



ST. JOSEPH  
CHURCH ♦ LYNDEN  
ST. PETER  
MISSION ♦ DEMING  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



# **Christmas Bulletin 2025**

**Fr. Moore Christmas Note**

To all parishioners and visitors to our Whatcom County Catholic Churches - Merry Christmas!

It is famously hard to convince family, friends, and neighbors to help you move. Packing and carrying heavy boxes all day is no one's idea of a good time. So when someone does agree, we are immensely thankful. In fact, we often wonder what we did to deserve such a loving, generous friend or family member.

Now let's extend that idea to the incarnation. Moving may be unpleasant, but it is nothing compared to the overall burden of a human life under the yoke of sin and death. And yet, Jesus freely chose to enter into our existence, to share our struggle, to unite himself to our pains. What did we ever do to deserve such a savior? Why would he ever want to empty himself to such a radical extent?

Because he loves us. He has loved us since the moment he created the universe and knit us together in our mothers' wombs. He loves us on our best days and on our worst days. He loves us so much that he could never imagine leaving us alone to our burdens - he has always wanted to be with us, he was simply looking for the most opportune time.

That time was 2025 years ago in a backwater of the Roman Empire, on the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean. And ever since that day, humanity has been united in thanksgiving for such an incredible and unmerited gift.

Why does Christmas hold such power for us? Why is the nostalgia double strong for this season? Why is our desire to be with family and attend church so potent in these holy days? Because, in the small, sleeping figure of the Christ child we are reminded that God made himself small out of love for us. There is no purer or potent love than the love of God in his incarnation.

May the Lord bless you and your families!

*Fr. Moore*

[Whatcomcatholic.org](http://Whatcomcatholic.org)

## Whom to Contact

Our parish staff is here to help with whatever you need to grow closer to Jesus. The office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed on Wednesdays. (360) 354 2334

- Priests ([priests@whatcomcatholic.org](mailto:priests@whatcomcatholic.org)) – Confession, spiritual advice, anointing of the sick, Priest appointments
- Lorena Duarte ([lorena@stjoseph-stpeter.org](mailto:lorena@stjoseph-stpeter.org)) – Location Manager, Front office reception, building scheduling, and everything else
- Marisol Esparza ([marisole@stjoseph-stpeter.org](mailto:marisole@stjoseph-stpeter.org)) – Sacraments, faith formation, Hispanic ministry
- **Emergencies requesting a priest – (360) 733-1388**
- For Bulletin request email: [Bulletin@whatcomcatholic.org](mailto:Bulletin@whatcomcatholic.org)

## Liturgical Offerings

### Daily Masses

#### St Joseph

Wednesday: 6 pm Spanish  
Friday: 9 am

#### St Peter

Monday: 9am

### Weekend Masses

#### St Joseph

Saturday: 5 pm & 7pm Spanish  
Sunday: 11 am

#### St Peter

Sunday: 8:30 am

#### Confessions

#### St Joseph

Wednesday: 5:00 – 5:45 pm

Saturday: 4pm – 4:45 p.m.

#### St Peter

Monday: 8:30 am

Sunday: 8:00 am

\*(Coffee Hour offered after 11 a.m. Mass – St Joseph and 8:30 am St Peter)

## First Friday Confessions

[Every First Friday of the month from 4pm to 5pm at Assumption Church in Bellingham](#)

## Assumption Catholic School

Assumption Catholic School (360-733-6133) is a ministry of the parish in service to the Gospel, serving grades pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup>. We form our students in the Catholic faith, helping Catholics and non-Catholics alike understand the message of Jesus and how to live a virtuous life. More information can be found at our website <http://assumption.school.org> or by e-mailing [theoffice@assumption.school](mailto:theoffice@assumption.school).

