



CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

Bellingham, Washington

Christmas Visitors' Bulletin

Pastor's Note / Nota del Pastor

English

To all parishioners and visitors to our Whatcom County Catholic Churches - Merry Christmas!

It is famously hard to convince family, friends, and neighbors to help you move. Packing and carrying heavy boxes all day is no one's idea of a good time. So, when someone does agree, we are immensely thankful. In fact, we often wonder what we did to deserve such a loving, generous friend or family member.

Now let's extend that idea to the incarnation. Moving may be unpleasant, but it is nothing compared to the overall burden of a human life under the yoke of sin and death. And yet, Jesus freely chose to enter into our existence, to share our struggle, to unite himself to our pains. What did we ever do to deserve such a savior? Why would he ever want to empty himself to such a radical extent?

Because he loves us. He has loved us since the moment he created the universe and knitted us together in our mothers' wombs. He loves us on our best days and on our worst days. He loves us so much that he could never imagine leaving us alone to our burdens - he has always wanted to be with us, he was simply looking for the most opportune time.

That time was 2025 years ago in the backwater of the Roman Empire, on the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean. And ever since that day, humanity has been united in thanksgiving for such an incredible and unmerited gift.

Why does Christmas hold such power for us? Why is nostalgia double strong for this season? Why is our desire to be with family and attend church so potent in these holy days? Because, in the small, sleeping figure of the Christ child we are reminded that God made himself small out of love for us. There is no purer or potent love than the love of God in his incarnation.

May the Lord bless you and your families,

F. Moore

Nota del Pastor

Para todos los feligreses y visitantes de nuestras iglesias católicas del condado de Whatcom: ¡Feliz Navidad!

Es famoso por difícil que es convencer a familia, amigos y vecinos para que le ayuden a mudarse. Empaquetar y cargar cajas pesadas todo el día no es la idea de nadie de pasarlo bien. Así que, cuando alguien está disponible, estamos inmensamente agradecidos. De hecho, a menudo nos preguntamos qué hicimos para merecer a un amigo o familiar tan cariñoso y generoso.

Ahora extendamos esa idea a la encarnación. Mudarse puede ser desagradable, pero no es nada comparado con la carga general de una vida humana bajo el yugo del pecado y la muerte. Y, sin embargo, Jesús eligió libremente entrar en nuestra existencia, compartir nuestra lucha, unirse a nuestros dolores. ¿Qué hicimos nosotros para merecer un salvador así? ¿Por qué querría vaciarse de forma tan radical?

Porque nos quiere. Nos ha amado desde el momento en que creó el universo y nos unió en el vientre de nuestras madres. Nos quiere tanto en nuestros mejores días como en nuestros peores días. Nos quiere tanto que nunca podría imaginar dejarnos solos con nuestras cargas; siempre ha querido estar con nosotros, simplemente buscaba el momento más oportuno.

Esa época fue hace 2025 años, en un lugar apartado del Imperio Romano, en las costas orientales del Mediterráneo. Y desde ese día, la humanidad ha estado unida en acción de gracias por un regalo tan increíble e inmerecido.

¿Por qué la Navidad tiene tanto poder para nosotros? ¿Por qué la nostalgia doble de esta temporada es fuerte? ¿Por qué es tan fuerte nuestro deseo de estar con la familia y asistir a la iglesia en estos días santos? Porque, en la pequeña figura dormida del niño Jesús, recordamos que Dios se hizo pequeño por amor a nosotros. No hay amor más puro o potente que el amor de Dios en su encarnación.

Que el Señor los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias,

F. Moore

Whom to Contact

Our parish staff is here to help with whatever you need to grow closer to Jesus.

