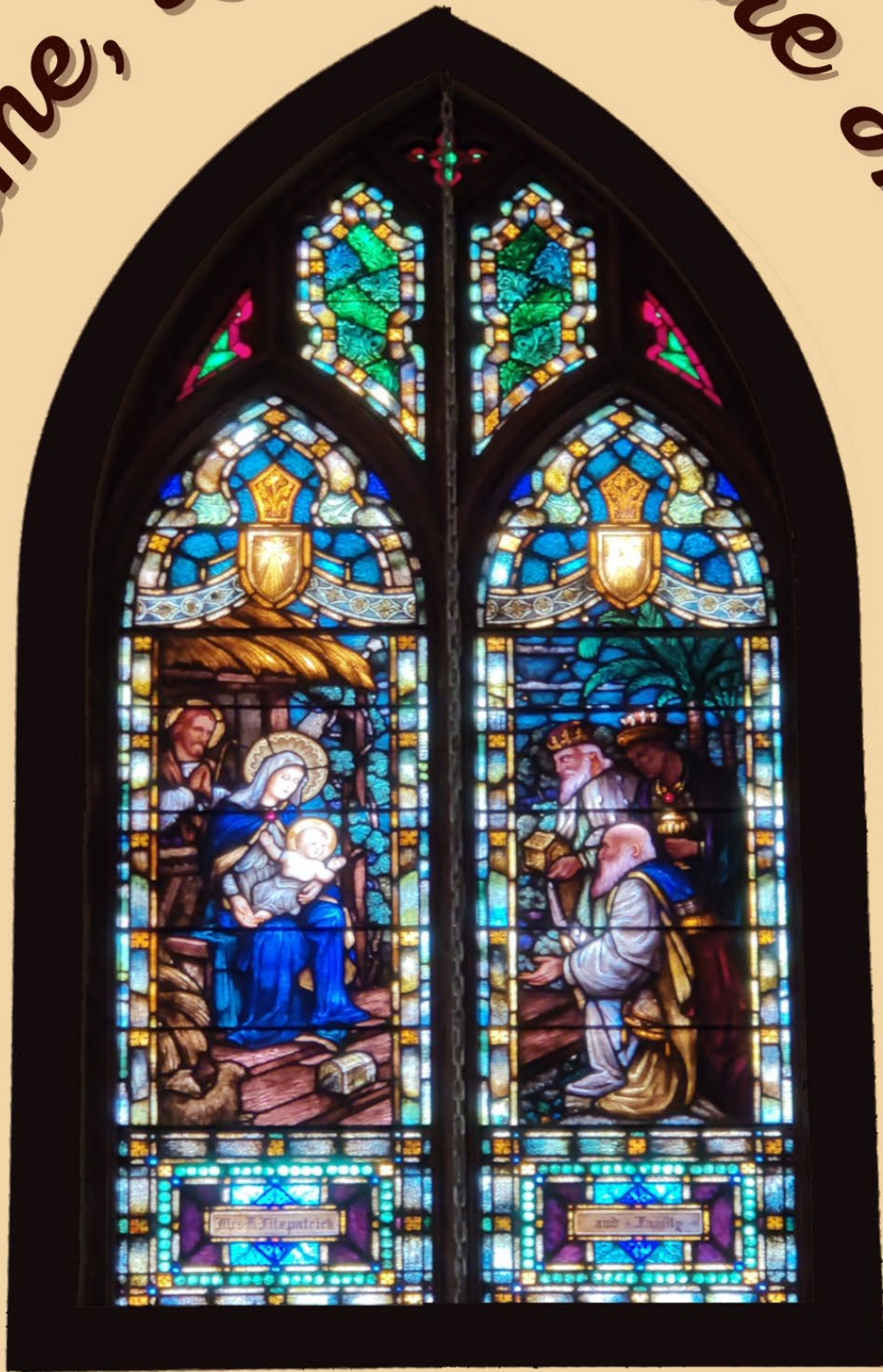


Come, Let us Adore Him



*Church of the Assumption
Bellingham, WA*

Christmas Bulletin

December 25, 2022

Pastor's Note

How can we possibly know the heart of God? He is infinitely greater than us, infinitely wiser than us, infinitely more holy than us. Scripture says questioning God is like the clay pot questioning the potter, and even that does not adequately reflect the distance between us and our Creator.

The only way for us to know the heart of God is if he himself reveals it to us. And, blessedly, he has. He revealed his heart when he formed a chosen people from Abraham and rescued them from slavery to Pharaoh. He revealed his heart through the many Judges and Prophets he sent to his people, to call them back to covenant and holiness. He revealed his heart when he went to the Cross to save us from our sins and when he sent his Holy Spirit to form and guide his body, the Church. And today he reveals his heart in the form of a tiny child, born of a virgin and laid in a manger.

What does the nativity reveal to us? That God deeply desires to be with us. He chose to take upon himself the weakness of our flesh, to be born in poverty, to suffer persecution and exile immediately after birth, just so that he could be with us. May we long to be with him even a fraction of the amount he longs to be with us! Come, let us adore him!

