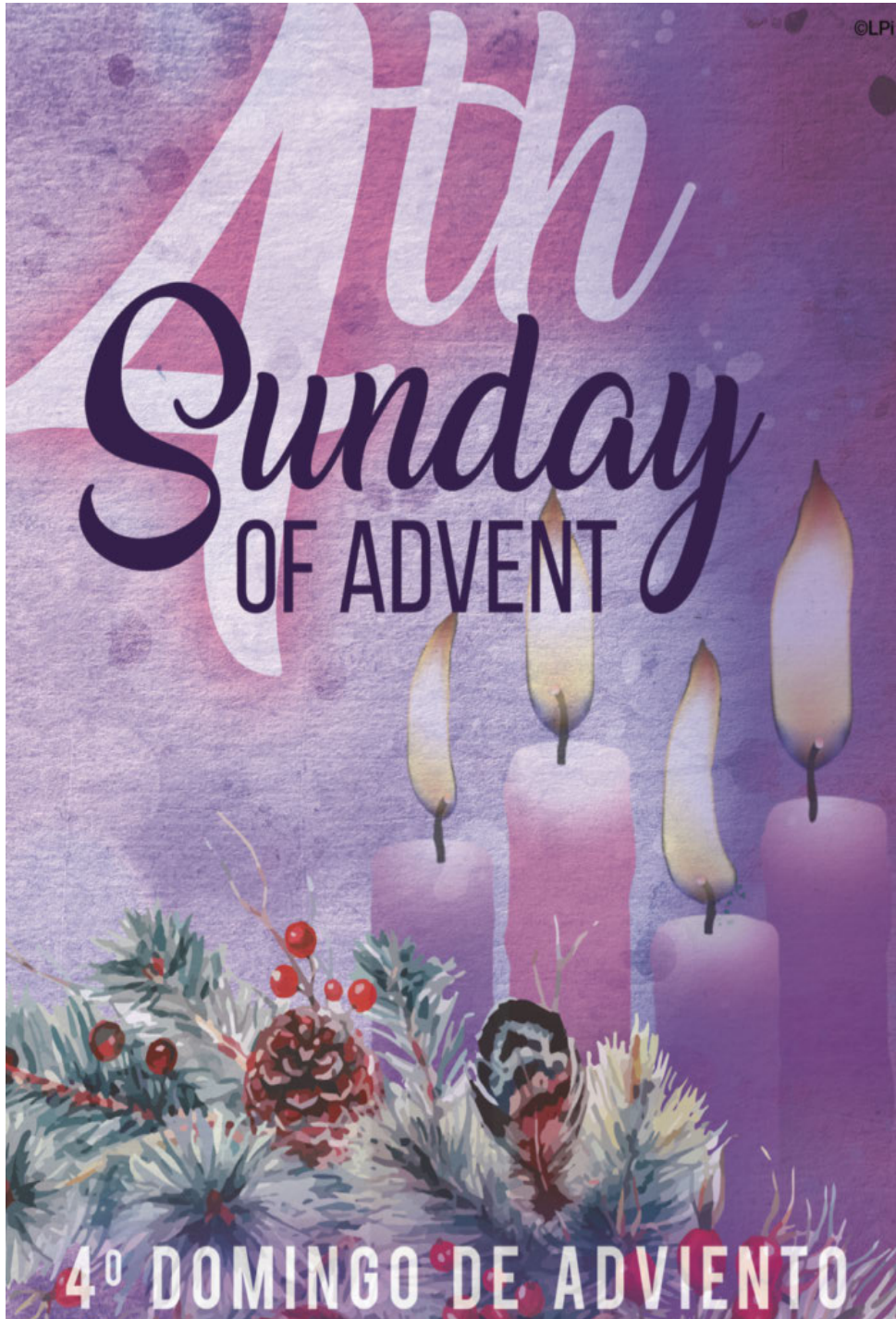


# St. Stephen Catholic Church Iglesia Católica San Esteban

[www.ststephen1885.org](http://www.ststephen1885.org)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19, 2021 | DOMINGO 19 DE DICIEMBRE, 2021



