

Weekly Bulletin

WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR ASSUMPTION PARISH IN BELLINGHAM, WA

FEBRUARY 10, 2023

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.

-Matthew 28:19-20

Pastor's Note

A quick note on hospitality.

I have been hearing from some families that it is beginning to be difficult to find a seat at Mass. On the one hand, this is great news! A full church means more people in relationship with Jesus, as well as a more dynamic, more worshipful experience. One the other hand, we are not at capacity: our church can seat 465 if every seat downstairs is taken (assuming 8 people per long pew and 6 per short pew, which itself is conservative), and our largest Sunday Mass never breaks 300. Which means the problem is with *how* we seat ourselves. We are not making room for the people coming into our church.

Trust me, I *do* get it. Everyone's ideal 13 ft. pew arrangement looks like this:

<i>Empty/Jackets (1 ft.)</i>	My Group (4.5 ft.)	<i>No Touching Zone (2 ft.)</i>	Another Group (4.5 ft.)	<i>Empty/Jackets (1 ft.)</i>
------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------

Our ideal 10 ft. pew is similar, but with smaller group sizes. Notice how almost 1/3 of the pew is empty space! Taking away 1/3 of our pew capacity means our church can only seat 300, and now we can see where the problem lies. (Fun fact about jackets: my best guess is that the usher room in the old narthex was originally built a coat room.)

The other problem we run into is that families with children (we are joyful to have them!!) often require the most space, but (because children are chaotic) face the most barriers to arriving at Mass on time. So when a family, frazzled after having tried to make sure everyone at least has *shoes on*, shows up at 9:55 and sees that there is only 1 ft. here or 2 ft. there, you can see how they might become distressed with church seating.

I want everyone to pay attention to this because the easiest way to turn someone off from going to church is if it is *difficult* and *inconvenient*. Yes, the preaching, the music, the overall presentation of the Mass matter. But all of that comes after you are able to find a seat. If a person or a family has done all the work to overcome whatever transportation or family barriers might be keeping them from Mass, only to find the Mass inhospitable, then all of our evangelical efforts are going to be thwarted by something as milquetoast as personal space!

So what to do about this? First, can we make a community effort **to trip over ourselves trying to scoot together when we see someone walking down the aisle who needs a place to sit?** That little gesture goes a *long* way. Second, because the 10:00 a.m. is our most well attended Mass and the 12:30 has a lot of families with kids, we are going to get rid of the distanced/masked pews at those Masses. We still want cautious people to feel safe at our church (!), but I need to ask them to focus on the 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Masses going forward. Thank you!

May the Lord bless you always,

J. Moore

Archdiocesan News

PREPARES (PREgnancy and PAREnting Support)

Since its founding, in 2014, as a statewide initiative by the Bishops of Seattle, PREPARES has been responding with compassion and respect to the emotional and material needs of families with children from pregnancy to age five. PREPARES responds to the churches priority to serve people living in poverty and respect human life by helping Catholics act as a community of faith to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable parents and children.

The PREPARES VALENTINE APPEAL is designed to help fund our CCS staff in Seattle. If you have chosen to donate and would like the donation to go to our local chapter at Assumption, please specify “Assumption PREPARES Program” on the outside of the envelope and on your check.

If you are interested in referring a family, volunteering or need further information please email us at PreparesTeam@gmail.com.

The 2023 Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Feb 17-19 at LaQuinta Inn and Suites, Tacoma, WA

Early registration is highly recommended. For questions, or to find out more about a Virtual Encounter Weekend, feel free to contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321. For more information visit our website at: www.wwme.org.

Parish News

Exposition Opening

At Assumption, we have 23 hours each week of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, which requires 46 people to sign up for an hour each (1 person is required at all times but having 2 is a helpful redundancy). There are currently two openings on the exposition schedule—2:00 a.m., and 3:00 am. These are quiet times of the night when you can spend time with the Lord without interruption. Right now, there is only one person in those hours. If you would like to try one or both of these hours, please contact Belen Saturay, belenms@comcast.net, 360-676-9785, or Joe St.Hilaire, joesthilaire@hotmail.com, 360-671-4836.

If you are interested in signing up for exposition, but are not able to do those hours, please consider contacting the above to sign up for a different hour! Your presence on the schedule may allow one of our long-term adorers to consider moving to one of the late-night hours.

Upcoming Celebrations

February and March have the following big events, to which everyone is invited:

- Feb. 12, 2:30 p.m.: Super Bowl Party in the gym. (\$7 tickets sold to support 8th grade D.C. Trip)
- Feb. 21, 6:15 p.m.: A Mardi Gras Celebration in the gym on “Fat Tuesday”. It will feature a Pancake Dinner and ‘Dan the Magic Man’ for entertainment.
- Fridays during Lent:
 - 4:00 p.m. - Confessions
 - 6:00 p.m. - Bilingual Stations of the Cross
 - 6:45 p.m. - Soup Supper

Prayer intentions for February 2023

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February 2023

Pope Francis asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. During February we are asked by our Holy Father to pray for parishes.

