

Weekly Bulletin

WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR ASSUMPTION PARISH IN BELLINGHAM, WA
FEBRUARY 17, 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

Katherine

A few of you may have noticed a seemingly homeless woman named Katherine who is often at our 8:00 a.m. Mass and any event with food (e.g. coffee and donuts, Super Bowl Party). I'll be honest with you, I have no idea how our community should properly love her, or what policies we need to put in place. On the one hand, as Christians, we should bend over backwards to accommodate those on the margins, especially the homeless and mentally troubled. I do not *love* that she uses our community events as a primary source of food, or that she sometimes uses our hand sanitizer to clean herself, but those are manageable things and denying them feels tantamount of denying Christ in disguise. On the other hand, her particular struggles make her easily upset, at which time she is liable to curse and yell and we begin to worry about the emotional safety of our community (I have not yet seen her get *physically* violent). In short, her presence is right on the edge of manageable, and she has not yet crossed my line for a permanent "no trespass", but she sometimes gets close.

I am hesitant to talk about individuals publicly, but she is enough of a presence that I felt the need to let everyone know that, yes, I know who she is and, no, I have no idea what following Christ AND protecting our community look like here. For now, I would recommend that you greet her nicely, by name when you can, but that you also tread lightly because of her generally short fuse.

Mandatory Reporter Law

There is currently a bill in the Washington State Legislature that is of particular concern for me. [House Bill 1098](#) and [Senate Bill 5280](#) would add clergy to the list of mandatory reporters of abuse or neglect ([Tri-City Herald article](#)). In principle, I support this. I am already a mandatory reporter by Archdiocesan policy, if not yet state law, and I have sadly already had to call CPS because of that once in my priesthood. However, certain versions of this bill make no exemption for the confessional ([Spokesman Review article](#); [Seattle Times editorial](#)).

"Betraying a penitent" – i.e. revealing anyone's sin – results in automatic excommunication. And acting on something I hear in the confessional, even if it does not reveal a person's sin, is a grave enough offense that it could result in the loss of my priesthood. I would rather be imprisoned or killed than violate the sacramental seal. But I would also prefer *not* to be imprisoned or killed, so if you wanted to contact your legislators about this, I would be grateful.

Catechism in a Year

Some parishioners have been asking me to call everyone's attention to the new podcast "The Catechism in a Year". I am still only halfway through "The Bible in a Year", but I trust Fr. Mike and happy to make this recommendation. Click [here](#) for more information. Every parishioner who has talked to me about this tells me it is excellent.

May the Lord bless you always,

Fr. Moore

Archdiocesan News

Earthquake Relief for Turkey and Syria

"I am asking our people to please keep this humanitarian need in prayer, and those who can, to please assist financially."—
Archbishop Paul D. Etienne

How To Help

Donate online: <https://www.crs.org/earthquake-response>

Donate by phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS

Donate by check: Earthquake Response, P.O. Box 5200, Harlan, IA 51593-0700

St. Patrick's Day Dispensation

Archbishop Etienne has issued a dispensation to allow the consumption of meat on Friday, March 17th for St. Patrick's Day.

Catholic Home Missions collection

Next week we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions. Envelopes are in your packets and are available in the pews.

The Annual Report

Read about the Archdiocese of Seattle's efforts and impact over the last year. Click the link for the Archdiocesan Annual Report. [Annual-Report-2021-2022](#)

Civil to Sacramental Marriage Preparation

The Archdiocese is offering a retreat on March 5-7 to provide civilly married couples an opportunity for marriage enrichment and a resource to prepare for a sacramental marriage. Click on the link to learn more and register. [Marriage Enrichment Retreat](#)

Save the Date - Faith on Fire

St. Mary Parish in Anacortes offers the Faith on Fire Family Weekend this year on August 11-13. This signature Catholic event celebrates Catholic fellowship, family, and vocations. To ensure the future of the Faith on Fire Family Weekend, they are seeking financial donations to offset the cost of the conference, including outdoor tents, speaker fees, meals, scholarships, and registration costs. They are also requesting support of time and talent, such as cooking or serving a meal. **Gifts of any amount will be greatly appreciated!** Donations can be made out to Faith on Fire Conference and sent to St. Mary Church, 4001 St. Mary's Drive, Anacortes WA 98221

Parish News

Ash Wednesday

Mass Schedule:

Word and Ashes: 7:15 a.m.

Mass incl. School: 12:30 p.m.

Bilingual Mass: 7:00 p.m.

