

Weekly Bulletin

February 22, 2026 – 1st Sunday of Lent

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, Family #2, including priest schedules, Mass times and locations, please visit whatcomcatholic.org.

Scheduling a priest appointment – 253-356-5522 / priests@whatcomcatholic.org

Emergency requesting a priest – 360-773-1388

Pastor's Note

On Immigration and ICE

I am always hesitant to comment on politicized topics. In my experience, most Americans change their faith to fit their politics, rather than changing their politics based on their faith. I do not want to tempt someone away from the Church if I can teach them in a less politicized way. However, I am also aware that if the Church has nothing to say about the thing that everyone is talking about, we quickly become irrelevant to people's daily lives. And so, a few notes on immigration and ICE.

Before you read my thoughts, however, I would recommend you read Archbishop Etienne's recent pastoral letter on a well-ordered society. https://archseattle.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/A-Well-Ordered-Society_Pastoral-Letter-min.pdf

Principle #1: Deportations are not inherently immoral. The very notion of nationhood requires that countries be able to determine their citizenry and govern their borders. If someone enters the country illegal, overstays a visa, or fails in their asylum petition, it is perfectly moral and just to remove them from the country. Positions like "ICE Out", "No Person is Illegal", or any form of open borders are ultimately anarchist positions and will lead to lawlessness.

Principle #2: Tactics can be immoral. Just because ICE provides a necessary service does not mean that ICE, and our immigration system as a whole, is always acting justly. I would highlight four primary concerns:

1. A unifying thread in nearly every statement the U.S. Bishops have made on this topic (collectively and individually) is concern for **due process**. Unfortunately, these enforcement surges are so fast-moving that it is hard to know whether the reported breakdowns in due process are systematic or exceptional. It is also hard to know whether these breakdowns are due to malice, negligence, or simply a federal government whose enforcement infrastructure has become so overwhelmed by numbers that it struggles to respect its own policies. Regardless, some concrete moral requirements:
 - If our laws allow someone to complete an asylum petition, or appeal a negative decision or deportation decision, those laws must be followed.

- No one should be “disappeared”. There must be easily accessible methods for informing families and lawyers when someone has been detained, and families and lawyers should have ready access to the individual.
 - Human dignity must be maintained in detention, including access to medical care and religious ministers.
2. After God himself and the free exercise of religion, Catholic morality’s highest concern **is for the family**. Even just laws can become unjust when they destroy otherwise intact families. Unfortunately, the practical application of this becomes dicey – having a child cannot become an automatic trump card to stay in a country beyond what is allowed by immigration law. And yet, because of decades of spotty enforcement of border security and immigration laws, there are many children who could not today follow their deported parents because the children do not even speak the language of their parents’ country. Nevertheless, where the law allows or where policy implementation is variable, there is a moral obligation to look after the welfare of children and to favor keeping families intact.
3. There is a vicious cycle of **scare tactics** that has to stop. The federal administration has made it clear that they would prefer those facing deportation to self-deport, which has resulted in rumors that ICE is being intentionally aggressive or public in order to create fear in immigrant communities. This may be true or it may be exaggerated by social media; and if it is true, it may be true only in certain ICE detachments under specific ICE commanders. Nevertheless, it would be immoral to impair human dignity by intentionally parking immigration officers in front of churches, schools, and grocery stores, in order to scare people away from specifically those services most necessary for a dignified life. And, while we cannot say that they are immoral (as there are certainly practical reasons), however much of the masked agents and unmarked cars are intended as a scare tactic is certainly not for the well-ordering of society. On the other side, I would highlight that leftist activists’ lack of restraint in doxxing and harassing the families of people they disagree with, and of protesting through violence rather than solidarity and presence, significantly contributes to this vicious cycle and prevents any kind of détente.
4. A **lack of sufficient training** is negligent almost to the point of immorality. The most reasonable commentaries I have seen suggest that, absent all other factors, the confrontations with Rene Good and Alex Pretti likely ended in death because the agents were poorly trained. Regardless of who was at fault in these two cases – endlessly litigated on the internet – the agents involved clearly had less training than our local police forces, who are regularly drilled on how to stay calm and deescalate volatile and potentially violent situations. One should not be entrusted with the powers of policing without having the necessary training to carry out those responsibilities well.

