

Weekly Bulletin **February 15, 2026 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

ST JOSEPH, LYNDEN AND ST PETER, DEMING

Front office – info@stjoseph-stpeter.org – 360 354 2334

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. Whatcom Catholic Website: Be sure to visit 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.

Scheduling a priest appointment – 253 356 5522

Emergency requesting a priest – 360 773 1388

Pastor's Note

Ash Wednesday Notes

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. A few quick notes:

1. The Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule can be found at <https://www.whatcomcatholic.org/mass>
2. Catholics are required to fast and abstain from meat, [according to the laws of the Church](#). This means:
 - For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.
 - The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.
3. Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, though attending one of our liturgies is an excellent way to mark the beginning of Lent.
4. We are not allowed to simply give people ashes. Ashes must be distributed in the context of a full liturgy. As such, we will not be providing ashes to people who drop by the parish office, nor will we be sending ashes home with anyone except parish ministers trained in the liturgy. You can read more about this in my 2022 Pastor's Note: <https://frmoore.com/2022/03/04/march-04-2022-pastors-note/>

Tax Returns

A parishioner recently reminded me that tax returns are soon to come in the mail. Many of us do not budget for these returns and treat them like a bonus. As such, would you be willing to tithe on your tax returns, so that our churches can get a bonus, too?

Liminal Coffee Shop

On Thursday I attended "Pastor's Day" at the Liminal Coffee shop, which is opening this week. It is located on the ground floor of Lighthouse Mission's new building, on the corner of Holly and F streets in Bellingham. ([Official website](#), [CDN article](#), [Bellingham Herald article](#))

"Liminal" is a word coming from the Latin word for door frame, and it refers to a space between two spaces. Liminal Coffee Shop is a ministry of Lighthouse Mission, with the goal of providing meaningful employment opportunities for folks on their way out of homelessness. I am so proud of Lighthouse for the monumental achievement of opening its new building and for envisioning this coffee shop as part of its new complex.

I was able to chat briefly with Hans Erchinger-Davis, the director of the Mission, who provided some additional good news:

- In addition to the coffee shop, Lighthouse is working on other employment training opportunities for their clients, including courses in 3D-Printing and commercial cooking (which could potentially spin-off into a Lighthouse-sponsored catering service).
- Lighthouse's new building has separate living spaces for clients who are temporarily struggling with housing (think couch-surfing or living in their car) versus clients who have persistent and profound issues with mental health or addiction. Hans reports that this has significantly increased and expedited the "graduation rate" for the couch-surfers, as they are more comfortable seeking help from the Mission and are better able to access the services that they need. (Related Seattle Times op-ed for those interested: <https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/why-housing-first-isnt-the-answer-to-seattles-homelessness-crisis/>)

Parish News

Parish office Closures

Parish office will be closed on the following days in the month of February; Monday February 16th, Thursday February 26th, and Friday February 27th.

Lent Study Group – St Joseph, Lynden

When: 6:pm – 7:30 pm

Where: St Joseph, Lynden

Join us every Thursday in Lent for a Lent Small Group Study *Reflection* hosted by Carolyn and Johnathan Chuggett. Bible study will start on Thursday February 19 in the St Therese Room. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.

Annual Report to Parishioners:

Please visit <https://www.whatcomcatholic.org/reports/2026/2/9/fy-2024-2025-parish-annual-report-to-parishioners>. If you did not receive a copy of the Annual Report to Parishioners, that means that the church does not have your correct email address. If you would like to update your email address, please contact the front office of your church's location. A printed copy is available upon request at your location's front office.

St Joseph, Lynden Stations of the Cross

We will be having Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent after the 9 am Mass in English and at 6 pm bilingual. We will be having soup supper after the 6 pm Stations of the Cross. Signup sheet will be posted in the parish hall if you would like to bring your favorite soup or no meat dish to share. We are planning to start soup supper on the 27th of February

St Peter - Stations of the Cross

Wednesday – 7:00 pm

Soup supper at 6:00pm

Everyone is welcome to come and bring your favorite soup to share. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.