## Northern Deanery High School

Over the past two years, we've made great progress in building a strong foundation for our new Catholic high school located within Bellingham's Sacred Heart Parish Hall —confirming community interest, developing a sustainable financial model, designing a rich curriculum, securing Archdiocesan affiliation, attracting our cornerstone investor, welcoming our first team member, and selecting our initial location. For more information please visit our website [ndhighschool.org](http://ndhighschool.org)

## Faith Formation Opportunities

### Sacramental Prep Classes

First Communion, Confirmation, OCIA **Contact:** Marisol Esparza ([marisole@stjoseph-stpeter.org](mailto:marisole@stjoseph-stpeter.org))

### Marriage / Marriage Preparations

**Contact:** Anna Wittmershaus -Marriage Coordinator ([anna@whatcomcatholic.org](mailto:anna@whatcomcatholic.org)) 360-594-5791

## Youth Group

All youth ages 13–17-year-old are welcome to come and learn more about your faith, every other Sunday from 9 am to 10:45 am **Contact:** Veronica Charlton verlp13@hotmail.com

## Tiny Giants

All youth ages 11–17-year-old are welcome to come and learn more about your faith in Spanish, every Saturday from 11 am to 12:30 pm **Contact:** Maria and Julian Rodriguez (360) 441-4201 (Spanish)

## Great Catholic Podcast

Ascension Press and Fr. Mike Schmitz offer both “Bible in a Year” and “Catechism in a Year” podcasts for those who want to read the Bible and the Catechism but can never find time to sit down and read. Search for them in your favorite podcast apps or download the Ascension app. <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/ascension-app>

## FORMED

We are excited to announce that our parish has subscribed to an exciting new online platform: Formed.org. It provides 24/7 access to the truth, beauty, and meaning of the Catholic Faith anytime, anywhere. Use it on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Containing informative and inspiring teaching from renowned speakers such as Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Edward Sri, Bishop Robert Barron, Dr. Tim Gray, Father Michael Gaitley, Teresa Tomeo, and many more! Multiple programs to address multiple parish needs: Adult Faith Formation, Marriage preparation and enrichment, scripture study, OCIA, Sacrament preparation, small groups, and much more!

Here's how easy it is:

Go to Formed. org.

Look for our parish by address: St Joseph, 205 12<sup>th</sup> St Lynden, WA 98264

Sign up following the prompts.

Questions? Contact the office at 360-354-2334

## High School BLAST Nights – All Teens Welcome

If you have a high school student looking for community, connection, and a place to grow in faith, our BLAST Nights are an easy way to get involved. Students are welcome to join us for any of the upcoming events:

- February 7 – BLAST Night 6:30–8:30 p.m., Assumption Gym (Students coming from Mass are welcome to join right after).
- March 7 – High School Retreat 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Location TBD (If your teen is interested, please email Daniel so we can keep you in the loop as details develop).
- April 11 – Race to Midnight Event 6:30 p.m.–Midnight, Ferndale (A special end-of-year experience for all high school students).

If you would like to learn more about our youth gatherings or inquire about small group availability, contact Daniel Prenosil at [daniel@assumption.org](mailto:daniel@assumption.org).

## Middle School BLAST Nights – All 6th–8th Graders Welcome

Our Middle School BLAST Nights offer fun, faith, and a welcoming community for all students. Kids can join us anytime for the upcoming dates:

- January 31 – BLAST Night Assumption Gym
- February 28 – BLAST Night St. Joseph Church, Ferndale
- April 25 – BLAST Night Assumption Gym
- March 14 – Middle School Retreat 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Location TBD Times may vary slightly depending on the retreat venue. If you'd like more information about these events or want to ask about small group availability, please contact Daniel Prenosil at [daniel@assumption.org](mailto:daniel@assumption.org).

## Parish News

### Parish Office

The Parish office will be closed December 24-January 2 to allow our team to spend quality time with their families. The office will resume its normal operations on Friday January 2, 2026. We appreciate your understanding and support during this Christmas Season. Thank you.

