

Weekly Bulletin

WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR ASSUMPTION PARISH IN BELLINGHAM, WA

JANUARY 20, 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

I think it might be helpful to provide some staffing updates.

First, this week we are beginning to advertise for an Interim PAA. (In our Archdiocese, a PAA or Pastoral Assistant for Administration is essentially the parish business manager.) The person we hired in August to replace Karen Zuther as PAA, has medical issues to the point that we do not know when she will be able to return. Please keep her in your prayers. Karen has stayed on and continued to fulfill essential PAA functions, even though she technically retired back on October 01. Karen was always going to stay on for some part-time hours, in order to help us switch over to the new Archdiocesan parish database system (a massive job in itself), but now she is doing that plus PAA work and with fewer hours than she worked when she was a full-time PAA. We are long past the point where that situation is tenable, and we need to hire someone quickly. In addition to looking for an Interim PAA, we are also exploring CPA firms that would take an interim bookkeeping contract, just to keep things running smoothly for the next few months.

Second, our receptionist Odalis Herrera-Vargas is headed off to new opportunities (specifically, nail school, which is clearly a passion of hers) and will be done at the end of the month. We are also searching for a replacement for her as quickly as possible so that all of the phone, e-mail, and door answering (which is substantial!) does not fall on Claudia, who has other responsibilities.

Third, we have been without a custodian for several months, through Christmas and beyond, and only this week found someone to help us. During this extremely busy period Ted, our facilities supervisor, had to stretch to cover the basic cleaning required to make our facilities welcoming and pleasant.

If I am honest, I feel like I am presently *too* calm about all of this. Being this short-staffed, especially in day-to-day necessary functions like administration and facilities, makes things inherently unstable. We can only really afford to have one more domino fall before serious sacrifices have to be made (like the priest cutting out pastoral meetings to focus on accounting). And yet, I've long learned that stressing over things I cannot control does not do anyone any good. We just approach the problem one hire at a time. However, I am also calm because of the continued hard work of Karen Zuther, who is advertising for the positions and fielding the responses. Do thank her when you see her.

What frustrates me is that we have the money to make the hires (though we never really have the money to be competitive with for-profits for salaries), we just do not have the pool of people available to work for the Church, which almost always comes with a pay-cut. And, if I am not mistaken, the north county parishes are also looking for bookkeepers, PAAs, and receptionists, meaning we are approaching the same pool of people at the same time.

I am not yet to the point of being *worried*, but I would appreciate your prayers for our parish, nonetheless.

May the Lord bless you always,

J. Moore

Archdiocesan News

Reflect and Renew

The archdiocese has created a five-week small group reflection guide, "Reflect and Renew, Encountering Christ this Lent," which includes Scripture readings, prayer, and reflections. [Booklet Version](#) || [Single Page Version](#)

Agape's 20th Anniversary

March 18 from 6-8:30pm | Isaac Orr Conference Room, Seattle

Gather with the wide Agape Family to celebrate 20 incredible years of Agape Service Project and join in supporting its future as we *grow together*. Purchase tickets [online](#) or contact Kelsey Harrington, kelsey.harrington@seattlearch.org.

Parish News

Life, Justice, and Peace Commission

Wednesday January 25 at 6:30 in the Stafford Room and Online

Quarterly meeting of the parish commission responsible for overseeing and organizing our parish activities related to pro-life, social justice, peace, the missions, and charitable activities. Our goal is to create a prayerful network for education, sharing, and encouragement of the Church's mission to the world as incarnated in the local church. All service organizations are encouraged to send a representative, and all interested parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87268688185?pwd=ajNyV1B0dXg5MjJMKzJHWDdkaWN3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 872 6868 8185 || **Passcode:** 855447

SAVE THE DATE! 8th grade DC Trip Fundraiser

SUPER BOWL PARTY - CHILI FEED

Want to celebrate the Super Bowl game but don't want to host or cook? Join us at the Assumption Gym Sunday 2-12-23. Doors open 2:30pm. Advance ticket sales will begin Saturday 1-21 after weekend Masses at Assumption, Sacred Heart, and St Joseph Ferndale! Enjoy homemade chili with accompanying nachos, baked potatoes & hotdogs with additional various toppings! Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Entertainment will be available for your children to help pass the time for them (however it is not a drop off event). So, save yourself the stress and join us to watch the game and support the 8th grade class trip to Washington DC

School News

Growing with Grace

Our Growing with Grace Annual Fund Drive for the school is coming to an end on January 31st, 2023. From the staff and administration, we are beyond grateful for your selflessness, sacrifice, and belief in our mission! Please note that any dollar amount above our budgeted goal will help to cover the cost of replacing our 100+ year-old windows this year and we will not have to pull from our savings to do so. We also want to share that because of the success of the Annual Fund and increased enrollment, we were able to provide a significant bonus for teachers and staff this past December. They are the heart of our school- it was such a gift to be able to show our appreciation through your kindness and generosity.

