

NORTHWEST CORNER CATHOLIC

Fifth Sunday of Easter · May 3, 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

QUO VADIS DAYS 2026

WHEN: June 29–July 2

WHERE: Saint Martin's University, Lacey

New location this year! This amazing 4-day overnight camp for high school men (incoming grades 9–12) with priests and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Seattle provides participants the opportunity to learn more about the priesthood, deepen their faith and better discern God's call in their lives. Space is limited to 60.

REGISTER: archseattle.org

EMBRACING THE GREAT COMMISSION

WHEN: Tuesday, May 5, 9:00AM–2:30PM

WHERE: Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Seattle

The Augustine Institute and Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish will host a day of formation focused on the Great Commission. Austin Habash, founder of *Sent Evangelization* and *Think Catholic*, will lead the sessions through presentations, group discussion, and prayer. This event is open to all parish and school leaders, catechetical staff, and interested parishioners. The schedule begins at 9:00AM and concludes with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2:30PM.

REGISTER: augustineinstitute.org

PASTOR'S NOTE

BROWN SCAPULAR

I will regularly have people come up to me after Mass and ask me to bless a scapular for them. Most of the time, however, I refuse. Why?

Historically, scapulars are mini religious habits. They are a joining to and participation in the spirituality of a specific religious order. They are *not* merely devotional objects, like a crucifix necklace or a Rosary bracelet. In fact, the first time someone puts on a scapular I am required

to *enroll* them in the scapular—I cannot merely bless it—and up until the last century it was required that a priest of *that specific religious community* be the one to enroll a person.

I will also push people to tell me a little bit about the spirituality of the religious order to which they are uniting themselves. (The brown scapular, the most common one, is a Carmelite scapular.) If they cannot, I ask them to go home and read up on that order before I am willing to enroll them.

If you are considering donning the brown scapular, or even if you have already been enrolled, I strongly encourage you to purchase [this book written by the Carmelites](#) that explains in great detail the history and spirituality of the brown scapular.

MUSINGS ON PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

First, thank you to everyone who has assisted with all of our Listening Sessions! Our PFAC members especially have attended 3–5 listening sessions each over the last two weeks, which is a huge time commitment. I am deeply grateful!

Now, last week a parishioner asked me a very insightful question, namely, how can we claim that the Listening Sessions are helping us develop a 25 to 50-year plan when all of us have experienced a new Pastor coming in and reprioritizing everything that the previous Pastor had prioritized?

In a very real sense, he is correct. If the only thing that comes out of the Listening Sessions is, for example, a desire to hire a North County youth minister and a push for more small faith sharing groups, then we are really only talking about a 5- maybe 10-year plan. Questions about *staffing* and *programming* are necessarily short-term questions, since society and pastoral leadership often change quickly. And, unfortunately, the questions in the Archdiocesan process up until now have had a tendency to feel like short-term

questions.

The 25- to 50-year plan comes with *execution*. Let's say the overall impact of the Listening Sessions is that we need more youth-focused staff. Well, if you read the [viability report](#), you'll see that more staff is not an option because our county is \$2 million behind in our rainy-day funds and needs to spend \$90,000 more each year to keep up with our buildings. If we want more staff, that means reducing maintenance costs which means reducing the number of churches and campuses. *This* is ultimately the 25- to 50-year choice: do we maintain seven churches at the expense of minimal programming, or do we greatly expand programming by trying to consolidate into fewer churches?

The point of the Listening Sessions is to help us determine what kind of community we want to be and what our deepest values are. Once these are established, we can then ask the hard questions of what sacrifices need to be made to get there.

Finally, as a side note, I just mentioned church closures, so I can already hear some of our parishioners saying, "See! He finally admitted it. That's what this whole thing is about, the Archbishop has already told him what to do, and none of this process matters." No. Stop. I have no hidden agenda and no decisions have been made. Church closures are a real possibility, but the point of the Partners in the Gospel process is to make the choice crystal clear and to give our community the ability to discern that choice together. We may very well conclude that we need to maintain all seven of our churches or we may make a different decision. It is my job to lay out for our community all of the possibilities, what the pros and cons are of each possibility, and to lead them in the process of discerning a final choice. These Listening Sessions help us determine what possibilities to analyze and present for the final discernment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGIONAL OFFICE SUPPLY NEEDS

The regional office annex is in need of 2 portable (used) air-conditioning units to ensure a workable environment in the summer months. In addition, the office is in need of a lightweight portable vacuum cleaner, while the regional staff enjoy the arm workout from the 1980s vacuum cleaner, a lighter weight option would be helpful in keeping the space clean. If in your spring cleaning you find an air-conditioning unit or a vacuum that needs a new home, please consider donating it.

