

**St. Paul Cathedral**  
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December 7, 2017

*“St. Paul Cathedral Parish is a diverse body of Catholic people whom God calls by name, given a mission by Jesus Christ to be a faithful sign, a realistic foretaste and an instrument of the Kingdom of God. As Cathedral Parishioners, we recognize our responsibility to show leadership by example and to provide service to God’s people.*”

My Dear Parishioners:

Well, the end of a busy month!! I hope & pray everything is going well for you, as we enter the “Great Season of Hope,” Advent. This is a time of great expectation, of anticipation & commemoration of God becoming one of us. As I write today, it is the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, our entrance into World War II; a stark reminder of our need to frequently pray for peace in our world. With the turmoil & threats of wars surrounding us, each of us is challenged to increase our prayers for a true & lasting peace.

1. Tomorrow, Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is of course the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States of America & a holy day.
2. This weekend we welcome back Bishop Carlos Sevilla, S.J., our former bishop who will speak on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach which serves as a meaningful link between parishes in America & the priests & nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central & South America. Brochures will be provided if you wish to support this worthy Catholic ministry. LET’S GIVE BISHOP SEVILLA A WARM WELCOME HOME!!
3. Of course we are in the midst of our Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe in preparation for her feast next Tuesday: Mañanitas at 4:30AM and Mass with our bishop, Joseph at 7:00PM in our Cathedral. Our Lady of Guadalupe is not just the Patroness of Mexico but for all the Americas. She is the Patroness for all of us! Please join us for the celebrations!
4. Don’t forget one of our traditional services on Advent: Monday evening Advent Sung Prayer each week. It’s a beautiful meditative ½ hour celebration of “the official prayer of the Church”. Again we encourage your participation: 5:30PM Mondays in our Chapel.
5. I CANNOT URGE YOU STRONGLY ENOUGH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR COMMUNAL CELEBRATIONS OF RECONCILIATION NEXT WEEK!! All our area priests will converge on our local parishes and are available for confession:  
Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
4:00PM-Holy Redeemer Church  
7:00PM-Holy Family Church  
Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
4:00PM-St. Joseph Church  
7:00PM-CATHEDRAL

Please take advantage of these great opportunities to experience God’s total mercy & forgiveness!!

6. We can definitely use your assistance on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM as we decorate & set the environment for the upcoming Christmas/Epiphany Season. Banners need to be hung, tress erected and everything made ready. (It’s pretty early to set up for Christmas, but the next weekend is too close!) Thanks in advance for your assistance.

7. The YLI traditional stupendous Christmas Cookies Sale, for the benefit of our seminarians will take place a week from this weekend, the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> of December after all Masses in the Cathedral vestibule. Plan to stop at their table after Mass that weekend!!
8. It is our privilege & pleasure to welcome the members of the Yakima Association of Churches & Faith Communities for their annual Christmas gathering on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. It is always a joy to welcome the pastors & leaders of our sister churches & Jewish & Muslim faith representatives for our annual gathering.
9. Before you know it, Christmas will be here & this year, because it falls on a Monday, we have to rearrange our Sunday schedule; cancelling our Life Teen Mass on Sunday evenings, both on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Here is the Christmas/New Year's schedule:

Sunday, December 24th

Usual Mass times (Saturday: 5:30PM, and Sunday: 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM, 1:00PM Spanish)

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

5:30PM Family Mass for Christmas

10:30PM Solemn Mass for Christmas with Bishop Tyson

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Masses at 7:00AM, 9:00AM & 11:00AM and 1:00PM (Spanish)

NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>-Feast of the Holy Family

Masses (Saturday 5:30PM) Sunday 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM 1:00PM Spanish & 7:00PM.

NEW YEARS-JANUARY 1, 2018 SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Because this day falls on a Monday, THE OBLIGATION FOR MASS IS LIFTED. A SPECIAL MASS FOR PEACE HONORING MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD WILL BE OFFERED AT 9:00AM. This day is also designated as the World Day of Prayer for Peace!

10. ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS!! How about joining us on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM for a "Dinner on your parish" at Keoki's 2107 W. Lincoln Avenue. Even though there is no charge to you, we need to know if you will join us; for sufficient preparation. So either email [parish@stpaulsyakima.org](mailto:parish@stpaulsyakima.org) or call the office before noon Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please add to the joy of our gathering by joining with us!!
11. Our annual "Holy Innocents Mass" for all who have lost children by miscarriage, natural death, abortion, accident or illness will be offered in our CHAPEL on Thursday evening, December 28<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, those children killed by King Herod as a result of Jesus' birth. Please join us for the Mass & reception following in our Assembly Place.
12. Our Bishop and the priests that serve us here at the Cathedral; Msgr. Siler and Father Francisco Higuera, Darell Mitchell & Juan Flores join me in wishing all of you a MOST BLESSED & HAPPY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR! May 2018 be for all of us a year of peace, security & prosperity & a time to grow closer to the Lord.

Devotedly in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. John A. Ecker - VG  
Pastor

P.S. It's never too late to contribute to the Annual Catholic Appeal for our bishop & diocese. (Envelopes in Cathedral vestibule.)