a joy that will never go away, because that's what we were created for.

- Our deepest desire is to be known and loved completely, unconditionally and everlastingly, by another person.
- Only God can fulfill that desire.
- But original sin cut this world off from friendship with God, and so the human heart was stranded.
- On Christmas Day, two thousand years ago, God came to our rescue.
- And now, because of Christ, the true, lasting joy that each one of us desires more than anything else, is possible.

That's why the Entrance Antiphon doesn't just say, "Rejoice." It says, "Rejoice in the Lord."

Spreading Christian Joy

All of us here today believe in Jesus Christ and his unhesitating love for us, the source of true, lasting joy.

- And yet, often the troubles of life seem to fill our hearts with discouragement and sadness.
- When that happens, we need to turn back to Christ in prayer, to let him remind us that he is with us, guiding us, and loving us.
- Often he permits struggles in our life precisely so that we will come closer to him, never giving in to the temptation to base our joy on something temporary and fragile.

But what about those around us who don't have a faith to turn back to?

- Some of them have never heard the Gospel - they think Christmas is about parties with big punch bowls and presents with big credit card debts.
- Others used to have faith, but they left it aside.
- For them, Advent and Christmas are bittersweet seasons: surrounded by so many signs of joy, when they look into their hearts they don't find any reason for joy, because they don't know Christ.
- God wants to do for them what he has already done for us; and he wants us to help him.

In the ten days we have before Christmas, let's commit ourselves to doing two things.

- First, let's take enough time for personal prayer so that we stir up our own Christian joy - the devil wants to keep us so busy that we can't do that; let's outsmart him.
- And second, let's reach out to someone who needs to discover the only source of lasting joy: a deep, personal friendship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If we make an effort, putting our little bit of bread onto the altar; God will work a miracle, just as he is about to do in the sacrifice of this holy Mass.

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the “men in white coats” came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, “It's okay. I see it, too.”

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

*“He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.”
— John 1:8*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

Answer:

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: “Our Father who art in heaven...” In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — “Give us, this day, our daily bread” — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, “Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”