Coffee Hour

If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour at St Joseph Lynden after the 11 am Mass, please contact Marilyn Wyss at (360) 961-1168 or wyssm@outlook.com.

No First Friday confessions

There will be no first Friday confessions during the Lenten season. More information to come in future bulletins.

Vietnamese Mass

When: Sunday, February 22nd 3:00 pm

Where: Assumption, Bellingham

Followed by a reception in the Gym.

Friday Fish Fry

When: Friday February 20th 6pm

Where: St Joseph, Lynden

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a salmon dinner on Friday, February 20th at 6PM, at St. Joseph's in Lynden. Stations of the Cross will follow at 7PM. Most of the proceeds will go to seminarian formation.

Ash Wednesday Schedule

7:15 am—Mass—Sacred Heart, Bellingham

7:15 am—Mass—St Joseph, Ferndale

8:00 am—Mass— St Joseph, Lynden

10:00 am—Word and Ashes—Assumption, Bellingham

12:30 pm - Mass—Assumption School

12:30 pm—Mass - St Anne, Blaine

5:00 pm—Mass—WWU Campus

5:00 pm—Mass—St Joachim, Lummi

5:30 pm—Word and Ashes—Assumption, Bellingham

5:30 pm—Mass— St Joseph, Ferndale—Spanish

5:30 pm—Mass— St Peter, Deming

5:30 pm—Word and Ashes—St Joseph, Lynden

Ending Hunger with CRS Rice Bowl

This Lent, our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl—connecting our prayers, fasting and almsgiving to encounter God through our global family. We'll meet, pray for and learn from families in Ghana, Guatemala and Timor-Leste who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Pick up your rice bowl at the church entrance. Then, visit crsricebowl.org/join to share your Lenten prayer intentions.

"Hope and Renewal Through the Season of Lent" with Pope Leo XIV

WHAT: Five 60-90 minute small group sessions of prayer and reflection for the Jubilee Year, focused on the Lenten Scriptures with reflections from Pope Leo XIV's *Dilexi te*

WHY: During this Lenten season, we reflect on the Word of God and pray that our hearts may be open to encounter Jesus in all the ways he comes to us: in word, in sacrament, in service, and in all his people, especially the poor.

WHEN/WHERE:

St Joseph, Ferndale Disciples Den

All are invited, RSVP David Day dayvidday@gmail.com

Every Thursday starting February 19, 2026-March 19, 2026

6:30 pm– 8:00 pm

St Joseph, Ferndale Disciples Den

All are invited, RSVP Myra Whiting myra@stjosephferndale.org

Every Friday starting February 27, 2026-March 27, 2026

10:00-11:00 am

St Anne Hall

All are invited, RSVP Christy Schroeder pilgrimsquill@yahoo.com

Every Thursday starting February 19, 2026-March 19, 2026

10:30 am-Noon

OR

6:30 pm-8:00 pm

Women's Connect

When: Thursday February 26th 6 – 8:30 pm

Where: Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Women's Connect are holding an event for women , “Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit” at Sacred Heart Parish Hall on Thursday February 26th from 6-8.30 pm. All women are welcome. There will be prayer, food, singing by Kerry Morton of Sacred Heart, crafting, liturgy help and a message by Zelda Buck from CCS and a testimony by Theresa Meurs of Assumption Church. Please reply on the website www.womensconnect.live. There is a \$10 charge at the door or by pushpay on the website. We look forward to seeing you there.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Hi Fellow Parishioners,

I am passionate about spreading the Divine Mercy Devotion through Whatcom County and am putting a notice into the weekly bulletin to get the word out. Divine Mercy Sunday is just around the corner, on Sunday April 12th. This is a feast day, the octave of Easter, where Jesus will grant both a [Special Plenary Indulgence](#) and an [Extraordinary Grace](#) to those who have gone to confession within a reasonable time before this day, sincerely repent their sins and receive Holy Communion on the Feast Day. Praying the Divine Mercy Novena starting on Good Friday, trusting in His Divine Mercy and showing mercy to others will also help prepare your heart.