Principle #3: We have a moral obligation to our neighbor. No matter how someone came here or what their immigration status is, we have an obligation to care for the person in front of us. This does not necessarily mean fighting their deportation – again, deportation is not inherently unjust – but it does mean looking after their human dignity as long as they are in our religious and civil communities.

Principle #3: We have a moral obligation to the poor. We cannot decide that our country should have no place for refugees or migrants. How many people are admitted each year, from which countries, and under what conditions are absolutely prudential decisions and people of goodwill can disagree. But we are obligated to use our wealth for the good of the poor, and as one of the richest countries in the world, we should always be trying to find ways to do so.

And now we get into my personal opinions. These should not be seen as a reflection of Church teaching, but only my personal application. Feel free to disagree with me here.

Personal Opinion #1: This is Congress' responsibility. Love him or loath him, President Trump's administration is correct when it claims that it is merely enforcing the laws on the books. The methods and priorities (see above) are up to the President, but the fact that millions of people are living in this country without legal right or status is up to Congress. If Congress wants to instantly grant legal status to every person living within U.S. borders, they can. It is highly irresponsible for any politician, especially a member of Congress, to suggest that the proper place to resolve this dispute is through anarchy in the streets, rather than through the democratic process on which this country was founded.

Personal Opinion #2: More Latin American immigration, please! I have been ministering to Spanish-speaking Catholics for my entire priesthood and they are some of the most devout, prayerful, hardworking, and family-oriented people you will ever meet. We are so lucky as a country that our primary source of immigration is from Christian, western countries. In fact, I find Latin American immigrants are often a corrective balance to the anti-family, anti-capitalist, anti-religious attitudes of my fellow citizens, and I am not sure where we would be as a country if we did not already have a significant Hispanic population keeping us rooted in Christian values. Unlike Europe, where their immigration surges come from non-western, majority-Muslim countries and therefore result in huge culture clashes, the majority of our immigrants fit nicely into our national identity and ethos, even in the first generation. So much so that I wonder if some of our current anti-immigration sentiment is still rooted in that old anti-Catholicism that also tried to keep the Italians, Polish, and Irish out. I am all for an ordered border and ordered naturalization process, but not for policies oriented towards keeping a majority-Catholic population out of the country.

Personal Opinion #3: Where is the path to citizenship? I think the endless fights over President Trump's rhetoric about deporting "criminals" is a distraction. Ultimately, most Americans seem to support deporting the "bad" immigrants and keeping the "good" ones. And yet, neither Republicans nor Democrats have talked about the only lasting way to make that happen – a path to citizenship. The Republican plan to deport every immigrant without legal status – with the hope that they would reapply through the "correct" method – would upend our economy and destroy countless families. The Democrat plan to do nothing and leave everyone in place does not take seriously our national security, our laws, and the injustice of having people live with the constant fear of an ambiguous legal status.

Instead, if we think the "good" immigrants should stay, then we need to give them a legal path to do so. We have so many parishioners without legal status who are the backbone of our churches and our communities, and I want nothing more than to keep them and their children as parishioners forever. It would be a huge loss to have any of them deported. But only Congress has the power to give them a way to stay.

President Bush almost made it happen in 2007 ([link](#)), and the Senate nearly succeeded in 2013 ([link](#)), but since then Congress has seemingly given up on governing or trying to find solutions. We would rather demonize our opponents to gain points for the next election than actually work for justice.

May the Lord bless you and your families

F. Moore

Parish News

Parish office Closures

Parish office will be closed on the following days in the month of February; 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.

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.



**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 is one of the viability metrics we need to be familiar with as we consider what our opportunities and challenges are. Please look at the graph that is provided in this document and ask yourself what stands out? Where am I surprised by the data? Does the data suggest where we need additional information as we come closer to times of decision making?