## Mass Schedule

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 7:30 am  
Tues 8:15  
1st Saturdays 8:00 am  
Saturday 4:30 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am 10:00 am  
Holidays 9:00 am  
Holy Days as announced

## Horario de Misas en Español

Sábado 6:00 pm  
Domingo 12:00 pm  
Días Festivos (Ingles) 9:00 am  
Días sagrados se anunciaran

## Confession | Confesiones

Saturday | Sábado 3:30 pm  
Sunday | Domingo 11:15 am  
Or by Appointment | O con  
Cita

## Adoration Chapel | Capilla de Adoración

5:00 am - 11:00 pm  
6 people maximum, facemasks  
recommended | Máximo de  
6 personas, se recomienda  
usar mascarillas

# Welcome to our Church Bienvenidos a nuestra Iglesia

*"Glorify God by proclaiming Christ, maturing in the Faith,  
and giving our lives away"*

*"Glorificar a Dios al proclamar a Cristo, madurar en la Fe,  
y entregar nuestras vidas a El"*

## Office Hours | Horario de Oficina

(970)945-6673 Fax (970)945-6677  
Monday-Friday 8:00 am- 4:30 pm  
Lunes-Viernes 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

## Parish Staff | Personal Parroquial

**Rev. Bert Chilson** Ext. 104 frbert@comcast.net  
(Habla Español)

**Rev. Tony Davis** Ext. 105 father.davis@archden.org  
(Habla Español)

**Rick Padmos** Director of Religious Education Ext. 107  
rickpadmos@juno.com

**Chris Steuben** Music, Liturgy, & RCIA  
csteuben@hotmail.com

**Roxana Barraza** Administrative Assistant  
Ext. 102 ststephen1885@sopris.net (Habla Español)

**Krysta Brubaker** Business Manager Ext. 106  
1885krysta@gmail.com

**Aldo Contreras** Maintenance

**Ana Brubaker** Social Media Administrator  
Ana.brubaker.1885@gmail.com

**Dcn. Victor Kimminau** (Retired)  
**Dcn. Charlie Sprick** (Retired)

**Glenda Oliver** School Principal (970)945-7746  
goliver@sscs414.org

## Mass Intentions for the Week of December 18, 2021

*Intenciones para la santa Misa Semana del 18 de Diciembre del 2021*

Saturday December 18	4:30 pm 6:00 pm	†Jim Jelinek by Al & Kathy Nelson †Oscar Caña
Sunday December 19	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	†Marcie Streff by EC & Della Quintana The living and deceased members of the Armentroat & Trumble families †Jose Charro
Monday December 20	7:30 am	Suzy Mallory by the Chamberlain family
Tuesday December 21	8:15 am	Luis, Carmen, The Veliz Gutierrez family & The souls in purgatory
Wednesday December 22	7:30 am	The Gucwa Family by Bozena Gucwa
Thursday December 23	7:30 am	Luis, Carmen, The Veliz Gutierrez family & The souls in purgatory
Friday December 24	4:00 pm 7:00 pm 10:00 pm	†Joan Shea by Monica Blake †Almas del purgatorio y no nacidos Maria Gornick by Roseanne Shelton
Saturday December 25	9:00 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	The Gucwa Family by Bozena Gucwa †Elidia Tapia by family Bernardino Garcia y familia †Apolonia Pavon
Sunday December 26	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	In thanksgiving to Jesus Christ & Ostorga family by Ingrid Zuniga In thanksgiving for the first year of life of Lailany Perez †Gloria Mendoza Torres

Remember those serving in the military and missions who need prayers or letters  
*Recuerde a los que sirven en el ejercito y misiones que necesitan oraciones o cartas*

## Prayer Chain Ministry

For Emergency Prayer Requests

Please Call:

