

# Weekly Bulletin

**ST JOSEPH, LYNDEN AND ST PETER, DEMING**

**January 25, 2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*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

**Part of the Whatcom Catholic Churches:** For comprehensive information regarding all Catholic Churches in Whatcom County, including priest schedules, Mass times and locations, please visit [whatcomcatholic.org](http://whatcomcatholic.org).

New staff page launched on Whatcom Catholic Website: Be sure to visit [www.whatcomcatholic.org/staff](http://www.whatcomcatholic.org/staff) to look at the staff directory for the entire county. This streamlined directory will allow those across the county to get in contact with parish staff and access the contact information for parish offices.

## **Pastor's Note**

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### **Divine Mercy Image at Assumption**

I have been working with some Assumption parishioners who would like to have an image of the Divine Mercy displayed at that church. We have explored a few possible locations, but the one I and they like best is actually above the main doors between the gathering space and the church, where an old crucifix is currently mounted. (We would find a dignified place for that crucifix, potentially above the fireplace in the church offices.)

I want to run this by our parishioners before making a final decision, so if you have strong thoughts either way, or have a better idea for a location, please fill out this form: [Divine Mercy at Assumption – Fill out form](#) (And yes, I know I still have an opinion form out for Assumption on the steam heating / painting project. I am waiting for the final piping bids to come in before reporting back on that.)

### **Unusual Mass Rotations**

For most of this year, we have been experiencing the general stability that we sought after our Sunday Mass changes. However, with Fr. Stephan in India for a month and Fr. Gerardo soon to be gone to Mexico for a similar time, our Mass rotations are “whatever we can make work” until early March. Thank you for your patience as we work with our (very generous) fill-in priests.

### **Old Lummi Article**

A parishioner recently made an amazing donation to the Lummi/Ferndale archives: copy of the [“American Reveille” newspaper](#) (out of Bellingham) from December 16, 1906. Apparently, a friend of this parishioner found the paper used for insulation in a house that was being renovated, gifted it to our parishioner who had it framed, and now the parishioner has decided it might be better kept in the hands of the church.

This particular paper has a full page spread on the Lummi Indians, but of particular interest to our churches are the following paragraphs:

Hillaire Crockett, son of the former chief of the tribe, and who is now recognized as the foremost man in the reservation, although he takes no active part in the management of the affairs, passed through the city in the last few days on his way to British Columbia points where he went to visit with old tillicums. Crockett reported that preparations are already being made for the observation of Christmas on the reservation. Services will be held in the little white church that can be seen plainly across the bay, and the different families will have feasts

in their modern homes. In the last few years the Indians have come to recognize the Christmas day of the whites as one of their own holidays and as a day of joy for all.

Father Boulet, who has been associated with the Indians on the Lummi reservation for the last fifty years, will have charge of a part of the services at the reservation this year as he has done for years past. The midnight mass on the eve of Christmas day is the feature of the celebration for the Indians. The venerable Catholic priest tells of the celebration and of the preparations that will be made for it as follows:

“For two or three days before the feast everybody is busy in preparations for decorating the church. Some of the men are cutting and hauling green trees, others are gathering mosses and ferns, while more and the women are arranging the trees inside of the church, making garlands of greens, building a rural crib in which to place a wax representation of the Infant Jesus, which I procured for them many years ago. These decorations, together with the hundreds of lamps and candles burning during the services make the church look like a fairy bower and a very pleasant sight.

“At 11:30 p. m. the last bell calling in the worshippers is heard. Every man, woman and child able to come is sure to be there for the occasion. At the entrance of the church are placed boxes of candles to be used for the procession. As the Indians enter the church each one takes and lights a candle and two by two they proceed towards the crib, and deposit their candles in a box placed nearby.

“Then then [sic] make a small money offering to the Infant Jesus, after which each one repairs to his seat. During the procession, which usually lasts a full half hour, the whole congregation sings hymns in the native language appropriate to the occasion. These candles are afterwards stored away for use during the year, while the money is used for church purposes, repairs, etc. High mass is now proceeded with, a sermon in English and another in Chinook for the different classes of hearers.

“This closes the night service for the Indians. They meet again in church at 11 a. m. on Christmas day and hold a lay service among themselves, as after the midnight mass an Indian takes me home to Ferndale, where I hold two services on Christmas morning for my white congregation.”