Discuss this data with your family and friends, and come prepared to give your input at the listening sessions.

Location & Time	Average Mass Attendance	Church Capacity	Utilization
St Joseph Lynden Spanish Saturday 5pm	287.4	275	105%
St Joseph Lynden Sunday 11am	248.9	275	91%
St Joachim Lummi Sunday 8:30am	93.6	109	86%
Assumption Spanish Sunday 1pm	383.1	545	70%
St Peter Deming Sunday 8:30am	132.9	204	65%
Assumption Sunday 10am	323.8	545	59%
Sacred Heart Sunday 11am	187.4	322	58%
St Anne Saturday 5pm	119.4	207	58%
Sacred Heart Sunday 9am	185.4	322	58%
St Joseph Ferndale Sunday 10:30am	256.6	491	52%
Assumption Saturday 5pm	261	545	48%
Assumption Sunday 8am	237.1	545	44%
St Joseph Lynden Saturday 5pm	118.4	275	43%
Sacred Heart WWU Sunday 5pm	96.6	322	30%

**Data represents average attendance counted during 4 weekends in May and 4 weekends in October 2025*

**Data provided by Whatcom Catholic Regional Staff*

Middle School BLAST

When: Saturday, February 28th 6:30pm – 8pm

Where: St Joseph, Ferndale

Middle School youth (6th–8th graders) are invited to a fun BLAST night with food, games, and a discussion about Reconciliation. RSVP or questions? Contact daniel@assumption.org.

If you are interested in Steubenville Northwest, Days of Grace, Franciscan LEAD, or our summer youth trips, please email Daniel at daniel@assumption.org or Dawn Zimmerman at dawn.stjoseph@gmail.com for details. Fundraising opportunities are available, and things are moving quickly, so be sure to reach out soon!

School News

Assumption School Auction

Tickets are still available and the due date has been extended until February 25th! There are silent auction, live auctions, food, drinks, fun times and Jeff Ziels is our auctioneer. There is so much to see and all proceeds help Assumption School teach generations to come that are rooted in faith! Call the office for information if you prefer not to do online registration 360 -733-6133

Northern Deanery High School

One of the exciting things about being a startup high school is that we can break the mold in how we do things. Our academic schedule will be one of those areas of innovation. Inspired by Seton Catholic High School’s very successful “4 means more” program in Vancouver, WA, our students will attend classes Tuesdays through Fridays. Mondays will be dedicated to other programs:

- Education Development (Tutoring and academic support)
- Staff Development (In-service hours and class planning)
- Social Impact (Service hours, class retreats, clubs, activities)
- Career Exploration (College and vocational tracks)

Supported by academic research, a four-day bell schedule is more predictable and can have positive impact on student growth. At NDCHS, we are also modeling a schedule that slightly increases instructional hours for the year overall - so no academic time will be lost.

We are excited about this innovative schedule and invite you to reach out to learn more about the benefits our program could have for your children!

Want to learn more about the 4-day bell schedule, to see how this might work for your student? Send us an inquiry via our Contact Us page.

Affiliated Organizations

Worldwide Marriage Encounters

When: April 24-26, 2026

Where: Hampton Inn in Everett

May the love of God heal and strengthen our marital bonds so we can live in Love and experience Joy. The next Worldwide Marriage Experience (WWME) will be at the Hampton Inn in Everett, WA on April 24-26, 2026. Apply at www.wwme.org. tap on APPLY, scroll down to April, click on Everett and fill in your information. For more information leave a message at 206-772-2344.

CRS Rice Bowl

Brings Catholics across the United States together each Lent to respond to global hunger and poverty through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During this holy season, let us recommit to sharing bread for life with our global family so that all people can reach their God-given potential. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's Story of Hope. Lent: A Time of Preparation

In case you missed it

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.

No First Friday confessions

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

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.