Barbara Jones @ (970)379-7585

Joan Telinde @ (970)379-1874



Adam Diaz	Jonathan Huff
Zachary Spencer	Austin McKee
Avery Denney Crisp	Gregory Mills
Rafael Lara	Joseph Martinez
Dave King	Matt Koscielniak
Walter Smith	Maggie Stein
Ty Harbottle	Luke Weatherford
Ben Hersch	Sam Weatherford
Justin Logan	Thomas Gallegos
Matthew Powell	Candice Hartwick
Marty Fitzgerald	Abraham Lopez
Robert E. Mason	





Remember the ill in prayer / Recuerde a los enfermos en oración

Michelle Ballinger	Adriana Ledezma	Eleonore Zemlock
Eric Backens	Austin Leintz	Anita Moulton
Leonard Bowlby	Mary Jane Lockwood	<b>Pray for those who have died:</b>
Reina Briseño	Norma Lucero	<i>Oremos por los que han fallecido:</i>
Lori Burrows	Gerardo Martinez	
Janet Busk	Jessie Martinez	
Patrick Cabrera	Rafaela Martinez	
Jazmin Camacho	Gerardo Martinez	
Jill Cerise	Rosalia Montes	
Fitzgerald	Dennis Murphey	
Steve Contreras	Elizabeth Peil	
Mary Corral	Alyssa Peterson	
Sinda Cotte	Harper Peterson	
Jason De La Cruz	Peter Porter	
M.J. Derkash	Dale Redeker	
Peter DiMercurio	Cathy Robinson	
Lois Gabossi	Teresa Robinson	
Victor Gabossi	Jaxson Rold	
Maria Garcia	Claudia Serafin	
Deborah Giancola	Frank Sims	
Barbara Hayduk	Mary Stecklein	
Yaneth Hernandez	Glen & Wanda Still	
Becky Huff	Marcie Streff	
Leo Jammaron	Leonard Valdez	
Vic Kimminau	Rita Wagner	
Vickie Klein	Bonnie Wasli	
Mary Jane Knolls		
Carol Kraig		

Please call the parish office or submit a request online if you would like to add some one to the list  
*Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial si desea agregar a alguien a la lista*



## Hearts and Hands Gift Shop

The Harts and Hands Gift Shop is now open after all Sunday Masses. However, we still need volunteers following Saturday Masses. Please consider giving us one hour of your time after Sunday Mass so that the gift shop can be open following every Mass. Please call Bonnie Ammon at (970)524-9698 to volunteer.

Thanks

In addition, we are now open  
 Wednesday from 10-3



We are also in desperate need of subs who can cover for the regular volunteers when we are unable to open the gift shop. This will not be a commitment for every week, just occasionally. Please call Roxy at (970)945-6673 or Bonny at (970)524-9698.

### IRA Charitable Rollover

Each IRA owner over age 70½ (as of December 31, 2019) may make a transfer of up to \$100,000 per year to a qualified charity. Beginning in 2020 the mandated distribution is age 72.

IRA charitable rollovers are tax-free and not included in adjusted gross income. An IRA charitable rollover may fulfill your required minimum distribution (RMD).

Call Steve, Lisa or Joshua at 303-468-9885 or visit [www.TheCatholicFoundation.com](http://www.TheCatholicFoundation.com) for more information.



### PUTTING YOUR ASSETS TO WORK FOR THE LORD



Put your life-long, hard earned assets to work for the Lord. A planned gift to the Lord acknowledges that we are simply stewards of all that God has provided. We are managers of His blessings upon us. What better way to leave your legacy than in the love of Jesus Christ. If you would like to leave the Church in your will or to learn more how The Catholic Foundation can serve you, please give Deacon Steve, Lisa or Joshua a call at 303-468-9885.

### ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH ONLINE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

- Go to [ststephen1885.org](http://ststephen1885.org)
- Choose Online Giving
- Designate the Fund for your Gift
- Select donation type
- Enter donation dollar amount
- Submit Credit Card information
- Insert Billing Information
- Other:  
 If donation is designated as other, please specify where you would like the funds to be allocated.
- Submit information by clicking Make Payment box
- If donating to multiple funds, the donation form will have to be filled out individually each time.
- Success!
- Thank you for your support of St. Stephen Catholic Church and School. Contact Corinne at 970-945-6673 for any questions.