Fasting and Abstinence: All Catholics, age 14 and older, are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent. All Catholics, age 18 – 59, are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting generally means one meal during the day, with small supplements at other times that do not add up to a full meal.

Assumption Parish Outreach Envelope

Thanks to everyone who contributed in 2022 to the Outreach collection (through your envelope packet or through online giving). Your generosity is helping many in this community and beyond. The way our envelope works is that we set and advertise the percentage distribution ahead of time, and then pay out that distribution as money comes us. The table below shows how your donations were allocated for the 2022 calendar year. Checks for most of the funds collected through December 31, 2022, were sent out on Friday, February 3, 2023.

Our Life, Justice and Peace Commission reviews and revises the percentages and organizations each year.

ALLOCATION	ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED
50%	Hope House (Financial Aid)	\$18,531.89*
15%	Interfaith Coalition	\$3,540.45
10%	Lighthouse Mission	\$2,450.30
10%	Pro-Life Ministries	
	• Prepares	\$786.77
	• Project Rachel	\$786.76
	• Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic	\$786.77
5%	Shoulder2shoulder	\$1,180.15
5%	International	
	• Catholic Relief Services	\$1,180.15
5%	Community Needs	
	• Agape Farmworker Program	\$1,180.15

*Includes donations specifically designated to Hope House, beyond the Outreach Envelope

Welcome to our new Pastoral Assistant of Youth Ministry: Daniel Prenosil

Daniel Prenosil grew up in a Catholic family in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. He has over 25 years' experience in youth ministry. Daniel served 2 years as a missionary to youth with N.E.T. Ministries and has a Degree in Theology and Catechetics from Franciscan University of Steubenville. Daniel and his wife Patricia attend Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fairhaven with their three children. Daniel has been serving as a core team member with our Youth Ministry Program for the last four years. He will be available in the gathering space after all Masses this weekend, please come and introduce yourself.

Blessed Palms

We may look into it for future years, but for now we do not burn last year's Blessed Palms to make this year's Ash Wednesday Ashes. However, if you would like to bring your Palms to the parish, we will collect them and burn them in the Easter fire.

School News

Thank You Note

Thank you for the support of the 8th grade class trip and for all the people that came to the Superbowl Party. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters, Otherlands Brewery, Drizzle, and Susie Anderson for their support. And for our parent organizers this year, Jennifer Harbick, Lynette Machinski, Luciana Powell. The 8th grade class is very thankful to have such wonderful support.

Growing Great Kids Auction:

Assumption Catholic School's PTC invites you to attend the 23rd Growing Great Kids Auction and Gala Saturday, March 4th. Don't delay in purchasing your tickets! All RSVPs are due this week.

If you have questions, contact Lisa or Torry at growinggreatkidsauction@gmail.com

And check out the website: visit <https://assumption.maestroweb.com> Here you will find some highlights of "live" auction packages and the raffle item worth over \$750.

Reminder: No school on Monday, February 20th

The School Mass for Ash Wednesday, February 22, will be at 12:30pm. Open to parishioners too.

Affiliated Organizations

Project Rachel Program

The Archdiocesan Project Rachel program has a new coordinator, Frances Mack. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in healing through Project Rachel and is herself a witness speaker for the Silent No More campaign.

Project Rachel is a national movement, locally administered, to reach out to women and men who have suffered through the experience of abortion and to help them find healing. In our Archdiocese, that starts with a 24/7 phone line, with an understanding ear on the other end. Retreats are also often offered. For those who seek healing after abortion:

English: (206) 920-6413, **Español:** (206)-450-7814, e-mail projectrachel@ccsw.org, website: www.ccsww.org/projectrachel, Facebook: www.facebook.com/projectrachelww

Community Organizations

Rotary Club Service Project

The Rotary Club of Bellingham is packing thousands of meals to help those facing hunger around the world. Your helping hand can turn dehydrated ingredients into a nutritious meal. Join them on April 22nd in the Assumption Gym from 8:45 am to 12:00 noon to package the meals. Register to help here: [Meal Packing sign-up](#). Each meal costs \$.29 and they are raising funds to cover the cost of the meals. Click here to donate: [Meal Packing Gift](#).

