

NORTHWEST CORNER CATHOLIC

Sunday of Divine Mercy · April 12, 2026



A PROUD PART OF WHATCOM CATHOLIC (PARISH FAMILY #2) · WHATCOMCATHOLIC.ORG · STJOSEPHFERNDALE.ORG



St Joseph
5781 Hendrickson Ave, Ferndale
SCAN TO GIVE



St Anne
604 H Street, Blaine
SCAN TO GIVE



St Joachim
4180 Lummi Shore Rd, Bellingham
SCAN TO GIVE

PARISH OFFICE: Myra@stjosephferndale.org · 360-384-3651

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

GOLF FORE SEMINARIANS

WHEN: Tuesday, August 4, 2026, 11:00—6:30PM
WHERE: The Golf Club at Redmond Ridge

Golf Fore Seminarians is the Archdiocese of Seattle's premier fundraising event to benefit seminarian education, hosted by Archbishop Etienne and the Crozier Society. With your help, we can reach our goal to raise \$250,000 to support our seminarians.

RESPONSE TO THE SEATTLE TIMES

The Archdiocese of Seattle has issued a formal response to a recent *Seattle Times* op-ed regarding transparency and the protection of victim survivors. This letter provides important context regarding the Church's ongoing commitment to safety, the privacy of survivors, and the progress made over the last 40 years.

ROOF RECOVERY APPEAL

Last fall we completed a necessary roof replacement to prevent further water damage and protect our parish facilities. This work was essential to avoid much larger, long-term repairs.

To recover financially we must raise \$73,000 in one-time gifts. Contributions are gratefully accepted. For full details, read Fr. Moore's complete letter on the [St Joseph Website](http://www.stjosephferndale.org).

PARISH NEWS

PASTOR'S NOTE

HOLY WEEK THANK YOU

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who made our Holy Week and Easter celebrations possible. I have heard wonderful reports from across the county. I know having a bunch of really important, really complex liturgies all in a row can be very taxing on our volunteers and ministers, but your efforts make all the difference. I believe we were able to worship the Lord with incredible dignity because of everything you did.

LISTENING SESSION VIDEO AND NEEDS

Now that the Holy Week and Easter celebrations are behind us, we are turning our attention squarely to the upcoming Listening Sessions. This round is especially important, as it gets to the heart of what Partners in the Gospel was designed to address.

We Need Recorders! – The quality of our synthesis reports are directly related to the quality of our recorders. We are in special need of people with laptops, who can record direct quotes as they are spoken in the Listening Sessions. Ideally, our synthesis report should just be a list of representative quotes tied together, but that is only possible with good volunteers. If you are willing to serve as a recorder, please indicate that when you register at <https://www.whatcomcatholic.org/sessions>.

Please Register – Speaking of which, please do register for an upcoming listening session, so that we can be sure to have enough facilitators and recorders at each location. <https://www.whatcomcatholic.org/sessions>

Video Preview – I recorded a video explaining why this Listening Session is so important and what we hope to get out of it. You are welcome to watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtRX7NL8v68>. Be warned, we will also be showing this video at the beginning of each Listening Session, so you may be subjected to me twice.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL SPEAKERS

I would like to begin featuring parishioner speakers during Annual Catholic Appeal and Stewardship seasons. I know there are some really compelling stories of grace in our pews, and it is as much a service to the souls in our churches as it is to the fundraising efforts for us to hear these testimonies regularly.

Would you pray about whether you have a testimony that you can share? A story of how God carried you through difficult times, and how you try to give back to God in return? Or a story about how your practice of tithing helped you to grow in virtue?

Again, to hear such a testimony is a service to me and to your fellow parishioners. If you are willing to give a testimony on one of our ACA weekends, please e-mail me (frmoore@whatcomcatholic.org) and copy your Location Manager (<https://www.whatcomcatholic.org/staff>), hopefully before May 01.

PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

LISTENING SESSIONS



REGISTER:
[English](#) · [Español](#)

The PFAC is with some urgency, inviting you to sign up for one of the upcoming listening sessions that will focus on Opportunities and Challenges that appear in the recently posted Viability Metrics report at Whatcom-Catholic.org.

Our Archbishop and our Pastor are asking each one of us to consider how we can use the opportunities to further our connections to all who live in our county. And address Challenges that exist, that limit how we respond in living the Gospel.

