

Weekly Schedule & Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

8:00 am — Sunday Mass — Colfax
 9:00 am — Religious Education — Colfax
 10:00 am — Sunday Mass — St. John

Monday, December 9th, 2024—Holy Day of Obligation

8:00 am — Daily Mass—Colfax
 6:00 pm — Daily Mass—Colfax

Tuesday, December 10th, 2024

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax
 7:00 pm — Parish Council Meeting — Colfax

Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax
 9:00 am — Women's Bible Study — Colfax

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax
 8:30 am — Reconciliation — Colfax
 8:30 am to 6:00 pm — Eucharistic Adoration — Colfax
 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm — Reconciliation — Colfax
 7:30 pm — Knights of Columbus Meeting—Colfax

Friday, December 13th, 2024

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax
 9:00 am— Mothers Group Meeting — Colfax

Saturday, December 14th, 2024

4:30 pm — Rosary recited — Colfax
 4:30 pm to 4:50 pm — Reconciliation — Colfax
 5:00 pm — Vigil Mass — LaCrosse
 5:00 pm — Vigil Mass — Colfax

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

8:00 am — Sunday Mass — Colfax
 9:00 am — Christmas Play & Parish Brunch — Colfax
 10:00 am — Sunday Mass — St. John

For the Month of December 2024:

8:00 am —Daily Mass Tuesday thru Friday — Colfax
 5:00 pm — Saturday Vigil Mass — LaCrosse
 5:00 pm — Saturday Vigil Mass — Colfax
 8:00 am — Sunday Mass — Colfax
 10:00 am — Sunday Mass — St. John

Mass Intentions:

Mon. Dec. 09 8:00 am – V Tedi Schauble requested by T. & H. Danaher
Tue. Dec. 10 8:00 am – V John J. McNerny requested by P. Simmons
Wed. Dec. 11 8:00 am – Lynda Hiller requested by L. Hiller
 5:30 pm – St. John: No Daily Mass
Thur. Dec. 12 8:00 am – 2024 VBS Community – D. & B. Clemens
Fri. Dec. 13 8:00 am – V Jack Danaher requested by T. & H. Danaher
Sat. Dec. 14 5:00 pm – LaCrosse: V John Burke requested by L. Hiller
 5:00 pm – V John O'Dowd requested by D. McDonald
Sun. Dec. 15 8:00 am – V Charlie, Anna Lee, & Joe Morris requested by E. McClintock
 10:00 am – St. John: V Florence Sherfey requested by the Sherfey Family

Lectors:

Saturday, December 14, 5:00 pm — Terry Parker / Sunday, December 15, 8:00 am — Heidi Danaher

Pastor

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Our Staff

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St. Patrick Parish Colfax

WITH MISSION TO: ST. JOSEPH PARISH, LACROSSE
 & OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH, ST. JOHN

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December 8th, 2024

Scripture Readings

Sunday | The Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9/ Psalm 126

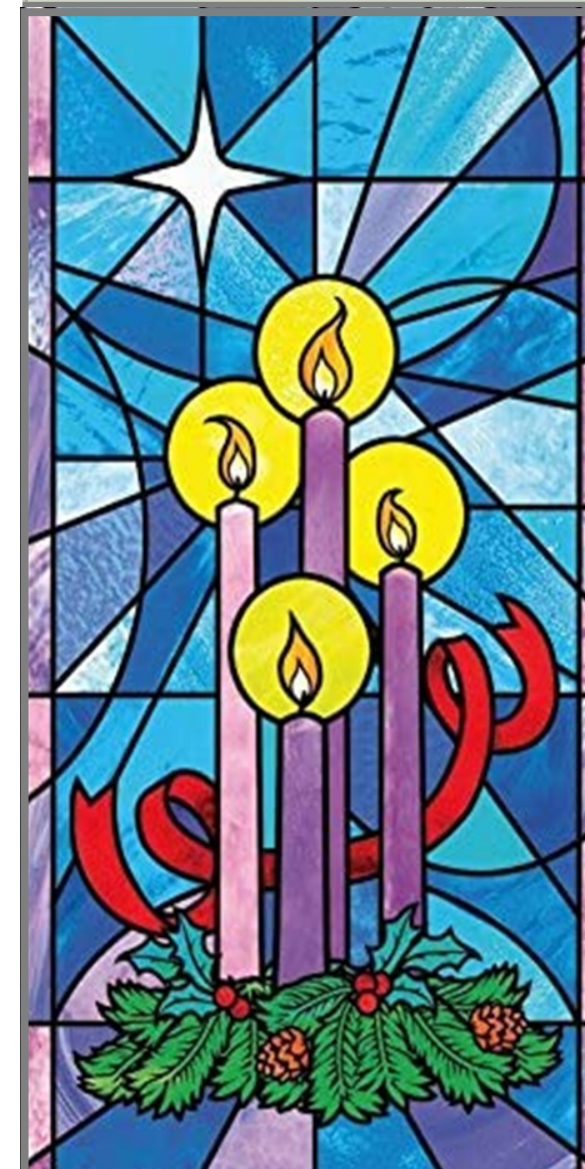
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 / Luke 3:1-6