Upcoming Events

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 - 5pm Spanish Rosary
- St Joseph – 7pm-9pm Youth Group

Monday, February 23

- St Peter – 9am Mass

Tuesday, February 24

- St Joseph – 9-11am Morning prayer group

Wednesday, February 25

- St Joseph– 5pm Confession
- St Joseph – 6pm Spanish Mass – **Samuel Orona - RIP**
- St Joseph – 6:30pm-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes
- **St Peter – 6pm Soup Supper**
- **St Peter – 7pm Stations of the Cross**

Thursday, February 26

- 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 27

- St Joseph – 9am Mass – **Noel Choquette - RIP**
- **St Joseph – Stations of the Cross after 9am Mass**
- St Joseph – 2pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
- **St Joseph- 6pm bilingual Stations of the Cross – Soup supper**

Saturday February 28

- St Joseph -11 am Little Giants

- St Joseph - 4pm Confessions
- St Joseph – 5pm Mass – Lou & Becky Lucarelli – Special intention
- St Joseph – 6pm Spanish Rosary
- St Joseph – 7pm Spanish Mass – Maria Hernandez Aguilar - RIP

Sunday, February 29, 2nd Sunday of Lent

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

Hope House

helping those in need



NEEDS LIST

- New/gently used clothing, no rips or stains. We are especially in need of MENS clothing
- Diapers, wipes, diaper cream
- Sheets, towels, blankets, comforters, pillows
- Cereal
- Luggage, backpacks, duffle bags
- NEW underwear and socks, all sizes and genders
- Pots and pans
- Small kitchen appliances
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish soap
- Sleeping bags
- Tarps

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

 www.facebook.com/bellinghamhopehouse

OUR LOCATION

 207 Kentucky St, Bellingham, WA, 98226

CONTACT: APRILJH@CCSWW.ORG

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon: 9-11:30am
Tues: 9-11:30am +
6:30-8:00pm
Weds: CLOSED
Thurs: 9-11:30am
Fri: 12-1:30pm

HOPE HOUSE IS A NON-PROFIT THAT OFFERS FREE CLOTHING, HYGIENE ITEMS, AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS TO HOMELESS AND LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN WHATCOM COUNTY. WE ARE A FREE RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED AND WE RELY COMPLETELY ON DONATIONS FROM OUR COMMUNITY TO KEEP US GOING.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS



AMAZON WISHLIST





Q&A | Steps to set up a Catholic funeral



"Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just."

— *Order of Christian Funerals, General Introduction, no. 5*

The Archdiocese of Seattle is committed to providing pastoral care to those who have lost loved ones. While funerals are times of grief and loss, they can also help families connect with the Church as a source of hope.

MY LOVED ONE DIED, AND I WOULD LIKE A CATHOLIC FUNERAL. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

The first step is to contact a Catholic parish. If you are unsure which parish, **click here for the Archdiocese of Seattle parish finder**. Consider these questions when searching for a parish:

- Was the deceased an active parishioner at a parish?
- Does the family have any connection to a parish?
- What is the closest parish geographically?

Because funerals connect grieving families with the faith, archdiocesan policy requires that Catholic funerals are celebrated in a parish church, ideally the parish church of the deceased (*Archdiocesan Policy FR 8*).

WHAT IF THE PARISH DOESN'T HAVE SOMEONE TO CELEBRATE THE FUNERAL?

If a parish does not have a priest or deacon available to celebrate a funeral, local deacons may be available. Follow these steps if you need help.

- Contact the parish that can provide the best pastoral care for the family. Usually, the parish will be able to support the funeral and care for the bereaved.
- Sometimes a parish priest is unavailable to support a funeral. When this happens, the staff will work with archdiocesan deacons to find a minister.
- If a deacon is available, he will communicate directly with the parish contact.

WHAT ABOUT A CATHOLIC CEMETERY?

Associated Catholic Cemeteries can help. Go to www.mycatholiccemetery.org to find a cemetery near you. Their dedicated team will help answer your questions about burial, interment and more.

If you need help reaching a deacon to help with a funeral, please contact Deacon Eric Paige at eric.paige@seattlearch.org or (206) 382-4864.