It seems by the nature of the questions that we have been given to answer in the listening sessions, we need to address them with thoughtful prayer more like Mary who sat at the feet of Christ and not so much like Martha (Luke 10:41–42). Join with us as we allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

The time for registration for a listening session is now, and we need all of us to participate by attending a session

and if possible, volunteering to help make the sessions a success.

LISTENING SESSION SCHEDULE:

- SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2PM, Sacred Heart, Bellingham
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 10AM, St Anne, Blaine
- FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 7PM, St Joseph, Ferndale (Spanish)
- SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 10AM, St Joseph, Lynden
- TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 6:30PM, St Joseph, Ferndale
- SATURDAY, MAY 2, 10AM, Assumption, Bellingham

CHURCH EVENTS

ST JOSEPH SMALL MEN'S GROUP

WHEN: Thursdays, 6:30–8:30PM
WHERE: St Joseph, Ferndale, Disciples Den

Looking for a place to grow in faith, build strong friendships, and dive deeper into God's Word?

Come be part of our Men's Small Group at St Joseph in Ferndale. We will be meeting every Thursday in the Disciple's Den. We read and discuss the Bible, encourage one another, and strengthen our walk with Christ in a welcoming and supportive environment. We are currently reading through the Ignatius Study Bible and we will be starting on the Epistles of John.

Whether you're new to Scripture or have been studying for years, all men are welcome. No pressure—just honest conversation, shared faith, and a chance to grow together.

CONTACT: David Day · 360-594-9426

THE 10:10 CHALLENGE

WHEN: Thursdays, 10:30AM–Noon
WHERE: St Anne, Blaine Hall

In John 10:10, Jesus tells us why he came: “that they may have life and have it more abundantly.” The 10:10 Challenge is an invitation to strengthen ten core practices that Jesus lived which make up the ever-ancient yet ever-new way of discipleship. Daily readings and prayer guides will fuel our weekly discussions as we grow together in community as Jesus' disciples.

CONTACT: Christy Lloyd
PHONE: 360-332-2210 EMAIL: pilgrimsquill@yahoo.com

MARIAN CONSECRATION

WHEN: Sunday, April 26, 4PM
WHERE: Assumption School Gym

A Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary will be led by Danila van Veen and Michele King, beginning Sunday, April 26, at 4pm in the school gym and continuing through the month of May.

Participants will follow the book 33 Days to Morning Glory by Fr. Michael Gaitley, with a focus on prayer, reflection, and Marian devotion. This opportunity is open to those making a first consecration as well as those wishing to renew a previous one.

CONTACT: Michele 360-820-3815
CONTACT: Danila 360-612-2212

HANGING BASKET FUNDRAISER

SALE ENDS: Friday, April 17
PICK UP: Friday, May 1, during school pick-up

This year Assumption Catholic School's 8th grade class will be holding our annual Hanging Basket Fundraiser!

We are excited to offer you a wide range of beautiful 12" Premium Hanging Baskets grown by Van Winderger Greenhouses. Each basket cost \$50.

WEBSITE: vwfundraiser.com/org/assumptioncatholic

ST ANNE ALTAR SOCIETY NOTE

Please note that we will not be hosting our all-church potluck for the month of April.

We look forward to gathering again in May on the 16th after the 5 pm Mass.

CELEBRATE OUR FIRST COMMUNICATIONS

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, after the 5PM Mass
WHERE: St Anne

Please join us in honoring the children of our parish as they receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time.

The Altar Society will be hosting a celebratory reception immediately following Mass. We invite all parishioners to stay for cake and refreshments.

A NOTE FROM ST ANNE OUTREACH



First and foremost, I want to thank St Anne parishioners who generously donate to the Outreach program. Outreach funds enabled us to host a Community meal at Blaine Senior Center in March.

The community was welcomed with big smiles, delicious food, entertainment by Blaine High School choir and our own Fr. Stephan Daas. It was a good opportunity to connect with the community. What a night!

This couldn't have happened without dedicated St Anne volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the evening to ensure the Community was served. A Big thank you to all volunteers...you were amazing!

*Blessings,
TERRY*

SCHOOL NEWS

SPIRIT WEEKEND

WHEN: April 11-12th

Students will wear school uniforms at all Masses this weekend. Assumption Catholic School has openings in select grades, and families interested in enrollment are encouraged to speak with current parents or contact the office. On Sunday morning, school families will host coffee and donuts in the gym.

