


December 20, 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
From Bethlehem shall come one who will rule Israel. Born of Mary, the servant of the Lord, He will protect and save us, offering himself once and for all in doing the Father's will.



WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

December 21	10:30 AM	
Lee Overbey		RIP
December 23	6:00 PM	
Chuck Bacco		RIP
December 24	4:00 PM	
Pro Populo		
	7:00 PM	
Ted Johnson		RIP
	10:00 PM	
Mary Story		RIP
December 25	9:30 PM	
Clarence Pitzer		RIP
December 26	5:00 PM	
John & Nina Sternhagen		RIP
December 27	8:30 AM	
Peter Tran		RIP
	10:30 AM	
Peggy O'Neill		RIP
	12:30 PM	
Pro Populo		

SI = Special Intention
RIP = Rest in Peace
Pro Populo = For the people of the parish



This week the Sanctuary Lamp burns in honor of:
 Carolyn Daley

Daily Worship
Week of December 20, 2015

Monday, December 21 <i>Saint Peter Canisius</i>	Song of Songs 2:8-14 Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday, December 22	1 Samuel 1:24-28 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8d Luke 1:46-56
Wednesday, December 23 <i>Saint John of Kanty</i>	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Psalm 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14 Luke 1:57-66
Thursday, December 24 Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord	Isaiah 9:1-6 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-20
Friday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord	Isaiah 9:1-6 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-20
Saturday, December 26 Saint Stephen	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6-8ab, 16bc, 17 Matthew 10:17-22
Sunday, December 27 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph	1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 Luke 2:41-52



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24th Christmas Eve
 Children's Mass 4:00 pm
 (There will be no incense at the 4:00 pm Mass.)
 Youth/Multilingual Mass 7:00 pm
 Solemn Night Mass 10:00 pm
December 25th Christmas Day
 Mass 9:30 AM
 Come early to enjoy the caroling that begins one half hour before Mass.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Fridays, 1:30-3:30 PM in the Stafford Room
 We will be closed for Christmas Day and for New Year's Day. We shall miss you and look forward to seeing you again in January.

EVENING PRAYER and EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Please note:
Adoration of the Blessed Sacraments, Benediction, and the Wednesday 6:00 PM Mass will resume the first week of January.

Are you being called to spend an hour with the Lord? We especially need someone on Tuesdays at 11:30 PM and Wednesdays at 1:30 & 2:30 AM and 3:30 & 4:30 in afternoon. If you are able to help, call Linda at 595-4366.

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

Wednesday eves. after Mass from 6:45-8:30 PM

It is with regret that Assumption Healing prayer ministry has been cancelled as of Wednesday Dec. 16 until Jan. 13. It is planned to reopen as a mid-morning week day ministry. We wish you all a Holy and Joyous Christmas.



CONSIDER JESUS

Discover Jesus as our Brother, High Priest, Sacrifice, and Shepherd during the 9-week Adult Bible Study **HEBREWS: CONSIDER JESUS**, beginning Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, in the Stafford Room. Sessions are held at 1 p.m., also at 7 p.m., for your convenience. Cost is \$10. To pre-register or for further info. call Christine at 671-9712.

BAPTISMAL CLASSES

The next baptismal classes will be on Saturday, Jan. 9 & 16 at 9:30 AM in the Stafford room. You must attend both classes.

ENGAGED CHURCH—IN MY PARISH MY SPIRITUAL NEEDS ARE MET.

OUR SCHOOL

As one of their service-learning projects the third grade decorated sacks for use by the Hope House Street Ministry. It is a simple activity but provides a rich opportunity to help students reflect upon homelessness, its impact upon the lives of individuals and the communities in which they live, as well as our Catholic understanding of serving others.

CONFIRMATION FOR CATHOLIC ADULTS

Adult Catholics seeking the sacrament of confirmation are welcome to join us for a series of preparation classes on Tuesday evenings beginning Jan. 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library. Please contact Gina DePalma in the parish office with any questions. Thank you!

2016 CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS EDUCATION CONTEST

THEMES: WE ARE STEWARDS of GOD'S CREATION or HOW DO WE CARE for the ENVIRONMENT?

Details for this contest are posted on the Assumption Parish Website. We accept entries in Poetry, Essay, Art, Computer Art, Music, and Photography, due Feb. 1, 2016.

Contact Jo Hulse at jbuurmanhulse@gmail.com with any questions and to arrange pick-up of submission.

BUS TO THE MARCH FOR LIFE

The Knights of Columbus again have chartered a bus that will go to the March for Life in Olympia on Tuesday, January 19. The bus will leave from Assumption at 6:00am and return by 5:00pm. The trip will include the Mass for Life at St. Martin's University, celebrated by Archbishop Sartain, and a rally on the steps of the capitol. Very little walking involved. \$25 donation suggested. Call Joe St.Hilaire, 671-4836, for details.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A LOVING MARRIAGE

Have you and your spouse drifted apart over the years? Are you simply going through the motions, but wish your marriage could be much more than that? Do you think it's impossible to have a warm and loving marriage? Think again. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) can help. For confidential information about, or to register for our upcoming program beginning **Jan 22-24, 2016**, call **360-671-6479** or visit our website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.



