Be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2019

Jean-Francois Millet, The Angelus, 1860

1110 14th St.
Bellingham, WA 98225

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THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
December 15, 2019

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WWW.SACREDHEARTBELLINGHAM.ORG
Sacred Heart Parish, Bellingham ~ December 15, 2019

**Sunday, Dec. 15, Third Sunday of Advent**
- 8:30 am Mass **Church**
- 9:45 am Children’s Play Preparation **Hall**
- 9:45 am Coffee Hour—St. Vincent de Paul **Hall**
- 11:00 am Mass **Church**
- 12:15 pm *No RCIA*
- 4:00 pm *No EDGE or Life Teen*
- 5:30 pm *No Mass or Confession for Newman*

**Monday, Dec. 16**
- 10:00 am Funeral Mass—Mary Margaret Montag **Church**
- 10:00 am Advent Study with Lila **Library**
- 12:00 pm Angelus and Rosary **Church**
- 4:30 pm Midnight Mass Choir Rehearsal **Church**

**Tuesday, Dec. 17**
- 9:00 am Mass **Church**
- 10:00 am Bellingham Catholic Moms **Hall**
- 12:00 pm Angelus and Rosary **Church**
- 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry **Hall**

**Wednesday, Dec. 18**
- 10:00 am Faith Formation **Hall**
- 12:00 pm Angelus and Rosary **Church**

**Thursday, Dec. 19**
- 8:00 am Adoration, Confession **Church**
- 9:00 am Mass **Church**
- 12:00 pm Angelus and Rosary **Church**

**Friday, Dec. 20**
- 9:00 am Mass **Church**
- 9:45 am Adoration until 8:50 am Saturday **Chapel**
- 5:30 pm Children’s Play Practice **Church**

**Saturday, Dec. 21, St. Peter Canisius**
- 8:30 am Rosary **Chapel**
- 8:50 am Benediction **Chapel**
- 9:00 am Mass **Church**
- 9:30 am St. Michael Chaplet **Church**
- 3:00 pm Extended Confession Time **Church**
- 5:00 pm Vigil Mass **Church**
- 6:00 pm Advent Study with Lila **Library**

**Sunday, Dec. 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- 8:30 am Mass **Church**
- 9:45 am Coffee Hour—Knights of Columbus **Hall**
- 9:45 am *No RE*
- 11:00 am Mass **Church**
- 12:15 pm *No RCIA*
- 2:30 pm Midnight Mass Choir Rehearsal **Church**
- 4:00 pm *No EDGE or Life Teen*
- 5:30 pm *No Mass or Confession for Newman*

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**Mass Intentions**

Dec 17 Kathleen Mann  Dec 20 Paulette Salomon +
Dec 19 Char Dunn  Dec 21 Pat Warren +

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**The Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for December 2019**

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning…

Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine… [Then] I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word… is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: The word ought to grow, and I should diminish? The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: My joy is complete. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John’s baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ’s baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offense to the word. I am not the Christ, he said, nor Elijah, nor the prophet. And the question came: Who are you, then? He replied: I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord. … as though he were saying: “I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him.”

What does prepare the way mean, if not “pray well…be humble in your thoughts”? We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. … he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, “I am the Christ,” you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. ... He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.

He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride. —St. Augustine (+430)
Welcome to Sacred Heart Parish

If you are just visiting, welcome! If you'd like to register at our parish, you can stop in at the parish office across the street, or go to www.shhham.org to get a registration form. You can come in and get a cup of coffee in the office Monday-Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. Our parish staff can help you connect with the parish community in many ways, including St. Vincent de Paul, social justice, homebound ministry, and more.

PARISH LIFE

MIDNIGHT MASS CHOIR REHEARSALS: We will be singing Christmas hymns before and during the Mass with organ accompaniment. You are welcome to join rehearsals on Mon., Dec. 16 at 4:30 pm and Sun., Dec. 22 at 2:30 pm.

Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed the World (And Still Does) is a book by Scott Hahn that Sacred Heart will gift to you this Christmas! They should be available by next weekend, so look for them at the entryway of the church on the 4th Sunday of Advent.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP? We need YOUR help! We are currently looking for volunteers to lend a hand in the parish—especially St. Vincent de Paul, which provides an essential and much-needed assistance to people in immediate need. Are you able to give one or two hours of your time per week? Interested in meeting people in your parish? Do you want to be Christ's hands to serve the poor? Contact the parish office at 734-2850 to sign up.

Giving Tree: Thank you for your continued generosity, as we have received even more gift cards over the last week! Our new total is $4,015 for local children in need this Christmas. Catholic Community Services is now distributing the gift cards to grateful families who will use them to buy presents for their children. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl McCarthy, (630) 887-6634, cherylsmcCarthy@hotmail.com or Kathy Denney, 360 676-0197.

Donations received (or postmarked) by December 31 will be recorded on your 2019 parish giving report, and this includes Online Giving donations. Please consider an end of year donation to your parish or one of the many Catholic charities. For those of you who are 70½ years old, you may wish to consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. Contact Melissa at the parish office for more information.

Advent Study Groups: Saturdays at 6 pm on Dec. 14th and 21st; and Mondays at 10 am on Dec. 16th and 23rd in the parish library. Join us for family sessions with decorations and treats! Contact Lila Ruiz, PA for Faith Formation, if you'd like more information: lila.ruiz@shhham.org.

Children's Mass bulletins and books are now available in the entryway of the church next to the coat rack. There is a small bookshelf with these activities to enrich your child's experience of the Holy Mass. You are most welcome to use them during Mass, and please return them to the bookshelf after Mass is over.

The Knights of Columbus would like to send a care package to your loved one who is currently deployed overseas in the US military. If you have a loved one you'd like us to send a care package to, please send us their name, deployed mailing address, and any special instructions or suggestions. Also, give us your contact information so we can get in touch with you if we have any questions. If any parishioners would like to donate materials for the care packages, or otherwise help with this service project, we welcome your participation! Please contact Jack King at jack@king-works.com.

A Huge THANK YOU to the Sacred Heart parishioners who've donated birthday cakes to Francis Place residents for the last two years! Coming from homelessness, a lot of our folks haven't had their special day recognized in years and this gives them a special dignity. We at Francis Place are so grateful!

Pray for those in the Military:

HM1 Benjamin Chapin, USN
LT COL Gregory DeMarco
MAJ Tyler Ripley, USAF
CMC Paul McFadden, USN
MT6 David Varner
CAPT Jason Taylor
LTC Dr. Casey Oswald, USN
TSGT John Coder, USA
AT1 Jon Silver, USN
CAPT Jonathan Brent
Sgt. Davis Glass, USMC
Jared Santos
James Robinson
MAJ Kiel Gilliland, USAFR
MAJ Sharon Gilliland, USA
LT Andrew Remien, USN
MCP0 Anthony Edward Vega
Sgt. Chelsea Torvik, US Army
E1 Dylan Bailey, USN
CAPT Joe Knutson, USAF
1LT Bridgett Knutson, USAF
E3 Cole H. Trolinder, US Army
LT CDR Scott Higbee, USCG
SFC Casey Gursley, US Army
LT COL Andrew Hoffman, USAF
PFC John Vincent, USMC
Sgt. Matthew Mashburn, USMC
A1C Jacob Bean, USAF
1 LT Nikolos Karafa, US Army
Sgt. Nelson Fitzsimmons, US Army
E4 Jacob Townsend, US Navy

Please remember in your prayers those who have died, especially:


Memorial candle burns for:
Rico Barnett
12/15/21

Please consider supporting the vendors listed on the back of the bulletin. Their advertising allows us to print the cover page free of charge.
Sacred Heart Parish, Bellingham ~ December 15, 2019

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

Palisades Retreat Center has two silent retreats to offer during the same dates: Dec. 20-22.
- The first is an Ignatian retreat for women offered by the priests of Miles Christi. Contact Christine Timmerman for information at (858) 263-5113
- The second retreat is for both men and women with Father Caleb Insoo. This retreat will focus on the singular graces given to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Come for rest, reflection, and spiritual reading. To register for this retreat, go to: http://palisadesretreatcenter.org/

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Want to gift your spouse with romance this Christmas? Sign up today to attend one of the next Marriage Encounter weekends at the Best Western Wesley Inn and Suites in Gig Harbor on February 7-9, or at the Sheraton Hotel in Bellevue, April 24-26. Apply at wwwme.org. For more information about Gig Harbor, leave a message at 253-582-0239 or for the Bellevue retreat, call 206-772-2344. Sign up today!