Upcoming

Events

- **Saturday, Feb. 18**
 - 7:00 pm - Movie Night (Gym)
- **Sunday, Feb. 19**
 - 9:00 am – Coffee Hour (Gym)
 - 11:00 am – Coffee Hour (Gym)
 - 5:00 pm – Vigil (Judy Ziels)
- **Monday, Feb. 20 (Presidents' Day)**
 - 1:00 pm – Funeral (Judy Ziels)
- **Tuesday, Feb. 21**
 - 6:15 pm – Mardi Gras celebration (Gym)
- **Wednesday, Feb. 22 (Ash Wednesday)**
 - 7:15 am – Word & Ashes service
 - 12:30 pm – Mass with the school (all are welcome)
 - 7:00 pm – Bilingual Mass
- **Friday, Feb. 24**
 - 4:00 pm – Reconciliation
 - 6:00 pm – Bilingual Stations of the Cross
 - 6:45 pm – Soup Supper (Gym)

- **Saturday, Feb. 25**
 - 12:15 pm – Community Meal (Gym)
- **Sunday, Feb. 26**
 - 9:00 am – Coffee Hour (Gym)
 - 11:00 am – Coffee Hour (Gym)

Intentions

- **Saturday February 18**
 - 5:00 pm, Tim O'Connor RIP
- **Sunday, February 19**
 - 8:00 am, Pro Populo
 - 10:00 am, Benton Kerstiens Rowe RIP
 - 12:30 pm, Odilon Molina RIP
- **Tuesday, February 21**
 - 5:30 pm Jake Hescocock RIP
- **Wednesday, February 22**
 - 12:30 pm, Pro Populo
 - 7:00 pm, Pro Populo
- **Thursday, February 23**
 - 7:15 am, Chistopher Paul Maguire RIP
- **Friday, February 24**
 - 8:15 am, Edward Helfrick RIP

Open Positions

Parish Administrator - Interim

Employee - Full-time – Interim

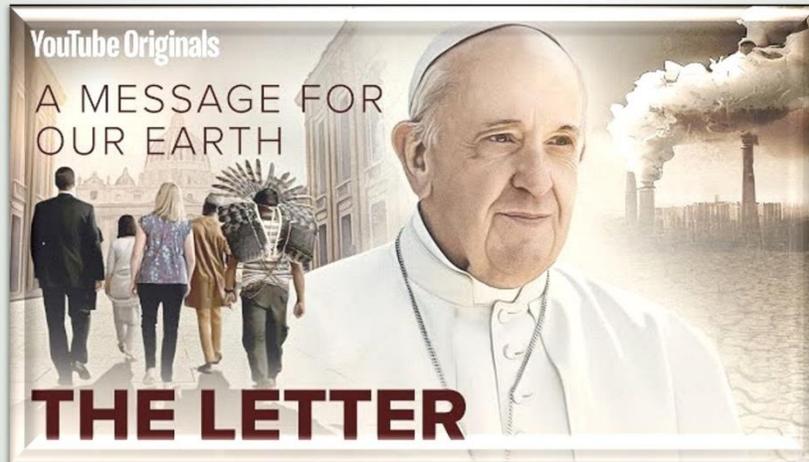
Assumption Parish is looking for an interim administrator. Candidates must have excellent organizational and communications skills. Must be an active member of a Catholic faith community. Position oversees all parish finances, personnel matters, and administration. Minimum of 3 years supervisory and 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.

In Case You Missed It

Knights of Columbus Movie Night

Saturday, February 18, 7:00 p.m., in the Gym

The Knights of Columbus are presenting a free showing of the movie "No Greater Love", about the life of Mother Theresa of Calcutta. Hot dogs, beverages and kettle corn will be available.



Free In-Person Viewing of "The Letter" followed by Group Discussion

Church of the Assumption Gym

2116 Cornwall Avenue—Bellingham WA

Saturday, March 4, 2023

9:00 -11:30 a.m.

Coffee & Muffins will be available. Bring your own mug and/or other snacks.

The Assumption Creation Care Ministry invites you to view the inspiring film *The Letter: A Message for Our Earth*. The Letter features four climate activists invited to Rome to visit the pope. Hailing from Senegal, the Amazon, India, and Hawai'i, they bring perspectives and solutions from the poor, the indigenous, the youth, and wildlife into a conversation with Pope Francis himself.



The Letter was produced by Off the Fence and Laudato Si' Movement.

The Vatican's Dicastery of Communication and Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development collaborated in the making of the film.

You are invited
to
GROWING GREAT KIDS
Auction & Gala

RSVP

Deadline

Friday, February 17, 2023



- Hotel Bellwether Ballroom
- March 4, 2023
 - In-person Silent Auction 5 pm - 7pm
 - Dinner, Live Auction and Dancing 5 pm - 10 pm
- RSVP
 - Complete RSVP card and return to the school office
 - Complete RSVP on our Auction Website (Use QR code)

