

St. Mary of the Rosary, Chewelah

Mass: Saturday 4:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM
Sunday 4:30 PM (NOT 12/25/16 or 01/01/17)
Reconciliation: Sat. 2:30—3:30 PM and by appt.

Holy Ghost, Valley

St. Joseph, Jump Off Joe

Mass: Sunday 8:00 AM (at Holy Ghost)
Reconciliation: Tuesday 6:00—7:00 PM at HG

Sacred Heart, Springdale

Mass: Saturday, 6:00 PM
Reconciliation: 1st Fridays, 5:00—5:30 PM

Mass Intentions

December 13	No Mass
December 14	No Mass
December 15	No Mass
December 16	Sr. Georgette Bayless +
December 17, 4:00 PM	Joyce Kaup +

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	No Mass
Thursday	No Mass
Friday	9:00 AM Mass at St. Mary followed by Adoration from 9:30—10:30 AM

Rest in Peace

We pray for the soul of Frank Femling who passed away December 2 and whose funeral was held at St. Mary of the Rosary on December 10. Eternal rest grant unto Frank, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Ski Season Mass Schedule

The Ski Season Mass will run through December and January. For these two months, there will be a 4:30 PM Mass at St. Mary of the Rosary every Sunday afternoon (except Christmas Day and New Year's Day) to attract the skiers and snowboarders to Mass on their way down the mountain.

Advent Sock Drive

St. Mary of the Rosary is once again holding its annual sock drive for the homeless men and women at the House of Charity. New or gently used warm socks will be collected from now until early January, and around Epiphany they will be delivered to the House of Charity for distribution to those in need.

Advent and Christmas, 2016

- Friday, 12/16, 5 to 6 PM, St. Mary of the Rosary (with Fr. Vic Blazovich)
- Sat., 12/17, 2:30 to 3:30 PM, St. Mary of the Rosary (usual time/place, but with Fr. Brian Sattler)
- Sunday, 12/18, 7 to 8 AM, Holy Ghost
- Tuesday, 12/20, 6 to 7 PM, Holy Ghost
- Wed., 12/21, 5:30 to 6:30 PM, St. Mary Rosary
- Friday, 12/23, 5 to 5:30 PM, Sacred Heart
- Sat., 12/24, 2 to 3 PM, St. Mary of the Rosary

Christmas Mass Schedule

Because Christmas is on a Sunday this year, there might be some confusion regarding the Mass schedule. The normal Sunday Mass schedule is suspended in favor of our usual Christmas Eve / Christmas Day Mass schedule:

- Saturday, 12/24, 4:00 PM, St. Mary of the Rosary (family Mass; youth group choir and ministers)
- Saturday, 12/24, 7:00 PM, Sacred Heart
- Saturday, 12/24, 10:00 PM, St. Mary of Rosary
- MIDNIGHT MASS, St. Joseph (Jump Off Joe)
- Sunday, 12/25, 9:00 AM, Holy Ghost

Parish Christmas Party

There will be a tri-parish Christmas gathering at St. Mary of the Rosary parish hall on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 5:00—7:00 PM. There will be music by the Chewelah Brass Quintet, Bingo & other activities, and a Sing-Along. Please bring a potluck offering based on the first letter of your last name:

- A—L, please bring a casserole or main dish
- M—R, please bring a vegetable salad or side dish
- S—Z, please bring a dessert or jello or fruit salad

Hearts on Fire

The 2017 Hearts on Fire Catholic Men's Conference is being held January 28 at St. Thomas More Parish in Spokane. This is an extraordinary day for Fathers, Sons and Friends to spend the day with Jesus. Imagine being in a huge room filled with fellow Catholic men celebrating the church and hearing solutions for modern Catholic men in this insane world. The day features Jesse Romero, Doug Barry, and Bishop Thomas Daly. You can register online at www.dioceseofspokane.org. Contact Rich Hanson at 466-2209 for more information.

