

## Removing the Obstacles to Grace

*Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)*

*“Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low.  
The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” [Luke 3:5-6](#)*

These, the words of the prophet Isaiah, were spoken about the mission of Saint John the Baptist. John was to “Prepare the way of the Lord” and to “make straight his paths.” In prophesying this, Isaiah goes on to give this very descriptive image of John’s ministry. It would be one that levels mountains and valleys, straightens every winding road, and smooths out the rough terrain. In other words, John came to remove every obstacle to God, making it easy to encounter the Messiah.

How does John complete this mission? By calling the people of that time to the dry and empty desert where all the false allurements cease to exist. This is done by detachment from the many sins and temptations they faced. Their repentance was an act by which the people humbled themselves before God, admitted their sins and acknowledged their need for a Savior. This humble admission, coupled with the commitment to change their ways, prepared heart after heart for the grace and mercy that came through Christ the Lord.

Today, there are countless obstacles to grace that so many people encounter. Some have been drawn into the satisfactions of earthly riches and material comforts and find little need for God. Others have very little that this world can offer but are consumed with a desire for money and the passing comforts it promises. And still others are drawn into many other forms of sins and false satisfactions. But there are some who are like a dry and deserted desert, just waiting to soak up the gentle rain of God’s grace. These are those who have sought to detach themselves from the false promises of this world and remain “empty” and “dry” so as to be prepared for the abundance of grace when it comes. These holy souls have heeded the call to repentance and have humbly acknowledged their need for the Savior.

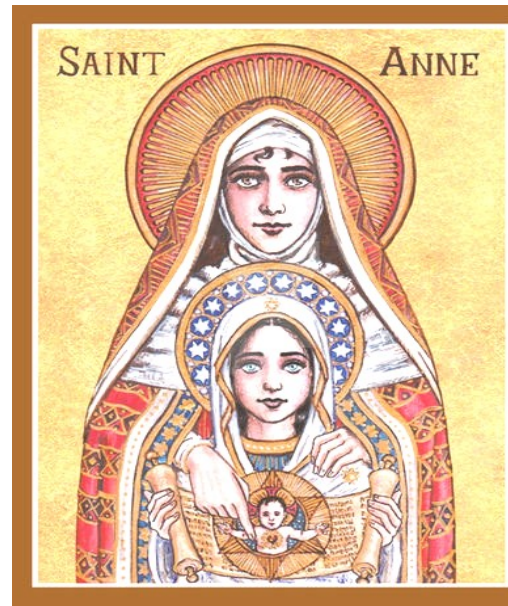
Reflect, today, upon whether or not your soul is like that dry and barren desert, detached from all the false and passing satisfactions of this world, and prepared to soak up the mercy and grace of God alone. Repentance brings forth detachment, and detachment prepares the soul for God. When one is truly detached and free from the many obstacles to God, then the road from God to your soul will be straight and easily traveled. Reflect upon your soul today and where you see unhealthy attachments. Repent with all your heart so that you are among those most fully ready for an abundance of the grace and mercy of God.

*Lord, I turn to You in my need and repent of the many lies and false promises of satisfaction in this world.  
Please free me from all that is not of You so that my soul will be more fully prepared to soak  
You and Your mercy up like a gentle rain upon a dry and barren desert.  
I open myself to You, my Lord. Come fill and satiate my soul. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## St. Anne Catholic Parish

December 8, 2024

### 2nd Sunday of Advent



#### Holy Mass and Sacraments Schedule

**Saturday Vigil:** 5:00 pm

**Sunday Mass:** 9:00 am

**Daily Mass:** Mondays & Fridays @ 6:00 pm  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays @ 9:00 am  
First Saturday’s ONLY @ 9:00 am

**Reconciliation:** 30 minutes prior to each Mass

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Mondays and Fridays 5:00-6:00 pm  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9:30-10:30 am

**Baptism and Holy Matrimony:** The family should be registered and active at St. Anne Parish for a least three months prior to Baptism or Holy Matrimony. Couples are engaged to marry need to contact Fr. Ishida at least four months prior to the wedding date for marriage preparation.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please contact Father Ishida.

**Parish Office:** Please email or leave a voice message.

#### Parish Staff

Parish Office: 509-723-1459

Email: [stannemedicallake@gmail.com](mailto:stannemedicallake@gmail.com)

Website: [www.westplainscatholicparishes.org](http://www.westplainscatholicparishes.org)

Father Michael Ishida, Pastor

Evie Noder, Parish Bookkeeper

Michele Flynn, Office Admin

Sacramental Emergencies – 509-998-7093

#### Pastoral Council

*(meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 6:00 pm)*

Fr Ishida, Theresa Reisenauer, Linda Pearson,

Evie Noder, Jeff King, Larry Jay,

Monica Schindler, Marlayna Smith

#### Finance Council

*(meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday quarterly @ noon)*

Father Ishida, Betty Patterson,

Dan Quaschnick,

#### Physical Address:

708 E Lake Street, Medical Lake, WA 99022

#### Mailing Address::

P.O. Box 125, Medical Lake, WA 99022

#### Ministry Contacts

##### Liturgical Ministries

Sacristan - Theresa Reisenauer

Lectors – Cheryl Moriarty

Music – Linda Pearson

Fellowship—Betty Patterson

Hall Rental—Mary Morrison

Meditation Garden—

##### Parish Guilds

Prayer Chain, Theresa Reisenauer, [lovinretirement@gmail.com](mailto:lovinretirement@gmail.com)

*(Intensions can be kept anonymous if requested or needed.)*

Quilters Group, Sally Bachtel 702-622-5522

#### **FORMED.org—“The Catholic NetFlicks**

Step 1. **Sign up as a Parishioner (it's FREE)** : search for **St. Anne Medical Lake**

Step 2. Then enter your name and create a password.