May the Lord bless you and your families,

Fr. Moore

Whom to Contact

Our parish office is here to help with whatever you need to grow closer to Jesus. Here is whom you can contact:

- Fr. Moore (frmoore@assumption.org) – confession, spiritual advice, sick and dying calls
- Deacon Larry Kheriaty (larryk@assumption.org) – spiritual care, pastoral care of families
- Dr. Kathy Ernst (kathye@assumption.org) – weddings, funerals, involvement opportunities, pastoral care
- Dr. Frederick Mabalot (drmabalot@assumption.org) – choir, liturgical ministries
- Claudia Maeda (claudia@assumption.org) – baptism, first communion, confirmation, faith formation registration
- Gina DePalma (ginad@assumption.org) – becoming Catholic, faith formation volunteering
- Daniel Prenosil (daniel@assumption.org) – youth (6th-12th grades) ministry
- Julie Mari (juliem@assumption.org) – financial and business-related questions
- Parish Office (parishoffice@assumption.org) – everything else, including bulletin announcements

Liturgical Offerings

Daily Masses

Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:15 a.m.
Thursday: 7:15 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): 12:30 p.m.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Confessions

Saturday, 3:00 – 4:45 p.m.
First Fridays, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Faith Formation Opportunities

There are other groups of parishioners, official and unofficial, who regularly meet. These are easy places to get started.

Women's Scripture Study

This study group offers women of the parish an opportunity to study scripture and share their lives with others. It meets on Wednesdays, 10:00 – 12:30 in the Stafford Room.

Adult Scripture Study

Every few months, begins studying a new book of the Bible. In-person and Zoom options available.

Contact: [In-Person] Christine Heuser (360-671-9712) or [Zoom] Lynn Ann Bouker (lab1945@live.com).

Mothers and Children Group

We have a new group for mothers. We meet in the Stafford Room on each first and third Friday at 9:00am, immediately after the 8:15 school mass. The first two meetings are January 6 and January 20. Moms, please join us for a casual time of support and fellowship. We will visit and share our experience of raising our children in the faith. If you have little ones not yet in school, bring them along. **Contact:** Dcn. Larry Kheriaty (larryk@assumption.org)

Whole Family Catechesis

Faith formation program for elementary-aged children, with regular parent involvement. Meets most Sundays after the 10:00am Mass. **Contact:** Gina DePalma (ginad@assumption.org)

Youth Ministry

Youth group for all middle and high schoolers (6-12th grade) meets on Friday evenings from 5:30pm-7:30pm in the Sacred Heart parish hall (1110 14th St). This is a time to share in fellowship with other Catholic teens and dive deeper into conversations about the faith and how to implement the Catholic faith in your everyday life.

Service Opportunities

Please note, there are always more opportunities than we can list here. These are easy places to get started.

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:** apriljh@ccsww.org

Community Meal

The Bellingham Community Meal typically happens on the last Saturday of the month in the Assumption Gym (January-October) and is open to anyone in the community, but particularly serves the poor and marginalized.

Contact: volunteerbcmp@gmail.com. Or <https://bellinghamcommunitymeal.square.site/>

Parish Life and Socials

Organizes and hosts parish events, like the annual picnic.

Contacts: Sue Rogers (serogers47@gmail.com); Marie Gonzalez (mariegonzalez@comcast.net)

Assumption Catholic School

Assumption Catholic School is a ministry of the parish in service to the Gospel, serving grades pre-K to 8th. We seek to 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, <https://assumption.school>.

Questions and registration requests can be sent to theoffice@assumption.school.

Interest & Service Groups

Please note, we have many more groups and opportunities than can be listed here. These are highlights to get started.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a family, 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: Don Baldwin, Grand Knight (baldwin0951@comcast.net)

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

The local Catholic Daughters (CDA) Court is made up of women across the Whatcom County parishes and is open to women 18 and older. The integration of "Spirituality and Service" is the foundation of the Catholic Daughters, who help women develop their spirituality by giving members a unique opportunity to share their faith with other Catholic women, then live that out by helping others through charitable acts and service in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Contact: Michele King (michele@kingspace.us)

Pax Christi

Pax Christi is a national and international Catholic peace organization and locally a member of the Assumption Life, Justice, and Peace Commission, meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Stafford Room at 7 PM and online.

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418356506> Meeting ID: 854 1835 6506

Assumption Care for Creation Team

The Assumption Creation Care Ministry promotes the joyful stewardship of our earth for the benefit of all life now and for generations to come. The group encourages parishioners to explore the spiritual foundation of ecological actions through educational opportunities throughout the year. It also works with parish leaders and ministers to encourage the development of a long-term environmental action plan for each ministry in the parish. **Contact:** Kathy Delbecq (rkdelbecq@comcast.net)

Pro-Life Prayer Vigil

Once a month an hour of silent and vocal prayer to end abortion is held on the third Sunday, 2 to 3 pm, in front of the Planned Parenthood Abortion Clinic. **Contact:** Kathy St. Hilaire (kathysthilaire@hotmail.com)

Upcoming Events

Super Bowl Party

February 12, 2:30 p.m.
Assumption Gym

Mardi Gras Party & Dinner

February 21, 6:30 p.m.
Assumption Gym

Ash Wednesday

February 22
7:15 a.m. – Word and Ashes
12:30 p.m. – Mass (incl. school)
7:00 p.m. – Mass (bilingual)