The office is open Tue.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (360) 733-1380

- Priests (priests@whatcomcatholic.org) – Confession, Spiritual advice, Sick and dying calls.
- Deacon Larry Kheriaty (larryk@assumption.org) – Spiritual Care, Pastoral Care of Families.
- Liliana Marshall (liliana@assumption.org) – Exec. Assistant for Clergy and Hispanic contact for K-5 Faith Formation.
- Dr. Kathy Ernst (kathye@whatcomcatholic.org) – Pastoral Care, Outreach, Tribunal Advocate, Grief Ministry.
- Michael Rombaoa (michaelr@assumption.org) – Funerals, Parish Life and Socials, Business, and some financial-related questions.
- Dr. Frederick B. Mabalot (drmabalot@assumption.org) – Music, Choir, Liturgical Ministries.
- Kim Walker (kim.walker@sbham.org) - Catholicism 101 (Order of Christian Initiation), K-5 Faith Formation.
- Anna Wittmershaus (anna@assumption.org) – Weddings.
- Claudia Maeda (claudia@assumption.org) – Registration for: Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Faith Formation.
- Daniel Prenosil (daniel@assumption.org) – (Grades 6–12) First Communion, Confirmation, OCIA/C, and Youth Ministry.
- Parish Office / Maria Tapia (parishoffice@assumption.org) – Receptionist and everything else.
- E. Omar Ramos (mrramos@assumption.school) – Assumption School Principal

Liturgical Offerings

Daily Masses

Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.
Thursday: 8:15 a.m.
Friday: 8:15 a.m.

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*
Sunday (Español): 1:00 p.m.

*(Coffee Hour offered after the
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 8:00 a.m.
– Friday, 7:00 a.m. (every week)

Confessions

Saturday, 3:00 – 4:45 p.m.
First Fridays, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Archdiocesan News

Merry Christmas from the Chancery

May God bless you and your family in this joyful season. Please note that the Chancery will be closed 12/23-12/26 for Christmas and on 1/1/26 for New Year's Day. [Click here](#) for Archbishop Etienne's 2025 Christmas message.

Partners in the Gospel

Partners in the Gospel is a strategic pastoral planning effort taking place across the Archdiocese of Seattle to re-invigorate and renew our local Catholic Church. Functionally, it is a process to join neighboring parishes together so that, with combined financial, physical, and human resources, our parishes can become stronger than ever. It is currently proposed that the four parishes and four missions of Whatcom County be combined under one pastor, with potentially three assistant priests. The final decision will be announced in February.

To learn more about Partners in the Gospel, please visit <https://archseattle.org/Partners>.

Whatcom Catholic

Part of the Whatcom Catholic Churches: For comprehensive information regarding all Catholic Churches in Whatcom County, including priest schedules, Mass times, and locations, please visit whatcomcatholic.org.

Assumption Church website, visit: assumption.org

Parish News

Parish Office

The Parish office will be closed from December 24th to January 5th to allow our team to spend quality time with their families. The office will resume its normal operations on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026. We appreciate your understanding and support during this Christmas season. Thank you.

Assumption Catholic School

Assumption Catholic School (360-733-6133) is a ministry of the parish in service to the Gospel, serving grades pre-K to 8th. We form our students in the Catholic faith, helping Catholics and non-Catholics alike understand the message of Jesus and how to live a virtuous life. More information can be found at our website <http://assumption.school.org> or by e-mailing theoffice@assumption.school.

Sacrament and Faith Formation Opportunities

Baptism Information

Baptism Classes are offered every other month in English and Spanish to prepare parents and godparents for infant baptisms. A baptism date cannot be set until a class has been attended and the registration forms have been completed and submitted, including a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Please contact Claudia Maeda at claudia@assumption.org or (360) 733-1380 to register for class and/or schedule a baptism.

K-5 Children's Faith Formation

Faith formation program for elementary-aged children, with regular parent involvement. Meets most Wednesdays evenings at 6:15 pm. Mass. **Contact:** Kim Walker (kim.walker@shbham.org)

Youth Ministry

Contact: Daniel Prenosil (daniel@assumption.org)

Middle School Blast Night, open to all 6th to 8th graders. We provide fun, faith, and a welcoming community for every student. Feel free to come anytime on the upcoming dates!

- January 31 – BLAST Night Assumption Gym
- February 28 – BLAST Night St. Joseph Church, Ferndale
- April 25 – BLAST Night Assumption Gym
- March 14 – Middle School Retreat 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Location TBD Times may vary slightly depending on the retreat venue.

High School Blast Night – If you have a 9th–12th grader who is seeking community, connection, and an opportunity to grow in their faith, our BLAST Nights are a great way to get involved. Students are welcome to join us for any of the upcoming events:

- January 31 – BLAST Night Assumption Gym
- February 28 – BLAST Night St. Joseph Church, Ferndale
- April 25 – BLAST Night Assumption Gym
- March 14 – Middle School Retreat 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Location TBD Times may vary slightly depending on the retreat venue.