OFFICE: 360-733-6133

MENCHIE'S ICE CREAM

WHEN: April 15th and 16th
WHERE: Menchie's Ice Cream, Lakeway Center

If you like ice cream or its time to try a new treat, stop by Menchie's Ice Cream on April 15th and 16th. This fundraiser will help the 8th grade class on their trip to WA DC. 20% of proceeds raised will go directly to helping the students. Thank you for your support.

NDHS: A MILESTONE MOMENT

We are pleased to inform you that we formally submitted the Northern Deanery High School application to the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) in early March. Pending OCS approval, it will advance to the Archbishop for final authorization to establish an Archdiocesan Category 1 high school. The goal is to welcome our first students in the fall of 2027.

Since day one, the school's Steering Committee has worked in close partnership with the Archdiocese of Seattle. That collaboration continues throughout the application

review process. Rooted in faith and guided by a shared vision, we are committed to building a school grounded in faith, community, and academic excellence.

Our governance model will reflect this same clarity of purpose. Pending approval, OCS will provide leadership and oversight of the school on behalf of the Archbishop. OCS and its Superintendent support strong academics, faithful Catholic identity, and sound operations. The Archbishop serves as Canonical Authority of the school, safeguarding mission and Church teaching, while the Superintendent ensures academic excellence, leadership development, and alignment with Archdiocesan policies.

At the school level, a Board of Directors, approved by the Archbishop, will guide strategic direction, oversee finances, develop policy, and support the principal. The board serves as an advisory body to the Superintendent and as ambassadors to the broader community. It does not manage daily operations but ensures the long-term vitality of the school's mission.

The Principal will lead the daily life of the school, including academics, operations, faith formation, and faculty leadership. Reporting to the Board on governance matters and to the Superintendent on mission and policy, the principal ensures unity across all aspects of school life. This model provides clarity, accountability, and a strong Catholic foundation for generations to come.

We are deeply grateful for the partnership and support of the Archdiocese of Seattle and the Office of Catholic Schools, and we remain hopeful and prayerful as this process moves forward. We anticipate a final decision from Archbishop Etienne this spring, and we humbly ask that you keep this important mission in your prayers as we look forward to sharing an update with our community soon.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

CRS RICE BOWL: THANK YOU

Together, we changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl. THANK YOU for being a part of this effort! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl to the parish office or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS MEETING

WHEN: April 18th, 2PM

WHERE: Assumption School Library

The next Catholic Daughters of the Americas meeting will be on April 18th in the school library at 2pm. All women 18 years and older are invited to attend. We will be saying the rosary first and then hold a short business meeting. The CDA group will be planning their upcoming events. And a spring bake sale will take place the following day on April 19th after all the masses.

CONTACT: Sandy Malpezzi 360-510-7135 (Ferndale)

CONTACT: Michele King 360-820-3815

AGAPE SERVICE PROJECT — SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE

Middle and high school youth can still sign up for the Agape Service Project this summer to serve local farm-worker families in Whatcom County and grow in faith and community. For registration information, please contact Agape coordinator Jennifer Lautenbach. Registration deadline is May 1.

LEARN MORE: archseattle.org/agape

EMAIL: jennifer.lautenbach@seattlearch.org

PHONE: 206-382-4865

RACHEL'S VINEYARD HEALING RETREAT

SPANISH: Friday, June 5–Sunday, June 7

ENGLISH: Friday, Sept. 25–Sunday, Sept 27

MEN'S RETREAT: Saturday, Oct. 10–Sunday, Oct 11

All inquiries are confidential. *Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services. You are loved with an everlasting Love!*

ENGLISH: 206-920-6413 SPANISH: 206-450-7814

WEB: ccsww.org/projectrachel

EMAIL: projectrachel@ccsww.org

FACEBOOK: [@projectrachelww](https://www.facebook.com/projectrachelww)

PREPARES DONATIONS NEEDED

The St. Joseph, Lynden PREPARES program serves 50–70 families once a month with diapers, wipes, a children’s clothing boutique, food from Miracle Food Network, and other household essentials.

