

Never Isolated in Christ

YOUR WEEKLY VIEW BEHIND THE MASK OF ASSUMPTION PARISH

MAY 26, 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,

This week, the opening of churches became a political issue. In Minnesota, a set of overly restrictive guidelines from Gov. Tim Walz that seemed to single-out religious bodies prompted the bishops of that state to defy their governor and issue their own guidelines in contradiction to his.¹ On the federal level, President Trump spent the end of last week calling for churches to be open all over the country², a call which prompted our own Washington State bishops to issue a statement in response.³

I have heard from our own parishioners on both sides of this question: those who think our parish should defy the governor's orders and open immediately and those who have told me that they will likely wait many weeks or months before returning, even after Mass is offered publicly again. All good Catholics, all making valid points.

Bluntly, though, **I do not care what the President or the Governor say**. As Catholics, **politics is never our reference point**. We *first* seek to determine the *right* course of action, according to the will of God communicated through the teachings of our faith, and *then* we ask how we can best achieve that end politically. Sometimes that means cooperation with the government and other times that requires some form of defiance. But in every case, we ask what is right *first* and consider the politics *second*.

In this case, I am in full agreement with our bishops that a slow and deliberate reopening is the right thing to do. A hasty rush to public Masses could be very harmful to our people and our local community, and that is not a risk I am willing to take for the sake of an extra weekend or two. I could not care less which politicians or pundits that position aligns me with.

May the Lord, the fount of all wisdom, guide each of us in this crazy time!

J. Moore

¹ <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/after-minnesota-bishops-plan-to-defy-mass-restrictions-governor-eases-rules-99883>

² <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/president-trump-churches-should-reopen-right-now-10450>

³ <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Assets/News/WSCC-Statement-ReopeningChurches-05222020.pdf>

Parish News

Agape Service Project

The Agape Service Project is an Archdiocesan outreach ministry to Whatcom County migrant farmworkers. Normally Agape brings Western Washington youth groups to the county during the summer to immerse themselves in service to these impoverished communities, but this year COVID-19 is keeping all the youth groups home. Nevertheless, this summer Agape will continue serving the farmworkers with a weekly food bank, food distribution to agricultural housing camps, socially distant educational and recreational activities for farmworker children, and farm support for local, organic farms.

If you would like to help Agape, please consider the following:

- **Financial Contribution** – donate.seattlearchdiocese.org/agape-gift
 - Helps sustain the mission throughout the summer
- **Agape Wish List** – [Amazon Wish List](#)
 - Donate needed items for the food bank, activities for kids, and school supplies
 - This will be updated throughout the summer as need arises

Questions and comments can be directed to the Agape Service Project Director, [Kelsey Harrington](#).

Stay up-to-date with Agape on social media: [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [YouTube](#)

Living Faith at Home

Charismatic Prayer Service on Pentecost

This Pentecost, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Fr. Cal Christiansen, and Fr. Jim Northrop will be hosting an online, charismatic retreat, including sharing, praying, and powerful testimonies.

Pentecost Sunday, May 31st @ 3-5pm. For more information, go to www.wwccr.org.

Sponsored by the Western Washington Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Continuing Reminders

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

Fr. Moore finally remembered to make his pledge as he was writing this letter. Stop feeling guilty like Fr. Moore. Get it done!
<https://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Stewardship/ACA/Donate.aspx>

R-90 Signatures

R-90, a referendum supported by our Washington State bishops, would return control of sex education curricula to local districts, but only if it gets enough signatures to get on the ballot. We are collecting signatures in the Assumption parking lot, through June 2: **Monday – Friday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.** and **Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**