Catholicism 101: Foundations in Faith (OCIA)

The Catholic Church is the community of believers in Jesus Christ who seek to worship and follow the Lord in fidelity to the teachings of Jesus' Apostles and their successors. We believe that, despite our human failings which often obscure the truth, our Church is the Church that Jesus intentionally established before Ascending into Heaven. If you are considering becoming Catholic, please contact Kim Walker (kim.walker@sbham.org) to join our Inquiry in OCIA and OCIA/C classes. Anyone is welcome to attend classes for as long as they would like to learn and ask questions, without having to make a commitment to the Catholic faith.

Inquiry into the truth of Catholic teaching

- Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism
- Confirmation and Eucharist
- Sacrament of Confirmation for Adult Catholics
- Deepening of understanding for cradle Catholics

Marriage Preparation

Holy Matrimony is a beautiful gift given by God and elevated by Christ to the dignity of a sacrament for the baptized. Choosing to undertake this blessed adventure is a witness of love for the world. Marriage preparation includes formation classes, paperwork, and liturgy planning, through which parish staff will assist couples. We are happy to answer any questions regarding marriage and specific situations. We also assist Catholic couples who were married civilly outside the church to co-validate their marriage in a sacramental ceremony. Please contact Anna at least 6 months before the date you hope to be married. **Contact:** Anna Wittmershaus anna@assumption.org 360-594-5791

Volunteer Opportunities

Choir & Liturgical Ministries

Sing with the Assumption Choir or be part of our Liturgical team. If you are interested in singing with the choir or becoming an altar server, sacristan, hospitality minister, lector, and EMHC -- **Contact:** Dr. Mabalot, Director of Music & Liturgy (drmabalot@assumption.org)

Marriage Preparation Mentor Program

We are always seeking more mentors to support our engaged couples through marriage preparation. Married individuals or couples can mentor engaged couples by facilitating pre-marriage classes or providing one-on-one support. To learn more please **contact:** Anna Wittmershaus anna@assumption.org

Altar Society

A group that works together to create and maintain a dignified house of worship through regular cleaning of the church and liturgical items, and organization of the sacristies. They also enrich the beauty of the parish church with decoration appropriate to the liturgical season and promote necessary capital improvements to the parish church and its art and environment. **Contact:** Michele King, President (michelea1438@gmail.com)

Parish Life and Socials

Organizes and hosts parish events, such as the annual picnic (Feast of the Assumption), Mardi Gras, Soup Suppers, Coffee Hour, Volunteer Appreciation, and helps with the Confirmation Reception.

Contacts: Bonnie Harp (bjharp_98@yahoo.com) Marie Gonzalez (marielgonzalez@comcast.net)

Coffee Hour

Worship happens in the community, and one of our primary community-building opportunities is Coffee and Donuts after certain Sunday Masses. We would love assistance with setup and take-down.

Contact: Michael Rombaoa (michaelr@assumption.org)

Adoration Hour

To maintain 23-hour adoration each week, we need 2 volunteers to cover each hour, including overnight hours. If you are willing to commit to an hour in the church with the Eucharist each week, please consider signing up or email Cynthia Bentley (cwithgod@yahoo.com)

Pastoral Care

The mission of the Pastoral Care Commission is to offer ministries for our parishioners through the support and development of local, regional, and Archdiocesan programs that pray for, care for, and lift those in physical, emotional, and spiritual need. The Pastoral Care Ministries are Consolation Ministry, Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound, Faith and Light, Funeral Receptions, Grief Support Ministry, Health Ministry, PREPARES, Shoulder to Shoulder. **Contact:** Dr. Kathy Ernst at kathye@whatcomcatholic.org or Tashie Zang at im_busy_bee@hotmail.com.