### Faith Formation – St Joseph, Lynden

There will be no faith formation classes on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Classes will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### Epiphany Chalk: Instructions for How to Bless Your Home

This year, at all Masses, there will be a blessing of chalk during the Epiphany Masses, which is January 4th. The priest will bless the chalk, and then it will be distributed after Mass. Parishioners are encouraged to take chalk home and above their door write: **20+C+M+B+26**

The letters stand for the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters also represent the Latin Blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates to "May Christ bless this house." The 20 and 26 represent the year. The National Catholic Register has an article on how to lead the prayer with your house here: <https://www.ncregister.com/cna/epiphany-2025-home-blessing>

### St. Joachim Jubilee Year Closing Mass

Celebrate the end of the Jubilee pilgrimage year with the final Mass at St. Joachim at 5:30 pm. This will be your last chance to receive a plenary indulgence at St. Joachim. All are welcome!

### Whatcom Catholic

**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).

For all Whatcom Catholic staff information, visit: [whatcomcatholic.org](http://whatcomcatholic.org)

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Coffee Hour

Worship happens in the community, and one of our primary community building opportunities is Coffee Hour after Sunday Masses. We would love assistance with set up and take down. **Contact:** Marilyn Wyss at (360) 961-1168 or [wyssm@outlook.com](mailto:wyssm@outlook.com)

### Prepares

PREPARES is a nurturing response of the Catholic community, open to all, to provide meaningful, local and unconditional support to Washington mothers, fathers, and families as they nurture their children through pregnancy and early childhood. Our vision is that a mom or family can come to any Catholic community in the state and be served. Whatcom Catholic has two PREPARES programs. Bellingham Contact: Kathy Jenkis ([kjenkis@hotmail.com](mailto:kjenkis@hotmail.com)) East county: Pam Ames 360-510-2334 or [pamames@comcast.net](mailto:pamames@comcast.net)

## St Peter Social Action

Open their doors each Thursday afternoon from 3pm to 5pm to serve the community with kindness and fun as well providing many items! We offer shelf stable food, paper products, cleaning products, clothing, household items, diapers, feminine hygiene, personal care products, pet food. Once a month each family receives toilet paper and laundry detergent. We also serve the community with financial assistance, assisting families with household furniture, or other needs. In the Fall we work with Interfaith Coalition's Coat Drive which is held at St. Peter's Church. We have been serving the community with this ministry for 16 years! What a blessing to serve God's people. For more information please **contact:** Marie Valum – 360-393-1380

## St Joseph Social Action

Through your generous contributions, the Social Action Committee is able to assist with rent, utility bills, and other necessities needed in and around Whatcom county. Social action also helps our neighborly partners, Prepares, New Way Ministries, Interfaith Coalition and Project Hope. If you have any question please **contact:** Marie Gillies mgillies950@gmail.com

## Choir & Liturgical Ministries

If you are interested in singing with the choir or becoming an altar server, sacristan, hospitality minister, lector, or eucharistic minister, please contact the following liturgical leaders or call the parish office 360-354-2334

### St Joseph contacts

#### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Spanish - María Mejía & Julián Rodríguez  
English - Mira Battista