# Mass Intentions

What does it mean to have a Mass "offered" for someone?

Any individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul.

In his encyclical "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," our beloved late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, taught, "In the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Church prays that God, the Father of mercies, will grant His children the fullness of the Holy Spirit so that they may become one body and one spirit in Christ. In raising this prayer to the Father of lights, from whom comes every good endowment and every perfect gift, the Church believes that she will be heard, for she prays in union with Christ her Head and Spouse, who takes up this plea of His Bride and joins it to His own redemptive sacrifice" (No. 43).

When a priest offers Holy Mass, he has three intentions: First, to offer the Mass reverently and validly in accord with the norms of the Church. Second, to offer the Mass in union with the whole Church and for the good of the whole Church. Third, to offer the Mass for a particular intention, such as the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Therefore, the effects of the Mass bring certain benefits or fruits. The general fruits of the Mass are the effects upon the whole Church — to the living faithful as well as the poor souls in purgatory. For this reason, in the Canon of the Mass (the Eucharistic Prayer), a special mention is made for both the living and the dead. The special ministerial fruits of the Mass are applied to the particular intention of the Mass, i.e. "for whom this Mass is offered." The intention of the Mass is also determined by various factors: The Church may stipulate the particular intention; for example, all pastors are required to offer one Mass on Sunday for the intentions of the living and deceased parishioners of a parish. A priest may also have his own particular intention in offering a Mass, such as the repose of the soul of his parents. Finally, a person may ask a priest to offer a Mass for a particular intention; usually, a \$10 stipend is given to the priest for offering the Mass, which thereby in justice creates an obligation which must be satisfied.

When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any other sympathy card or bouquet of flowers. To have a Mass offered on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special need is appropriate, beneficial and appreciated.

Contact the parish office to have a Mass offered for your special intention.

Que significa tener una misa "ofrecida" para alguien?

Cualquier persona puede pedir a un padre que ofrezca una misa por varias razones: por ejemplo, en agradecimiento, por las intenciones de otra persona (en un cumpleaños), o, es mas común por el reposo del alma de alguien que a fallecido. Uno nunca debe olvidar las infinitas gracias que fluyen del Sacrificio de la misa que beneficia el alma de uno.

En su Encíclica "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," nuestro amado difunto santo padre, Pope John Paul II, enseñó, "En la celebración del Sacrificio Eucarístico, la iglesia reza que Dios, padre de la misericordias, le concederá a sus hijos la plenitud del Espíritu Santo para que puedan convertirse en un cuerpo y un espíritu en Cristo. Al elevar esta oración al Padre de las luces, de quien viene buena dotación y todo regalo perfecto, la iglesia cree que será escuchada, ella reza en unión con Cristo su cabeza y su esposo, que acepta esta suplica de su novia y lo une a su propio sacrificio de redentor. Cuando un sacerdote ofrece una Santa Misa tiene tres intenciones: Primera, para ofrecer la misa reverentemente y válidamente en acuerdo con las normas de la iglesia. Segundo, para ofrecer la misa en unión con toda la iglesia y para el bien de toda la iglesia. Tercero, para ofrecer la misa para una intención en particular, como para el reposo del alma de alguien que a fallecido. Por lo tanto, los efectos de la misa traen ciertos beneficios o frutos. Los frutos generales de la misa son los efectos sobre toda la iglesia – para los fieles vivientes, también para las pobres almas en el purgatorio. Por esta razón, en el Canon de la misa (Oración Eucarística), una mención especial es hecha tanto para los vivos como para los muertos. Los frutos ministeriales especiales de la misa son aplicados a la intención particular de la misa, por ejemplo "para quien es ofrecida esta misa." La intención de la misa es determinada por varios factores: La Iglesia puede estipular la razón particular, por ejemplo, todos los pastores son requeridos de ofrecer una misa los Domingos por las intenciones de los feligreses vivos y fallecidos de una parroquia. Un sacerdote puede tener su propia intención en particular en ofrecer una misa, tal como el reposo del alma de sus padres. Finalmente, una persona puede pedirle al sacerdote que ofrezca una misa por una intención en particular; usualmente un estipendio de \$10.00 es dado al sacerdote por ofrecer la misa, que con ello en justicia crea una obligación que debe ser satisfecha.