- **iPAD (x3):** This will be used to register clients and communicate with participants, allowing for a more streamlined experience.
- **WASHER:** This will be used to wash donated clothes.
- **TENT CANOPY AND WEIGHTS (x2):** This will be used to shield those who stand in line to enter the boutique during the winter and summer

CONTACT: Beatriz bvizcaya@gmail.com

UPCOMING

Wednesday, April 15 — *Easter Weekday*

4:30PM Teen Adoration St Joseph

Thursday, April 16 — *Easter Weekday*

8:30AM Confessions St Anne

9:00AM Mass † *Terry Shoemaker* St Anne

5:00PM Mass St Joachim

6:30PM Men’s Bible Study St Joseph

Friday, April 17 — *Easter Weekday*

9:00AM Mass † St Joseph

Saturday, April 18 — *Easter Weekday*

3:00PM Confessions St Joseph

Sunday, April 19 — *Third Sunday of Easter*

8:15AM Confessions St Joachim

8:30AM Mass St Joachim

10:30AM Mass † St Joseph

Noon Youth Group St Joseph

*The Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before the Mass.

†The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed following the Mass.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

ST JOSEPH RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

DROP-OFF: Friday, May 15, 9am–2PM

SALE: Saturday, May 16, 8am–2PM

WHERE: St Joseph, Ferndale Social Hall

Donations of clean, usable clothing and household items are welcome. St Mary’s Guild is unable to accept televisions, computers, electronics, baby car seats, Christmas trees, large furniture, or appliances. Hot dogs and baked goods will be available for purchase during the sale.

VIKING CATHOLIC

WEDNESDAYS: 5PM, 714 N. Garden St

SUNDAYS: 5PM, Sacred Heart, 1110 14th St

Viking Catholic is open to all young adults ages 18–25. We offer Catholic community, bible studies, retreats, service opportunities, and more. Find your people, grow in faith. Join us on Wednesdays for Mass at 5PM and dinner after (714 N. Garden St.) or Sunday Mass at 5PM and dinner after at Sacred Heart. We can’t wait to get to know you!

WEBSITE: vikingcatholic.org INSTAGRAM: [@vikingcatholic](https://www.instagram.com/vikingcatholic)

WEEKLY ADORATION AT ASSUMPTION CHURCH

WHEN: Thursdays, 9:00AM to Fridays 8:45AM

WHERE: Assumption Church

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Whatcom Catholic begins after the Thursday 8:15AM Mass and concludes with Benediction. New adorers are needed for mid-hour time slots (starting at :30) to ensure continuous attendance. Contact Cynthia Bentley for more information.

PHONE: 360-820-9594 EMAIL: CWithGod@yahoo.com

JESUS DAY CAMP

WHEN: June 22–26

WHERE: St Joseph, Ferndale

Save the Date for Jesus Day Camp.

ST JOSEPH ADOPT A FLOWERBED

Help care for our parish flowerbeds on your own schedule. Primarily weeding and light trimming. If you already maintain a bed or would like to adopt one, call Nita Harksell or speak with her after Sunday Mass.

PHONE: 360-380-6134

CYBER SECURITY & PHISHING AWARENESS



CYBER CRIMINALS ARE INCREASINGLY MORE LIKELY TO TRY TO IMPERSONATE CLERGY AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH STAFF TO STEAL PERSONAL INFORMATION OR SOLICIT MONEY. THESE FRIENDLY REMINDERS WILL HELP YOU STAY SAFE.

01

WHAT IS PHISHING

Phishing is a scam where criminals send fake emails, texts, or calls pretending to be legitimate companies (like banks or Amazon) or government agencies (like the IRS). They try to trick you into clicking malicious links, opening infected attachments, or giving up personal information like passwords and bank account numbers. Cyber criminals may also try to impersonate members of the clergy.

02

COMMUNICATION FROM CHURCH STAFF

Church staff will only communicate through the following email addresses: whatcomcatholic.org, vikingcatholic.org, shbham.org, stjoseph-stpeter.org, assumption.org, and stjosephferndale.org. The church also communicates through parishstaq: @cbbchurch.com.

03

SENDING MONEY

Church staff and clergy will never ask you to send gift cards, bank transfers, or other forms of monetary compensation via text or email.

04

UNKNOWN EMAIL ADDRESS

If someone is emailing you from an email outside our family of churches, ignore the email and report it as spam on your email provider.