Your support is invaluable to us; thank you again!

Upcoming

Events

- **Saturday, Jan. 21**
 - 2:00 pm – Catholic Daughters of America, Stafford Room
- **Sunday, Jan. 22**
 - 9:00 am – Coffee Hour
 - 11:00 am – Coffee Hour
- **Wednesday, Jan. 25**
 - 10:00 am – Women’s Scripture Study (Stafford)
 - 7:00 pm – PTC General Meeting (Gym)
- **Thursday, Jan. 26**
 - 10:30 am – Funeral (Genevieve Patterson)
- **Saturday, Jan. 28**
 - 12:15 pm – Community Meal
- **Sunday, Jan. 29**
 - 9:00 am – Coffee Hour
 - 11:00 am – Coffee Hour

Intentions

- **Saturday, Jan. 21**
 - 5:00 pm, Michael Gougeon, RIP
- **Sunday, Jan. 22**
 - 8:00 am, Paul Textor, RIP
 - 10:00 am, Pro Populo
 - 12:30 pm, Martina Ortiz, SI
- **Tuesday, Jan. 24**
 - 5:30 pm,
- **Wednesday, Jan. 25**
 - 7:15 am, Denise Michaels, SI
- **Thursday, Jan. 27**
 - 7:15 am, Lucy Trimble, SI
- **Friday, Jan. 28**
 - 8:15 am, Alice Andrews, RIP

Open Positions

Bilingual Receptionist

Employee Part or Full Time

Assumption Parish seeks a bilingual receptionist who has excellent communication skills, and the ability to read, write and speak in both English and Spanish. Some computer experience is required. Familiarity with Microsoft products such as Word and Excel are preferred. Hours are negotiable. Go to www.assumption.org to see the job description and application. Send your application or any questions to karenz@assumption.org.

Parish Administrator

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.

Mailing Preparation

Volunteer – Thursday, January 26 at 9:00 am

Please help us prepare the annual donation letters for mailing. The job includes stuffing and labeling envelopes and running them through the postage machine. Attention to detail is VERY IMPORTANT for this work. Contact parishoffice@assumption.org if you can help.

Whole Family Catechesis—3rd Grade Catechist

Volunteer – Sunday mornings

If you are willing to work with a small group of 3rd graders in our WFC program this year, please contact Gina DePalma at ginad@assumption.org or (360) 733-1380.

Coffee Hour Volunteer

Volunteer - Sunday mornings

Parish volunteers needed for help hosting Coffee Hours on Sundays. If your name can be added to Coffee Hour correspondence emails, please email the Coffee Hour Coordinator, Holly Zech, at hkzech@gmail.com.

Boletín semanal

BOLETÍN SEMANAL DE LA PARROQUIA DE LA ASUNCIÓN EN BELLINGHAM, WA
20 DE ENERO DE 2023

Vayan, pues, y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo, enseñándoles a guardar todo lo que les he mandado; y ¡recuerden! Yo estoy con ustedes todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo. -Mateo 28, 19-20

Nota del Pastor

Creo que podría ser útil proporcionar algunas actualizaciones de personal.

Primero, esta semana estamos comenzando a anunciar una PAA provisional. (En nuestra Arquidiócesis, un APP o Asistente Pastoral para la Administración es esencialmente el gerente de negocios de la parroquia). La persona que contratamos en agosto para reemplazar a Karen Zuther como APP, tiene problemas médicos hasta el punto de que no sabemos cuándo podrá regresar. Karen, yendo tan lejos que incluso el Cielo luchará por contener su tesoro, se ha quedado y continuó cumpliendo funciones esenciales de APP, a pesar de que técnicamente se retiró el 1 de octubre. Karen siempre iba a quedarse algunas horas a tiempo parcial, para ayudarnos a cambiar al nuevo sistema de base de datos parroquial arquidiocesano (un trabajo masivo en sí mismo), pero ahora está haciendo eso más el trabajo de PAA y con menos horas de las que trabajaba cuando era PAA a tiempo completo. Hace mucho que hemos pasado el punto en que esa situación es sostenible, y necesitamos contratar a alguien rápidamente. Además de buscar un PAA interino, también estamos explorando firmas de CPA que tomarían un contrato de contabilidad interino, solo para mantener las cosas funcionando sin problemas durante los próximos meses.