Cuando nos enfrentamos a la muerte de alguien, incluso una persona que no es católica, para tener una misa ofrecida para el reposo de su alma y para ofrecer nuestras oraciones son mas beneficiosos y reconfortantes que cualquier otra carta de condolencia o un ramo de flores. Para tener una misa ofrecida en la ocasión de un cumpleaños, aniversario o necesidad especial es apropiada, beneficiosa y apreciada.

Contacta la oficina parroquial para que se ofrezca una misa para su intención especial.



# Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

## Mass Schedule

*Horario De Misas Para Nochebuena y Navidad*

### Christmas Eve Nochebuena

**4:00 pm Children's Mass**

**7:00 pm Misa en Español**

**10:00 pm English Mass**

### Christmas Day Navidad

**9:00 am English Mass**

**11:00 am Misa en Español**

**4:30 pm English Mass**

**6:00 pm Misa en Español**

### Christmas Mass Remembrance Cards *Tarjetas Conmemorativas para Navidad*

Available in the Vestibule  
Disponibles en el Vestíbulo



Please take a card with the stipend envelope. Turn in the stipend envelope to the Parish office. The envelope will be placed on the altar during Christmas Masses for your loved ones to be remembered.

*Por favor, tome una tarjeta con el sobre de donación. Entregue el sobre con la donación a la Oficina Parroquial. El sobre será colocado en el altar durante las Misas navideñas para que sus seres queridos sean recordados.*

**For Better Hearing in  
our Church and  
Parish Hall**

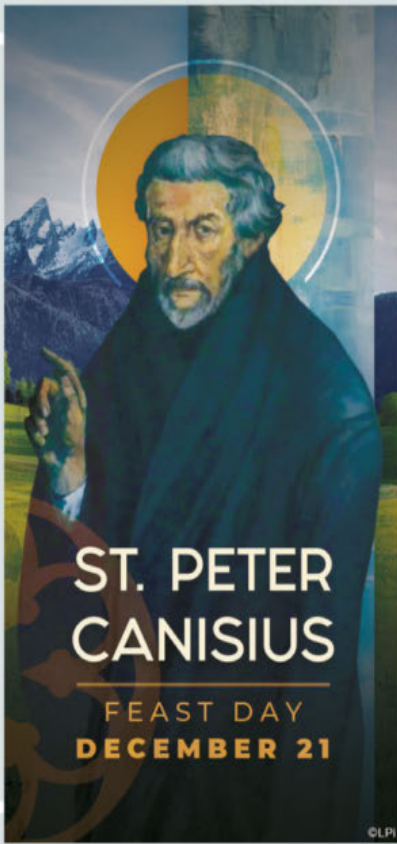


**Hearing Loop**  
Switch hearing aid  
to T-Coil

### **ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**For ongoing school  
happenings / events , please like  
and follow St. Stephen Catholic  
School on:**





## Saint of the Week

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.



# St. Stephen Catholic Church ADVENT HOLY HOUR

Nov.30  
Dec.7  
Dec.14  
Dec.21  
7:00 p.m

Join us for four beautiful candlelit evenings  
of Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers  
*Learn to listen to the voice of God as He speaks in the silence*

Vespers is evening prayer and an opportunity for  
worship, reflection, and silence with God  
as we wait in hopeful expectation for the coming of  
Jesus at Christmas

## WEEKLY PRAYER

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

- Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
- Monday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
- Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
- Friday:** *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
- Saturday:** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



## Sacramental Information Información para obtener Sacramentos

### Baptism/Bautizo

English Baptisms: 3rd Sunday of every month at 9:00 am. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a Baptism preparation class. Please register at the parish office.

