

A New Era of Hope  
*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,  
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” [Matthew 4:17](#)

In Matthew’s Gospel, from which we read today, we hear the first words spoken by our Lord as He begins His public ministry: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Up until this point, Matthew’s Gospel presented us with Jesus’ genealogy, His birth, the story of the Magi, the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt, the slaughter of the Holy Innocents, Jesus’ baptism, the preaching of Saint John the Baptist and Jesus’ forty days in the desert. Now, after these introductory stories of Jesus’ life, we enter into His public ministry.

Recall that John had just been imprisoned, thus concluding his public ministry. Therefore, the time for the preaching and ministry of the Son of God had arrived. And though Jesus continues the theme of repentance started by John, Jesus takes John’s words further. Jesus adds something that John could not: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Since we are still at the beginning of the season of Ordinary Time, it’s important to understand this transition from the Old Testament prophets, of which John was the last, to the New Testament preaching of our Lord. The difference is that all that had been prophesied and pointed to in the Old Testament had now arrived. Saint Jerome, in commenting upon this passage, says that as the Old Testament Law ceased, the Gospel commenced. And, of course, the fulfillment of this new era of the Gospel was only a few short years away when our Lord would offer up His life for the salvation of many.

As Jesus begins His preaching, His words are challenging but also very hopeful. By saying that “the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” Jesus stirs interest and holy curiosity among His first listeners. His call to repentance was softened by His new proclamation about the Kingdom.

One helpful insight we can take from these first words of Jesus’ public ministry is that this is the best way to share the Gospel with those who do not yet follow Christ. Oftentimes, when we see someone living in serious sin, we want to judge and condemn. But usually what they need the most is hope—hope that there is something much greater that comes from repentance. Certainly we need to speak against sin. But one of the most effective ways to do so is by initially offering the listener hope of something much better than the sin with which they struggle—specifically, the hope of the Kingdom of God.

Reflect, today, upon the newness of the ministry of Jesus, the newness of the first proclamation of the Gospel. As you do, try to imagine the holy curiosity that many would have had as they first listened to Jesus preach. Soon He would follow up His preaching with many signs and wonders that would confirm His message. But at first, Jesus simply instilled a hope in His hearers. As you ponder this, think about those in your life who also need this initial sense of hope and holy curiosity about the Gospel and pray that God will inspire you and use you to be an instrument of this merciful message.



# St. Francis of Assisi

Website: [westplainscatholicparishes.org](http://westplainscatholicparishes.org)  
(or simply type: [bit.ly/StAnneML](http://bit.ly/StAnneML))  
Father Mike Ishida

206 S. Coal Creek Road, Harrington, WA 99134

## Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 125, Medical Lake, WA 99022  
Sacramental Emergency Phone: 509-998-7093

January 22, 2023 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday: 5:30 pm Mass \*Confession @ 5:00 pm

### Mary Queen of Heaven

200 West Alder, Sprague, WA

Sunday: 10:30 am Mass \*Confession @ 10:00 am  
12:30 pm English Mass

Daily Mass: 7:00 am Mass

### St. Anne

708 East Lake Street, Medical Lake, WA

Sunday: 9:00 am Mass  
Monday: 6:00 pm Mass  
Tuesday: 9:00 am Mass  
Wednesday: 9:00 am Mass  
Thursday: 9:00 am Mass  
Friday: 6:00 pm Mass

## Sacraments

### Penance (Confession):

St. Anne: 30 minutes before EVERY Mass  
Mary Queen: Sunday 10:00 am  
St. Francis of Assisi: Saturdays 5:00 pm

### Baptism and Confirmation:

Contact Parish Office

### Marriage:

Contact Parish Office

(requires preparation for at least 6 months in advance)

### 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 & create a password.

welcome  
to our Parish

Lord, as You began Your public ministry of proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven, You instilled hope and a holy curiosity in the minds and hearts of Your first hearers.

Please continue this good work and use me as You will—to be an instrument of this hope in those I encounter every day.  
Jesus, I trust in You.