Catholic Charities Christmas Collection

Without the faithful and generous support of our parishes, we could not continue to transform lives and bring compassion and dignity to over 70,000 vulnerable individuals each year. This Christmas, please donate to the Catholic Charities Collection. Your gift matters!

Food for the Poor

Would you like to contribute towards a house for "Food for the Poor"? We will collect donations through December, and early in January we will send a check to the organization with our request that it be used to provide a family with a house and a well. Thus far, we have raised a total of \$2,240, which is 57.6% of our goal of \$3,885. When we reach the goal, we will receive a fulfillment certificate saying that a home for an impoverished family was built thanks to our three parishes. Please keep donating!

Family Faith Formation: Who is God?

This week's Family Faith Formation topic is "Who is God?" covering Questions 1-5 in *The Apostle's Family Catechism*. Home Lesson packets are available on the parish website and also in your email (if you registered for FFF). Please contact Fr. Jeff for more information or if you have any questions about this tri-parish religious education program.

By-Heart Catechism

1. **Who is God?** God is the Supreme Being, the source of all being and existence, above all that exists.
2. **Who made God?** Nobody made God; God did not even "make Himself." God always was, is now, and always will be, infinite and eternal.
3. **Can there be more than one God?** There cannot be more than one God because there cannot be two supreme beings ("supreme" means "above all others," but two "supreme" beings means that they are not above all others because there is one other "supreme" being that they are equal to but not above).
4. **Why must there be a God?** Latin: *ex nihilo nihil fit* ("out of nothing, nothing comes"); it is impossible for something suddenly to appear from nothing. Clearly, there *is* something; *we* are here. And so, we cannot have come from nothing. God is the Unmade Maker, the Uncaused Cause, the Unmoved Mover.
5. **Why is God an infinitely perfect being?** Because in God there is no limitation of any kind; again, God is infinite and eternal (hence, God is the Supreme Being).

"Catholicism" Video with Bishop Robert Barron

Wednesday, December 14, 6:30—8:00 PM.
Theme will be "Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God Become Man", led by Ed Grim.

The Immaculate Conception of the BVM

This past week, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8; Vigil Mass on December 7). It is important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is . . . and what it is not. Some people think the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father; but in fact, that is the Virgin Birth. Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," like Jesus was; but that, too, is incorrect. Mary, in fact, did have a normal human mother (St. Ann) and a normal human father (St. Joachim). And so what is the Immaculate Conception? It is Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal human way, but she was conceived without original sin ("immaculate" means "without stain"). In 1854, the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception was solemnly proclaimed by Pope Blessed Pius IX: "the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, was preserved free from every stain of original sin," and this "is a doctrine revealed by God, and for this reason, must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful." The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the Archangel Gabriel's greeting to Mary: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28) The traditional translation, "full of grace," is better than the one found in many recent versions of the New Testament, which give something along the lines of "highly favored daughter." Mary was indeed a highly-favored daughter of God, but the Greek implies more than that (and it never mentions the word for "daughter"). The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. The original Greek that is translated in English "full of grace" comes from a Greek verb that means "to fill or endow with grace." Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates that Mary was graced in the past but with continuing effects in the present. So, the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of Gabriel's visit. In fact, it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.

Mary, under her title "Immaculate Conception," is the patroness of the United States of America; in that sense, then, December 8 can be regarded somewhat as a national holiday as well as a Church holy day. By the merits of her immaculate conception and being full of grace, may the Blessed Virgin Mary continue to sustain us with her protection and prayers.

Sacrament of Baptism: Parents contact Rev. Jeffrey Lewis for information.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony: Couples contact Rev. Jeffrey Lewis at least four months prior to marriage.

Tri-Parish Office

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Parish Office Hours: Monday & Friday: 10:00—11:30 AM, 1:45—5:00 PM; Tuesday & Thursday, 10 AM-5 PM