*Bautismos en español: Cada 2do Sábado del mes a las 10:00 am y cada 4to Domingo del mes a la 1:00 pm. Los padres y padrinos deben asistir a una clase de preparación para el bautismo. Las clases se ofrecen cada 1er jueves de cada mes a las 7:00 pm. Por favor regístrese en la oficina parroquial lo mas pronto posible.*

### Marriage/Matrimonio

Engaged couples need to contact the priest in order to begin making arrangements.

*Parejas que desean casarse favor de hablar con el sacerdote para comenzar la preparación.*

### Anointing Of The Sick/ Unción De Los Enfermos

Please notify the priest if anyone is ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in need of anointing.

*Por favor notifique el padre si alguien esta enfermo, hospitalizado, no puede salir, o necesita unción.*

### También Ofrecemos

- \*Misas/ bendiciones para Quinceañeras
- \*Presentación de los 3 Años

*Favor de llamar a la oficina parroquial para mas información*



### TOM'S DOOR

#### FALL AND WINTER HOLIDAY CARDS ARE HERE

Please stop by the Hearts & Hands Gift Shop to view the new display of cards. Some of your favorites from over the years, plus many new cards are waiting to bring a smile to friends and family when you send them out this season. It's never too early to get ready!

Suggested donation \$3 each or 2 for \$5



Parroquia  
San Esteban  
1885 Blake Ave, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

*Grupo Enriquecimiento  
Matrimonial*

Viernes de cada semana  
de 7pm a 9pm  
Niños son bienvenidos

**MATRIMONIOS  
PARA CRISTO**

Para informacion:  
Nanci Diaz 970-456-5405

## We Are Hiring! Join Our Team

### **Part Time Bilingual Administrative Assistant**

Please contact the parish office for more information. (970) 945-6673 or email your resume to 1885krysta@gmail.com



¿No estan casados por la  
IGLESIA?  
¿les gustaria unir sus vidas a

*Dias?*  
**BODAS  
COMUNITARIAS**

IGLESIA SAN ESTEBAN  
GLENWOOD SPRINGS

*Aparta tu Lugar*

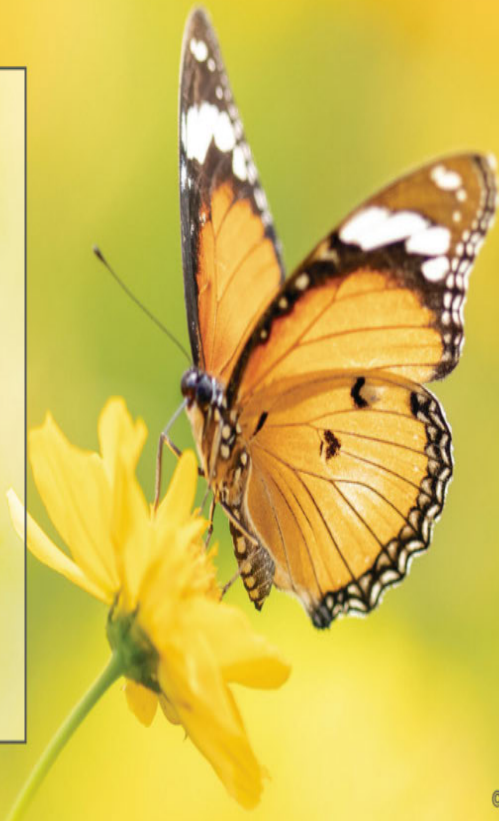
*Comunicandote con*

*Roxy Oficina Parroquial 970-945-6673*

*Nanci al 970-456-5405*

*Onecimo al 970-319-8459*

SEAMOS  
UN  
REFLEJO  
DE  
DIOS



©LPi

**MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO  
ALENTAR UN ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS  
PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA**

