

Never Isolated in Christ

YOUR WEEKLY VIEW BEHIND THE MASK OF ASSUMPTION PARISH

JUNE 18, 2020

*For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:
By waiting and by calm you shall be saved,
in quiet and in trust shall be your strength.*

*Truly, the LORD is waiting to be gracious to you,
truly, he shall rise to show you mercy;
For the LORD is a God of justice:
happy are all who wait for him!*

-Isaiah 30:15, 18

Pastor's Note

Dear Assumption Parishioners,

Of all the problems to have, too many people signing up for Mass is the one that feels most like a blessing. Now that our church is able to reopen on a limited basis, people are hurrying to come back to Mass, and we are struggling to accommodate them. Praise God! Our parishioners have remained strong in their faith and have even increased in their longing for the graces of the Mass. Jesus truly has not let this pandemic go to waste.

Nevertheless, I beg your continued patience over the next several weeks. While Phase 2 has allowed us to return to our church building, this pandemic is far from over and our parish life is still far from normal. There are going to be a lot of hiccups and a lot of speed bumps as we try to live our faith as fully as possible in spite of continued restrictions. The Lord is certainly in control, but sometimes he leaves the details to well-intentioned but fallible priests, staff, and volunteers.

For now, I just hope we take time to appreciate all the moments of blessing that are going to present themselves in the coming weeks. For many of us, it was a profound moment to experience public Mass in our church for the first-time last weekend, a moment that many more of us are still anticipating. And this week I had my first greasy burger at a sit-down restaurant, which I must say was also good for my soul. When a global pandemic has stripped away so many things from us, we would do well to give thanks every time one of them is given back.

People say that this crisis, like the World Wars and the Great Depression, will be "era-defining;" that each of us will live the rest of our lives marked by, and in response to, these experiences. I hope that our life-long response, then, is to forever give thanks for the blessings, large and small.

May the Lord bless you, as he always does!

Fr. Moore

Parish News

Fr. Moore on vacation

Fr. Moore will be on vacation June 22 – 26, so there will be no streaming daily Masses or parish letter next week.

Daily Mass times returning to normal

In order to get us ready to resume in-person daily Mass, we will be moving our daily Masses back to their normal times, beginning on June 29:

- **Monday:** Variable; streaming not guaranteed, depending on Fr. Moore's schedule
- **Tuesday:** 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday and Thursday:** 7:15 a.m.
- **Friday:** 8:15 a.m.
 - Fr. Moore is permanently moving the Friday Mass to this time, even during the school year, so that he can accommodate 10:30 a.m. funerals on Fridays.

A new approach to streaming

Now that people are physically present at Mass, Fr. Moore has to prioritize the *in-person* experience over the *streaming* experience, meaning that there are going to be a few changes which you may have already noticed.

1. The camera will not be centered, so that it does not distract from the altar for those attending in person. (We will, however, be more careful about candles in the future.)
2. Fr. Moore will not read the Act of Spiritual Communion, though we encourage you to pray it on your own if you are streaming at home. The text can be found [in English](#) or [in Spanish](#).
3. The sound may be different, as Fr. Moore is now using a microphone.

Paris staff changes

Back in January, due to budgeting restrictions, Fr. Moore was forced to reduce staffing hours, effective July 01, 2020. He also updated job descriptions at the same time. A summary of July 1st staff responsibilities is included here (excluding part-time staff).

Administrative

Karen Zuther: Parish administration, including finances and human resources.

Claudia Maeda: Receptionist, also responsible for the parish bulletin and parish database.

Ted Cronk: Facilities supervisor.

Pastoral

Dr. Kathy Ernst: Parish Life, Pastoral Care, and Outreach. (That is, the communal and service aspects of parish life.)

Gina DePalma: Faith Formation (birth to 5th grade, adults), Baptism, First Communion, RCIA.

April Jordan-Hulsey: Faith Formation (6th – 12th grade, young adults), Confirmation.

Adriana Estrada: Hispanic community liaison, faith formation registrar (i.e. all faith formation registration and scheduling).

Frederick Mabalot: Music and Liturgy (including liturgical ministries, effective January 1st, 2021).

In addition, Kathy and Adriana retain responsibility for weddings and funerals in English and Spanish, respectively.

Deacon Larry is not a paid member of the parish staff but lives out his diaconal vocation in many important ways at our parish, especially through preaching and service to the marginalized.

Other Organizations

Faith on Fire / Sparks of Faith

In a normal July, St. Mary's Parish in Anacortes hosts a large faith gathering (nay, *revival*) called "Faith on Fire" which includes talks, sacraments, and lots of faithful community (augmented by sleeping in tents on the parish lawn). This year, due to the COVID-19 shutdown, they have had to move to a one-day, online-only version ("Sparks of Faith"). However, for many people, this change makes the event more accessible and makes this year the perfect opportunity to participate.

More information about the online-event, and the keynote talk by Dr. Mary Healy, can be found at

<https://stmaryanacortes.org/Faith-Formation/Faith-On-Fire>

Update from Interfaith Coalition

"In times of crisis, we must all decide again and again whom we love." (poet Frank O'Hara)

Thank you for continuing to love and serve your neighbors in need during the COVID-19 crisis. Here is an update of what has been happening in Interfaith Coalition programs this past month.

Family Promise (FP) continues to house families at one generous congregation and FP congregations provide food and other necessities. Four families from our Housing Programs, including one in FP moved into permanent housing in May, and volunteers and donors helped with furnishings and moving, as well as getting the units ready for more families to move in. At one of these move-ins, Housing Mgr. Shannon shared that one mom was so excited that she forgot social distancing protocols and grabbed Shannon and gave her a big hug. That hug, and her thanks, is virtually shared with all of YOU!

Generous donors and volunteers have ensured that CAST (Coffee and Sandwiches Together) continues to provide sandwiches, prepackaged food, fresh fruit, and masks 3 nights a week for our many guests, and one guest has become CAST's most dedicated volunteer.

Kevin Allen-Schmid, founder of the local Choir of the Salish Sea, was moved by the call for social justice and reform and coordinated a virtual choir of over 60 people to sing for justice and help for our neighbors in need. The project was graciously created to raise support and donations for Interfaith Coalition to foster hope and healing in our community.

So many of you continue choosing love and hope in this time of crisis! Check out the beautiful "Bright Morning Stars Are Rising" performance plus read a story about the special CAST guest in our latest E-newsletter: <https://conta.cc/2Ak2a9W>.

THANK YOU, and virtual hugs, from your grateful neighbors.