Lot Retrouvaille Help! Are you struggling in your marriage or do you know someone who is? Do you have difficulty with trust or forgiveness? Are you considering separation or divorce and have lost all hope? No matter how much you’re hurting, no marriage is beyond hope. For confidential information or to register for our upcoming weekend Feb. 21-23 call 206-700-2008, or go to www.helpourmarriage.org.

ASSUMPTION EVENTS

Grief Support Group every Friday at 1:30 pm in the Stafford Room. We invite you to join us as we share our faith in God and fellowship with each other on our healing journey. Contact Michelle for information: 360-319-8306.

The First Annual Holiday Bazaar to support the ACS Parent Teacher Club was a huge success! Thank you to Shanae Strayer and Monique Ransom for your amazing work organizing the event, and to Staci Johnson and Veronica Vincent for your help decorating the gym. It looked very festive and we couldn’t have done it without your personal touch. A special thank you to Assumption parishioners Ann, Nancy, and Fred Seeger, and also Susan and John Shuhler who spent many hours organizing and running the used book sale all weekend. We are blessed to have you in our community! To all of our other volunteers who helped set up, donated baked items, helped to sell items, and cleaned up—THANK YOU! We have different gifts, according to the grace given by God, and it was made very evident that day!

Middle and High School Youth News

Registration is now open for the Agape and Tijuana service trips this summer. Contact our youth minister, April Jordan-Hulsey, for more information or to sign up. Registration closes January 30, 2020.

Sacred Heart’s Stewardship of Treasure Report December 7 and 8

- Envelopes (94) $ 5,027.70
- Loose $ 913.50
- Total $ 5,941.20
- Immaculate Conception $ 919.00
- Vietnamese Mass $ 432.00
- St. Vincent de Paul $ 433.00

Lord of all life, you call us to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep. Hear our prayer today for our brothers and sisters who have lost children to abortion. Help us to understand the pain in their hearts and to be a living sign to them of your welcome, your mercy, and your healing. Help them to undergo the process of grief and the journey of healing. Console them with the sure hope that you love and care for their children. Lord of healing and hope, give us all the forgiveness of our sins and the joy of your salvation. Amen.

Social Justice Corner

Liturgical colors in Advent are violet, indicating a time of waiting and mourning—waiting for the long-promised Messiah to appear and mourning our sins, which is evidenced as a lack of Christ in our faith life.

In many ways, Advent is known as a “Little Lent,” as opposed to the “Great Lent” which precedes the Easter season. Just as in Lent, we give alms to the poor and perform other acts of penitence not just in preparation for our sins, but to inspire ourselves and others to turn back to Christ, our Hope. On the Third Sunday of Advent—or Gaudete Sunday, which is Latin for “Rejoice”—the liturgical colors lighten up a little to a hopeful shade of rosy pink, just as the eastern horizon brightens with the prospect of the coming dawn.

The whole world waits in anticipation for the coming of the Lord; we who were dead in sin now rejoice at the coming of the long-expected Light of the World. As Catholics, we are called to seek Christ in our brothers and sisters, and to serve him through them—“And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’” (Mt 25:40). Some of the practical ways you can give alms this Advent season include donating your time or treasure to Hope House or St. Vincent de Paul. You can also visit the sick and dying in the hospital or at Hospice House. You can also make an offering of yourself by simply giving in to others, arguing less, being more charitable in your day to day interactions with others. In what way do you inspire hope in others this Advent season? The King is very near. Make your hearts ready for him!

—Melissa Johnson