19 de Diciembre del 2021

3er Domingo de Adviento

**19 de diciembre de 2021**

**4º Domingo de Adviento**

Tomar decisiones siempre es difícil; por muy simples que sean, lleva su tiempo de discernimiento. Hoy, la Liturgia se centra en María, y el Evangelio nos dice que: *“Por entonces María tomó su decisión y se fue, sin más demora, a una ciudad ubicada en los cerros de Judá” (Lucas 1:39)*. Hacer la voluntad de Dios, como lo hizo la Madre del Señor, no fue cosa fácil. Al pronunciar su “sí”, trajo consecuencias de fidelidad y servicio. *“¿Cuáles eran sus pensamientos durante los meses de espera?”* La respuesta proviene del pasaje de la visita de María a su pariente anciana, Isabel. *“Entró en casa de Zacarías y saludó a Isabel”*. María estaba feliz por su maternidad, y a su vez, Isabel saludó a María diciendo: *“¿Cómo he merecido yo que venga a mí la madre de mi Señor?” (Papa Francisco 12-23-2018)*.

Un diálogo de amor, entre estas dos mujeres, estalla en las montañas de Judea por el Mesías esperado. María acudió con prontitud, no con ansiedad, sino actuando como una verdadera discípula a su corta edad. La visita de María a su parienta Isabel debe ser un ejemplo vivo para prepararnos a vivir una Navidad de dinamismo, fe y servicio hacia el más necesitado. Un encuentro de alegría auténtica, que manifieste la compasión y la ternura de Dios hacia los que nos rodean a través de nosotros. ¿Cuántos miembros de la familia sufren por falta de una visita, de un saludo? A tan solo unos días del nacimiento del Salvador, es el momento oportuno para las obras de caridad. ¡No pierdas la oportunidad! Camina presuroso al encuentro del Señor.

©LPi

Join us for Coffee and doughnuts every Sunday after the 8:00 am Mass in the Parish Hall

*Acompáñanos a tomar café y donas todos los domingos después de la misa de las 8:00 am en el salón parroquial*



© Can Stock Photo

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



©LPi



## Snow Removal Volunteers Needed!!!!

For the month of December and part of January. Please call Aldo at (970)309- 6148 or the parish office at (970) 945-6673 for more information or to volunteer! Thank you



## Se Necesitan Voluntarios Para Quitar Nieve !!!!

Comenzando en Diciembre y por parte de Enero ¡Llame a Aldo al (970) 309-6148 o a la oficina parroquial al (970) 945-6673 para obtener más información o para ser voluntario! Gracias

## Stewardship Corner Rincón Administrativo

As the charitable arm of the Archdiocese of Denver, and inspired by God's love and compassion, Catholic Charities extends the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to the poor and those in need. Serving Northern Colorado since 1927, we serve thousands of people each year, through the generosity of our donors and volunteers.

Como el brazo caritativo de la Arquidiócesis de Denver e inspirado por el amor y la compasión de Dios, Caridades Católicas extiende el ministerio de sanación de Jesucristo a los pobres y necesitados. Al servicio del norte de Colorado desde 1927, servimos a miles de personas cada año, gracias a la generosidad de nuestros donantes y voluntarios.



1004 Grand Ave. Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 (970) 384-2060

Catholic Charities is Making a Huge Difference in People's Lives on the Western Slope!

Caridades Católicas...haciendo una enorme diferencia en las vidas de las personas en el oeste de Colorado

St. Stephen parish as practicing stewards of the resources we have been given, donate **\$500** a month to Catholic Charities as well as other local charity organizations.

