Advent 2025



Advent Liturgies

To mark this holy season, we change some of our usual liturgical practices. The procession is modified and the altar is decorated more simply. During the liturgies, a greater role is given to silence, to the chanting of psalms, and to the ringing of bells. In accordance with a very ancient tradition in the church, the use of the organ is reduced during Advent.

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a devotion Catholics have adopted from the Lutheran tradition. Prior to each Mass, we pause to pray and light a candle, a symbol of the dawning of the light of Christ into the world. The Advent wreath used in the Cathedral was designed by Father Josef Venker, SJ of Seattle University. The weathered wood base suggests the words of the prophecy: *A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom* (Isaiah 11:1).

Evening Prayer with Music from Taizé

On **Friday, December 5** at 6:30pm, all are invited to this beloved monthly prayer service, with music, candlelight, and silence.

Madre de las Americas

Saturday, December 6, 11:30am, Entrance of the Dancers. 12:10pm, Mass with Bishop Elizondo. The Hispanic community of Western Washington comes together at this celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Mother of the Americas. *You are also invited to join the procession from Immaculate Conception Church which begins with Holy Hour, Rosary, and Mananitas. The procession leaves Immaculate at about 10:15am.*

The Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is **Monday, December 8**. Cathedral Masses for the Holy Day will be at 8:00am, 10:10am (with O'Dea High School), and 12:10pm. In addition, there is an evening Mass for the Holy Day at 6:00pm at Immaculate Conception Church.

Senior Christmas Carol Singalong

All seniors are invited to a Christmas carol sing-along on **Thursday, December 11**, 1-3pm. We will sing Christmas carols and then enjoy hot chocolate and cookies! Pastoral Outreach Center, 907 Columbia St. RSVP to Anisa Ralls by November 29 at 206-382-4269 or aralls@stjames-cathedral.org.

Simbang Gabi Celebration

Saturday, December 13, 11:00am Mass. Join Bishop Schuster and participants from many parishes for *Simbang Gabi*, the beginning of a novena of Masses in which we prepare for Christmas in company with Mary. The Mass includes the blessing of *parols* (star lanterns) and helps us to focus our attention on the coming of Jesus, Light of the World.

Cathedral Kids' Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, after the Noon Mass.
At the party, children are invited to pick up their "Christmas Around Cathedral Hall" passport and visit fun activity stations around Cathedral Hall, including the Cathedral Youth Unite station to pick up a NEW Cathedral Youth Unite Hoodie in a NEW color! There will also be a pizza lunch and a visit from Santa! *Information or to RSVP*, Tami Kowal, 206-219-5822 or tkowal@stjames-cathedral.org.

Advent Penance Services

This year, there will be two penance services for our parish family: **Saturday, December 13 at 2:00pm** at Immaculate Conception Church and on **Saturday, December 20 at 2:00pm** at St. James Cathedral. At each service there will be several confessors available. In addition, confessions are heard weekly on Saturdays from 8:30am-9:30am.



Cathedral Dedication Anniversary

Monday, December 22 marks 118 years since St. James Cathedral was dedicated in 1907. The solemn Mass for the Dedication Anniversary, with the lighting of the dedication candles, will be at 8:00am.

The Giving Tree

Stop by the Mary shrine to pick a tag off our annual Giving Tree, or visit the Cathedral website for the virtual Giving Tree. Each tag contains a gift wish from someone in need in our community. It's easy and fun to participate: simply shop for the gift and return it after Sunday Mass in the Cathedral Bookstore or have it shipped to the Parish Office by Sunday, December 15. *Information*, Patrick Barredo, 206-382-4515 or pbarredo@stjames-cathedral.org.

Christmas Masses

The celebration of Christmas begins with the Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:30pm on Wednesday, December 24, and continues with the Mass during the Night—Carol Service at 9:00pm, Mass at 10:00pm. The Masses of Christmas Day on Wednesday, December 25 will follow the usual Sunday schedule: 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00 Noon, and 5:30pm. Solemn Vespers of Christmas will be at 4:00pm on Christmas Day. Find out more at www.stjames-cathedral.org.

Candlelight Mass on New Year's Eve

What better way to close out the old year and usher in the new than by celebrating the Eucharist? On Wednesday, December 31 at 5:30pm, all are invited to a candlelight Mass as we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, with the wonderful music of our Taizé ensemble and hundreds of lighted candles.

Advent Music

Saturday, December 13 at 8:00pm

Medieval Women's Choir

Mysteries of Saint Nicholas

Join the Medieval Women's Choir for a look at the real Old St. Nick! The real St. Nicholas was a miracle worker so renowned that Roman Emperor Theodosius II established his first church just a century after his death. The many accounts of his life, spanning over a thousand years, praise him for his piety and generosity, often shown through secret gift-giving. He came to be seen as the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, clergy, children, brewers, and many more. Medieval works in his honor, including musical plays, make frequent mention of incidents from his life. Tickets from $0-35. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mysteries-of-st-nicholas-tickets-1645364652969

Friday, December 19 at 7:00pm

A Service of Readings and Carols

St. James presents the annual Service of Readings and Carols. In the soft glow of candlelight, St. James youth choirs and readers celebrate Advent with music and readings heralding Christ's birth. This prayer is open to all; freewill offering.