*welcome*  
to our Parish

## Second Sunday of Advent

Lectionary #6C~ Liturgical color: violet

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Resp Psalm: Psalm: 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

2nd Reading: 1 Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

NO Gloria

The Creed

December is the Month of the Divine Infancy

## Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 9 @ 9:00 AM & 6:00 PM

## Nativity of our Lord

December 25—Mass @ 9:00 PM & 5:00 PM

**Please note:** Mass Intensions take approximately two (2) weeks to get processed and on the calendar. Please note this when giving your stipends for Intensions.

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

01	Sunday	Pro Populo
02	Monday	
03	Tuesday	
04	Wednesday	
05	Thursday	
06	Friday	
07	Saturday	
08	Sunday	Pro Populo

*St. Anne ... Pray for us!*  
*Mary, Queen of Heaven ... Pray for us!*

### St. Anne's Christmas Immaculate Conception Brunch

**When:**

December 8<sup>th</sup> after 9:00 Mass

**Where:**

In Parish Hall

**Donations:**

\$5 per person or \$10 a family.

Tickets sold after Mass

Please join us!



Raffle tickets for Sale for an Outdoor Statue of Mary,

Our Lady of Grace Statue and a Rosary

handmade by Marlayna Smith.

**\$1 per ticket**

## St. Ann Christmas Concert

December 14, 2024

6:00 PM - Doors

7:00 PM - Concert

Forester Building - 39 W Pacific Ave

St. Ann Fundraiser Christmas Concert

Scan QR code for Tickets

\$55 single or \$100 couple

Reserve a table for 6 for \$75

Catered appetizers & glass of champagne included.

Featuring Sonia Mumba with Michel Somwe



**Welcome to St. Anne Parish** To all visitors who are joining us for worship today. May your time with us be grace-filled and may the Lord Jesus bless you and your loved ones today and every day. Pax et Bonum (Peace & Happiness)

## St. Anne Parish

### Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturdays @ 5:00 pm—confession @ 4:30 pm

Sundays @ 9:00 am - confession @ 8:30 am

**Join us for FELLOWSHIP immediately following  
Sunday 9:00 am Mass in St. Anne Hall.**

### Daily Mass Schedule

Mondays & Fridays— 6:00 pm Mass

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays - 9:00 am Mass

**ADORATION**

Mondays & Fridays @ 5:00 pm;

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays—following Mass

**CONFESSIO**

Mondays & Fridays @ 5:30 pm;

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays @ 8:30 am

## We Need Your Help!

Saturday, December 7

10:00 AM: Set up Nativity Manager

11:00 AM: Set up Hall & Food for Immaculate  
Conception Brunch *Thank you!!*

### Adult Religious Ed Classes

hosted by Father Ishida

*All are welcome!*

### Signs of the 2nd Coming

December 4 @ 6:30PM—7:30PM

December 11 @ 6:30PM—7:30PM

### PRAYER CHAIN

INTENTIONS can be emailed and kept anonymous if requested or needed.

Please request prayers to Theresa Reisenauer at:  
lovinretirement@gmail.com



## St. Anne Events!

Join us for FELLOWSHIP immediately following  
Sunday 9:00 am Mass in St. Anne Hall.

**First Saturdays Mass—December 7**  
8:30 am Confession  
9:00 am Mass—9:30 am Rosary

Sunday, December 8 after 9:00 am Mass  
Join us in the Hall  
**Christmas Immaculate Conception Brunch**  
*As always, it will be a great time to get to know one another. Please join us for brunch!*

**Monday, December 9—Holy Day of Obligation!**  
*Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
9:00 am & 6:00 pm Mass

Tuesday, December 10 @ 6:00 PM  
Parish Council Meeting @ 6:00 pm in the Hall

Wednesday, December 11 @ 9:45 AM  
Quilting Group @ 9:45 am in the Hall

Wednesday, December 11 @ 6:30 PM  
Adult Religious Ed @ 6:30 pm in the Hall

Wednesday, December 18 @ 9:45 AM  
Quilting Group @ 9:45 am in the Hall

*Quilting Group will not meet on Christmas Day or  
New Year's Day.*

Wednesday, January 8 @ 9:45 AM  
Quilting Group @ 9:45 am in the Hall



**2024 ACA Parish Goals St. Anne,  
Medical Lake: \$21,368**  
We have currently received  
\$16,690— 78.11% of our goal.

**Thank you!**