Safety Ministry

What do a 77-year-old man and a 79-year-old man have in common? Answer- they both have volunteered to keep your family safe. Do you want to help with this responsibility? **Contact:** John Asmundson at "jhasmund@yahoo.com"

Hope House

Hope House is a program of Catholic Community Services that provides clothing and hygiene items to homeless and low-income families in Whatcom County. They are always looking for volunteers to help with sorting donations and greeting clients on a weekly basis. **Contact:** April Jordan-Hulsey (apriljh@ccsww.org)

Interest & Service Groups

Knights of Columbus

The [Knights of Columbus](#) is a fraternal organization that provides support for the Church, the parish, our bishops and priests, families, youth, seminarians, and the community. Catholic gentlemen 18 and over are invited to join. **Contact:** Ed Mashburn (grandknight829@gmail.com or 206-966-2100).

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) works to help women develop their spirituality by providing opportunities to share their faith with other Catholic women (spirituality), then live that out by helping others through charitable acts in the spirit of Jesus Christ (service). CDA is open to Catholic women 18 and older. **Contact:** Michele King (michelea1438@gmail.com). We are in the process of establishing a Junior Catholic Daughters group for young individuals aged 6 to 18 years.

Women's Connect

This group's mission is to unite women into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and each other. The women meet quarterly to pray and celebrate their lives of faith. **Contact:** Carolyn Huggett (chuggett@jrhuggettco.com)

Rosary Makers

A group that meets to share faith and make Rosaries together, every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in the Stafford Room (NW corner of the gym). **Contact:** Marilee Wilcox (marileewmail@yahoo.com)

Filipino Ministry

The Filipino Ministry of Whatcom County shares Filipino religious and cultural traditions with the local Catholic community. We celebrate the Santo Niño Fiesta on the 3rd Saturday of January and the Feast Day of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila every September 28th. We also hold Simbang Gabi every 3rd Saturday in December. We invite all Catholics to enjoy the warmth and joy of Filipino culture. Our ministry volunteers also help build community by hosting coffee hours after Mass and creating welcoming spaces for parishioners to connect and collaborate. **Contact:** Teresa Bandolon at aprilband3@yahoo.com

Coracle Men's Group

Coracle Men's Group, led by Deacon Dale Pollard, meets Saturdays from 7:30-9am in the Stafford room at Assumption Church, with Adoration from 7:45-8:15. We are an intentional group of men spurring each other on through deeper discipleship and transformation. The name "Coracle" comes from the hide-covered boat St Brendan used to sail to parts unknown to share the Gospel. **Contact:** Dcn. Dale Pollard (deacondale@shbham.org)

Saint Vincent de Paul

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is an international Catholic lay charity with a network of men and women who share their time, talent, and treasure with their neighbors in need on a person-to-person basis. If you know someone who lives in Whatcom County who needs assistance due to a setback or an emergency, Saint Vincent de Paul may be able to help. In-person appointments are made by calling **360-734-2722**. You will be prompted to leave a message. Calls are returned at least twice a week.

Thanks to all those who support this caring ministry with their donations to our Outreach envelopes at Sacred Heart and Assumption and through other means. Because of you we can bring together our Catholic Faith with works of Charity.

Prepares

PREPARES is a nurturing response of the Catholic community, open to all, to provide meaningful, local and unconditional support to Washington mothers, fathers, and families as they nurture their children through pregnancy and early childhood. Our vision is that a mom or family can come to any Catholic community in the state and be served. Whatcom Catholic has two PREPARES programs.

Bellingham Contact: Kathy Jenkis (kjenkis@hotmail.com)

East county: Pam Ames 360-510-2334 or pamames@comcast.net

Vietnamese

Prayer Group / *nhóm cầu nguyện*

A prayer group in Vietnamese that meets the first Saturday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Stafford Room. Vietnamese New Year will be celebrated on Feb. 03. / *Nhóm cầu nguyện bằng tiếng Việt họp vào Thứ Bảy đầu tháng lúc 6 giờ 30 chiều. trong phòng Stafford. Tết Nguyên đán của người Việt sẽ được tổ chức vào ngày 03/02. Contact: Thanh Nguyen (frankuv@yahoo.com)*

Vietnamese Mass / *thánh lễ việt nam*

The Vietnamese Mass is planned for 2026, and the exact date will be determined based on Fr. Khanh Nguyen's availability.

