

## Weekly Schedule & Mass Intentions

### Sunday, December 14th, 2025

#### 3rd Sunday of Advent

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

### Tuesday, December 16th, 2025

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax

### Wednesday, December 17th, 2025

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax  
9:00 am — Women's Bible Study — Colfax  
6:00 pm — Reconciliation Service at Sacred Heart Parish — Pullman

### Thursday, December 18th, 2025

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax  
8:30 am to 6:00 pm — Adoration — Colfax  
5:00 pm to 5:45 pm — Reconciliation — Colfax

### Friday, December 19th, 2025

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax

### Saturday, December 20th, 2025

**NO** Reconciliation — Colfax  
**NO** Rosary — Colfax  
**NO** Vigil Mass — Colfax  
5:00 pm — Vigil Mass — St. John

### Sunday, December 21st, 2025

#### 4th Sunday of Advent

**9:00 am** — Sunday Mass — Colfax  
**NO** Sunday Mass — St. John  
10:00 am — Decorate Church — Colfax  
10:30 am — Christmas Play — Colfax  
11:00 am — Parish & RE Brunch — Colfax

## Mass Intentions:

<b>Tue. Dec. 16</b>	8:00 am — ☩ Special Intention requested by D. McDonald
<b>Wed. Dec. 17</b>	8:00 am — Lynda Hiller requested by L. Hiller
<b>Thur. Dec. 18</b>	8:00 am — ☩ John Burke requested by L. Hiller
<b>Fri. Dec. 19</b>	8:00 am — ☩ John J. McNerny requested by P. Simmons
<b>Sat. Dec. 20</b>	5:00 pm — <b>NO</b> Vigil Mass at St. Patrick 5:00 pm — St. John: ☩ Sharon McKiernan requested by D. McDonald
<b>Sun. Dec. 21</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> — Logan Aase requested by D. McDonald 10:00 am — <b>NO</b> Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## Lectors

Saturday, December 20th, **NO** 5:00 pm Mass at Colfax

Sunday, December 21st, **9:00 am** — Steve Appel

### 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  
*STPATRICKSCOLFAXWA.COM*



## December 14th, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

## Scripture Readings

## Third Sunday of Advent—Year A

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 / Psalm 146

James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11

## Responsorial Psalm 146

Lord, come and save us.

**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 info.



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Saturday Vigil — Colfax at 5:00 PM

Sunday — Colfax at 8:00 AM

Sunday — St. John at 11:00 AM-1st Sunday of month  
10:00 AM all other Sundays

### 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 5:45 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,

John the Baptist was preaching a message calling people to ‘Repent, be baptized, and confess their sins’. It was an uncompromising message calling not for “I’m sorry Lord” platitudes, but real, visible signs of repentance. “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance,” he told them. John, like all of Israel, was waiting for Yahweh to send his ‘Anointed One’ – the Messiah – to free them from Rome and establish the Kingdom of God. It was a promise Yahweh had made, and since, in their past, God always kept his promises; they had no reason to believe he wouldn’t keep this one.

The thing was that their only experience of ‘Kingdoms’ and ‘Kings’ were of worldly Kingdoms, and those Kingdoms, without exception, came with armies who conquered enemies, judged them, passed sentence, and then punished them according to their level of guilt. They brought peace through domination and maintained their power through wealth, control and manipulation. It was a very effective model of Kingdom and Kingship – for those on the winning side! For the losers, however, there was death, prison, exile, slavery, poverty and cruelty.

When John baptized Jesus and recognized in him a person crucial to the inauguration of God’s Kingdom, he fully expected Jesus to preach the same message he was preaching – the coming of a Kingdom, which would vindicate Israel. But now, locked in his lonely and isolated prison cell, John was hearing very worrying and disconcerting stories. The Kingdom Jesus seemed to be preaching was not only different to the Kingdom John preached but was almost directly opposite! Imagine John’s anxious followers coming to him in prison and saying to him, “Rabbi, he says we must forgive our enemies and do good to those who hate us! ... and, and... he says that if someone uses violence against us, instead of justice we should turn the other cheek! How will this defeat the Romans? What kind of Kingdom is he preaching? Surely we must stop it?” If John were not in prison, he could have confronted Jesus himself, and given John’s style and personality, that would have been an interesting conversation to overhear!!

John’s ministry was totally built around himself. People came to him in the River. He spoke and he baptized them. His ‘brand’, to use modern language, was a personal one, built exclusively around him. When he disappeared, there was no one or nothing to replace him. Jesus’ first act, on the other hand, was to personally call named followers. These special ‘Apostles’ were his trusted inner circle. He taught them privately and explained his mission to them. He was their teacher, friend and constant companion. Before his arrest, he publicly named Peter as his successor, with the other Apostles to support him. After his Resurrection, he again publicly supported Peter as his successor, even though Peter had denied he knew him, and ran away in fear like the others did. As a result, though there were inevitable disagreements and arguments over leadership, the message of Jesus (the Gospel) continued to grow and spread.

John in prison, hearing some very disturbing things about Jesus preaching, sent messengers to Jesus with the reasonable and understandable question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” John was concerned and had doubts about Jesus.