Responsorial Psalm

*The Lord has done great things for us;
 we are filled with joy.*

Donate online

Please feel free to set up a one-time or recurring donation to St. Patrick Parish. Please scan this QR Code to your phone or pc for billing



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Saturday Vigil — LaCrosse at 5:00 PM
 Saturday Vigil — Colfax at 5:00 PM
 Sunday — Colfax at 8:00 AM
 Sunday — St. John at 10:00 AM

DAILY MASS — COLFAX

Tuesday through Friday: 8:00 AM — Colfax

RECONCILIATION

4:30 pm to 4:50 pm Saturdays before Mass—Colfax
 8:30 am after Thursday Daily Mass—Colfax
 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm Thursdays—Colfax
 Or by appointment, contact (509) 397-3921

PARISH OFFICE HOURS — COLFAX

Tuesdays & Fridays - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ADORATION SCHEDULE — COLFAX

Thursday after 8:00 AM Mass until 6:00 PM

SACRAMENTS

Call the Parish Office to prepare for the sacraments of baptism, wedding, first communion and confirmation.

LOCATIONS

St. Patrick Parish — 1018 S. Main St. Colfax, WA 99111
 St. Joseph Parish—2nd & Star Lacrosse, WA 99143
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help —325 W. Liberty
 St. John, WA 99171

Reflection

Dear Friends in Christ:

The season of Advent heralds the coming of Emmanuel, meaning "God with us". It is the time we realize when our God comes to earth to take on human form and live on earth just as we live. He does it as he shares his life and love with us. When God shares his love with us he invites us to share our love with Him and with others. Luke beautifully places the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry within a historical context. He sets John's ministry in historical time by telling his audience namely, the leaders were in the region. John's role was to prepare the way for Jesus and to proclaim a theme of repentance for those who chose to follow Jesus.

In the first reading, Prophet Baruch reminds the people of Israel that they have to share the gift of joy with others by calling them to put on the garment of integrity. God is asking them not to be part of the sad story of corruption. In this reading, God is assuring that he will flatten any high mountains and fill any deep valleys in order to make the ground level. This is an invitation to change their external behavior and reconcile them with the Lord. In this prophetic song, God promised to bring back His people from exile in Babylon. The reading begins by giving the people hope and confidence, inviting them to stop mourning for the past and prepare to celebrate the future.

In the second reading, we have the apostle Paul stating that he prays with joy for the Philippians, his loyal partners in the work of evangelization. He was praying for them to be blameless and pure. He prayed that they may have the grace to discern between right and wrong, good and evil. We too, like the Philippians, must be known to be men and women of goodwill. We can be witnesses to the world and to one another by maintaining our Christian morals and values. Actually, as Paul makes clear, believers will triumph because God the Father will begin and complete his good work in them. Twice Paul says that he prays for his converts that they succeed in their life of love. Unfortunately, many times people look for personal pleasure without Christian responsibility. This leads to a situation of losing the sense of sin. Paul himself a prisoner of the Romans now praises the Philippians for their kindness and hospitality.

Today's Gospel reading John the Baptist calls out, "Prepare a way for the Lord," and his words are equally meant for us as for the people he directly spoke to. He comes "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins," says Luke. There are three words there which are closely linked – baptism, repentance, and forgiveness. Baptism is the call to be initiated in the life of Jesus and be cleansed from all blemishes. It is a symbolic action through which people expressed their reconciliation with God by their immersion in the waters of the River Jordan hoping that their desire to have their evil past totally washed away. 'Repentance' is the forgiveness of sins and is understood as metanoia, meaning change of Heart, not just sorrow for past sins but a total and radical change of outlook in our relationship with God and other people. It calls for a radical and genuine renewal and conversion of heart.

Luke never wants his Gospel to seem disconnected from history, both secular and religious, and that is why he gives the details of important civil and religious leaders as John the Baptist comes on the scene. Luke connects the call of John the Baptist to the passage from Prophet Isaiah Chapter 40. This is indeed the true proclamation of the new exodus led by our Lord. For Luke, this new exodus will begin with John's proclamation and it will be fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus. What Isaiah says is taken up by John the Baptist and affected by Jesus for the sake of humanity. All people will hear the word of God and see his great works and respond in faith. It will come through Jesus who will heal the sick, who will help the weak, who will forgive the sinner, who will give hope to the hopeless, who will give life, real life, to all who open their hearts to him.