**2022 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL  
WE REACHED OUR GOAL.**

**THANK YOU**  
to all those that have so generously contributed to the ACA this year!



**Nourished to be Light**

*"... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father ..."* Matthew 5:16

**Men's Conference—Hearts on Fire**

February 4 @ St. Thomas More, Spokane  
Deacon James Thurman, Archdiocese of Portland  
Dr. Deacon Bob Rice, University of Steubenville  
Tickets go on sale January 1, 2023

**Register at:**

<https://dioceseofspokane.org/events/2023-hearts-on-fire-mens-conference>

**How to Give**

- Online Giving—It's safe, secure and easy to give with the secure service we use RebelGive:  
<https://bit.ly/StAnneGive>
- Mail you offering to:  
PO Box 125,  
Medical Lake, WA 99022
- Drop your donation in the giving basket



**Walk for Life Northwest**

Sunday, January 22, 2023  
**11:00 AM** Mass at the  
Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes  
Following Mass—meet @ Rotary Fountain  
South Howard St. Bridge Riverfront Park  
**12:00 PM** Information Tent  
**12:30 PM** Speaker: Louis Brown—a  
Catholic Civil Rights lawyer and executive  
director of Christ Medicus Foundation.  
**Walk begins after speaker.**

*Mass Prayer Intentions*  
January 22—January 29

Sunday, January 22: Pro Populo  
Monday, January 23: Gene & Isabelle Stawkowski  
Tuesday, January 24:  
Wednesday, January 25:  
Thursday, January 26:  
Friday, January 27: David Ecklebert +  
Saturday, January 28:  
Sunday, January 29: Pro Populo

And for all the intentions of our parishioners, especially the intentions in our Parish prayer chain.

*St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!*  
*St. Anne, pray for us!*  
*Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us!*



*Welcome to St. Francis of Assisi*

Welcome 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.



*January/February 2023 at a glance:*

Sunday	M	Tuesday	Wednesday	T	F	Saturday
22 St. Anne, Medical Lake, WA 8:30 am Confession 9:00 am Mass Fellowship following Mass in St. Anne Hall Mary Queen of Heaven Sprague, WA 10:00 am Confession 10:30 am Mass 12:30 pm English Mass Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	23	24	25	26	27	28 St. Francis of Assisi Harrington, WA 5:00 pm Confession 5:30 pm Mass
Nearby Parishes: Daily Mass Locations & Times Immaculate Conception, 1310 Adams St, Davenport, WA Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday – 9:00AM Mass Mary Queen of Heaven, 200 W. Alder, Sprague Monday through Friday – 7:00AM Mass						<b>FORMED.org</b> The Catholic NetFlicks <b>JOIN for free!</b> <i>Directions on front of the bulletin .</i>
29 St. Anne, Medical Lake, WA 8:30 am Confession 9:00 am Mass Fellowship following Mass in St. Anne Hall Mary Queen of Heaven Sprague, WA 10:00 am Confession 10:30 am Mass 12:30 pm English Mass Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	30	31	February 1	2	3	
PRAY FOR BISHOP DALY AND HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR PARISHS AND SCHOOLS.						
5 St. Anne, Medical Lake, WA 8:30 am Confession 9:00 am Mass Fellowship following Mass in St. Anne Hall Mary Queen of Heaven Sprague, WA 10:00 am Confession 10:30 am Mass 12:30 pm English Mass Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6	7	8	9	10	11 St. Francis of Assisi Harrington, WA 5:00 pm Confession 5:30 pm Mass
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## Opportunity for involvement in the Guatemala Mission

Thanks to the leadership of Bishop Bernard Topel in the late 1950s, the Diocese of Spokane entered into an agreement with the Diocese of Sololá in Guatemala, whereby Spokane offered to share spiritual, material, and human resources with the Diocese of Sololá.

While programs have advanced and local leadership has replaced Spokane personnel, the Guatemala Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane continues financial and prayer support for pastoral work, medical clinics, a radio station, and schools.

The Guatemala Commission, meeting four times a year, manages funds and communicates information from the people of Guatemala to the people of the Spokane diocese. Membership is open and welcome for anyone who is interested in being part of this ministry. Please contact Donna at [rdconnell@comcast.net](mailto:rdconnell@comcast.net) if you would like to attend a meeting or would like more information.

Ongoing prayer and financial support are vital to the lives and welfare of the people in the Highlands of Guatemala. They are very grateful and thankful for support from the people and parishes of the Spokane diocese and they pray for God's blessings for all.

Patients waiting at medical clinic.



Children participating in religious education program.

