

Never Isolated in Christ

YOUR WEEKLY VIEW BEHIND THE MASK OF ASSUMPTION PARISH

MAY 18, 2020

*For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:
By waiting and by calm you shall be saved,
in quiet and in trust shall be your strength.*

*Truly, the LORD is waiting to be gracious to you,
truly, he shall rise to show you mercy;
For the LORD is a God of justice:
happy are all who wait for him!*

-Isaiah 30:15, 18

Pastor's Note

Dear Assumption Parishioners,

One of the things that has impressed me most during the shutdown is how our parishioners have been looking out for each other. This first became obvious to me when, every time I would send an e-mail announcing that I would be bringing communion to a certain neighborhood, I would inevitably have a couple more communion sign-ups within a few hours, always from that neighborhood. It turns out, when I would send out my route maps, neighbors would look for each other *and then call each other* if someone near them forgot to sign up. What a wonderful testament to the community connections built up in our parish over the years!

Even more, I have been touched by parishioners who have agreed to serve as, for lack of a better term, "digital ambassadors." Out of necessity, trying to minister as one priest to so many people, I rely almost exclusively on the efficiency of e-mail and webforms, but I am aware that we have a number of parishioners, usually elderly, who struggle technologically and have had difficulty accessing the parish and the sacraments. Over the course of this communion program, I have received maybe a dozen e-mails about parishioners who would like communion but who do not have access to e-mail. Now, I cannot take direct responsibility for communicating everything to each of these folks by phone, so what I have been doing is asking the parishioner who brings it to my attention (via e-mail) to be the nexus of communication; in other words, to use their own e-mail address in the webform for the technologically less inclined parishioner, and to transmit my communication themselves to the parties in question. Without fail, everyone I have asked has agreed to do it.

Neighbors looking out for neighbors and parishioners looking out for parishioners is a sign that we take the commandments of Christ seriously. This sort of communal mentality is going to be even more necessary as we ramp up to public Masses again. Blessedly, our people have already proven that they are prepared to serve each other with the humility of Jesus.

May the Lord, who himself looks out for us, bless you and your families!

J. Moore

Parish News

Plan for Returning to Mass

This archdiocese has submitted a plan to the governor's office for the resumption of public Mass. While full details will not be available until the governor's office signs off on it, we do have an initial sketch of the plan.

Public Masses will resume when the governor permits Whatcom County to enter "Phase 3", which is a declaration that it is relatively safe to have gatherings of up to 50 people. We expect this to happen in middle or late June at the earliest.

Because space will be limited, **the parish will implement an electronic registration system to sign up for Mass**. We will try to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to attend Mass each week, even if we cannot guarantee a *Sunday* Mass each week.

The dispensation from the Sunday obligation will continue for the foreseeable future. No one who considers themselves vulnerable should feel obligated to return to Mass just because it is once again being offered. In the initial phases, Mass is being offered as an *opportunity*, not an *obligation*, and it is essential that we not allow ourselves to feel guilty for making a decision that respects our own, personal context.

Communion Visits, Round 2

Fr. Moore has finished visiting each of the neighborhood groupings within our parish boundaries, so this week he is beginning the second round of communion visits. He will be visiting the neighborhoods east-to-west again, hopefully concluding right as public Masses begin to be offered once more. This also means that **parishioners who have been asked to receive on-campus can sign up for a second communion visit** using <https://frmoore.com/bookings>.

If you live within the parish boundaries and did not sign up for an initial neighborhood communion visit, you can still sign up [at this link](#). If you had already signed up, you will be automatically included in this second round.

Living Faith at Home

Laudato Si' Week

Creation Team, along with Pope Francis, invites us to celebrate "Laudato Si' Week" from May 16-24, a nine-day global campaign celebrating the theme: "Everything is Connected." There are many ways to participate from home on your own, with your family, or virtually with a group or parish community.

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/laudato-si-week-2020>

Parishioner Recommendations

Parishioner Nick Mele recommended the following devotionals, podcasts, and books from his own prayer routine:

- [Jesuit Prayer App](#)
- [Creighton University Daily Reflections](#)
- ["The Word" Podcast, by America Media](#)
- ["The Lord" by Romano Guardini](#)
- ["The Ascent of Mt. Carmel" by St. John of the Cross](#)

Some Reminders

Rice Bowls

If you still have your Rice Bowls sitting at home, it is not too late to support CRS! While we do not recommend sending a bag full of coins in the mail, you can always write a check for this essential international ministry and send it to the parish office. We will make sure it gets to the right place.

Pastoral Planning Survey

The Archbishop would very much like your opinion on the state of the Church in Western Washington as he prepares to establish initial pastoral priorities for our archdiocese. You can take the survey [in English](#) or [en español](#).

Annual Catholic Appeal

All Assumption parishioners will receive Fr. Moore's letter about the Annual Catholic Appeal this week, via e-mail for most but via printed letter if we do not have your e-mail address.

If you would like to learn about some of the ministries that the ACA supports, the archdiocese has provided these videos:

- [Inclusion Ministry with Erica Cohen](#)
- [Criminal Justice Ministry with Joe Cotton](#)
- [Hispanic Ministry with Bishop Elizondo](#)
- [Marriage and Family Life](#)

To avoid follow-up mailings, make your pledge now! <https://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Stewardship/ACA/Donate.aspx>

R-90 Signatures

We continue to collect signatures for R-90, a referendum supported by our Washington State bishops, which would return control of sex education curricula to local districts. We are collecting signatures (via drive-through) in the Assumption parking lot, **Monday – Friday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.** and **Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**