CONTACT: Olivia Phillips · olivia@whatcomcatholic.org

CHURCH EVENTS

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. Contributions are gratefully accepted.

RAISED: \$2,305.55

GOAL: \$73,000

For full details, read Fr. Moore's complete letter on [the St Joseph Website](#).

ST ANNE MOTHERS DAY

WHEN: Saturday, May 9
WHERE: St Anne

All Mothers will be receiving a Flower from the St Anne Altar Society

ST ANNE POTLUCK

WHEN: May 16, 2026, after 5PM Mass
WHERE: St Anne

Come celebrate Cinco De Mayo with the St Anne Church Community. Please bring your favorite dish to share. All are welcome.

ST JOHN PAUL II BIRTHDAY MASS CELEBRATION

WHEN: Saturday, May 30, 11:00AM
WHERE: Church of the Assumption

Join us to celebrate St John Paul II's 106th birthday with a special Mass on Saturday, May 30th, at 11:00AM at the Church of the Assumption. After the Mass, we will release 7 doves to symbolize unity and peace across the world's 7 continents. Following this will be an international potluck reception in the gym. We encourage everyone to bring and share a dish that represents their cultural heritage.

2026 ST JUDES BASKET RAFFLE

TICKET SALES: Sunday, May 24

DRAWING: Sunday, June 14

WHERE: ST JOSEPH

Ticket sales begin May 24th at coffee hour after 10:30AM Mass. Drawing will be Sunday, June 14th during coffee hour. A donation from proceeds will be made to the St Joseph's roof replacement fund.

Ticket price: \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. Basket Themes: Ice Cream Party, Experience and Adventures, Barleans Products, Games & Toys.

CONTACT: Susan Burgler · 360-319-5585

ST JOSEPH RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

DROP-OFF: Friday, May 15, 9AM–2PM

SALE: Saturday, May 16, 8AM–2PM

WHERE: St Joseph, Ferndale Social Hall

Time to spring clean. Are there items in your home collecting dust or clothes you haven't worn in a long time? A good way to clear your home of clutter is to donate clean usable clothing and items.

We are unable to accept televisions, computers, electronics, baby car seats, Christmas trees, large furniture and appliances.

Hot dogs, sodas, and baked goods will be available. Sponsored by St Mary's Guild.

ST ANNE HOSPITALITY MINISTERS NEEDED

Hospitality ministers at St Anne provide a welcoming presence for visitors and those unfamiliar with the parish. The primary responsibility of this role is to identify and greet newcomers, ensuring that every guest is acknowledged and has the opportunity to ask questions. Ministers prioritize the needs of visitors by assisting with seating, explaining the use of the missal, and providing information about parish staff and programs.

CONTACT: Terry Aiello · 360-223-9090

SCHOOL NEWS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Employment Opportunities for 2026–2027 School Year will be posted this week. Assumption School is looking at this time for a Middle School Math teacher and an Elementary School Teacher (3–5th grade). If interested, please check our website online, call the office or inquire online. Mr. Ramos, principal, will be taking applications through May or until positions are filled.

PHONE: 360-733-6133

ONLINE: school.assumption.org

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

PROJECT RACHEL HEALING RETREATS

SPANISH Friday, June 5–Sunday, June 7

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

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

Peace. Is that a word that you thought was a word that no longer would be for you since your involvement in a decision that ended a pregnancy? Join us for a future healing retreat and see what His mercy and His peace are all about, and how it is most definitely for you!

EMAIL: projectrachel@ccsww.org

ONLINE: ccsww.org/projectrachel

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

CCS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Why Volunteer in Hope House or Lynden Food Bank? By volunteering your time, you not only provide essential support to those in need but also become a part of a caring community dedicated to making a difference. Whether you can spare a few hours a week or a month, your efforts are invaluable. Together, we can create a stronger, more supportive environment for everyone in our community! Reach out to the program managers on how to get involved.

HOPE HOUSE: 360-671-8702

AGAPE FOOD BANK: 360-393-8926

COMMUNITY AND SANDWICHES TOGETHER

Since 1999, this Outreach ministry has served a simple bag of food on the streets to anyone in need of a meal (over 9,000 each year). Catholic parishioners help on Mondays. We could use more volunteers. Either by preparing the sandwiches and supplies at 4:30PM at Our Saviour Lutheran or transporting to and serving downtown from 6:00 to 7:00PM behind the public library at the Arches of Healing and Reconciliation. It is also a good way to build community with others in the church. If interested, please contact Dan Larguier with how you would like to help. You can also donate financially to this worthwhile ministry by going to the Interfaith Coalition website/donations/drop down to CAST.

