

# 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



**NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1/01/24**

**MASS TIMES:**

**8:30 AM Bilingual**  
**(English & Vietnamese)**  
**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**

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



### PARISH STAFF

#### PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL  
Frjoseph.vu@ollpsea.org

#### Parochial Vicar

Fr. Paul Thanh Vu, S.D.D.  
Thanh.Vu@ollpsea.org

#### 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

#### Safe Environment & Facilities Manager

Tang Nguyen (Volunteer Staff)  
Tang.nguyen@ollpsea.org

### 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 23RD – 24TH)

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Donation         | \$4,617.00 |
| Donation Online  | \$1,235.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | \$5.00     |
| Debt Reduction   | \$0        |
| Total Donation   | \$5,857.00 |



### THE HOLY FAMILY

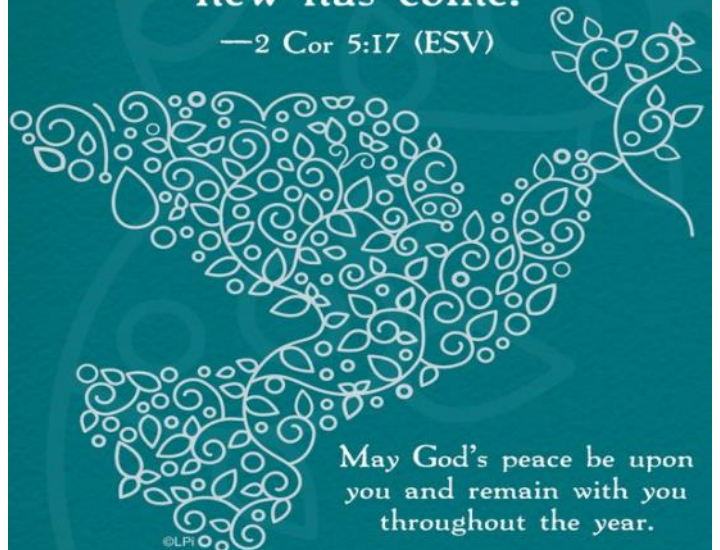
The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC.

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Therefore, if anyone is in  
Christ, he is a new  
creation. The old has  
passed away; behold, the  
new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)



May God's peace be upon  
you and remain with you  
throughout the year.

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## *Faith Requires Obedience*

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY HOMILY BY FATHER JOSEPH VU

#### **Christian Obedience Is a Virtue**

We all like to give orders, but obeying orders is another story.

- Ever since that conversation in the Garden of Eden when the Devil made Eve think that disobedience was more fun than obedience, the human race has been a race of rebels.

- In our day, democracy has helped create a mentality wherein the only person we should obey is ourselves.
- We make the laws, and therefore we will obey them.

But for Mary and Joseph, the situation was different.

- They were obliged to follow the Jewish law regarding their firstborn son - a law not man-made, but God-made.
  - Because children are a gift from God, ultimately they belong to God; the Jewish law prescribed a ritual by which parents acknowledged this truth: they would offer God a gift in symbolic exchange for their child.
  - This is what today's Gospel means when it says that Mary and Joseph "consecrated" Jesus to the Lord.
- This insight into the nature of human life - that it comes from God and belongs to God - is the reason behind the Christian virtue of obedience.

- In politics, democracy makes sense, because all citizens are on the same level.
- But in our relationship with God we are not equals.
- We are just little children relative to God, like grains of sand at the foot of a mountain in comparison with God the all-powerful, all-wise, and all-loving.
- And for this reason, our relationship with him should be characterized by obedience, by letting him guide us with his commandments and inspirations along a path that he sees better than we do.
- Today's Second Reading praises Abraham and Sarah precisely because their faith, unlike Adam and Eve's, was strong enough to feed the virtue of obedience.

For a Christian, obedience to God is a virtue that leads to spiritual maturity, not a vice that betrays human dignity.

#### **The Obedience of Friendship**

Most religions don't know for certain what God's will is, because they don't have Jesus Christ.

- Believers in these religions have to obey what they think God's will is by following their conscience.
- But the voice of conscience, like human nature in general, was damaged by original sin.
- That's why so many horrible errors and terrible crimes are committing by people who say that it was "God's will."

As Christians, if we faithfully follow the teachings of Christ and his Church, we will always avoid those errors and crimes.

One of the main reasons that Christ became man was to heal and enlighten our wounded conscience with his grace. This is why a healthy prayer life is so important for learning to follow God's will.

By spending time each day

- reading and reflecting on the Bible,
- praying the Rosary,
- or simply conversing with Christ in our hearts,
- we gradually learn to think as God thinks and to want what God wants.

Christian obedience is the obedience of friendship.

- Friends don't have to force themselves to do what's best for each other.
- They care about each other so deeply that they want the same things and react in the same ways.
- That is what happens to Christians when we become spiritually mature: our friendship with Christ is so deep and natural that doing God's will becomes second nature.
- Avoiding anything that will harm that friendship - evil, sin - becomes easier and easier as the friendship gets deeper and deeper.
- And doing everything that will help that friendship - prayer, patience, kindness, self-control - also becomes easier.

Avoiding evil and doing good: that's the bottom line when it comes to God's will.

And if we make a habit of daily prayer, our conscience will always be able to tell us the difference.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"Your own issue shall be your heir."  
The Lord took Abram outside and said,  
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.  
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."  
(Gn 3:4-5)

### Psalm:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

### Second Reading:

By faith he received power to generate,  
even though he was past the normal age  
—and Sarah herself was sterile. (Heb 11:11)

### Gospel:

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

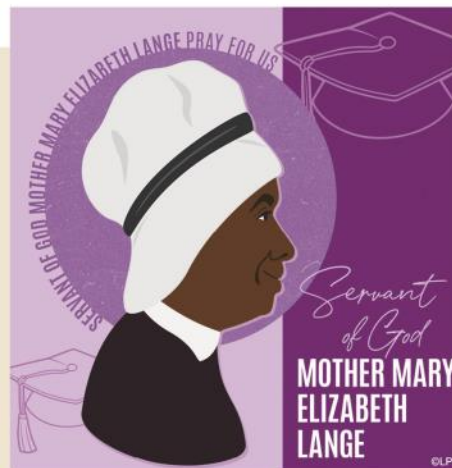
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

## Observances for the week of December 31, 2023

- Sunday:** The Holy Family; New Year's Eve  
**Monday:** Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace  
**Tuesday:** Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church  
**Wednesday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus  
**Thursday:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious  
**Friday:** St. John Neumann, Bishop  
**Saturday:** St. André Bessette, Religious  
**Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord



## Saint of the week

Venerable Mary Elizabeth Lange was a trailblazing black Catholic who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of black religious sisters in the USA. Her faith and perseverance helped break down barriers and create new opportunities for black Catholics.

## Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endow her with humility, courage, holiness, and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and the sick. You enabled her to fund the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provided educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (state your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://holacatholic.org/news/black-catholic-history-month-mother-mary-lange#:~:text=Prayer,the%20poor%20and%20the%20sick.>)