

Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Bellingham, WA.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We witness Jesus healing a leper in the Gospel this week. The leper came to Jesus, knelt down, and said, "if you wish, you can make me clean." If we can place ourselves in the shoes of this leper, we will recognize how desperate he is. A leper in the time of Jesus not only had to deal with the disease itself, but also the social and religious consequences. Leprosy causes lesions in the flesh and damages the nerves, limbs and eyes. As a result of the fact that leprosy is highly contagious, societies made colonies for these people. A religious notion of the Jews was that suffering came as a result of personal sin or those sins of our ancestors. Effectively, a leper was disconnected not only with his body, but also society and the family of their faith. It is a lonely place. One can see the strong desire of this man to ask for healing from Jesus. How would you have approached Jesus if you were the leper?

Placing myself as the leper, I would have begged in a slightly different way. As desperate as I was, I would have said, "Please Jesus, heal me!" To be healed would have been my greatest wish. Yet, when we look closely at the request of the leper, healing his sickness is only secondary to the first request: the wish of Jesus. In other words, doing the will of God was the leper's first desire. What a beautiful faith! Under those circumstances, healing was still not as important as the will of God. Whatever sickness or troubles we may experience in our lives, let us pray as the faithful leper: Lord, if you wish. Jesus, what is your wish for me?

Fr. Qui-Thac Nguyen

**Parish Office will be closed
Monday, February 16
For Presidents' Day**

**Please Note:
There will be no Mass on Wednesday February 18,
Fr. Qui-Thac will be attending a Deanery meeting.**

New Floor in the Parish Hall

The floor replacement project in the Parish Hall will take place between February 16 and February 27, so the Hall will be unavailable for events during that time. Meetings scheduled in rooms on the lower level will still take place.

Handy With A Needle?

Maria Vigh is a parishioner who takes care of the Altar linens. She would like to have a few volunteers to help her with mending as the need arises. If you are interested in serving the parish in this fashion, please contact Maria at 733-6500. Thank you!

Lectio Divina In Lent

Lectio Divina means "holy or sacred reading." It is an ancient Christian prayer-form being rediscovered and reclaimed in our time. *Lectio* is a slow, contemplative praying of scriptures, which in turn leads to union with God. It is an invitation to listen deeply for God's voice in scripture and then to allow what we hear to shape our way of being in the world. (Lucy Wynkoop, OSB)
We will be using the Sunday gospel readings during Lent.

Starts: Tuesday, February 24th

Where: Winter Chapel

Time: 12:10 -12:50 p.m.

Call Martha for more information, 734-2850.

Suds & Spuds, March 15

Mark your calendar for this fun Parish community event! The Event coordinators are looking for volunteers to help with food preparation, decorating the Hall, serving at the event, and other duties. If you can give your time, call Layne and Janet Anderson at 966-3111.

Thank You Again From Lewis County!

On behalf of the Lewis County Catholic Parishes, I would like to once again thank you for your generous contributions to help us recover from our second year of flooding in the Chehalis Valley. The funds you sent are being put to good use, helping families put their lives back together. Your support and prayers are an important manifestation of God's love and care for us all during this difficult time. Many thanks! In Christ the Lord, Fr. David Mulholland Pastor, St. Joseph Church - Chehalis.

Bread For The World Workshop

Bread for the World, will present a Letter Writing Workshop at Assumption School Library Saturday, Feb. 21 from 9:30 - Noon. The focus will be on Bread for the World's Campaign to make foreign aid more effective. RSVP by calling 888-752-7323 Ext.1. The Workshop is free and open to the public. Coffee and breakfast snacks will be served.

CAST

On March 23, while the NCCM students are on their mission trip, CAST is asking for help from Sacred Heart parishioners to prepare and serve sandwiches for the people living on the street. Please sign up at the entry of the Church or call Ginnie Parine 647-5703.

Vigil For Peace In The Middle East

The Feb. Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East will be at the First Presbyterian Church, 1031 N. Garden St. at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18.



Is abortion a right "choice"? Having the right to choose whether or not an unborn person is to be killed is not a right that can be justified morally or legally. No one has the right to destroy the life of another person. Pray to end abortion.