#### LECTORS

Spanish- Flor Morales  
English - Jim Battista

#### SACRISTAINS

Spanish - Jorge Prado  
English - Sharon Walsh

#### USHERS

Spanish - German Zavala  
English - Martha Hagen

#### HOSPITALITY

Spanish - German Zavala  
English - Martha Hagen

#### SECURITY

Anthony Perry

#### ALTAR SERVERS

Flor Morales

#### MUSIC

English - Caitlin Creech  
Spanish - Juan Ortiz

#### FLOWERS

Diane Plotts

### St Peter Contacts

#### Music

Catherine Cronk

#### All other Liturgical Groups

Valerie Cronk

## Consider Becoming Catholic

The Catholic Church is the community of believers in Jesus Christ who seek to worship and follow the Lord in fidelity to the teachings of Jesus' Apostles and their successors. We believe that, despite our human failings which often obscure the truth, our Church is the Church that Jesus intentionally established before Ascending into Heaven. If you are considering becoming Catholic, please contact Marisol Esparza (marisole@stjoseph-stpeter.org) to join our Inquiry in OCIA and OCIA/C classes. Anyone is welcome to attend classes for as long as they would like to learn and ask questions, without having to make a commitment to the Catholic faith. **Contact:** Marisol Esparza ([marisole@stjoseph-stpeter.org](mailto:marisole@stjoseph-stpeter.org))

## **Interest & Service Groups**

### **Knight of Columbus**

The [Knights of Columbus](#) is a fraternal organization that provides support for the Church, the parish, our bishops and priests, families, youth, seminarians, and the community. Catholic gentlemen 18 and older are invited to join.

**Contact:** Peter Cronk - [petercronk8@gmail.com](mailto:petercronk8@gmail.com)

### **Catholic Daughters of Americas – Whatcom Catholic**

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) works to help women develop their spirituality by providing opportunities to share their faith with other Catholic women (spirituality), then live that out by helping others through charitable acts in the spirit of Jesus Christ (service). CDA is open to Catholic women 18 and older. **Contact:** Michele King ([michelea1438@gmail.com](mailto:michelea1438@gmail.com))

### **Women's Connect**

Women's Connect is a women group that gathers in the evenings for socializing, prayer, singing, personal testimony and discussion. For more information please visit their website : [www.womensconnect.live](http://www.womensconnect.live)

## **Payer and Bible Group**

### **Divine Mercy Chaplet**

Divine Mercy Chaplet is lead by Peggy Chase every Friday from 2 pm to 3 pm at St Joseph.

### **Patriotic Rosary**

Patriotic Rosary is lead by Peggy Chase every Thursday from 11 am to 2 pm at St Joseph.

### **Spanish Rosary**

Spanish Rosary is lead by Victor Ortiz every Monday at 6 pm at St Joseph.

### **Claretian Bible Study**

Our Claretian priests have Spanish bible study every Friday from 6pm to 8pm at St Joseph, Ferndale.

## **Español**

### **Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Católico (MFCC)**

El Movimiento es una agrupación de familias Católicas que unen sus esfuerzos para promover los valores humanos y cristianos de la familia, para que esta sea en la comunidad: formadora de personas, educadora en la fe, consciente de su misión evangelizadora y comprometida en el desarrollo integral de la comunidad y de la iglesia doméstica.

**Contacto:** Imelda y Biler Galeana Márquez 360 201 8735

### **Adoración Nocturna**

El apostolado de adoración Nocturna invita a todo quien quiera adorar a Jesús en la Sagrada Eucaristía durante la noche como en respuesta a la invitación de Jesús a permanecer despiertos durante la noche, como en el jardín de Getsemaní. La adoración es cada tercer sábado del mes después de la Santa Misa en español con la exposición del Santísimo Sacramento. El objetivo es fortalecer la fe de la comunidad y fomentar la oración **Contacto:** Jorge Prado ([jpaviles73@gmail.com](mailto:jpaviles73@gmail.com))

## CERS

Los CERS son una comunidad para la evangelización, la reconciliación y el servicio que ofrecen cursos bíblicos para todas las personas que estén interesadas en aprender más sobre la fe católica, también tienen 2 grupos de jóvenes. El grupo de **Jóvenes San José** de 18 a 30 años, y los **Tiny Giants** de las edades de 8 a 17 años. Para más información por favor **Contacto:** Freddy Pérez - freddy02az@gmail.com

## Grupo De La Oración De La Renovación Carismática

El Grupo de Oración carismático, Jesús sacramentado ofrece cursos bíblicos, también se reúnen todos los jueves a las 7:00 pm en la Iglesia para oración y alabanzas. Por favor **Contactar:** Agustín Díaz (209)600-5491

## Partners in the Gospel

Partners in the Gospel is a strategic pastoral planning effort taking place across the Archdiocese of Seattle to reinvigorate and renew our local Catholic Church. Functionally, it is a process to join neighboring parishes together so that, with combined financial, physical, and human resources, our parishes can become stronger than ever.

