

Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Bellingham, WA.

3rd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Jesus inaugurates his public ministry and sets the tone and purpose: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." The first ones to believe and find hope in this message are Peter, Andrew, James and John. Jesus called them by name and said, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately, they abandoned their nets and followed him. What a beautiful response!

Seeing how lovely Jesus' call and the disciples' response, we forget the pain and sacrifice it took for the first Apostles to "leave behind" the old way of life. Jesus' inaugural address asked two things of them: repentance and belief (response to faith). Faith was given by God. Repentance; now that's a little trickier. The word *repent* comes from the Latin verb *paenitere* which means to regret, to displease, or be sorry. The romance languages find their roots in this verb, but makes clear that it is a reflexive verb: *se repentir*, *arrepentirse*, and *pentirsi*, French, Spanish and Italian respectively. The reflexive attribute of this verb also gives us an insight into what Jesus is demanding of his disciples: we are to make ourselves feel sorrow, to recognize that we displease God and others, and to make ourselves regret our past actions. The fact of life is, we don't desire to feel any of these things let alone make ourselves experience it. Remember, repentance is not the end in itself; it is only a means to the Kingdom of God, which is at hand.

Fr. Qui-Thac Nguyen.

Fr. Qui-Thac will be away January 26 through Feb. 5.
Fr. Tom McMichael will celebrate the weekday Masses while
Fr. Qui-Thac is gone.
Fr. Rob Evanson will celebrate Mass
Saturday, January 31 and Sunday, February 1.

Mount Vernon Marriage Encounter Weekend **Informational Weekend/Sacred Heart Parish Hall**

A Marriage Encounter Weekend is planned for March 27-29 in Mount Vernon. Interested couples are invited to an Informational Meeting on Sunday, January 25, at 12:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Parish Hall. For more information, please call Mike and Kay Gougeon, 671-6955 or Joe and Kathy St. Hilaire, 671-4836.

Super Bowl Party

Join the Knights of Columbus for this fun event on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1, in Assumption Gym. Watch the game on the big screen, enjoy great food and liquid refreshments, and take a chance on the pools: for each score change and a big pot for the final score. \$10 entry fee. Contact Dick Banning, 671-1672, or Joe St. Hilaire, 671-4836, for tickets or more information.

Speaker on WSCC 2009 Legislative Priorities

On Feb. 3, 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall, Jim Thomas will share with us the priorities of the Washington State Catholic Conference as advocates for the poor and vulnerable during the current legislative session, and how our faith calls us to be involved. Jim is the Director of Adult Faith Formation for Catholic Social Teaching and Family Life at the Archdiocese. This session is co-sponsored by Pax Christi and the Social Justice Committee.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

For those who have had an abortion

"Attending a Rachel weekend with my husband was one of the best decisions I ever made. Once we learned everyone's story, we no longer felt so strange and alone in the world. To watch the wash of relief that came over my husband's face...it was the moment our marriage began to heal." Testimony after a Retreat.

The next Retreat will be in February 2009

Call Valerie: 1-800-822-HOPE (4673)

Assumption School News

733-6133

Catholic Schools Week, Jan.25-Feb. 1.

Prospective families are invited to Assumption Catholic School's Open House on Sunday, Feb. 1 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Parents will learn about how a Catholic education can enrich the life of their children and take a student-led tour. The principal and staff members will be on hand to answer questions.

Many families are called to a Catholic school education, but are not able to afford it. If you are called to support the mission of Catholic schools, please give generously to Assumption's Annual Fund Campaign. If you would like to donate toward our tuition assistance fund, please contact Jennifer Rick, Director of Development, at jrick@school.assumption.org or 360-733-6133. Thank you for your prayers for a successful enrollment campaign for the 2009/2010 school year.

Did you know that Assumption Catholic School offers the only Catholic pre-school experience in Whatcom County? By choosing Assumption's pre-school, you are preparing your little ones for a Christian life, beginning with age-appropriate Catechism and Catholic fellowship. Assumption offers morning and afternoon programs for both 3-year olds and 4-year olds. Save the Date -- March 26 is our Pre-school Open House! Contact Jennifer at the school for more information -- jrick@school.assumption.org or 733-6133.



Each child is sent into this world by God with a unique message to deliver, a new song to sing, a personal act of love to bestow. Abortion destroys God's plan for that child to affect the world.

