

# PARISH LIFE

A Weekly Publication for Parishioners & Friends of Holy Trinity Parish



## MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASS	7:30 AM 9:00 AM * 11:00 AM 5:00 PM
MONDAY – FRIDAY MASS	8:15 AM
FIRST SATURDAY MASS	8:15 AM
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE	SATURDAY 3:30- 4:45 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	EVERY THURSDAY 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

\*LIVESTREAM

## OUR PURPOSE:

To proclaim the Gospel so that all will be one in Christ for the glory of God.

## OUR VISION:

Holy Trinity Parish is a Catholic community forming missionary disciples who live as stewards committed to hospitality, prayer, formation and service.

Fr. Vic Teneza  
Pastor

Dan Haverty  
Jim Hopp  
Deacons

Jeremy Youngers  
Parish Life Director

Susie Calise  
School Ministry Bookkeeper

Bevyn Cassidy  
Communications Coordinator

Steve Chakmakian  
Facilities Manager

Kim Koos  
Administrative Assistant

Diane Marshall  
Parish Bookkeeper

Cynthia Mulcaire  
Director of Faith Formation

Denise Remick  
School Ministry Principal

Rob Sabino  
Director of Music Ministries

**December 1, 2024**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Please read our bulletin and visit our website for updated information:**  
[www.holytrinityparish.org](http://www.holytrinityparish.org)

**Church hours:** Sun. 7:30 AM-6PM; Sat. 8 AM-6:30 PM; Mon.-Fri. 8 AM-4 PM  
**Parish Office hours:** Monday-Friday 8:45 AM-4:00 PM

## Upcoming Events:

Nov. 30/Dec. 1	Keep Christ in Christmas Gift Shop View Room
Dec. 1	Giving Tree in the Narthex through Dec. 8
Dec. 6	Lessons & Carols 7:00 PM
Dec. 7	First Saturday Mass 8:15 AM
Dec. 7/8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection – Retirement Fund for Religious
Dec. 8	Knights' Blessed Mother Mary Celebration Luncheon 12:15-3:00 PM
Dec. 8	High School Youth Group Christmas Party 6:00 PM Youth Center
Dec. 9	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass 8:15 AM & 6:30 PM
Dec. 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass 8:15 AM & 6:30 PM
Dec. 14/15	Keep Christ in Christmas Gift Shop View Room
Dec. 15	High School Youth Group White Elephant 6:00 PM



# HOSPITALITY

*Acting as Christ the Shepherd, a parish committed to stewardship is a true community of faith that welcomes, honors, and involves every person in the life and work of the Church, acknowledging the blessing of our richly different backgrounds and experiences.*

## Faith Formation

### Annual Coat & Blanket Drive

Share the warmth this winter by donating new or gently used coats and blankets. We will be collecting these items through December 15. They can be dropped off in the labeled bins in the lobby of the Social Center before and after Masses.

## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

All the Faithful are reminded that the Immaculate Conception is observed as a Holy Day of Obligation. We are obliged to celebrate the Sacrifice of the Mass in honor of the sacred mystery of prevenient grace that prepared the young virgin of Nazareth to be the mother of the Redeemer and share in the saving work of her Son, Jesus. The celebration will take place on Monday, **December 9** at 8:15 AM and 6:30 PM.

## Giving Tree

We invite you to stop by one of our Giving Trees in the narthex before or after Mass through **December 8**. The trees have gift tags for Mother Teresa Maternity Home, Housing El Dorado, and our Adopt a Family Program. Please take a gift tag, purchase the listed items, and return your unwrapped gift with the tag attached by **December 10**. Gifts received after December 10 will be donated locally and may not be given to the charity you intended to help.

