

Holy Spirit Parish

Tel.: 253-859-0444

310 Third Ave S Kent, WA 98032

www.holyspiritkent.org

December 20, 2020

Dec. 24th Mass 5:00pm English & 7:00pm Spanish
Dec. 25th Mass 10:30am Bilingual
Jan. 1st Mass 10:30am Bilingual

THE 4TH WEEK OF ADVENT

Father, lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. Amen.

Office Hours:

M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm by appointment

Horario de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano

Miércoles - Viernes 10 am - 2:00 pm

Telephone: 253-859-0444

Pastor/Párroco: Bishop Eusebio Elizondo

Administration: Brenda Fincher: ext. 214

Ministerio Hispano: Guadalupe Madrid: ext. 229

Liturgy/Music & RCIA/Infant Baptism Preparation:

Holly Renz: ext. 215

Children's Sacramental Preparation and Youth Ministry:

Lisa Pozzi: ext. 212

Homebound Ministry: Martha Ryland: 253-859-0444

Jail Ministry: Miguel Chavez: 206-696-8788

Accountant: Kristi Vasquez: ext. 221

Mass Times / Horario de Misas

Weekdays Wednesday 9:00am

Saturday Pre-registration required
5:00pm Bilingual

Sunday Pre-registration required
10:30 am English 12:30pm Español

Confessions

Saturday 3:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul Society Helpline
206-767-6449

Catholic Cemeteries 253-927-3350

Bautizos, Bodas, Quinceañeras, Funerales:
Guadalupe Madrid, ext. 229

Baptisms, Inquiry into the Catholic Faith:
Holly Renz, ext. 215

Weddings, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick:

Fourth Sunday Of Advent / Cuarto Domingo De Adviento

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"When your times comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom firm." (2 Sm 12)

PSALM:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

SECOND READING:

According to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God. (Rom 16:25b-26a)

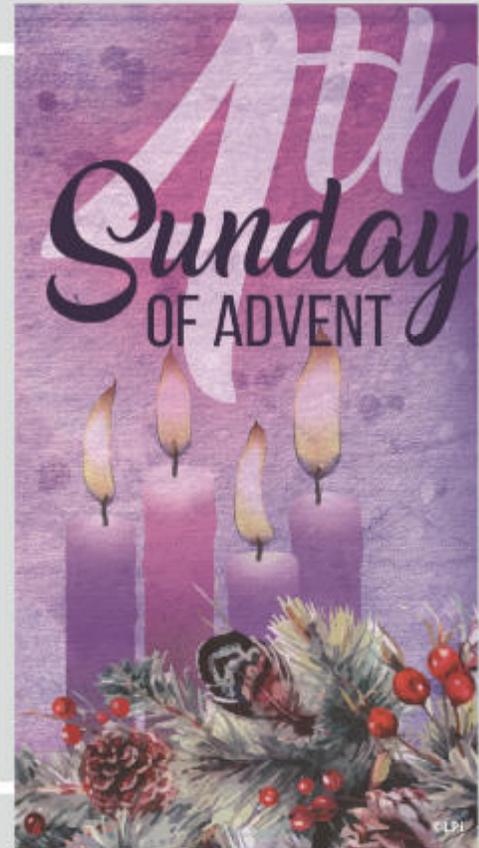
GOSPEL:

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High." (Lk 1:31-32a)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

- Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
- Monday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Thursday: Christmas Eve
- Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)
- Saturday: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
- Next Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Today's reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of "salvation history?"

SECOND READING

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?

GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?

Catholic Sentinel

Exonerated death-row inmate gives close look at capital punishment

[Carol Zimmermann](https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Exonerated-death-row-inmate-gives-close-look-at-capital-punishment/6/31/41131) 11/13/2020 11:34 AM <https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Exonerated-death-row-inmate-gives-close-look-at-capital-punishment/6/31/41131>

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It's one thing to read about mistakes and wrongdoing in the criminal justice system, especially when it comes to death penalty cases, but it's quite another thing to hear firsthand from someone who had been in prison for 12 years, including nearly 10 years on death row, for a crime he didn't commit.

That's what happened Oct. 25, when Alfred Dewayne Brown, released from prison in 2015, was part of a panel speaking via Zoom to participants at the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice, an annual event for students from Jesuit high schools, colleges and parishes around the country.

In a discussion about the death penalty, the 38-year-old told the group briefly about life in the small cell where he spent each day without human contact. When he was asked how he kept hope, he said he kept his mind active and used the early hours between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. to meditate; he also read and drew.

Now living in Louisiana and working as a truck driver, he said he tries to be outside as much as possible.

Brian Stolarz, Brown's pro bono attorney while he was on death row, told the group about Brown's case, which is chronicled in an episode of "The Innocence Files," a Netflix docuseries telling the story of eight cases of wrongful conviction. The cases were investigated by the Innocence Project, a nonprofit legal group committed to exonerating individuals who claim they have been wrongly convicted, primarily through the use of DNA testing.

In Brown's case, there was no DNA, but there was a missing phone record — his alibi, which suddenly turned up in 2013 — and there also were questions about witness coercion by the prosecuting attorney.

Brown is the 154th person exonerated from death row since 1973. The African American was arrested in 2003, when he was 21, on capital murder charges and two years later was indicted by a grand jury for killing a white Houston police officer during a robbery, with two others, of a check-cashing store.

Brown contacted the Innocence Project about his case, and Stolarz, who had worked as a public defender in Brooklyn, New York, was assigned by the firm where he was working at the time to do pro bono work on it.