February 14 & February 15

6th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Lev 13:1-2, 44-46, 1 Cor 10:31-11:1, Gospel: (Mark 1:40-45)

Feb. 15 8:30 a.m. **Mass** Church
Sun. 9:45 a.m. Veteran Altar Servers and Altar Servers wishing to serve at Stations of the Cross, meet in Chapel
 No Religious Education / Midwinter Break
 11:00 a.m. **Mass** Church
 12:00 p.m. New Altar Server Training Parish Hall
 12:15 p.m. Bible Study St. Augustine
 1:00 p.m. **Vietnamese Mass** Church
 6:00 p.m. SALT Upper Room/Assumption

Presidents' Day Office Closed

Gospel: (Mark 8:11-13)

Feb. 16 **No Mass**
Mon. 7:00 p.m. NO EDGE Assumption Gym

Founders of the Order of Servites, Gospel: (Mark 8:14-21)

Feb. 17 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Min. St. Nicholas Rm.
Tues. 5:15 p.m. Reconciliation Church
 6:00 p.m. **Mass** (Michael Toennesen) (+) Church
 7:00 p.m. SHALOM Mothers Group St. Nicholas
 7:00 p.m. RCIA Winter Chapel

Gospel: (Mark 8:22-26)

Feb. 18 11:00 a.m. Deanery Meeting St. Charles
Wed. 12:10 p.m. **No Mass** Chapel
 7:00 p.m. 8:30-Choir Practice Church

Gospel: (Mark 8:27-33)

Feb. 19 10:00 a.m. Parish Nurse St. Clare Room
Thurs 11:15 a.m. Reconciliation Church
 12:10 p.m. **Mass** (Gabor Vigh) Chapel
 (Thanksgiving for healing)
 6:00 p.m. Social Justice Committee Calcutta Room

Gospel: (Mark 8:34-9:1)

Feb. 20 11:15 a.m. Reconciliation Church
Fri. 12:10 p.m. **Mass** (Pat O'Sullivan) (+) Chapel

Isa 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25, 2 Cor 1:18-22,

Gospel: (Mark 2:1-12)

Feb. 21 8:30 a.m. **Mass** Winter Chapel
Sat 3:30 p.m. Reconciliation Church
 5:00 p.m. **Mass** Church
 6:15 p.m. Social Justice Movie Night Library

7th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Isa 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25, 2 Cor 1:18-22,

Gospel: (Mark 2:1-12)

Feb. 22 8:30 a.m. **Mass** Church
Sun. 9:45 a.m. RE/ F. Comm/ F. Rec. Parish Center
 9:45 a.m. No Coffee Hour Parish Hall
 11:00 a.m. **Mass** Church
 6:00 p.m. SALT Upper Room/Assumption

Assumption School News 733-6133

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. Contact the school to learn more. Save the Date - -March 26 is our Pre-School Open House!
School News continued in next column...

Burning of Palms for Ash Wednesday

The 4th-5th grade RE Class and Boy Scouts will be burning palms for Ash Wednesday, during RE on Sunday, Feb.22. If you would like to include your old palms, please bring them to Mass next week and place them in the receptacle located in the back of the Church. The ashes from the burned palms will be used during our Ash Wednesday Liturgies.

Schedule Change for March Baptismal Prep. Class: the March class will be on Sunday, March 8 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Lenten Journey for Life

Sacred Heart is holding a Tues./Thurs. Lenten Journey for Life consisting of peaceful, prayer vigils outside Planned Parenthood. We stand in solidarity with the 40 Days for Life Program, which expresses itself in 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, 40 days of constant, peaceful vigil outside abortion centers and Planned Parenthood offices and 40 days of active pro-life community outreach. If you are interested in participating in our parish effort, please contact: Rebecca Gonnella at 360-738-6976, or e-mail nmg9@msn.com.

FOCA Postcards

Over 1,070 postcards were posted and sent out from Sacred Heart Catholic church to our Congressman and Senators to let them know we wish them to be advocates for life, and to fight FOCA (Freedom of Choice Act). A great big thank you to the Mom's group under the leadership of Angela McGillivray who cut and stamped each postcard. Also thank you to the Social Justice and Respect Life Committees who generously paid for the postage.

Sacred Heart's Stewardship Report February 7 & 8, 2009

Envelopes (188)	\$ 8,358.05
Visitors	\$ 554.63
Children (1)	<u>\$ 1.00</u>
Total Sunday Income	\$ 8,913.68
Weekly Budget Need	\$ 8,097.11
Initial Offering	\$ 0.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 481.00
Building & Grounds	\$ 45.00
Assumption School	\$ 85.00

Assumption School News continued.

Registration for 2008-2009: 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 Catholic School (733-6133) for a tour and a meeting with the principal.

"Growing Great Kids" Auction: On-line auction (new this year!) began February 5 and continues through February 19. Participate by going to <http://acs-bidz4kidz.cmarket.com>. Enter the raffle to win a night in the Hotel Bellwether **and** two tickets to the auction! The gala event this year is at the Hotel Bellwether on February 21 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Join us for dinner, live auction, and dancing! Please call the school (733-6133) for tickets for the raffle or gala!