Español

Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Católico (MFCC)

El Movimiento es una agrupación de familias Católicas que unen sus esfuerzos para promover los valores humanos y cristianos de la familia, para que esta sea en la comunidad: formadora de personas, educadora en la fe, consciente de su misión evangelizadora y comprometida en el desarrollo integral de la comunidad y de la iglesia doméstica. **Contacto:** Biler Galeana Arguello y Imelda Galeana Márquez a este correo electrónico (imeldamar28@gmail.com) o llamar para más información al (360) 595-8813 (360) 201-8735

Grupos de Intercambio de Fe

Una reunión semanal para compartir sobre nuestra vida de fe, generalmente guiada por las escrituras dominicales. Los Domingos a las 10:00 am. **Contactos:** Doris Torres (hdmaria7@yahoo.com) o Pablo Ordoñez (pablochn@yahoo.com)

Temas Bíblicos

Los padres Manuel y Gerardo reflexionan el evangelio dominical en su contexto del siglo I con la ayuda de videos, fotos, mapas y comentarios bíblicos para entender mejor el mensaje de Jesús de Nazaret. Todos los viernes de 7-9pm, en la iglesia de San José ubicación: 5781 Hendrickson Ave, Ferndale, WA 98248. Estos temas bíblicos son para toda la familia. Para más información comuníquese con.

Myra Whiting al: (myra@stjosephferndale.org) Lorena Duarte al (lorena@stjoseph-stpeter.org) o a la oficina de la Asunción al (parishoffice@assumption.org)

Note que los sacerdotes hacen una pausa cada año en diciembre por las preparaciones de la Virgen de Guadalupe y las posadas. Ellos reanudan sus temas en el comienzo de en enero por el resto del año.

APLICACIÓN FORMED

FORMED es como un Netflix católico, que ofrece películas, programas, audios y libros electrónicos para ayudarte a ti y a tu familia a crecer en la fe. Gratis para todos los feligreses (¡nuestra parroquia lo cubre!). Ve películas, programas infantiles y estudios de fe. Accede a reflexiones diarias y preparación sacramental. Disponible en tu computadora, teléfono, tableta o televisor. Para registrarse: Visita <https://formed.org/>. Haz clic en Registrarse, selecciona "Registrarse como feligrés". Ingresar el nombre de nuestra parroquia y el código postal, luego elige y sigue los pasos para crear una cuenta. Una vez creada la cuenta, puedes descargar la aplicación en una tableta o teléfono inteligente, o acceder a los videos a través de la web.

Resources

For Those Considering Separation or Divorce

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has brought healing to tens of thousands of troubled marriages worldwide. Your situation may seem hopeless, but there is always hope and you are not alone in your struggle. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for our upcoming program on April 14-16, 2023, call 206-706-2608 or go to www.helpourmarriage.org.

Pregnancy

The Christian-supported pregnancy clinic in the area is the Whatcom County Pregnancy Clinic. <https://www.whatcomclinic.com/>. Our Prepares Program is also ready to help expectant new mothers with necessary items. **Contact:** Kathy Jenkis (kjenkis@hotmail.com)

Whatcom Catholic Businesses

Do you own or run a business? If you are a small business owner, freelancer, professional service provider, or manage a home-based service, we have launched the Whatcom Catholic Business Directory. This directory helps promote and support the talents and services in our Catholic community. It allows parishioners to connect with one another for their professional skills, talents, and businesses across the county. Signing up for the directory is free. **Contact:** Jennifer Bernard at whatcomcatholicbusinesses.com.

Healing After Abortion

Project Rachel ministers to those who have experienced the difficulty and trauma of abortion. <https://ccsww.org/get-help/specialized-services/project-rachel/> or (206) 920-6413

Housing

All housing needs in Bellingham are addressed through the Opportunity Council. <https://www.opppo.org/basic-needs/housing/> or (360) 734-5121

FORMED APP

FORMED is like a Catholic Netflix, offering movies, programs, audio talk, and eBooks to help you and your family grow in faith. Free for all parishioners (our parish has you covered!) Watch movies, kids' shows, and faith studies. Access daily reflection and sacramental preparation. Available on your computer, Phone, tablet, or TV. **How to Sign Up:** Go to <https://formed.org/>. Click on Sign up, select sign up as a parishioner. Enter our parish name and zip code then choose and follow the steps to create an account. Once the account is created the app can be downloaded to a tablet or smartphone or videos can be accessed through the web.