En segundo lugar, nuestra recepcionista Odalis Herrera-Vargas se dirige a nuevas oportunidades (específicamente, la escuela de uñas, que es claramente una pasión suya) y terminará a fin de mes. También estamos buscando un reemplazo para ella lo más rápido posible para que todo el teléfono, el correo electrónico y la respuesta a la puerta (¡lo cual es sustancial!) no recaiga en Claudia, que tiene otras responsabilidades.

Para ser honesto, siento que actualmente estoy *demasiado* tranquilo sobre todo esto. Tener tan poco personal, especialmente en las funciones necesarias del día a día, como la administración y las instalaciones, hace que las cosas sean inherentemente inestables. Realmente solo podemos darnos el lujo de tener una caída de dominó más antes de que se tengan que hacer sacrificios serios (como el sacerdote cortando reuniones pastorales para centrarse en la contabilidad). Y, sin embargo, hace tiempo que aprendí que estresarme por cosas que no puedo controlar no le hace ningún bien a nadie. Simplemente abordamos el problema una contratación a la vez. Sin embargo, también estoy tranquilo debido al arduo trabajo continuo de Karen Zuther, quien está anunciando las posiciones y respondiendo a las respuestas. Agradézcale cuando la vea.

Lo que me frustra es que tenemos el dinero para hacer las contrataciones (aunque nunca tenemos realmente el dinero para ser competitivos con las ganancias por los salarios), simplemente no tenemos el grupo de personas disponibles para trabajar para la Iglesia, que casi siempre viene con un recorte salarial. Y, si no me equivoco, las parroquias del norte del condado también están buscando contadores, APP y recepcionistas, lo que significa que nos estamos acercando al mismo grupo de personas al mismo tiempo.

Todavía no estoy *preocupado*, pero agradecería sus oraciones por nuestra parroquia.

Bendiciones en el Señor,
F. Moore

Noticias Arquidiocesanas

Reflexiona y renueva

La arquidiócesis ha creado una guía de reflexión de cinco semanas para grupos pequeños, "Reflexionar y renovar, encontrando a Cristo esta Cuaresma", que incluye lecturas de las Escrituras, oración y reflexiones. [Lent Reflection Bk 5.5x8.5-Printer Spreads-SPANISH.pdf | Powered by Box](#) | | [Lent Reflection Bk 8.5x11-SP Single-pgs.pdf | Powered by Box](#)

Noticias de la escuela

Creciendo con gracia

Nuestra campaña anual de recaudación de fondos Growing with Grace para la escuela llegará a su fin el 31 de enero de 2023. ¡Desde el personal y la administración, estamos más que agradecidos por su desinterés, sacrificio y creencia en nuestra misión! Tenga en cuenta que cualquier cantidad en dólares por encima de nuestra meta presupuestada ayudará a cubrir el costo de reemplazar nuestras ventanas de 100 + años este año y no tendremos que retirar de nuestros ahorros para hacerlo. También queremos compartir que debido al éxito del Fondo Anual y al aumento de la inscripción, pudimos proporcionar una bonificación significativa para los maestros y el personal en diciembre pasado. Ellos son el corazón de nuestra escuela, fue un gran regalo poder mostrar nuestro agradecimiento a través de su amabilidad y generosidad.

Próximamente

Eventos

- **Jueves, 26 de enero**
 - 10:30 am – Funeral (Genevieve Patterson)
- **Sábado, 28 de enero**
 - 12:15 pm – Comida comunitaria

Intenciones de Misa

- **Sábado, 21 de enero**
 - 5:00 pm, Michael Gougeon, RIP
- **Domingo, 22 de enero**
 - 8:00 am, Paul Textor, RIP
 - 10:00 am, Pro Populo
 - 12:30 pm, Martina Ortiz, SI
- **Martes, 24 de enero**
 - 5:30 pm,
- **Miércoles, 25 de enero**
 - 7:15 am, Denise Michaels, SI
- **Jueves, 26 de enero**
 - 7:15 am, Lucy Trimble, SI
- **Viernes, 27 de enero**
 - 8:15 am, Alice Andrews, RIP

Posiciones abiertas

Recepcionista bilingüe

Empleado – A tiempo parcial

Assumption Parish busca una recepcionista bilingüe a tiempo parcial que tenga excelentes habilidades de comunicación y la capacidad de leer, escribir y hablar tanto en inglés como en español. Se requiere cierta experiencia en informática. Se prefiere la familiaridad con productos de Microsoft como Word y Excel. El trabajo es de 24 horas por semana. Vaya a www.assumption.org para ver la descripción del trabajo y la solicitud. Envíe su solicitud o cualquier pregunta a karenz@assumption.org.