SAVE THE DATE

Ministry Fair
Jan. 2 & 3, 2016

YES, WE CAN! YES, WE DO!
OUR HOMEBOUND MINISTERS,
We make weekly visits to homes and facilities, rehab, nursing homes, and assisted living. We bring the HOLY EUCHARIST to those unable to attend services. For additional information about the Homebound Ministry, please visit us at the Ministry Fair, Jan. 2 & 3. We hope to see you there!



Year of Mercy Weekly Reflection

Theme: God's Enduring Mercy (12/20/15)
"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him." (Luke 1:46-50)

Reflection: Reflect on Mary's great faith and willing submission to God's call. What have you experienced or witnessed that causes you to trust in God's mercy?

If you would like to share a reflection or make a comment, please visit our Year of Mercy blog at <http://ams1516blog.blogspot.com>. This is a moderated blog site, so it may take upwards of 24 hours for comments to appear.

PREPARES/FATHERHOOD GROUP

Prepares, which is a statewide initiative of the Catholic Bishops of Washington State, now has training for and wants to start a Fatherhood Group for Assumption Parish. We are looking for Men willing to start and lead this group. The leaders of this group would meet with other Father's and help them with parenting skills and emotional support.

If you are interested in being involved in the Fatherhood Group or want more information, please call Prepares at Assumption Church 733-1380 ext. 4245. Leave a message and your call will be returned. Kathy Kelso, Prepares Parish Area Coordinator.

FAITH FORMATION, SCHOOL, PARISH EVENTS

ATTENTION SCRIP SUPPORTERS

Please support our school by purchasing Scrip. It is available on the first and third Sunday of each month between the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM Masses. Thank you for your support!

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Floyd Carpenter
Chris Formichella
Don Veltum
Capt. Mark Bieda
Capt. Trevor Corrigan
Adam Honda
Jason Woolsey
Steve Ploog
Corey McDaniel
Patrick Kelley
Patrick L. Blake
Capt. Paul Cleary
Michael Condit
Gabriel Feely
John Hutson
Gabriel Rodriguez
Steven Faecke
Lt Col Gregory DeMarco
Keanu Franco
Michael Dahl
Matt Edge
Kurt DeVries
2nd Lt. Garrett Burnham
Bob Iverson
Lt. Michael Bertschinger
Capt. Eric Stein
Caleb Trotter

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Monday, December 21st

10:30 AM Mass
11:30 AM Centering Prayer
6:00 PM Frassati Young Adult Group
6:30 PM Bible-based Weight Loss
7:00 PM Posadas

Tuesday, December 22nd

7:00 PM Posadas

Wednesday, December 23rd

6:00 PM No Mass & No Word and Communion
7:00 PM Posadas

Thursday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Day ~ Parish office closed

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Children's Mass
7:00 PM Christmas Eve Youth/Multilingual Mass
10:00 PM Christmas Eve Solemn Night Mass

Friday, December 25th

Christmas Day ~ Parish office closed

9:30 AM Christmas Mass
12:00 PM Lighthouse Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 26th

3:30 PM Reconciliation
4:00 PM Cantor Rehearsal
5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, December 27th

7:45 AM Choir Rehearsal
8:30 AM Mass
8:30 AM RCIA/C Dismissal
8:30 AM RCIA Dismissal
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM MFCC
10:30 AM Mass
11:00 AM Ensayo de Coro
12:30 PM Misa

Church
Stafford
Stafford
PCLR
Gym

Gym

Church
Gym

Church
Church
Church

Church
Gym

Church
St. Cecilia
Church

Church
Church
Stafford
PCLR
Church
Room 1
Church
St. Cecilia
Iglesia



Hope House staff and clients would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Blessed and Holy Christmas with your families. Your generosity made this season brighter for 450 children this year! This parish and community continue to astound me with the outpouring of love for those less fortunate in our midst. I wish I could magically let you see the big grins and shining eyes of the children when they come with their parents to pick up their gifts—truly heaven's light shining down! Thank you so much!

Hope House will be closed Dec. 19 - Jan. 3 to give our volunteer staff well deserved time off with their families. We will re-open on Monday, Jan. 4 with our normal hours. In the meantime, we are not accepting donations of any kind until January.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Cheri Woolsey

PRO-LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

Come and pray with us once a month on the 3rd Sunday for one hour from 2 - 3pm at Whatcom County's abortion clinic: Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood (1530 Ellis St. in Bellingham). Our monthly vigil will be Sunday, Dec. 20, rain or shine.

In addition to our usual prayers, this month we will sing Christmas carols. 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, 671-4836.

RACHEL'S CORNER

HOPE AND HEALING AFTER ABORTION

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people . . . in the city of David a Savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord."

- Luke 2:10-11

May the unending love of Our Savior fill your heart with hope, grace, and peace this Christmas. Do not be afraid.

We can help you on a Rachel's Vineyard™ retreat.