Want to learn more about the Divine Mercy Devotion click here:

<https://womensconnect.live/blog-womens-connect-bellingham/the-divine-mercy-devotion>

Want to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with a group?

A group meets on the first Friday of every month at 5:30pm at Assumption Church

Here is an explanation of extraordinary graces vs plenary indulgences:

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/mercy-sundays-special-graces-plenary-indulgence-are-they-same>

If you want to meet and learn more about the Divine Mercy Devotion, please reach out to me, Barbara Karabin at barbarakarabin@gmail.com

New Facilities Staff Hired

Whatcom Catholic is pleased to announce that the county has hired a new Regional Director of Facilities, Keri Cleary. She will be taking over the previous position of Bert Bertshinger, who will be retiring near the end of this month. Keri will work on a part-time basis and be responsible for the administrative tasks associated with the Regional Director of Facilities. Keri will supervise all parish family maintenance employees, serve as the project manager for all facilities projects, and work to ensure compliance with local and Archdiocesan policies. Keri will also help with establishing best practices across the county and creating facilities maintenance schedules. Keri comes to the county with a wealth of non-profit project management and emergency management experience. Keri served as the interim emergency manager and emergency & safety specialist at the Swinomish tribe. She also served as the transportation and emergency manager for the Nooksack Indian tribe.

In addition to Keri, the county is pleased to announce that we have hired Ryan Wittig as a Regional Maintenance Person. Ryan will serve in his position full-time. Ryan will work throughout the county providing hands-on maintenance to the buildings, grounds, and equipment across the parish family. Ryan previously served as Maintenance Director for Christ the King and owned his own construction company.

Keri, Bert, and Ryan will be overlapping for the next 2 weeks until Bert retires. While Ryan's work will be primarily hands-on, he will have a desk in the regional office annex in Lynden. Keri's office is based out of Church of the Assumption. We are so thankful for Bert and his dedication and service to the county, and hope he enjoys his retirement with hopefully fewer emergency facility phone calls.

Please join us in welcoming Keri and Ryan—we are so thankful to have them aboard the Whatcom Catholic parish family.

School News

Growing Great Kids Auction & Gala

Get your tickets to the 26th Annual Growing Great Kids Auction & Gala— Assumption Catholic School's largest fundraiser of the year—for a full evening of silent and live auctions, dinner, and fun, or join us for the silent auction part from 5-7pm featuring drinks and hors d'oeuvres. This year the event will be at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club. Contact the school for more information.

Why a Catholic high school matters, especially here

The idea of a Catholic high school is new for our region. There aren't generations of alumni stories being passed down at the dinner table, so for many families the top questions tend to be: Why choose a Catholic high school, and why is it worth the investment?

The answer lies in the student experience.

Catholic high schools educate the whole person, creating an environment where students are known, challenged, and guided during their most formative years. Students benefit from close relationships with teachers, strong academics and mentorship, and a community that supports their personal growth and faith development. This combination builds a strong foundation for life beyond high school.

What does that look like in real life? Alexa Rosson, a 2015 graduate of Archbishop Murphy High School, recently shared how her Catholic high school experience shaped her both personally and professionally. Her story offers a powerful glimpse into what's possible for both our students and our Catholic community.

Watch Alexa's story on our new Northern Deanery Catholic High School YouTube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5Zf68f2vOI>

Interested in enrolling a student in this school, but unsure if it works financially? We have a new scholarship fund available to help families like you! For more information, send an inquiry via our Contact Us page.