LIFE. JUSTICE. PEACE.

Events Schedule, March-June 2026

Be a Catholic Voice | [WACatholics.org](https://wacatholics.org)

WSCC LIFE. JUSTICE. PEACE. LIVE EVENT

ELIZABETH DOLL
DIRECTOR OF BRAVER POLITICS, BRAVER ANGELS

**DEPOLARIZING WITHIN:
IN-PERSON WORKSHOP**

SATURDAY
MAR 21, 2026

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PST) — Mass to follow at Noon

The Depolarizing Within workshop teaches participants to look at their own attitudes towards the political "other" to develop strategies for engaging in politics without demonizing, and to constructively intervene in conversations with like-minded peers when those conversations stereotype or demonize the other side.

LOCATION:
Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center,
4700 SW Dash Point Rd., Federal Way, WA, 98023

REGISTER NOW <https://bit.ly/44sPd8l>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE <https://wacatholics.org>

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 | 9:00 AM - 12 PM

The *Depolarizing Within: In-Person Workshop* teaches participants to look at their own attitudes towards the political "other" to develop strategies for engaging in politics without demonizing, and to constructively intervene in conversations with like-minded peers when those conversations stereotype or demonize the other side.

Mass will follow the workshop at Noon.

Location:

Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center, 4700 SW Dash Point Rd, Federal Way, WA, 98023

[REGISTER](#)

WSCC LIFE. JUSTICE. PEACE. WEBINAR

DAN MISLEH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT

**THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND
U.S. CATHOLIC RESPONSES**

THURSDAY
MAY 14, 2026

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM PST

This webinar will explore current science and the impacts of climate change, as well as highlight many of the positive growing responses by the U.S. Catholic community, from dioceses, parishes, schools and other organizations.

REGISTER NOW <https://bit.ly/48CSPHH>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE <https://wacatholics.org>

THURSDAY, MAY 14 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

The *Climate Crisis and U.S. Catholic Responses* webinar will explore current science and the impacts of climate change, as well as highlight many of the positive growing responses by the U.S. Catholic community, from dioceses, parishes, schools and other organizations.

Webinar online via Zoom.

[REGISTER](#)

WSSCC LIFE, JUSTICE, PEACE.
WEBINAR



MIRYA MUÑOZ-ROACH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ST. VINCENT
DE PAUL OF SEATTLE/KING COUNTY

**POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH
TARGETED APPROACHES AND
INCLUSIVE PRACTICES**

THURSDAY
JUN 4, 2026 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM PST

In this presentation, Mirya will share 5 elements that define "Inclusive Practices for Poverty Alleviation" and hone-in on the value of community-based targeted approaches for authentic engagement, empowerment, belonging, and systemic change. She will speak to the importance of building mission-aligned partnerships that are grounded in shared values and relationships of trust.

REGISTER NOW <https://bit.ly/4abgU9H>
VISIT OUR WEBSITE <https://wacatholics.org>

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

In *Poverty Alleviation Through Targeted Approaches and Inclusive Practices*, Mirya will share 5 elements that define "Inclusive Practices for Poverty Alleviation" and hone-in on the value of community-based targeted approaches for authentic engagement, empowerment, belonging, and systemic change. She will speak to the importance of building mission-aligned partnerships that are grounded in shared values and relationships of trust.

Webinar online via Zoom.

[REGISTER](#)



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CATHOLIC ADVOCACY!

The Washington State Catholic Conference (WSSCC) is the public policy voice of the bishops. We bring trusted Catholic voices - clergy, scholars, physicians, and advocates - to help foster thoughtful dialogue and faithful action rooted in truth and love.

As the WSSCC prepares to celebrate 50 Years of Catholic Advocacy in Washington State in 2026, we continue our mission to bring Life, Justice and Peace into public life - together.

Be a Catholic voice today.

Register for our upcoming events and walk with the WSSCC in faithful advocacy for Life, Justice, Peace, and the Common Good at WACatholics.org.