At present all locations in Whatcom County have taken initial steps in the Partners in the Gospel process. Currently work is in progress for the next part of the process which will focus on opportunities and challenges.

To learn more about Partners in the Gospel, please visit <https://archseattle.org/Partners>

## Need Help?

### For Those Considering Separation or Divorce

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has brought healing to tens of thousands of troubled marriages worldwide. Your situation may seem hopeless, but there is always hope and you are not alone in your struggle. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for our upcoming program on April 14-16, 2023, call 206-706-2608 or go to [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

### Pregnancy

The Christian-supported pregnancy clinic in the area is the Whatcom County Pregnancy Clinic. <https://www.whatcomclinic.com/>. Our Prepares Program is also ready to help expectant new mothers with necessary items. **Contact:** Pam Ames pamames@comcast.net

### Healing After Abortion

Project Rachel ministers to those who have experienced the difficulty and trauma of abortion. <https://ccsww.org/get-help/specialized-services/project-rachel/> or (206) 920-6413

### Hope House

Hope House is a program of Catholic Community Services that provides clothing and hygiene items to homeless and low-income families in Whatcom County. **Contact:** [apriljh@ccsww.org](mailto:apriljh@ccsww.org)

### Housing

Catholic Community Services - Whatcom Family Center (360) 676-2164

## Saint Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul in Whatcom Catholic is a ministerial outreach to the poor of Whatcom County. Working at Sacred Heart Church and Hope House, we meet with and talk to members of our community who come to us for assistance. Our ministry is conducted by dedicated volunteers who see the face of Christ in the poor and strive to meet their needs. We can help the poor because of the kind generosity of our parishioners, whose continued support we greatly appreciate and encourage. If you would like to join our ministry and become a Vincentian, please contact us at 360-734-2722.

### Saint Vincent de Paul volunteers needed:

St Vincent de Paul is looking for volunteers to distribute financial assistance to our neighbors in need at Hope House on Fridays 12-1:30 beginning in January. Please call 360-734-2722 and leave a message if you are interested in this ministry.

### Year to Date Giving Summary through November

	2024 YTD	2025 YTD	% Change
Assumption	414,819.57	424,890.71	2%
Sacred Heart	255,554.59	240,769.39	-6%
St. Joseph - Ferndale	120,103.30	136,628.94	14%
St. Anne	61,349.56	73,280.71	19%
St. Joachim	24,854.33	29,075.02	17%
St. Joseph - Lynden	128,930.30	125,212.98	-3%
St. Peter	57,663.75	47,202.73	-18%

### Extra Collections Remitted During November

Church in Central Europe	1,186.00
Priest Pension	340.00
World Mission Sunday	221.00
Black & Indian Missions	150.00
CCS Appeal for the Poor	124.00
Peter's Pence	40.00
Campaign for Human Development	30.00
Catholic Home Missions	20.00
Church in Africa	20.00
Catholic Relief Services	10.00



## ***HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE***

### **Mary Mother of God**

**Wednesday, December 31, 2025**

6:00 pm – St Joseph, Lynden  
(Spanish)

6:00 pm – St Peter, Deming

### **Mary Mother of God**

**Thursday, January 1, 2026**

8:15 am – Assumption

9:00 am – St Joseph, Ferndale

12:30 pm – Assumption

12:30 pm – St Anne, Blaine

5:00 pm – St Joachim, Lummi

6:00 pm – Sacred Heart

6:00 pm – St Joseph, Lynden

www.theincrementalmama.com