

Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Bellingham, WA.

Third Sunday Of Advent

A person who adamantly adheres to the truth is truly humble and truly courageous. Our world does not always see this truth. It often thinks that those who adamantly adhere to the truth are rigid, cold and "conservative." Nothing is further from the truth. St. John the Baptist is our proof.

When asked to identify himself, he adamantly refuses to claim himself the Messiah, "I am not the Christ." When asked if he was a prophet, he answered, "No." When asked if he was Elijah, he said, "I am not." It would have been easy for St. John to say yes or be silent and let others give him the honor. In remaining steadfast to the truth, John was truly humble.

St. John remained steadfast in another area: his preaching on repentance. He constantly summoned people to confess their sins. Reflecting on this trait, Bishop Dolan commented that, facing this endless preaching, we enlightened contemporaries would like to take John aside and tell him, "Listen John. Let me bring you up to date. Your call to repentance may have gone places 2,000 years ago, but sin is out of vogue now. John, you've got to affirm people now. You've got to tell them how good they are. You have to be nice John. You see, the philosophy today is: You're okay, I'm okay. There's no need for repentance today John, because there's no sin." What's true for today regarding the human person remains true for the people of Jesus' time. St. John nevertheless adheres to the truth. It takes courage to oppose the general stream of thinking.

St. John, thank you for adamantly adhering to the truth. Thank you for leading us through repentance. Thank you for pointing out who the Messiah is and leading us to Jesus. Fr. Qui-Thac Nguyen.

**The Parish Office will be closed on the following dates:
December 24th, at noon through January 1st.**

Assumption Advent Reconciliation Service

An Advent Reconciliation Service will be held at Church of the Assumption, December 16th at 7:00 p.m.



CAST

CAST is a ministry of preparing and serving food to the homes of Bellingham. You can help by preparing sandwiches at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday afternoons and delivering on Mondays through January 5. Please call Ginnie Parine, 647-5703 for more information.

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.

Catholic Daughters' Meeting and Christmas Party

The Catholic Daughter's Meeting and Christmas Party will be December 18, 2008 @ 7:00 pm in the Stafford Room at Assumption Church. See you there!"

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers and Greeters Needed

If you regularly attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday nights and feel called to serve, please sign up on the sheets at the back of the church or call Twi McDonell, 734-2850, Ext. 6. Training is provided by our Heads of Ministry!



Come and pray with us once a month on the third Sunday for one hour from 2-3 p.m. at Whatcom County's abortion clinic: Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood (1530 Ellis St.). Our monthly vigil will be Sunday, December 21st, rain or shine. Let us pray for an end to all abortions and healing for all women suffering from Post-Abortion Syndrome. For more information call Kathy St. Hilaire at 671-4836.

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.

2009 Sunday Missals

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

Thank You!!!

A very special "Thank you" goes to all "Friends of Debra Black" for all your help and support. We appreciate the donations, auction items, volunteering and prayers. A special thanks to Paula Mallahan and her kitchen crew. We were able to raise close to \$8,000 to help with Debra's care. Please continue to pray for Debra's healing.

Thank you, Pete and Vicki Pilch and Barbara Haddad.

December 13 & December 14

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
	9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Parish Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Mass	Church
	12:15 p.m.	Bible Study	St. Augustine
	4:30 p.m.	Polish Confessions	Church
	5:00 p.m.	Polish Mass	Church
	6:00 p.m.	Polish Potluck	Parish Hall
	6:00 p.m.	SALT	Upper Room/Assumption

Gospel: (Matthew 21:23-27)

Dec. 15 No Mass

Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Social Justice Book Discussion	Parish Lib.
	7:00 p.m.	EDGE	Assumption Gym

Gospel: (Matthew 21:28-32)

Dec. 16	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 (Margaret Falterman) (+)	Church
	7:00 p.m.	SHALOM Mothers' Group	Parish Hall
	7:00 p.m.	RCIA	Winter Chapel
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Reconciliation Service	Assumption

Gospel: (Matthew 1:1-17)

Dec. 17	11:15 a.m.	Reconciliation	Church
Wed.	12:10 p.m.	Mass (Gale Sundseth) (+)	Church
	1:00 p.m.	WISH	Parish Hall
	7:00 p.m.	8:30-Choir Practice	Church

Gospel: (Matt 1:18-25)

Dec. 18	10:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse	Parish Center
Thurs.	11:15 a.m.	Reconciliation	Church
	12:10 p.m.	Mass (Albert T. Barber) (+)	Church

Gospel: (Luke 1:5-25)

Dec. 19	11:15 a.m.	Reconciliation	Church
Fri.	12:10 p.m.	Mass (Donald Drew) (+)	Church

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16, Rom 16:25-27, Gospel: (Luke 1:26-38)

Dec. 20	8:30 a.m.	Mass	Winter Chapel
Sat.	12:00 p.m.	Mass for Widows and Widowers	Church
	1:00 p.m.	Widow and Widowers' Luncheon	Hall
	3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	Church
	5:00 p.m.	Mass	Church

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16, Rom 16:25-27, Gospel: (Luke 1:26-38)

Dec. 21	8:30 a.m.	Mass	Church
Sun.	9:45 a.m.	RE/First Rec./First Comm.	Parish Center
	9:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Parish Hall
	Starts at 9:45 a.m.	Children's Christmas Play/ Choir	Library
	11:00 a.m.	Mass	Church
	12:15 p.m.	Bible Study	St. Augustine
	1:00 p.m.	Vietnamese Mass	Church
	2:00 p.m.	Vietnamese Pot Luck	Parish Hall
	2:30 p.m.	Church Decoration	Church
	6:00 p.m.	No SALT	Upper Room/Assumption

Children's Christmas Mass: December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

The children of Sacred Heart will be taking a leadership role at our Family Christmas Mass on December 24th. by leading the music and will be assisting Father by dramatically presenting the Christmas story in tableau. If you are interested in being part of the play or leading music, please join us on Sunday, December 21st, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. to pick up music, receive your part in the play and pick your costume. More information is contained in a special insert in this week's bulletin.

Thank you to all parishioners who joined us for the Theology of the Body series at Sacred Heart this Advent. And thank you to Bernard Theroux for a wonderful presentation on the Sacramental Economy at our December II Tuesday series. We are in the process of uploading these audio tapes on the web so that you may have access to these presentations.

39th Potpourri of Art Financial Report

Thank you Sacred Heart, Artists, and the Community of Bellingham.

Show Income:	\$19,028.39
Show Expenses:	4,830.46
Outreach Donation:	<u>1,420.00</u>
Net Income:	\$12,777.93

The Outreach Donation was to the Bellingham Food Bank. The income from the event will pay for major expenses such as building insurance and Priest medical and pension.

Catholic Community Services Week

The annual CCS celebration recognizes the work of Catholic Community Services, the official social service agency of the Catholic Church in Western Washington. This collection benefits the programs and services provided by the 12 CCS family centers. Envelopes are located at the end of each pew. You may mail the envelope directly to CCS or in the collection basket.

Sacred Heart's Stewardship Gift Corner December 6 & 7, 2008

Envelopes (185)	\$ 10,161.25
Visitors	\$ 357.37
Children (0)	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total Sunday Income	\$ 10,518.62
Weekly Budget Need	\$ 8,097.11
Holy Day	\$ 920.25
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 382.00
Building & Grounds	\$ 121.00
Assumption School	\$ 81.00

2009 Stewardship Update

250 pledges have been received, or 34% of registered households. Thank you to all who have responded to God's call to Stewardship by returning your commitment cards. We plan next year's programs based upon your pledges.