## Holy Trinity Marriage Ministry

### *The Alpha Marriage Course*

### *Invest in Your Relationship*

Join us for a dedicated time to focus on building a stronger marriage in the Holy Trinity School Media Center:

- Wednesday evenings 7:00-9:00 PM
- January 8, 15, 22
- February 5, 12, 19, 26

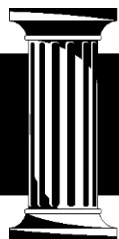
The Marriage Course offers seven engaging video sessions designed to help couples grow together and strengthen their relationship. Each session includes private reflection time for couples, allowing for meaningful conversations on topics that matter most, such as:

- Improving communication
- Understanding each other's needs
- Resolving conflicts
- Recognizing how upbringing influences your relationship
- Developing deeper emotional intimacy

Light refreshments will be provided and registration is free. Each couple will receive two study guides to take home. For any questions, please contact Paul and Stephanie at:

[Paul.Stephanie.Francois@comcast.net](mailto:Paul.Stephanie.Francois@comcast.net). Please register online by clicking on the QR code below:





# PRAYER

*Acting as Christ the Priest, a parish committed to stewardship strives to nourish each person through prayer, strengthening our relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and focusing on the Eucharist, the "source and summit of the Christian Life."*

## First Saturday Mass

First Saturday Mass is a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary requested by our Lady of Fatima and will be celebrated at 8:15 AM on the first Saturday of each month. The next Mass is **December 7, 2024**. All are invited to attend.

## Keep Christ in Christmas

The Keep Christ in Christmas Gift Shop will be open after all Masses the weekends of **November 30-December 1 and December 14-15** in the View Room. This is a Knights of Columbus program that strives to make Jesus the focus of this holiday season. Christ centered items will be featured including: Christmas ornaments, car magnets, pens, buttons, children's books, stickers, coloring books, etc. Please visit our Gift Shop and support local food charities. Thank you.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

**December 12** is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patron Saint of the Americas. Mass will be celebrated at 8:15 AM and 6:30 PM. There will be desserts and refreshments after the 6:30 PM Mass in the View Room. All are welcome!

## Holy Trinity School Ministry at Sunday Mass

We are excited to announce the school ministry will be having a monthly school Mass. Students, families, and staff are invited to join together on the following dates:

- Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM
- Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM
- Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM
- Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM
- Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Weekend

Next weekend, **December 7 & 8**, we will have a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This appeal asks us to recall those women and men religious whose ministry has nourished our own faith, served our Church, and strengthened our nation. Today, more than 37,000 women and men religious are past age 70 and face escalated health and housing costs. For more information, please visit: [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org).

## Christmas Floral Donations

The Liturgical Environment Ministry is seeking donations for our Christmas Poinsettia plants and floral arrangements. You may make your donation in memory of a loved one. A Mass for the memorial intentions will be offered on **January 5, 2025**, at 9:00 AM. Donation envelopes are in the pews and at the back of the nave. Your continuing generosity helps us create a beautiful worship environment for our parish Christmas celebrations.

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Monday, Dec. 2

8:15 AM ~All Souls

#### Tuesday, Dec. 3

8:15 AM ~All Souls

#### Wednesday, Dec. 4

8:15 AM ~Bill & Betty Blaylock, special intention, by Pete & Kathy Pritchard

#### Thursday, Dec. 5

8:15 AM ~All Souls

#### Friday, Dec. 6

8:15 AM ~Gene Gottschall, deceased, by Eileen Gottschall  
~Garcia family, thanks, by Juliette Garcia

#### Saturday, Dec. 7

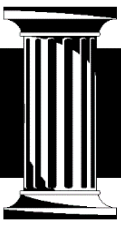
8:15 AM ~All Souls  
5:00 PM ~Ann Olenchuk, deceased, by Linda Olenchuk  
~Violet Furuli, deceased, by Ester Rounds  
~Jack Rounds, deceased, by Ester Rounds

#### Sunday, Dec. 8

7:30 AM ~Parishioners of Holy Trinity  
9:00 AM ~Kathleen Ehrhard, deceased, by Patrick O'Malley  
11:00 AM ~All Souls  
5:00 PM ~All Souls

### For DAILY READINGS

Please visit us @ [holytrinityparish.org](http://holytrinityparish.org) or [www.usccb.org/bible/readings/120124.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/120124.cfm)



# FORMATION

*Acting as Christ the Teacher, a parish committed to stewardship emphasizes, through evangelization and catechesis, the development of households of faith, where our Catholic story as the Body of Christ is lived and shared with one another.*

## Questions for Faith Sharing Dec. 8 Second Sunday of Advent

In next Sunday's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6, to save humanity, God acted at a particular time and in a particular place and through particular individuals. We may never sort out why God chose to act in first-century Roman-occupied Israel, or why John the Baptist's voice was compelling. We can only intuit from the reality of history that these particular circumstances were the perfect setting for the salvation of the human race.