Three things to note:

1. The idea that Fr. Boulet had been working with the *Lummi* for 50 years is likely incorrect. The [Treaty of Point Elliot](#) had been signed 50 years before this article was written, but Fr. Chirouse (*very helpful biography [here](#)*) only seems to have established a regular presence at Lummi beginning in 1860. And Fr. Boulet took over Fr. Chirouse’s duties as primary priest to the North Puget Sound and Salish Sea Indians only after Fr. Chirouse’s transfer to British Columbia in 1878. It is likely that, by 1905, Fr. Boulet had worked amongst *Western Washington* Indians for 50 years, but not necessarily the *Lummi* Indians for that entire period.
2. This article was written in 1906, the year after Fr. Ferland took over as Pastor of Assumption and Fr. Boulet was transferred to full-time ministry at Ferndale and Lummi. (This is also the year after Sacred Heart was formed by Fairhaven Catholics desiring their own church.)
3. The “little white church that can be seen plainly across the bay” refers to St. Joachim, which had previously stood near the mouth of the Nooksack River. The building was moved out of the flood plain in the 1920s to land donated by Chief Kwina, the very Catholic chief of the Lummi Indians at the time.

May the Lord bless you and your families

*Fr. Moore*

## **Archdiocesan News**

### **Called By Name campaign**

Called By Name weekend is January 31 & February 1, 2026. Do you know someone aged 16-35 who might be called to the priesthood or religious life? Our Lord often calls young people forth through family, friends, teachers, mentors, and parishioners. Like Philip inviting Nathanael to "come and see," prayerfully consider those you know who show signs of a call through their love of the Lord, our Church, and their heart of service. Nominate someone by February 13, and they will receive a letter from Archbishop Etienne to encourage and support them in their discernment. There will also be an opportunity to attend an Operation Andrew or Miriam dinner, where they will learn more about these vocations and interact with their peers.

[archseattle.org/called-by-name](http://archseattle.org/called-by-name)



### **DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY**

Before a parish family can start planning for who they would like to become it is important to make sure they know who they are. This includes knowing about the people, gifts, ministries, and opportunities and challenges present in the parish family today. An important starting point for discussions is to identify the people the parish family serves, both within the parish and within the wider community. On the weekends of 1/31 - 2/1 and 2/7 - 2/8 we will take a few minutes at the beginning of Mass to have one member of each household fill out a Demographic Survey.

The purpose of this survey is to collect information about our parish community to help us as we think about what ministries we offer, what the needs in our community are, and where there are opportunities to expand or start new ministries.

There will be 10 data points that the survey will cover:

1. Which church in our Parish family do you usually attend?
2. Where do you live, city & zip code?
3. Your age.
4. How many people live in your household.
5. What are the ages of others in your household?
6. How long have you attended this parish?
7. What is your current marital status?
8. What ethnicity/race(s) do you and other members of your household identify as?
9. What language(s) do you or your family speak?
10. Do any of the members of your family have accessibility needs?

## **Parish News**

### **New Parish office hours**

Parish office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 4pm. Closed from 12 pm to 12:30 pm for lunch and closed on Wednesday. Please call the parish office if you have any questions.

### **Stations of the Cross**

We will be having stations of the cross every Friday of lent after 9 am Mass in English and at 6 pm bilingual. We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate soup suppers after the 6 pm stations. Please call the parish office if you are interested.

### **Prepares**

Thank You St. Joseph's Parish for your ongoing generosity toward helping our Neighbors in need through PREPARES! You helped provide welcome assistance to:

- 38 Families with
- 45 packages of diapers and wipes
- 38 bags of groceries
- 423 items from the Boutique on last Fridays GiveAway!

We are BUSY sorting through all the clothing donations from December and January and are rapidly reaching our limit for storage! The only clothing donations we can currently display are Maternity/Nursing fashions in all sizes. So please hold any new clothing donations for us until Lent. Or you may always use our PREPARES number to consign your donations at Little Red Wagon until we get caught up. Blessings!

### **End of year Financial Statement**

The parish office will be emailing the end of year financial statement to all parishioners who have an email in our parish system. Please call the parish office if you need us to update your email address. If you do not have an email on file, your statement will be mailed to the address on file.

### **Palms**

We are collecting your palms to make this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday. There will be a basket at the church entrance, or you can bring them to the parish office.

### **Ash Wednesday**

will be February 18<sup>th</sup>. More information on the Mass schedule will be published in upcoming bulletins or on [Whatcomcatholic.org](http://Whatcomcatholic.org) under Mass Schedules.

### **Coffee Hour**

Please contact Marilyn Wyss at (360) 961-1168 or [wyssm@outlook.com](mailto:wyssm@outlook.com).

### **St Joseph, Ferndale Spaghetti Luncheon**

When: Sunday February 1, 2026, 11:30 am

Where: St Joseph, Ferndale Hall

Spaghetti Luncheon after Mass with donations to Benefit Altar Society. Lunch will include Spaghetti with or without Meat Sauce, Garlic Sticks, Salad and Dessert.

### **Jesus Day Camp**

June 22-26, 2026

Jesus Day Camp at St Joseph, Ferndale.