EMAIL: dflarguier@yahoo.com

PHONE: 360-296-3591

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

BEAVERTON, OR May 1-3

SPOKANE, WA Oct 2-4

TACOMA, WA Oct 9-11

SEATTLE, WA Nov 13-15

It is time to get your marriage in shape! Worldwide Marriage Encounter is better than any college course. In just one short weekend, you can learn a technique for communication that will keep your marriage on the right track to be healthy. Early registration is highly recommended. Worldwide Marriage Encounter was recently granted canonical recognition as an international private association of the faithful by the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

CONTACT: Jeff & Sandy Corneil 360-903-2321

INFORMATION: wwme.org

INSTAGRAM: [@worldwidemarriageencounter](https://www.instagram.com/worldwidemarriageencounter)

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

WHATCOM PREGNANCY CLINIC WALK FOR LIFE

WHEN: Thursday, May 16

The Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic was co-founded by members of the Catholic community, and Bellingham parishes have historically provided significant support for its mission. Parishioners are invited to participate in the annual Walk for Life or sponsor a walker to help sustain this ministry. Registration materials and further information are available on the posters and sign-up sheets in the church entryways.

UPCOMING

Wednesday, May 6 — *Easter Weekday*

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| 3:30PM | Faith and Fun | St Anne |
| 4:30PM | Teen Adoration | St Joseph |
| 5:30PM | Middle School Youth Group | St Anne |
| 6:30PM | Reach Moore Training | St Joseph |

Thursday, May 7 — *Easter Weekday*

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| 8:20AM | Divine Mercy | St Anne |
| 8:30AM | Confessions | St Anne |
| 9:00AM | Mass † <i>Kenneth & Eleanor Pounds</i> | St Anne |
| 5:00PM | Mass | St Joachim |
| 5:30PM | Sacrament Classes | St Joachim |
| 6:30PM | Men's Bible Study | St Joseph |

Friday, May 8 — *Easter Weekday*

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| 9:00AM | Mass [‡] | St Joseph |
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Saturday, May 9 — *Easter Weekday*

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| 3:00PM | Listening Session | Assumption |
| 3:00PM | Confessions | St Joseph |
| 4:30PM | Confessions | St Anne |
| 5:00PM | Mass | St Anne |

Sunday, May 10 — *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

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| 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

THE 10:10 CHALLENGE

WHEN: Thursdays, April 23–June 25, 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

ST MARY'S GUILD LUNCHEON & MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday, May 6, Noon

WHERE: St Joseph, Ferndale Hall

Please come and enjoy a Potluck Lunch and learn about the amazing projects the Ladies have planned. All Women are invited to attend.

CATHOLIC DATING WORKSHOP

WHEN: Saturday, May 9, 9AM–Noon

WHERE: 910 Marion St, Seattle

All single young adults are invited to a Catholic Dating Workshop, "Preparing Our Hearts and Minds for Love in the Modern World." Led by Nicole Brown, LMFT, attendees will learn and discuss some of the crucial aspects of finding more success in their dating experience.

LEARN MORE: archseattle.org

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE MASSES

WHEN: May 23 and 25

WHERE: Holyhood, Gethsemane, Calvary and St Patrick cemeteries

Join us for Memorial Day Remembrance Masses at all four of our Associated Catholic Cemeteries to pray for the souls of our fallen veterans and for the faithful departed.

LEARN MORE: archseattle.org

JESUS DAY CAMP

WHEN: June 22–26

WHERE: St Joseph, Ferndale

Save the Date for Jesus Day Camp.

TRIBUNAL ADVOCATE TRAINING AVAILABLE

SESSION 1: September 10–12

SESSION 2: November 12–14

WHERE: Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center, Palisades

Tribunal Advocates assist parishioners navigating the process of investigating the validity of a marriage. This ministry requires a balance of technical aptitude and pastoral care. Candidates must be adults in good standing who are patient, reliable, and committed to maintaining strict confidentiality.

Participation requires attendance at two training workshops this fall. Those interested in serving as an advocate should contact Dr. Kathy Ernst to schedule an initial meeting. All candidates must receive approval from Fr. Moore.

PHONE: 253-356-5523 EMAIL: kathy@whatcomcatholic.org

HOMEBOUNDED MINISTRY

When one of our parishioners is unable to attend mass for an extended period of time we have a well-established ministry in all of our Whatcom Catholic locations to provide an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to take Eucharist either to their home or one of our Care Facilities. We offer support and training for this important ministry. We are currently actively recruiting new Homebound Ministers. If you feel called to this ministry please contact Dr. Kathy Ernst.

EMAIL: kathy@whatcomcatholic.org PHONE: 253-356-5623

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