### Reflection for families:

- What reminds you that God is at work in the world today?

## High School Youth Group Upcoming Events

All high-schoolers are invited to the Youth Group Christmas Party Sunday, **December 8**, at 6:00 PM in the Youth Center. Keep the party going on Sunday, **December 15**, for the High School Youth Group "White Elephant with a Twist!" in the Youth Center at 6:00 PM. Friends and first-timers welcome!

## Formed.org



Littlest Saints features the lives of the saints as told by kids. In each episode, a young child dons a habit, a cassock, a uniform, anything and everything, and acts out a different heavenly hero's story, full of drama, comedy, and everything in between. Visit their website here: [www.littlestsaints.com](http://www.littlestsaints.com)

## Faith Formation Volunteers

We Need You!! We are seeking a Faith Formation Office Aide Volunteer. Duties include various administrative tasks such as copy work, cutting, laminating, etc. No experience needed; we will train in all tasks. Ideally, we would like to have a volunteer 3-4 hours per week, August – May. For more information: [ffm@holytrinityparish.org](mailto:ffm@holytrinityparish.org).

## Confirmation Groups Update

[confirmation@holytrinityparish.org](mailto:confirmation@holytrinityparish.org)  
[kjones@holytrinityparish.org](mailto:kjones@holytrinityparish.org)

### St. Sebastian Group:

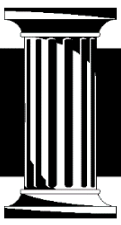
- The link to the Confirmation photos has been emailed to you. Please contact us if you haven't received it. Confirmation Certificates are also now available. We will mail the certificates to you or give them to your younger sibling in Partners in Faith or at Holy Trinity School. For questions, please reach out to us at the Faith Formation Office.
- Confirmation is the beginning of your journey as a missionary disciple, not the end! Please join us for High School Youth Group every month. Our next meeting will be in the Youth Center following the 5:00 PM Sunday night Mass on **December 8** from 6:00-7:30 PM.

### St. Teresa of Avila Group:

- Your next Confirmation activity is the Fired Up! Confirmation Conference at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento on **February 22, 2025** - Time TBA. All Year 2 Confirmation candidates must attend. We are looking for parent chaperones. Please contact us if you can assist.

### St. Ursula Group:

- Your next required Combined Session, "Fault," will be held on Sunday, **January 12** (10:15-11:45 AM) OR Tuesday, **January 21** (5:30-7:00 PM) in the Social Center. All candidates must attend with a parent or sponsor.
- For more information, please contact Kim Jones: [kjones@holytrinityparish.org](mailto:kjones@holytrinityparish.org).



## SERVICE

*Putting into action our commission as Christ the Shepherd, Priest, and Teacher, a parish committed to stewardship serves the many needs of its own parish family, as well as the needs of the larger community and the world.*

### Stewardship...

This week we begin the season of Advent and the start of a new liturgical year. Pause here to think about how the Word of God as proclaimed each week and highlighted in these articles can lead you to becoming a stronger steward - a steward who uses all the gifts God has entrusted to him for the good of others.



We have arrived at the beginning of the liturgical year and the season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and gratitude for the coming Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus, born to us as our Savior and as our brother. This is also a season to prepare for His return at the end of time. It is a time to remind ourselves that our individual judgment day is coming, too — the moment when we will be called to give an account for all the love God has shown us and the gifts He has entrusted to us during our lifetime.

An important document on stewardship published by the Diocese of Wichita titled *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* says, “God reveals His perfect and infinite love for us most visibly in His son, Jesus Christ. A steward makes God’s love visible by imitating Jesus... Stewardship is the response of the disciple to God’s unconditional love for us. Stewards bask in the wonder and awe of God’s love.” In other words, Advent is a steward’s season!

Our readings for the first week of Advent waste no time in calling our urgent attention to these themes of reflection and preparation. They seem to shout, “Wake up! Get ready!” and they offer us some practical advice to make the most of this Season.

The Gospel from Luke warns, “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life.”