January 24 & January 25

3rd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Cor 7:29-31, Gospel: (Mark 1:14-20)

Jan. 25 8:30 a.m. **Mass** Church
Sun. 9:45 a.m. Coffee Hour Parish Hall
 9:45 a.m. RE Parents' Meeting St. Aquinas
 9:45 a.m. RE/First Rec./First Comm. Parish Center
 11:00 a.m. **Mass** Church
 12:30 p.m. Marriage Encounter Informational Mtg. Lib.
 6:00 p.m. SALT Upper Room/Assumption

Timothy and Titus, bishops, Gospel: (Mark 3:22-30)

Jan. 26 **No Mass**
Mon. 7:00 p.m. EDGE Assumption Gym

Angela Merici, virgin, Gospel: (Mark 3:31-35)

Jan. 27 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry St. Nicholas Room
Tues. 5:00 p.m. No Reconciliation Church
 6:00 p.m. **Mass** (Miles Walsh) (+) Church
 7:00 p.m. RCIA Winter Chapel

Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor, Gospel: (Matthew 23:8-12)

Jan. 28 11:15 a.m. No Reconciliation Church
Wed. 12:10 p.m. **Mass** Winter Chapel
 (Gordon Reckseidler) (+)
 7:00 p.m. 8:30-Choir Practice Church
 7:30 p.m. Catholic Men's Group St. Augustine

Gospel: (Mark 4:21-25)

Jan. 29 10:00 a.m. Parish Nurse St. Clare Room
Thurs 11:15 a.m. No Reconciliation Church
 12:10 p.m. **Mass** (Buck De Donker) (+) Chapel

Gospel: (Mark 4:26-34)

Jan. 30 11:15 a.m. No Reconciliation Church
Fri. 12:10 p.m. **Mass** (Tammy Shanks) (+) Winter Chapel

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Cor 7:32-35, Gospel: (Mark 1:21-28)

Jan. 31 8:30 a.m. **Mass** Winter Chapel
Sat. 3:30 p.m. Reconciliation Church
 5:00 p.m. **Mass** Church

4th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Cor 7:32-35, Gospel: (Mark 1:21-28)

Feb. 1 8:30 a.m. **Mass** Church
Sun. 9:45 a.m. Coffee Hour Parish Hall
 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

Attention Catholic Mothers: Please join us for prayer and reflection on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. in St. Nicholas Room in the Parish Center.

Nursing infants welcome; please reserve childcare for older children. If you have any questions, please call Rebecca Gonnella at 738-6976.

OUR VOICE IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER.

The Catholic bishops of the United States have unanimously called us to prayer and action to prevent passage of the radical "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) and to oppose other attempts to overturn existing pro-life laws and policies.

This year, our voices are needed more than ever. Pro-abortion groups and their allies in Congress are promoting a radical bill called the "Freedom of Choice Act." If this extreme measure is enacted, widely supported and constitutionally sound abortion regulations will be knocked down nationwide.

If passed into law, FOCA will impose upon the entire country an abortion regime far worse than anything brought on by Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, and the current level of 1.1 million abortions a year will go up, not down.

Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard to contact the offices of your Representative and two Senators: 202-224-3121. Urge them to oppose FOCA. For more resources, see www.nchla.org.

As a parish, we are participating in the Fight FOCA postcard campaign. We will have postcards by the weekend of the 25/26th and we will make those available to parishioners at Mass. The Social Justice Committee and the Respect Life Committee are supporting this effort by providing stamps for each postcard. The Mom's Group will be joining the effort by affixing the stamps to the postcards.

Catholic Men's Group

Come and grow in your faith as a Catholic man of God. A new men's group has formed geared toward men ages 25-45. The meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday's of every month. Contact Tim Clark for more information 393-4074.

Sacred Heart's Stewardship Report January 17 & 18, 2009

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes (146) | \$ 6,303.77 |
| Visitors | \$ 411.62 |
| Children (1) | \$ 3.00 |
| Total Sunday Income | \$ 6,718.39 |
| Weekly Budget Need | \$ 8,097.11 |
| | |
| Initial Offering | \$ 13.00 |
| Holy Day | \$ 9.00 |
| St. Vincent de Paul | \$ 204.00 |
| Building & Grounds | \$ 65.00 |
| Assumption School | \$ 63.00 |