**St Anne Altar Society No-host Galentine Dinner**

When: February 7, 2026, after 5pm Mass

Where: Paso Del Norte, Blaine

All ladies are welcome to gather after mass for fellowship, no-host dinner, and gathering

**St Anne All Church Chili Contest**

When: February 21, 2026, after 5pm mass

Where: St Anne Hall

Please share your talents

Bring the Heat! Enter our annual Chili Contest for a chance to be crowned the Chili Champion.

Show us what you've got and take home the title of Best Chili or bring a side or dessert to share.

Everyone is welcome.

**Valentine's Party**

February 14th, 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Assumption Church gym

You are invited to our annual Valentine Party!

Sponsored by the Bellingham Knights and the Catholic Daughters.

Live band for listening and dancing.

Food for snacking and a no host bar –CASH or CARD available.

Cover charge for the whole night: \$10 per person.

Adults 21 and older only please.

**MFCC Valentine Invitation**

Friday, February 13, 2026

Assumption Gym in Bellingham

Starting at 7 p.m.

The MFCC (Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Católico) invites everyone to a gala dinner called: "A Night of Love with Love"

**Year to Date Giving Summary through December**

	<b>24-25 YTD</b>	<b>25-26 YTD</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Assumption	538,309.35	529,838.17	-2%
Sacred Heart	325,964.98	304,427.56	-7%
St. Joseph - Ferndale	145,814.19	164,908.89	13%
St. Anne	76,336.09	87,714.08	15%
St. Joachim	30,291.65	36,332.40	20%
St. Joseph - Lynden	155,841.05	150,906.21	-3%
St. Peter	74,704.64	63,556.33	-15%

## **Extra Collections Remitted During December**

CCS Appeal for the Poor	1,433.00
Church in Central Europe	610.00
Priest Pension	255.00
Church in Latin America	35.00
Archdiocese for the Military	30.00
Peter's Pence	25.00
Catholic Relief Services	10.00
World Mission Sunday	5.00

## **School News**

### **Assumption School Auction**

When: Saturday, March 7, 2026

Where: Bellingham Golf & Country Club

Growing Great Kids Auction and Gala

### **OPEN HOUSE**

Providing your child with a quality Catholic education is one of the greatest gifts you could ever give them. As the only Catholic school in Whatcom County, Assumption is proud of our 112-year tradition of nurturing the children of our community in mind, body, and spirit!

Join us for a schoolwide **Open House** on **Sunday, February 1st from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM**. Explore our wonderful programs, meet our dedicated teachers, and bring your questions. We're excited to welcome you and your family!

## **Affiliated Organizations**

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

Unwrap the gifts in your marriage on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

It is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. Sign up today to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on February 13-15, 2026, LaQuinta Inn, Tacoma, WA. Early registration is highly recommended. Please contact Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-903-2321. For more information and other dates please visit our website at: <https://wwme.org>

### **Rachel's Corner: Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreats**

English Retreat - Friday, March 6 - Sunday, March 8, 2026

Spanish Retreat – Friday, June 5 to Sunday, June 7, 2026

English Retreat - Friday, Sept. 25 - Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026

English: (206) 920-6413 (leave a confidential message)

Español: (206)-450-7814 (deje un mensaje confidencial)

Email [projectrachel@ccsww.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccsww.org). Visit us at [www.ccsww.org/projectrachel](http://www.ccsww.org/projectrachel) or

[www.facebook.com/projectrachelww](http://www.facebook.com/projectrachelww).

Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services.

## Upcoming

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### **Sunday, January 25, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- St Peter – 8:00 am to 8:15am Confession
- St Peter – 8:30 am Mass
- St Joseph – 11 am Mass
- St Joseph - 5pm Spanish Rosary
- St Joseph – 7pm-9pm Youth Group

### **Monday, January 26**

- St Peter – 9am Mass

### **Tuesday, January 27**

- St Joseph – 9-11am Morning prayer group

### **Wednesday, January 28**

- St Joseph– 5pm Confession
- St Joseph – 6pm Spanish Mass
- St Joseph – 6:30pm-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes

### **Thursday, January 29**

- St Joseph –11:30am Patriotic Rosary
- St Joseph – 6:30pm-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes
- St Peter – 3pm-5pm Social Action

### **Friday, January 30**

- St Joseph – 9am Mass
- St Joseph – 2pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

### **Saturday January 31**

- St Joseph -11 am Little Giants
- St Joseph - 4pm Confessions
- St Joseph – 5pm Mass
- St Joseph – 6pm Spanish Rosary
- St Joseph – 7pm Spanish Mass

### **Sunday, February 1, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- St Peter – 8:00 am to 8:15am Confession
- St Peter – 8:30 am Mass
- St Joseph – 11 am Mass
- St Joseph – 12:30pm – 2pm OCIA classes
- St Joseph– 5pm Spanish Rosary
- St Joseph – 7pm-9pm Youth Group