"We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, unity, and welcome towards those most in need."

Prayer for Partners in the Gospel:

Gracious God, we praise and thank you for the Catholic Church in Western Washington. We praise and thank you for the men and women who have shared the joy of the Gospel here for more than 170 years. Send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might encounter your Son anew and become more effective partners in sharing the Good News of his saving love. May our partnership in the Gospel empower us to be your missionary disciples, bringing the Good News to all, especially to those who are marginalized or hurting in any way. Give us the courage, the flexibility and the vision to renew parish life, so that the good work, begun long ago, may continue among us, and one day, be brought to completion in your Kingdom, where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers

For the Repose of the Souls of Judy Ziels, Michael Jacob Westford, Genevieve Patterson, Andrew John Hatfield, Maria Gloria Smith, and Paul Textor.

How to add a name to the Prayer Sheet

Please email your request to Dr. Kathy Ernst kathye@assumption.org. You will need the permission of the person to be prayed for if you are asking for healing or a Special Intention.

Upcoming

Events

- **Sunday, Feb. 12**
 - 9:00 am – Coffee Hour (Stafford)
 - 10:00 am – School Open House
 - 11:00 am – Coffee Hour (Stafford)
 - 2:30 pm – Super Bowl Party (Gym)
- **Wednesday, Feb. 15**
 - 10:30 am – Women's Scripture Study (Stafford)
- **Saturday, Feb. 18**
 - 7:00 pm - Movie Night (Gym)
- **Sunday, Feb. 19**
 - 9:00 am – Coffee Hour (Gym)
 - 11:00 am – Coffee Hour (Gym)
 - 5:00 pm – Vigil (Judy Ziels)
- **Monday, Feb. 20 (Presidents' Day)**
 - 1:00 pm – Funeral (Judy Ziels)

Intentions

- **Saturday, February 11**
 - 5:00 pm, Sister Jonathan, SI
- **Sunday, February 12**
 - 8:00 am, Charles A Sweeney, RIP
 - 10:00 am, Joe Razore, Sr, RIP
 - 12:30 pm,
- **Tuesday, February 14**
 - 5:30 pm, Edward Boze, RIP
- **Wednesday, February 15**
 - 7:15 am, Fr Paul Ma, RIP
- **Thursday, February 16**
 - 7:15 am, Mark McCoy, RIP
- **Friday, February 17**
 - 8:15 am, Kim Alison Newell, RIP

Open Positions

Parish Administrator - Interim

Employee - Full-time – Interim

Assumption Parish is looking for an interim administrator. Candidates must have excellent organizational and communications skills. Must be an active member of a Catholic faith community. Position oversees all parish finances, personnel matters, and administration. Minimum of 3 years supervisory and administrative experience required. Bachelor's degree (or commensurate experience) in a related field required. Salary and benefits based on Archdiocesan guidelines. For application and full job description, visit <http://www.assumption.org> or contact karenz@assumption.org To find out more, go to our website and download the job description and application. For any questions, contact karenz@assumption.org

In Case You Missed It

Items that have already run in the bulletin previously.

School News

Open House

Assumption Catholic School Open House is on **Sunday, February 12th from 11:30 to 1:30pm**. This is for new families looking to tour and/or ask questions. Current families may come with a family friend to showcase our school. Mr. Anderson, principal, and Mrs. Dennis, the Development Director, will be able to help answer any questions you may have.

Super Bowl Party

Also, everyone is invited to the **Superbowl party fundraiser** for the 8th grade. All proceeds will go to help offset the cost of the trip to Washington DC this spring.

Don't watch the game alone. Come spend the afternoon with your ACS family!

8th grade DC Trip fundraiser - The Super Bowl Party and Chili Feed

Sunday, Feb. 12. - Doors open 2:30 with kick off at 3:30

\$7 admission ticket price per person. Children 6 and under get free admission.

Knights of Columbus Movie Night

Saturday, February 18, 7:00 p.m., in the Gym

The Knights of Columbus are presenting a free showing of the movie "No Greater Love", about the life of Mother Theresa of Calcutta. Hot dogs, beverages and kettle corn will be available.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Mardi Gras

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

AFTER 5:30PM MASS | ASSUMPTION CHURCH GYM

Surprise MAGIC show!
Pancake Supper Provided by the Scouts
All Are Welcome!

*Donation is appreciated.
Proceeds will go to Lent Rice Bowl.*