March 4-6, 2016 Seabeck WA

April 15-17, 2016 Stanwood WA

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

You are loved with an everlasting Love!

Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services.





NO LIFETEEN MASS
December 27 and January 3.



2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Please remove this calendar from the bulletin and post. Check the weekly bulletin for location of January events and all the other activities taking place at Assumption.

3 <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i> Ministry Fair 9:30AM and 11:30AM No 5PM Mass	4 Word & Communion Service 10:30AM	5 Adult Confirmation Class begins 7PM	6 St. Joseph Hospital Mass 2PM Faith Formation Commission 7PM	7 HAPPY NEW YEAR	8 <i>1 Mary, Mother of God</i> Office Closed Mary, Mother of God bilingual Mass 10:30AM	9 Liturgy Planning Team 1PM Clase de Bautismo 3PM Ministry Fair 6PM
10 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> Youth Confirmation Retreat final day	11	12	13 Spiritual Life & Worship 7PM PTC General Meeting 7PM	14	15	16 Baptism Class 9:30AM Clase de Catechismo 2PM
17	18 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> Office Closed No Mass or Word & Communion	19  Holy Hoops 3PM	20 Holy Hoops 3PM School Commission 7PM	21 Holy Hoops 3PM	22 Used Uniform Sale 8AM-5PM Holy Hoops 3PM 	23 Leadership Discernment 10AM
24 Confirmation Rite #2 12:30PM Campaign Project Committee 2PM	25 <i>Conversion of St. Paul</i>	26	27 Life, Justice & Peace 7PM	28 Pastoral Care Committee 7PM Finance Council 7PM	29 Fulcrum Dinner in Seattle 5:30PM	30  Community Meal 1PM
31 Catholic Schools Week 						

PARISH STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

	Wk(12/13/2015)	Month	YTD
Contributions needed:	\$18,077	\$ 36,154	\$ 433,848
Contributions received:	\$22,246	\$ 43,289	\$ 406,290
Over/ under for wk/mo/yr	\$ 4,169	\$ 7,135	-\$ 27,558

Thank you for sharing God's blessings with our parish community.

Debt Reduction	Wk(12/13/2015)	Month	YTD
Contributions needed:	\$ 1,058	\$ 2,116	\$ 25,392
Contributions received:	\$ 410	\$ 1,238	\$ 16,316
Over/ Under for wk/mo/yr	-\$ 648	-\$ 878	-\$ 9,076

GIFTS FROM THE OTHER HALF OF OUR STEWARDSHIP GIVING

Hope House	\$	831
Christmas Flowers	\$	125

Thank you for sharing God's blessings with the larger community.

FAITHFUL STEWARDS

For the sharing of their time and talent with Assumption Parish, we acknowledge:

Marylou Alvarez, Grace Bob & Pat Lund

We want to thank Marylou, Grace and Pat for their many years as Floral Committee members. They have made amazing floral arrangements that beautified our church week after week. Now they are retiring and we thank them for the dedication, talent, and joy they have shared with our parish community through their beautiful arrangements.

TAX PLANNING

Any gifts or payments you want credited to the **2015 calendar year for tax purposes** need to be in the parish office by December 31st. Please note: The parish office will be closed Dec. 24th through Jan 1st. You can mail your gift or place it in the collection basket at any of the December masses. If you are mailing in the payment, the **postmark must be stamped by Dec 31, 2015 in order to be applied in the 2015 calendar year.**

PLEDGE PAYMENT REMINDER

As we near the end of the calendar year, now is the time to catch up on any missed pledge payments. We will be reporting your 2015 contributions to you in January. Also, in January the parish must make the annual pension plan payment, so any additional cash flow at this time would be very much appreciated.



You are invited to join THE NORTHERN DEANERY SERRA CLUB

How would you like to affirm our priests and religious? Foster vocations in the Catholic family? Pray for vocations? Learn about the paths to the priesthood and religious life and help those on the way? Invite others to consider a religious vocation? If you have a heart for vocations and a love for our priests and religious, please attend our next meeting, Saturday, Jan. 9, following the 5 pm Mass at Sacred Heart. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month at that time. Questions? Call Vince Griego, 360-201-0258.

A Stewardship Moment

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. This model of good stewardship, who had given herself to bear the Savior, gave her time and love to others as well.

Un Momento De Corresponsabilidad

El Evangelio de hoy cuenta como la Virgen María, ella misma embarazada, se fue de prisa para ayudar a su prima Isabel. Es ejemplo de la buena administración de los bienes de Dios, ella que se había ofrecido a llevar en su vientre al Salvador dio también su tiempo y amor a los demás.



Almighty God,

We thank You for all the gifts You have given us; our lives, our loved ones, in short all that we are and all that we have.

Most of all, we thank You for Jesus, Your son and our redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life.

Jesus was the perfect steward of Your gifts, showing us that complete trust in You is necessary and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him.

Please help us to grow in Your love and in the strength to give of ourselves to others so that we may follow Your son's example and help all people to complete His mission of salvation.

May our every offering of our time, talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your son and our Lord.

Amen