

Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Bellingham, WA.

Second Sunday Of Advent

If you pay close attention to the readings, you will notice a phrase that is repeated: *A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* If we understand the desert in its simplicity, we have missed the point. St. John cries out in the desert of the souls of the people. It is dry. It is infertile. It is baked. As the psalmist sings, "My body pines for you like a dry weary land without water, so my soul longs for you my God." (Psalm 63) This is the reason why people from Judea and Jerusalem were coming out to the Jordan River to acknowledge their sins. This is the true path to hope and joy. How do we get there?

Bishop Tyson loves the radio and constantly has it on in the car. During his visit this week, we were driving back from Bellis Fair (not for shopping, but for a walk); it wasn't until we took the exit that I noticed the radio was on. Because of the road noise and our conversation, we didn't notice the classical music that was playing in the background. The voice of one crying in the desert is very much like the classical music. We will never hear it if we are wrapped up in the noise of our life journey or preoccupied with our own conversations. One needs to take an exit and quiet down. Let this season of Advent be a time when we do just that : Take an exit. Stop talking. Listen. The Voice is speaking. Fr. Qui-Thac Nguyen

Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. Sacred Heart has two Masses that day, 12:10 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Please join us in celebrating this Feast Day.

2009 Sunday Missals

The 2009 Sunday Missals are available for purchase in the Parish Office for \$3.00 each.



Polish Mass

Sunday, December 14: Polish Confessions at 4:30 p.m.
Polish Mass at 5:00 p.m. will be followed by a Potluck in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

CAST

CAST needs your help on Mondays starting Dec. 15 - Jan. 5.
**You can make Sandwiches on Sunday afternoons at Faith Lutheran Church. Call Ginnie Parine, 647-5703 if you have questions or want to sign up.

Widows and Widowers Luncheon

On Saturday, December 20, the Knights of Columbus invites widows and widowers to Sacred Heart Church for Mass at Noon, followed by a Holiday luncheon at 1:00 p.m. in the Hall. Please call 647-0601 to RSVP and if you need a ride. Music will be offered by the Bellingham Alumni Ensemble Band.

Homebound Eucharistic Ministers Needed

The Homebound Ministers at Sacred Heart currently take the Eucharist to over 60 homebound Catholics in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Retirement Homes and in private homes. We are in need of more volunteers to help with this ministry. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Marilyn Cunningham, 733-6160 or Sheila Siebert, 734-5029.



We pray for God to bless America and one way He answers our prayers is by sending us new life. Then, as a nation, we reject His gifts through the act of decriminalized abortion. Let us pray for God's forgiveness and the end of abortion.

Catholic Men's Group

Come and grow in your faith as a Catholic man of God. A new men's group is forming geared toward men ages 25-45. A first meeting is scheduled for Dec. 10th at 7:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Library. (St. Augustine Room). Snacks will be provided. Regularly scheduled meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month beginning in January. Contact Tim Clark for more information 393-4074.

Social Justice Book Discussion

The next Social Justice Book Discussion will be Monday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Parish Library. The book is "Peace Pilgrim: Her Life and Work in Her Own Words" by Peace Pilgrim, who walked alone and penniless "as a prayer" more than 25,000 miles across America to inspire others to pray and work for peace. Her message was simple: "This is the way of peace: Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love...I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until given shelter and fasting until given food."

Adoration at Assumption Church on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in honor of the unborn.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament starts after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, 7th Dec. and ends Monday, Dec. 8th at 6:45 p.m.

December 6 & December 7

Second Sunday Of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Gospel: (Mark 1:1-8)

Dec. 7	8:30 a.m. Mass	Church
Sun.	9:45 a.m. RE/First Rec./First Comm.	Parish Center
	9:45 a.m. Mexico Pancake Breakfast	Parish Hall
	11:00 a.m. Mass	Church
	12:00 p.m. Mexico Pancake Breakfast	Parish Hall
	12:15 p.m. Bible Study	St. Augustine
	6:00 p.m. SALT	Upper Room/Assumption

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy day of Obligation

Gospel: (Luke 1:26-38)

Dec. 8	12:10 p.m. Mass	Church
Mon.	7:00 p.m. Mass	Church
	7:00 p.m. EDGE	Assumption Gym

