

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   | 12/10 | 9:00am / 11:15am | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  | Is 40:1-5,9-11 / 2 Pt 3:8-14 / Mk 1:1-8            |
| Mon   | 12/11 | No Daily Mass    | Pope St. Damasus I                | Is 35:1-10 / Lk 5:17-26                            |
| Tues  | 12/12 | No Daily Mass    | Our Lady of Guadalupe             | Zec 2:14-17 / Lk 1:26-38                           |
| Wed   | 12/13 | 11:00am (NBVM)   | St. Lucy                          | Is 40:25-31 / Mt 11:28-30                          |
| Thurs | 12/14 | 11:00am (NBVM)   | St. John of the Cross             | Is 41:13-20 / Mt 11:11-15                          |
| Fri   | 12/15 | 11:00am (NBVM)   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekday of Advent | Is 48:17-19 / Mt 11:16-19                          |
| Sat   | 12/16 | No Daily Mass    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekday of Advent | Sir 48:1-4,9-11 / Mt 17:9a,10-13                   |
| Sat   | 12/16 | 5:00pm NBVM      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  | Is 61:1-2a,10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8,19-28 |
| Sun   | 12/17 | 9:00am / 11:15am | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  | Is 61:1-2a,10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8,19-28 |

Collection

| Collection                 | NBVM                | SJB               |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Budget per Week</b>     | <b>[\$1,338.00]</b> | <b>[\$754.00]</b> |
| 5pm & 9am / 11:15am Sunday | \$3,912.00          | \$964.00          |
| Building Fund              |                     |                   |
|                            |                     |                   |
|                            |                     |                   |
|                            |                     |                   |
|                            |                     |                   |

Liturgical Ministers for – 12/16/17 to 12/17/17

|             | NBVM Vigil  | NBVM Sunday     | SJB Sunday                        |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Server      | Ron Haley   | Hannah Hisey    | Gracie, Christina, Pearl, Gabriel |
| Lector      | Open        | Gary Schiedler  | Gabriel Fiel                      |
| EME         | Deacon Paul | Del Elbert      | Gloryann Brace                    |
| Music       | Paula       | Connie & Jackie | Carol Fiel & “choir”              |
| Hospitality | n/a         | Please sign up  | Guerassio family                  |

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](mailto:nbvm.sjb.bulletin@gmail.com) or call Deacon Paul at 503-556-0511 or 503-396-8554.

"Joy to all who take refuge in you! Let them sing out for joy. You are the shelter of those who love your name so they may rejoice in you." (Psalm 5:12)

Announcements

General:

As many parishioners know, Fr. Edward Alstock, who was pastor here from 1971 to 1978, died on December 2. His funeral will be this Monday, December 11, at 11:00am at St. Anthony of Padua Parish (3720 SE 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97206).

A big “thank you” to all who helped make St. John’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a success. Watch for a feature in a future Catholic Sentinel.

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:

**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.

## Prepare the Way of the Lord

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. For someone even bigger than Santa Claus is coming to town. The human race has been waiting a long time for his next and final visit. Actually, it waited a long time for the first visit. Things had gone awry quite early in the history of the human race. We went from Paradise to misery in the blink of an eye, but found there was no way to get back into the garden. Only God could turn things around, but he was a long time coming.

There had to be some groundwork laid first—a slow, gradual preparation of the human race to get it ready for the historic encounter with its Savior. There were some ideas about God and his plan that had to be gotten across to the people. Moses was entrusted with the lion share of that job. But besides this doctrinal, intellectual preparation, there had to be spiritual and moral preparation as well. Calling the people of God to repentance and holiness was the specialty of the prophets, and given the magnitude of their job, there were many of them.

General George Patton once said of his soldiers “every young man needs a good pat on the back from time to time—sometimes high and sometimes low.” The Israelites were young, and God spoke to them both stern and comforting words through the prophets. Isaiah 40, for example, begins with comfort. It proclaims that captivity is over, that God is coming to the rescue, coming with power as a shepherd to feed his flock.

Yet it goes on to say that a road in the desert must be prepared for this coming. Prepare the way of the Lord! Valleys must be filled in. Mountains must be leveled. Crooked ways made straight. This is a massive undertaking, to tell the truth.

Actually, it would be easier if all we had to do was literally dynamite some mountainside. But the last and greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, helps us understand the true meaning of Isaiah’s words. The prep work needs to be done in us, not in sand and gravel.

For the Messiah, the good shepherd to come, the way must be leveled and straightened. The heights blocking his approach were mountains of pride. The sin of pride exalts itself higher than God, erecting a barrier against him. It is characterized by know-it-all-ness and smug self-sufficiency. The tower of Babel is a great example of pride’s futile arrogance.

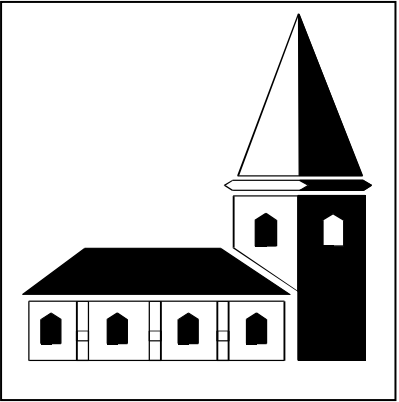
But how about the valleys that must be filled in? Philosophers and theologians define evil is as the privation of good, the lack of something that ought to be there. Lack of faith is a sin. Lack of prayerfulness is a sin. Lack of charity is a sin. These are all sins of omission, and these gaping holes need to be filled in to make a highway for our God.

In his fabulous space trilogy, CS Lewis calls Satan “the Bent One.” Because the nature of the deceiver is to take great blessings from God and twist them, misdirect them, so that they become curses. With a little twist, abundance becomes greed, marital love becomes lust, and piety becomes self-righteous hypocrisy. In Advent, these crooked ways must be made straight.

The last of the prophets, John the Baptist, lived his message. The mountains of pride had been leveled in him, the way cleared. He pointed not to himself, but to him whose sandal strap, he says, he is not fit to untie. He was as excited as anyone about Him who was to come. For John knew what He was bringing. “I have baptized you in water; He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.” The messiah was coming to utterly immerse us in the power and wisdom of God in order to make us new people, able to be like God, able to do new and great things.

This is without a doubt worth preparing for.

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio (Crossroads Initiative / [www.crossroadsinitiative.com](http://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](mailto:mgikenyi@archdpdx.org)

(503) 556-5641

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

Bulletin email: [nbvm.sjb.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:nbvm.sjb.bulletin@gmail.com)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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](mailto: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