He was concerned, firstly by Jesus lifestyle. Compared to John, Jesus lived a lavish and ‘easy’ life. He ate and drank, he attended weddings and accepted dinner invitations from wealthy and poor alike. He had friends who were Pharisees and tax collectors, as well as those who were poor and considered sinners. Secondly, he was concerned about the sort of Kingdom Jesus was preaching. It was so different to that preached by John as to be unrecognizable. Doubting something is not a sin; nor is it a sign of weakness or a lack of faith. Indeed, it seems that ‘faith’ implies that we have questions or doubts. Otherwise, it is not ‘faith’ but ‘certainty’! Isn’t it in Mark’s Gospel that a man, asking Jesus to heal his son said, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” Rather than seeing doubt as a danger to faith, it might be better to see doubt as that which nourishes and builds faith.

When John’s disciples brought the message to Jesus, he did not become angry or disappointed that John was questioning him or wonder why he didn’t trust him. Instead, Jesus answered in a way he knew John would understand; he quoted the Prophet Isaiah to him, “...the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor”. It is both interesting and important that Jesus’ answer was not some intellectual or rational argument attempting to justify the type of Kingdom he was preaching. Rather he simply said, “... tell him what you see and hear...”

No amount of information, no persuasive arguments or logical explanations can ever dispel the doubts a person has about faith, belief or values. One argument will lead to another; one logical point will be contradicted by another ... and on it goes. But, ordinary human experience (what we hear and see) has the power to dispel doubts and lead us to a conviction that is infinitely stronger than any logical argument. When our faith is questioned and our beliefs ridiculed or mocked, we can learn from how Jesus answered John. The best – maybe the only – argument we can offer comes from our own experience, “...Tell him what you hear and see...”

John, in his lonely cell, was happy and satisfied when his followers reported back to him. He must have thought, “If, ‘the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor’, then surely Jesus is from God, and what he says can be believed.” John and Jesus came from very different backgrounds and experiences. They had radically different understandings of God and God’s Kingdom. We could probably say their understandings were contradictory!

But, in God there is no contradiction. God is ‘the alpha and the omega; the first and the last; the beginning and the end’. God is greater, higher, deeper, wider than anything we say or believe. At the end of the Gospel this week Jesus acknowledges the greatness of John. Though they were so different they were sincere and genuine in their search for God. Sincerity and authenticity are so much greater than intellectual or moral differences.

May God Bless Us...Fr. Jeyabalan HGN (Fr. Jey)

Events Around the Parish

**Knights of Columbus Sausage:** Thank you to all the Knights who were able to help make the sausage this past Wednesday. Many hands made a huge difference. The Knights of Columbus sausage is ready and available for pickup after Mass this Saturday, December 13th and Sunday, December 14th. We still have available extra smoked link sausage for sale.

**Religious Ed. Christmas Program & Brunch:** The St. Patrick Church RE Christmas Program, “The Shepherd’s Story”, will be performed **after the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, December 21st.** Following the play, we will have brunch in the Parish Hall. Come share the joy of Christmas with your fellow parishioners and support our youth and all their hard work. Sign-up sheets for the brunch are in the vestibule. Everyone is welcome!!

**Jesse Tree Ornament Kits:** 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 12<sup>th</sup> ending Sunday, December 21st.**

**St. Patrick Financials:** Dear Fellow St. Patrick Parishioners, Please note that our monthly collection offering is not keeping up with our monthly expenses. Please prayerfully consider increasing your weekly/monthly offering so that St. Patrick Parish can continue our important work here. Thank you for your support. May God bless you!!

<u>Month</u>	<u>Collections</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Effect</u>
July 2025	10,154	9,573	581
Aug 2025	10,226	6,308	3,918
Sep 2025	11,143	12,173	(1,030)
Oct 2025	9,878	15,321	(5,442)
Nov 2025	9,811	11,578	(1,766)
<b><u>Total Fiscal Year to Date</u></b>			<b><u>(3,710)</u></b>



**Prepares News:** Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, we will be distributing diapers from the Colfax Food Pantry from 2pm-5pm. We are currently in need of volunteer or two for the diaper distribution on 12/30. Please get in touch with Valerie Higginson if you are available.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Dec 17 — 6:00 pm — Confessions at Sacred Heart Parish in Pullman
- Dec 20— **No** 5:00 pm Vigil Mass — Colfax
- Dec 20— 5:00 pm — Vigil Mass — St. John
- Dec 21 — **9:00 am** — Sunday Mass — Colfax
- Dec 21 — **No** 10:00 am Sunday Mass — St. John
- Dec 21 — 10:00 am — Decorate Church — Colfax
- Dec 21 — 10:30 am — RE Christmas Play — Colfax
- Dec 21 — 11:00 am — Parish & RE Potluck — Colfax
- Dec 24 — **No** Daily Mass Celebrated
- Dec 24 — 4:30 pm — Christmas Carols Sung — Colfax
- Dec 24 — 5:00 pm — Children's Mass — Colfax
- Dec 25 — 8:00 am — Christmas Day Mass — Colfax
- Dec 25 — 10:00 am — Christmas Day Mass — St. John
- Dec 26 — **No** Daily Mass Celebrated
- Jan 1 — **9:00 am** — Holy Day of Obligation — Colfax
- Jan 1 — **11:00 am** — Holy Day of Obligation — St. John

**November 2025 Collections & Expenses:**

Colfax: Revenues: \$ 9,811 Expenses: \$ 11,578

St. John: Revenues: \$ 2,274 Expenses: \$ 2,104

LaCrosse: Revenues: \$ 0 Expenses: \$ 1,818