Juan Diego, hermit, Gospel: (Matthew 18:12-14)

Dec. 9	12:10 p.m. Lectio Divina	Winter Chapel
Tues.	1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	St. Nicholas
	5:15 p.m. Reconciliation	Church
	6:00 p.m. Mass (Catherine Noce) (+)	Church
	7:00 p.m. II Tuesday	Parish Hall

Gospel: (Matthew 11:28-30)

Dec. 10	11:15 a.m. Reconciliation	Church
Wed.	12:10 p.m. Mass (Gregory Geist) (+)	Church
	7:00 p.m. 8:30-Choir Practice	Church

Damasus I, pope, Gospel: (Matt 11:11-15)

Dec. 11	10:00 a.m. Parish Nurse	Parish Center
Thurs.	11:15 a.m. Reconciliation	Church
	12:10 p.m. Mass (Rose Marie Hvisch) (+)	Church
	1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	St. Francis
	7:00 p.m. Theology of the Body	Parish Hall

Our Lady of Guadalupe Gospel: (Luke 1:26-38)

Dec. 12	11:15 a.m. Reconciliation	Church
Fri.	12:10 p.m. Mass (Helen Mosher) (+)	Church

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 10-11, 1 Thess 5:16-24, Gospel: (John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Dec. 13	8:30 a.m. Mass	Winter Chapel
Sat.	3:30 p.m. Reconciliation	Church
	5:00 p.m. Mass	Church

Third Sunday Of Advent

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 10-11, 1 Thess 5:16-24, Gospel: (John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Dec. 14	8:30 a.m. Mass	Church
Sun.	9:45 a.m. RE/First Rec./First Comm.	Parish Center
	11:00 a.m. Mass	Church
	12:15 p.m. Bible Study	St. Augustine
	6:00 p.m. SALT	Upper Room/Assumption

Assumption School News

Christmas Vacation: December 22, 2008 - January 2, 2009.

Registration for 2008-09: Are you looking for a Catholic school with a strong Catholic identity, proven academic success, a quality certified faculty and an atmosphere that promotes achievement, moral behavior, and a host of co-curricular activities. Call Assumption School (733-6133) for a tour and a meeting with the principal.

Calling all Sacred Heart Children:

The family Christmas Mass is scheduled for December 24th, at 5:00 p.m. Children participate in this liturgy by leading the music and by acting out the Gospel recounting of the birth of Christ. If you would like to participate, our first meeting is Sunday, December 21st from 9:45-10:45. Please note that there will be a bulletin insert next week and info on the website with the particulars.

Still needing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ushers/Greeters for the 5:00 p.m. Mass. If you regularly attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday nights and feel called to serve, please sign up on the sheets in the back of the church, or give Twi McDonell a call, 360-734-2850, Ext. 6. Training is provided by our Heads of Ministry!

Book Drive: The book drive organized by Danny Gibson, Assumption parishioner, for his Eagle Scout project is underway. He is working with the local nonprofit "Books to Prisoners," collecting books written in, or that teach, the Spanish language. A donation bin will be located in the vestibule through December 14. If you have any questions about this project, Danny can be contacted at (360) 733-0291.

Volunteers Needed for Parish Functions and Funeral Receptions

Please consider volunteering to assist in the kitchen for Parish functions and receptions. There is an immediate need for assistants for funeral receptions. For more information, please call Barb Haddad at 734- 4225. Thank you!

Sacred Heart's Stewardship Gift Corner

November 29 & 30, 2008

Envelopes (165)	\$ 7,297.23
Visitors	\$ 437.00
Children (1)	\$ <u>1.00</u>
Total Sunday Income	\$ 7,735.23
Weekly Budget Need	\$ 8,097.11
Holy Day	\$ 842.90
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 174.00
Building & Grounds	\$ 50.00
Assumption School	\$ 50.00

Because of your generosity this year the collection for World Mission Sunday was \$2,735.50, and \$2,330.60 from the Build Hope collection. Thank you!

2009 Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have responded to God's call by returning your Stewardship time, talent and treasure commitment cards. We are able to plan next year's programs based on your commitment pledge. For all those who are prayerfully considering their commitment, cards may be returned with the Sunday collection or mailed to the Parish Office.