

Sacraments:

Infant Baptism -- Parents need to contact the pastor regarding instruction/preparation. The sacrament will be scheduled when the parents and pastor are in agreement that the family is ready for this experience.

Initiation of Adults & Older Children (RCIA): Contact the parish.

Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:00pm at Nativity or by appointment (watch bulletin for special reconciliation services).

Matrimony -- Engaged couples need to contact the pastor at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date. They need to participate in a series of instructions. They should make no final decision regarding the wedding date until they and the pastor are in agreement that they are ready for this experience. **Please do not set a wedding date prior to contacting the pastor.**

Sacrament of the Sick and/or Communion for the Sick -- Either the parishioner or a relative should contact the pastor whenever the parishioner is sick and wishes to receive communion or the Sacrament of the Sick.

Confirmation: Adult & Youth; preparation is required. Please contact the parish.

Parish registration: Registration cards are in the vestibule of the church.

Mass Schedules:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm at Nativity

Sunday: 9:00am at Nativity; 11:15am at St. John's

Daily: Wednesday through Friday at 11:00am at Nativity

Holy Days: see bulletin

Rosary: ½ hour before Mass on Sundays

Day	Date	Time	Intention/Feast	Mass Readings
Sun	12/03	9:00am / 11:15am	1 st Sunday of Advent	Is 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7 / 1 Cor 1:3-9 / Mk 13:33-37
Mon	12/04	No Daily Mass	St. John Damascene	Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11
Tues	12/05	No Daily Mass	1 st Week of Advent	Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24
Wed	12/06	11:00am (NBVM)	St. Nicholas	Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37
Thurs	12/07	11:00am (NBVM)	St. Ambrose	Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21,24-27
Fri	12/08	6:30pm (NBVM)	Immaculate Conception	Gn 3:9-15,20 / Eph 1:3-6,11-12 / Lk 1:26-38
Sat	12/09	No Daily Mass	St. Juan Diego	Is 30:19-21,23-26 / Mt 9:35—10:1,5a,6-8
Sat	12/09	5:00pm NBVM	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Is 40:1-5,9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8
Sun	12/10	9:00am / 11:15am	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Is 40:1-5,9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8

Collection

Collection	NBVM	SJB
Budget per Week	[\$1,338.00]	[\$754.00]
5pm & 9am / 11:15am Sunday	\$1,046.00	\$553.00
Building Fund		
Flowers	\$10.00	
Campaign for Human Development	\$20.00	

Liturgical Ministers for – 12/09/17 to 12/10/17

	NBVM Vigil	NBVM Sunday	SJB Sunday	Immaculate Conception NBVM
Server	Ron Haley	Ron Haley	Gracie, Christina, Pearl, Gabriel	Emma Hisey
Lector	Open	Kathy Meier	Kathy Reandeau	Angelique Hisey
EME	Deacon Paul	Joe Elbert	Tracy Points	Anne Greer
Music	Paula	Connie & Jackie	Carol Fiel & “choir”	TBA
Hospitality	n/a	Please sign up	Guyton family	n/a

Bulletin: Announcements need to be received by Wednesday at 7pm for inclusion in that weekend’s bulletin. Items can be emailed to nbvm.sjb.bulletin@gmail.com or call Deacon Paul at 503-556-0511 or 503-396-8554.

"Through your great love I will enter your house. I will bow low toward your holy temple in reverence for you, Yahweh." (Psalm 5:8)

Announcements

General:

Friday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass this year will be at Nativity at 6:30pm. (Alternative Masses: 8:30am & 7:00pm at St. Rose in Longview; 12:15pm at Immaculate Heart in Kelso; 12:00pm & 7:00pm at St. Frederics in St. Helens; 8:30am & 6:30pm at St. Wenceslaus in Scappoose.)

Next Sunday there is a special collection: Retirement Fund for Religious

Advent Reconciliation Service: Tuesday, December 19, at 6:30pm at Nativity. (Alternates: December 13, at 7:00pm at St. Frederics; December 14 at 6:30pm at St. Wenceslaus.)

Nativity:

The parish is in need of de-icer for the winter for sprinkling on all the sidewalks on icy days. Last year we used about 15 bags.

Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the hall. All are welcome. You can join any time.

St. Johns:

TURNING POINT: This year our focus will be the collection of food for Turning Point Christmas food boxes. Items to serve at the Christmas table will be a priority. Non-perishable food can be brought to church and placed in the collection box. Any perishable food can be taken to the Center during that time also. Let us once again remember the less fortunate in our community.

Ladies’ Bible Study & Reflection is on Thursdays. Adoration is at 9:45am in the Church. After Adoration, everyone meets at Kathy’s. If interested, call Kathy Reandeau at 503-728-3149.

First Sunday of Advent

Have you ever had one of those days when you just wish God would show up, snap his fingers and work miracles? The people of Israel had about 500 years worth days like that, groaning under the oppression of one tyrant after another. The book of Isaiah gives voice to these sentiments: “O that you would rip open the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you!” (Isaiah 63:19).

The problem is that he answered their prayer. He showed up, in person, working miracles beyond anyone’s wildest expectations. But they failed to recognize him. In fact, they crucified him.

How could this have happened? The analysis of Jesus is that they were asleep on the job (Mark 13:33-37). Sure, they busied themselves with a variety of activities, including pious practices. But constant movement can lull you to sleep, like a baby on a long car ride.

Asleep means unconscious. Unaware. Lethargic. “There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you” (Is. 64:7). Lip service is not enough. Making God a manageable part of one’s life is not enough. He demands to be worshiped, which is to say that He must take center stage, be at the top of the priority list. We are not just to believe He exists, but to avidly pursue Him and his will for our lives.