John's mission was to preach repentance, to get the people to turn back to God, and it was customary among the Jews to go through the external rites of washing to represent internal cleansing of the heart. The place, Jordan, was opportune and symbolic of the repentance of the chosen people of God. He was preparing the people to receive the chosen one of God. We are preparing ourselves to receive Christ at Christmas and the prophet tells us how we should prepare ourselves if the welcome we give our Savior is to be sincere and true. Even the best and the holiest among us have to admit that our paths, namely our dealings with God, have to be smooth and straight. When a king or a person of high rank was to visit another king or the dignitary, the host sent his slaves to level the paths and smooth the roads for the guest's camels. Similarly, it is necessary for people to prepare their minds and smooth their consciences by wiping away all that can be offensive to God.

The Gospel reminds us that our own role is not unlike that of John the Baptist. Like him, each one of us has a mission to communicate the Spirit of Christ and his message of hope, love, freedom, and peace to others. To help people fill their valleys and make their rough paths smoother. A word of affirmation and encouragement can work wonders. To have a naturally cheerful disposition can be a real witness of Christian joy. John heard the word of God in the desert. Our cities and towns are often such busy places and our lives are often so hectic. We really do need some quiet so that we can hear God speaking to us.

The call to prepare the way of the Lord is at the heart of Advent. Therefore, we are reminded to reflect on our lives, repent of our sins, and make the paths straight in our hearts for Christ, allowing ourselves to be transformed in the process. It is a time to ask how we can deepen our relationship with God and one another so that when Christ comes, he finds us spiritually ready, bearing the fruits of righteousness. May this Advent season be a time for spiritual renewal, where we actively prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus, both in our hearts at Christmas and forever in the future.

May God bless us... **Fr. J. Jeyabalan HGN (Fr. Jey)**

Events Around the Parish

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - A Holy Day of Obligation - Monday, December 9th: We celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which proclaims Mary's conception in her mother's womb without the stain of Original Sin. This **Monday December 9th, Mass will be at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm** in Colfax.

Religious Ed. Christmas Program & Brunch: The St. Patrick Church RE Program Christmas Play, "St Luke's Nativity", will be performed **after the 8:00 am Mass on December 15.** Following the play, we will have brunch in the Parish Hall. Come share the joy of Christmas with our fellow parishioners and support our youth and all their hard work. Sign-up sheets for the brunch are in the vestibule.

Knights of Columbus Sausage: The Knights will be conducting their sausage preparation next **Wednesday, December 11th** with the finished product available the following weekend after Mass: **Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15th.** Please contact Bob Lothspeich at 397-4009 or bclothspcich@gmail.com or Travis Schaefer at 509-553-9811 or t_b_schaefer@msn.com.

Reconciliation Service & Sung Evening Vespers: We have an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A Penitential Service will be offered at St. Patrick Parish on **Sunday, December 22nd at 4:30 pm.** There will be two priests available at the service. This service will be followed at 5:30 pm with sung evening Vespers and a potluck meal.

Jesse Tree Ornament Kits: We have made available to our families with young children a family activity, "The Jesse Tree Ornaments". You will find these kits in the vestibule of the church. Each pack contains a specific ornament for each day as well as an Old Testament reading. The fun activity begins **Friday, December 13th ending Sunday, December 22nd.** Families with small children please take a kit home and celebrate the Advent season.

PREPARES Ministry News:

The next diaper distribution will be on **Tuesday, December 17th from 2-5 pm.** We will be distributing diapers, wipes, books, stuffies and knit hats for children. Be sure to stop by the Whitman County Library and vote for the Prepares Christmas tree! Thank you, Thrifty Grandmothers shop for donating the Christmas tree. Thank you to the individuals that took the time to participate in this project. The tree is beautiful and represents what we are doing for our community through the Prepares ministry.

Prayers for Fr. Sean Thomson: Fr. Sean Thomson is still recovering from severe injuries he sustained. Please continue to pray for Fr. Sean and his family for improvement and a speedy, full recovery.

Volunteers are needed for assisting in transport for Fr. Jey: If you would be able to volunteer to help our Fr. Jey with transportation, please contact the parish office.



Upcoming Events:

- Dec 8 – Religious Ed. Classes 9:00 am – Colfax
- Dec 9 – The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception— Holy Day of Obligation Masses at 8:00 am & 6:00 pm – Colfax
- Dec 10 – Parish Council Mig 7:00 pm – Colfax
- * Dec 11 – Women's Bible Study 9:00 am – Colfax
- Dec 12 – Knights Meeting 7:30 pm – Colfax
- Dec 15 – RE Christmas Play 9:00 am – Colfax
- Dec 15 – Parish & RE Potluck 100 am – Colfax
- Dec 22 – Decorate Church 9:00 am – Colfax
- Dec 22 – Reconciliation 4:30 pm—Colfax
- Dec 22 – Evening Vespers 5:30 pm followed by a Potluck Dinner – Colfax