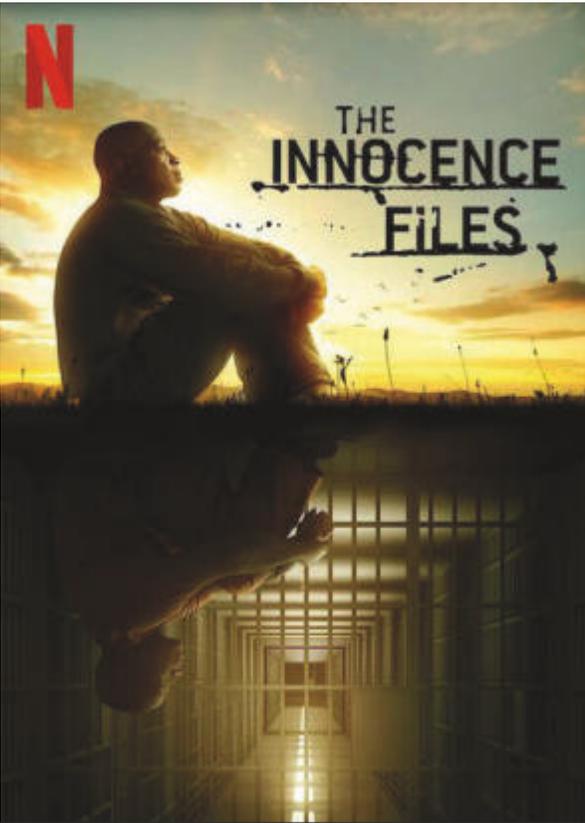
Currently a partner at the Fox Rothschild law firm in Washington, Stolarz said it took three years until Brown trusted him. But during the eight years of working on this case, he said, it was Brown who brought him "peace and grace" frequently telling him through the glass partition separating them that "it's all gonna be all right."

Stolarz spoke to the group after Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of the Catholic Mobilizing Network, gave some death penalty statistics and spoke about how Catholic Church leaders, particularly Pope Francis, have spoken out against capital punishment.

She also urged participants to get involved in anti-death penalty activism, which was the point of many of the workshops and general sessions of the Oct. 19-26 event, sponsored by the Ignatian Solidarity Network. This year's event was forced to meet online this year because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Brown's attorney noted that he and Brown were repeat speakers at the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice. "There is something special in the air every time we come here," he said.

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Alfred Dewayne Brown is seen on the poster "The Innocence Files" streaming on Netflix. He was part of an Oct. 25, 2020, Zoom panel at the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice, an annual event for students from Jesuit high schools, colleges and parishes around the country. (CNS photo/Netflix)

Fourth Sunday Of Advent / Cuarto Domingo De Adviento

THE JOURNEY

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when

a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES?

When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: *apostles* and *disciples*. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many *disciples*, the group of *apostles* was much more limited and referred to Jesus' closest collaborators.

The word *apostle* essentially means "one who is sent forth" or, as we might think of it today, "an ambassador." The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus' inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognize Saint Paul

and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord's name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the "apostle to the apostles." In a particular way, the

bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.

When we think of the word *disciple*, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, disciple literally means "student" or, more specially, an "apprentice learner." The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they

receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH / PARROQUIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO



“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

Luke 1:31

We Ask You to Pray for All Who Are Ill Especially

Robert Comacho, Se'Vera Dowe, Griff Fincher, Ken Gannaw, Dave Leitchner, Kathy Lemke, Grantley Martelly, Antonia Morfin, Marian Oliver, Richard Robles, Marina Serena, Les Thomas, Blaine

Please pray for everyone in the military both at home and abroad, men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect us. And, let us pray for their families.

If you would like a name added, returned to or removed from the prayer list, please contact the parish office at 253-859-0444 ext. 214 or bfincher@holyspiritkent.org.

Holy Day Mass Schedule

DECEMBER

24th Mass 5:00pm English

24th Mass 7:00pm Spanish

25th Mass 10:30am Bilingual

January

1st Mass 10:30am Bilingual



Continued from page 3

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Brown's attorney noted that he and Brown were repeat speakers at the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice. "There is something special in the air every time we come here," he said.

He also spoke about growing up in a Franciscan parish in New Jersey where "service to others was part of everything we did." He also said that when he as a law school student at The Catholic University of America, he became convinced of the need to be a voice for others, something he said was his calling and something he urged the students to be aware of and to "answer the call."

Stolarz, who also is highlighted in the Netflix film, wrote about his experience in a 2016 book: "Grace and Justice on Death Row: The Race Against Time and Texas to Free an Innocent Man."

In a webinar for Catholic Charities Legal Network in the Washington Archdiocese this summer, just after the Netflix series was released, Stolarz said Brown's forgiveness and grace had particularly touched him.

"He has forgiven his captors," Stolarz said, adding: "Every day, I say the prayer of St. Francis. For me, I focus on 'for in giving that we receive' because it is in giving my time to Dewayne, that I received a bounty. But for Dewayne, his forgiveness is the real focus point of that prayer."

Brown, when asked at the Ignatian event what advice he had for students, put it simply: "Stay positive. Think everything through. Don't move too fast but move fast enough to get it done."

Although he was declared eligible for monetary compensation for wrongful imprisonment, these funds have been denied by the Texas Office of the Comptroller, which Brown is appealing to the state Supreme Court.

Stolarz told the group he has a GoFundMe page for Brown, <https://bit.ly/35I41AV>, and said he "won't stop until full justice is given to him."

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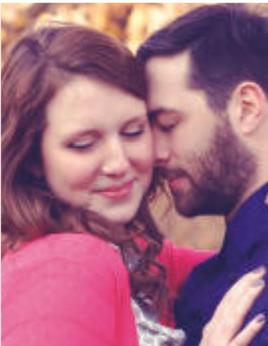
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