In case you missed it

Middle School BLAST Retreat

Saturday, March 14th

Camp Lutherwood - 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

A day of faith, fun, games, and community for all middle school youth. Email daniel@assumption.org to get registration info directly.

High School BLAST Retreat

Saturday, March 7th

Camp Lutherwood 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

A day of faith, fun, games, and building healthy relationships for all high school youth.

Email daniel@assumption.org to get registration info directly.

Interfaith coalition events

Spring Music Feast

When: March 7th, 3:00 pm

Where: First Congregational Church, Bellingham

Interfaith Coalition Volunteers/ Assistance needed

As you may know, we are assisting families that are dealing with flood recovery. Some of the needs requested this week include:

- Plumbing assistance
- Twin Bed Frame
- Queen/Full size bed

If you can assist with any of these, please contact Jen at executivedirector@interfaith-coalition.org

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 15, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, February 16

- St Peter – 9am Mass

Tuesday, February 17

- St Joseph – 9-11am Morning prayer group

Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday

7:15 am—Mass—Sacred Heart, Bellingham

7:15 am—Mass—St Joseph, Ferndale

8:00 am—Mass— St Joseph, Lynden

10:00 am—Word and Ashes—Assumption, Bellingham

12:30 pm - Mass—Assumption School

12:30 pm—Mass - St Anne, Blaine

5:00 pm—Mass—WWU Campus

5:00 pm—Mass—St Joachim, Lummi

5:30 pm—Word and Ashes—Assumption, Bellingham

5:30 pm—Mass— St Joseph, Ferndale—Spanish

5:30 pm—Mass— St Peter, Deming

5:30 pm—Word and Ashes—St Joseph, Lynden

Thursday, February 19

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

Friday, February 20

- St Joseph – 9am Mass – John Barrett- special intention
- St Joseph – Stations of the Cross after 9am Mass
- St Joseph – 2pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
- St Joseph- 6pm Fish Fry and bilingual Stations of the Cross hosted by Knights of Columbus

Saturday February 21

- St Joseph -11 am Little Giants
- St Joseph - 4pm Confessions
- St Joseph – 5pm Mass – Josephine Durnan & Francis William - RIP
- St Joseph – 6pm Spanish Rosary
- St Joseph – 7pm Spanish Mass – Maria Ortiz Mendoza - RIP
- St Joseph – 8pm to 10:30am Nocturnal Adoration

Sunday, February 22, 1st Sunday of Lent

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



PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

More information at: <https://www.whatcomcatholic.org/about-the-process>

Or follow us on Facebook: "Whatcom Catholic Fellowship"

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61586701240099>

Utilization Metrics Bulletin Announcement

The second Viability Metric the PFAC looked at was Utilization Metrics. This involves looking at church utilization and capacity at each location. The general goal for a parish family is a utilization between 50%-80%. In this metric we also looked at the number of weekend Masses per priest.

- **Church utilization and capacity:** This identifies how full the churches in a parish family are on a given weekend. To determine utilization, count the participants at each Mass on a weekend, then divide by the total weekend capacity (number of Masses x total seating capacity). The general goal for a parish family is a utilization between 50% and 80%.

- **Number of Sunday Masses per priest:** As is stated in canon law, "A priest is not permitted to celebrate the Eucharist more than once a day except in cases where the law permits him to celebrate or concelebrate more than once on the same day. If there is a shortage of priests, the local ordinary can allow priests to celebrate twice a day for a just cause, or if pastoral necessity requires it, even three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation." B1: Who Are We Overview | 1 (Can 905 §1-2) Given local realities, Archbishop Etienne has determined that pastoral necessity requires permitting celebrating up to one Saturday Vigil and three Sunday Masses. The goal, therefore, is that priests celebrate no more than three Sunday Masses and one Saturday Vigil Mass. This metric determines whether the Sunday Mass schedule meets this goal.

Prior to the Challenges and Opportunities Listening Sessions in April the Utilization Metric information will be shared.