05

SUSPICIOUS LINKS

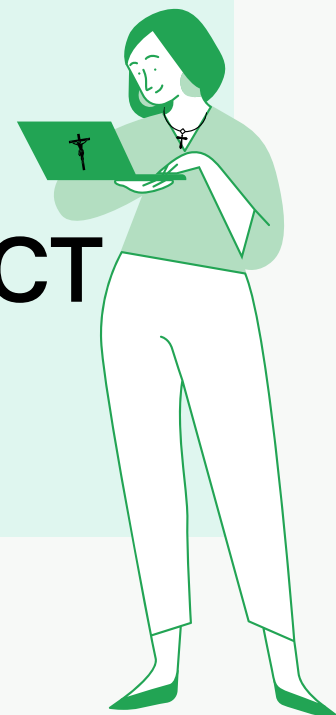
Never click a link from an email that you do not recognize. When in doubt, call your church's front office. Spread awareness to fellow parishioners so that they can stay safe.

06

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Report suspected cybercrime by going to <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>

STOP CHECK PROTECT



QUESTIONS? OLIVIA@WHATCOMCATHOLIC.ORG



WHATCOM CATHOLIC
JESUS IS HERE

March 16, 2026

Hello Kate and the Op-Ed team,

I read your Op-Ed this morning, and I'm frustrated that the *Seattle Times* focused on a narrow view of a much larger issue, failing to put it into context. When I wrote you in 2024, I explained that your original editorial on this topic failed to recognize the protections in place and how the Catholic Church's history is much different than today's reality. Given my prior efforts to bring these issues to your attention, it is quite disappointing that this subsequent editorial repeats these prior shortcomings.

In this recent op-ed, you indicated that "according to attorneys who've represented victims in Western Washington," the Archdiocese has paid over \$100 million in settlements. **Why would you write that when I myself emailed you that financial detail in 2024 and pointed you to our Protect & Heal website that not only transparently shares our settlement payouts but the number of cases as well?** Is that not a sign of our transparency? Your statement falsely indicated the opposite and serves to mislead *Seattle Times* readers.

We have been very public about the fact that we had clergy sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Seattle, and we have been proactively addressing it for more than 40 years. ([See sample here.](#)) We continue to apologize for this sin that has affected all areas of the Church and have expanded our outreach and pastoral care for victim survivors and their families.

To address transparency, we outline the history, our Safe Environment programming, and our work with victim survivors and their families on the Protect & Heal website, in our Northwest Catholic Magazine and in multiple public statements. We worked with a former FBI agent to review all our files and develop our public list in 2016, a significant step in promoting transparency that other entities do not take. The new Archdiocesan Review Board comprised of non-Catholic experts helps us create new policies, procedures, and programming to ensure we are always improving. This group continues to provide guidance and recommendations for how to help victim survivors and their families heal.

On the website, you will also see that **clergy sexual abuse of a minor peaked 50 years ago with the last reported case in 2007** thanks to our Safe Environment program, which is seen as a model for other organizations. **Zero incidents of clergy abuse of a minor are alleged to have occurred in nearly two decades.** What other comparably large religious or educational institutions can say that?

You also wrote that we are “hiding behind claims that opening the records to scrutiny might ‘re-traumatize’ victims.” These are not false claims. We have letters from victim survivors begging us not to open files to outside groups, which would threaten their privacy. We have received numerous recommendations from sexual assault experts on how to manage this situation delicately to avoid re-traumatizing victim survivors. And we do this because we genuinely care about them – and their families.

Our issue is not that we are hiding or do not wish to share the sins of our Church. We have owned that many times. Our current issue is that we had offered to work collaboratively with the Attorney General to find a way to tell the story with guarantees of privacy for victims – AND – to do so in a manner that follows the law. If we do not fight for the basic First Amendment rights of freedom of religion – who will do that? Whatever we do here does not just impact this issue – one that we are eager to share in a proper manner to demonstrate our sorrow and commitment to safety today – but has widespread implications for ALL RELIGIONS into the future. That is the issue we face.

And, despite your reporting, the recent Washington State Court of Appeals agreed with us. **The recent ruling indicated that the Attorney General’s original subpoena as written was overly broad and, if pursued as issued, would “clearly unconstitutionally infringe” on First Amendment rights.** Yet, you chose to leave that part out, making it sound like we are just hiding behind victims.

You close by accusing the Archdiocese of issuing “empty platitudes,” while ignoring the decades of work that has been done to make Catholic parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Seattle among the safest places for children today. That is something your readers should know.

Thank you,

Helen McClenahan
Chief Communication Officer