*La iglesia San Esteban como administradores de los recursos que se nos han dado, donamos **\$500** mensualmente a Caridades Católicas al igual que a otras organizaciones benéficas locales.*

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your god-daughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

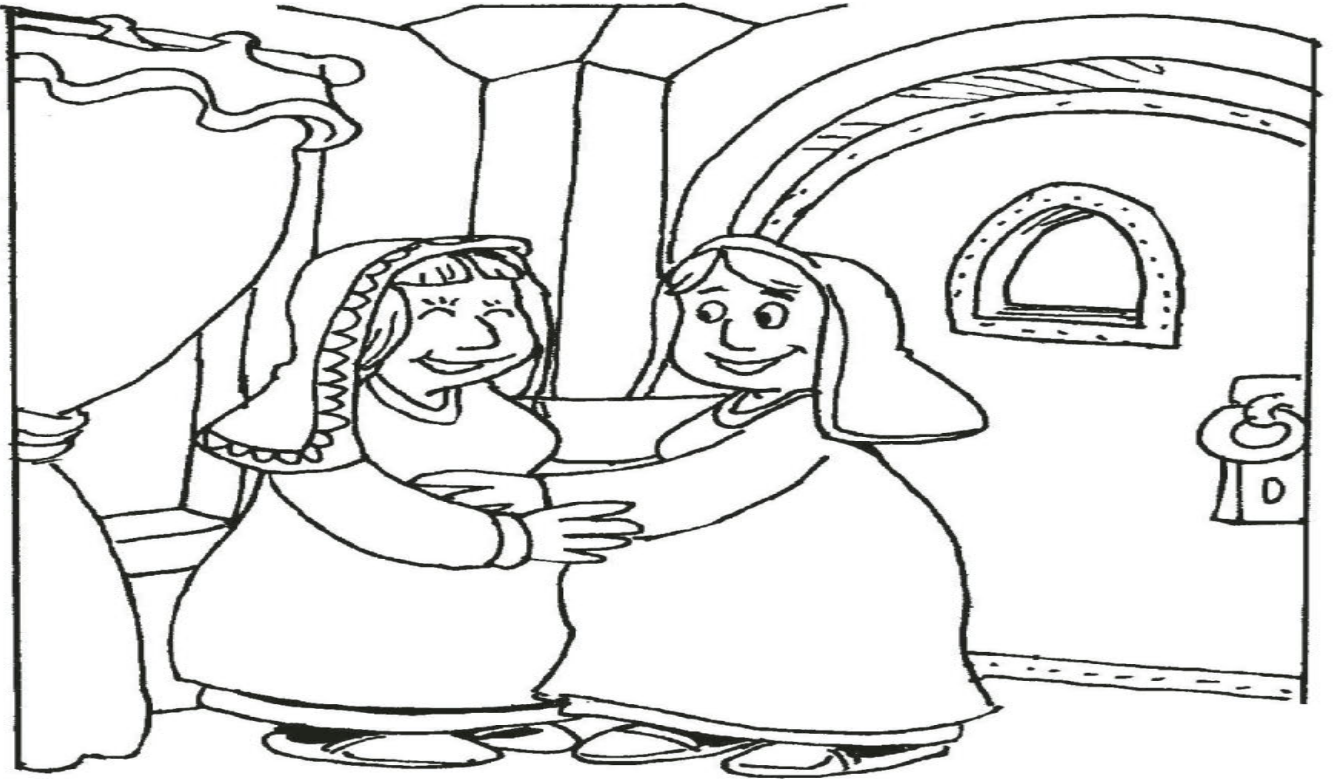
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS





# COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



## GOSPEL

When Mary visited Elizabeth, they were both waiting for their babies to be born. Elizabeth's baby would grow up to be John the Baptist. Mary's baby would grow up to be Jesus our savior. Mary and Elizabeth were excited to see each other, not only because they loved each other, but also because they both loved God very much. It makes God happy when we love our relatives and friends, just like Mary and Elizabeth did.



## PRAYER

Dear God, help me to love you. Take care of my family, my cousins, and all my relatives at Christmastime and always. Amen.





Next to WAL-MART

John & Elis - Parishioners

970-945-9494 Email  
 fax 970-945-1257 jetakim@gmail.com

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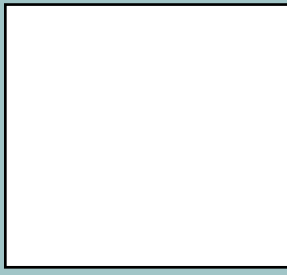
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