How easy it is to lose focus on our Lord either by too much indulgence in our lives or by too much worry about our lives. Both extremes are easy to fall prey to. To avoid these traps, we are told to “be vigilant” and “pray for strength to sustain us.”

During Advent, we Christian stewards must ask ourselves some hard questions. Am I staying faithful to my prayer life? Am I using my energy and skills to serve others? Am I overly concerned about material gain? Am I relying on my “stuff” or my investments as my source of comfort or security? Am I living for the moment, and forgetting the coming of the Lord?

Our Second Reading from Thessalonians offers us a beautiful Advent prayer as we move through this season of reflection and preparation. Let us make it our prayer for each other: *“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.”*

As Paul admonished the people of Thessaloniki, as Christian stewards we need to get ready for Christ’s coming by examining your conscience about how you are using the gifts that God has entrusted to us to help our brothers and sisters in Christ! He is coming! Alleluia!! Let us prepare with awe and wonder.

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([www.CatholicSteward.com](http://www.CatholicSteward.com))

### Thoughts to reflect on:

During Advent we are called to be vigilant and alert, but not in a passive way. We must be active in our faith and be prepared and practice for the coming of Christ so that when that moment comes, we know that we are prepared to go forward. We do this by living out a strong Christian life so that we foster a relationship with God and our family and community.

We pray often and serve others willingly. We encounter Christ in the face of the poor and witness to our faith by the lives we lead. As Christian stewards, one way to meet Jesus’ call to love and serve God and our neighbor, is to use the gifts God has entrusted to us to share His love and these gifts by using them to help others. Then when our time comes, we can sing with the choirs of Angels, “Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.”



## Holy Trinity Parish Simbang Gabi 2024

Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) is a revered Filipino Catholic tradition that consists of nine consecutive dawn masses, celebrated from December 16 to December 24, in preparation for Christmas. Rooted in both religious devotion and cultural heritage, it symbolizes faith, gratitude, and hope as the community gathers to honor the anticipation of Christ's birth. Originating during the Spanish colonial period, it was designed to accommodate farmers who could attend mass before their workday began. Simbang Gabi is distinguished by its festive atmosphere, with churches adorned in colorful parols (lanterns), traditional hymns, and shared delicacies like arroz caldo (chicken porridge) and bibingka (rice cakes) enjoyed after mass. It remains a profound expression of Filipino spirituality and cultural identity, fostering reflection, unity, and joy as Christmas approaches.

**The Holy Trinity Parish will be celebrating Simbang Gabi  
Friday, December 20, 2024 at 6:00PM**

**Bilingual mass in English and Tagalog. Worship aids will be available for non-Tagalog speakers.**

In keeping with the tradition, the Filipino Ministry is sponsoring a feast with entertainment and dance immediately following the mass. Please join us for free dinner consisting of favorite Filipino delicacies. The dinner event is by reservation only and seats are limited.

Send your RSVP to: [evelyncmenurell@gmail.com](mailto:evelyncmenurell@gmail.com) or [janedadiz@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:janedadiz@yahoo.com.ph)

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# HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us at the Youth Center for treats and festivities at our annual HS Youth Group Christmas Party! All are welcome to attend Mass with us at 5 PM OR meet us in the Youth Center after Mass around 6 PM. Friends and first-timers welcome.

**Sunday, December 8, 6-7:30 PM**

Follow us on Instagram @holytrinity\_ym





# K of C Fundraiser Luncheon

## Dec 8th, 12:15 to 3pm

*Celebrating our Blessed Mother Mary*

*All proceeds benefit much needed Social Center Kitchen repairs*

**Live  
Mariachi  
Music**

**Mexican Dance  
Performance**



*Enchiladas,  
rice, beans, chips, salsa  
iced tea & lemonade*



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# Adult Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ # Adult Cheese \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Kids Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ # Kids Cheese x \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Cash  Charge

**\$35 per person**

\$15 Kids, age 12 & under

**open seating, unless  
table of 8 is purchased together**

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The church bulletin is invaluable!  
 We found excellent nursing care for my Dad from an ad on the back cover!  
 - One of the Carmelite Nuns  
 Carmelite Nuns of Georgetown  
 Donations are greatly appreciated.  
 We pray for all prayer requests received.  
**1-530-333-1617**  
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