He promises to come again. But this time it won’t be in a hidden way. He won’t be wearing swaddling clothes, but judge’s robes. Advent first and foremost is a time to remember that he’s coming back and that we must be a bit better prepared for the second coming than the Israelites were for the first one.

So what has our society done with Advent? It has turned it into the shopping days before Christmas. As if we weren’t already distracted enough from the things of God, now it’s time to totally drown out the still, small, voice with the “fa-la-la-la-la” of Christmas carols. Between the frenzy at the mall and the party at the office, it is easy to get anesthetized, numbed to the true reason for the season.

Have you heard the joke about the young priest who rushes into the pastor’s office and says “The Lord has been spotted walking up the aisle of the Church. What do we do?” The pastor looks up with alarm and says: “For goodness sake, Father, look busy! Look busy!”

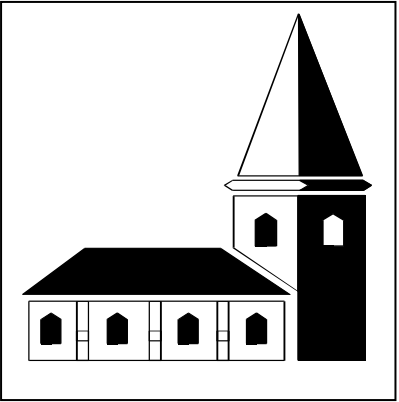
Jesus in Mark’s gospel makes it clear that it won’t be a pretty sight if he shows up only to find us spiritually snoozing. It’s not a question, though, of just being busy, but being busy with the right things, busy pursuing God and doing his will.

The Puritans recognized the ways that holiday merriment distracted people from the true meaning of Christ’s birth. Their solution was to completely ban the holiday and its associated festivities.

The Catholic approach is not to ban it but to use it. In the preoccupation with buying gifts for all of our loved ones, do we remember that he has bestowed upon us a vast array of spiritual gifts (1 Cor 1: 3-9) designed to ready us for his coming? There are the gifts of the sacraments, the treasury of prayer and spirituality, the rich heritage of heroes and saints, the charisms and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Wouldn’t it be great if this year’s Christmas list was filled with gifts that would help people unpack God’s spiritual gifts, that would actually have something to do with Jesus? And how about if we disciplined ourselves to precede every visit to the shopping mall with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament? And maybe as we deck the halls, we should devote at least equal attention to clothing ourselves with the virtues that will please Him even more than the holly and the ivy.

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio (Crossroads Initiative / www.crossroadsinitiative.com)



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(East 2nd & "D" Street; Rainier)

St. John the Baptist

(100 SW High Street; Clatskanie)

Pastor: Father Mark Gikenyi

P.O. Box 340, Rainier, OR, 97048

mgikenyi@archdpdx.org

(503) 556-5641

Website: <http://www.nativityofbvm.org>

Bulletin email: nbvm.sjb.bulletin@gmail.com

Christ the King

November 26, 2017

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The mission of Nativity of the B.V.M. is to know, love, and serve our Lord, by knowing and loving and serving His people, and by being open to our responsibility to all humanity.

NBVM Volunteer Staff

- Rev. Mr. (Deacon) Paul Cramer** (Permanent Deacon, Bulletin, Communications, Call To Protect) - (503) 556-0511
- Linda Bailey** (Business Administrator (NBVM & SJB) - (360) 560-3460 (klondikehill@msn.com) **Paula Cramer** (Assistant)
- Connie Ramos** (Chair of Pastoral Council) - (503) 556-1154; **Ron Haley** (Vice-Chair) (503) 556-2073
- Tom Greer** (Chair of Finance Council) - (503) 556-9571
- Kay Hansen** (Parish Office Assistant) - (503) 556-0071
- Connie Lucero (503-556-2514) / Angelique Hisey (503-556-1037)** (Liturgy & Environment / RCIA-Rel. Ed. Coordinator)
- Jewel Lee** (Greeting Cards) - (701) 260-2857
- Ron Haley / Paula Cramer** (Sacristans/Altar Linens)
- Jackie Schiedler** (Music Coordinator) - (503) 556-9690
- Theresa Jones** (Music of Special Occasions) - (503) 556-9137
- Paula & Deacon Paul Cramer** (Scheduling Use of Parish Buildings) - (503) 556-0511
- Estrella Brown** (Funeral Arrangements/Hospitality) - (503) 728-0249
- Iola Pfaff** (Flowers for Summer Only) - (503) 556-3049
- Russ Lenoir** (Maintenance-when Available)

St. John the Baptist

The mission of St. John the Baptist Parish is to be an involved witness to the Gospel, so that each of us may develop more fully our potential for spiritual growth, as we nurture and expand our parish family and help the community around us experience the Lord.

SJB Volunteer Staff

- Sandy Hartley** (Chair of Pastoral Council) - (503) ***-****; **Suzie Breeden** (Vice-Chair) (503) 728-3045
- Larry Reandean** (Chair of Finance Council) – (503) 728-3149
- Gloryann Brace** (Altar Linens & Covers) - (503) 455-2672
- Tracy Points** (Rel. Ed. / Youth Ministry Coordinator) - (503) 369-7441
- Carol Sluder** (Scheduling Use of Church Buildings / Greeting Cards) - (503) 728-3032
- Bonnie Romer** (Funeral Hospitality Coordinator) - (503) 728-2084
- Anita & Gary Laing** (Communications) - (503) 728-3991
- Frank Taormina** (Maintenance-when Available) - (503) 728-0306