SECOND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
January 19, 2020

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WWW.SACREDHEARTBELLINGHAM.ORG
Please note that there will be no daily Mass Mon., Jan. 20, and the parish office will be closed in recognition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Mass Intentions

Jan 21 Wolnik Family +
Jan 24 Carol & James
George
Jan 25 Jeff & Kelly Segel

Gospel Meditation

On the cusp of fame, power, or influence, would you turn it down? Today’s Gospel again features John the Baptist. Controversial but popular, John has gathered quite a group of followers. He has disciples. People come from near and far to be baptized by him. Pharisees and government leaders are drawn to his preaching. If John was another man, a lesser man, he would have claimed his own greatness. Instead, John the Baptist is a witness to humility.

“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God … he is the one of whom I said, “A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me.”… the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known.’” Rather than point to himself, John points to Christ. John could have grasped at what he had accumulated. He could have seen Jesus as a Messianic competitor. Instead, John knows who he is. He knows his place as forerunner. Because John knows who Jesus is. “I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”

A life of humility, a life for others, can be challenging to live. So much of our culture is built around achievement and individualism. We can justify it, too, in pursuit of “greater goods” and higher ideals. In the process, however, we might miss our own participation in the kingdom of God. John, for all of his humility, was not an afterthought. In another Gospel passage, Jesus calls him “the greatest prophet,” even the greatest of men. Why? Because he fulfills the mission given to him by God: to announce the coming of the Messiah. We too are prophets and forerunners. Our witness to the Gospel is meant to point people to Jesus. Consider your own mission this week. To whom are you called to announce the good news of the Son of God?

—LPI

The Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for January 2020

Promotion of World Peace

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.
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.shbham.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

Please Be Aware! Father Ross will never contact you via email or text and ask you to purchase anything for him or solicit you in any way. There have been scams lately where people claim to be Fr. Ross and have asked for gift cards or other spurious things and we want to assure you this is not legitimate and to please ignore and block these people. If you need any help discerning a message, you are welcome to call the parish office at 360-734-2850 and we will be happy to help you.

Sacred Heart is looking for some happy folks who like to serve! Beginning in Lent, we will need some people on Friday afternoons and evenings to help out in the kitchen after Stations of the Cross. Interested? Talk to Melissa after Mass or at the parish office, 360-734-2850. If you're looking for a Lenten practice, have I got a deal for you!

Young Adult Talent Show: Be sure to sign up for our Talent Show/Coffee House event at Broadway Hall in Bellingham on Feb. 18 from 7-9 pm. Submit your act or talent idea at apnijl@assumption.org until February 2!

Family Promise Week is THIS WEEK!! January 19-26 at Sacred Heart. If you would like to volunteer in any way, please email familypromisesacredheart@gmail.com. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!! Especially people to stay overnight with the families, but also to cook meals and other tasks. Can YOU help?

Will You Be a Witness for Life? Please plan to attend the March for Life on Tues., Jan. 21 in Olympia! A bus sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will depart at 6 am (returning at 6 pm) from Assumption's parking lot. We will attend Mass at Sacred Heart in Lacey with one of our Bishops, and afterward we will travel to the State Capitol to listen to state representatives and religious leaders. Please reserve a seat early by contacting Kathleen, 360-752-0130 or Kim in the parish office, 360-734-2850. A donation of $25 is requested, but if you're student or have a hardship, let them know.

Directory Update: We appreciate your patience! Although we've had some delays, the new directory is uploaded and at the printers. Now we wait for the printers to do their part, and when that's done we will distribute them to you.

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.

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
SGT Luke Bradshaw, US Army
CAPT Jason Taylor
LTCDR Casey Oswald, USN
TSGT John Coder, USAG
AT1 Jon Silver, USN
CAPT Jonathan Brent
SGT Davis Glass, USMC
Jared Santos
James Robinson
MAJ Kiel Gilliland, USAFR
MAJ Sharon Gilliland, USAG
LT Andrew Remien, USN
MCPO Anthony Edward Vega
SGT Chelsea Torvik, US Army
E1 Dylan Bailey, USN
CAPT Joe Knutson, USAF
1LT Bridgett Knutson, USAF
E3 Cole H. Trollinder, 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 Nikolas Karaffa, 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:
Ben Sokolowski
1/12–1/18

Please consider supporting the vendors listed on the back of the bulletin. Their advertising allows us to print the cover page free of charge.
ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

Marian Eucharistic Conference: All day Sat., Feb. 1, at Immaculate Conception Church, 820 18th Ave., Seattle. Seating is limited and on a first-come basis. To register by January 25, or for more information, please email Teresa at flameoffe2020@gmail.com or call 206-530-0037. A voluntary freewill offering will be collected to help cover the costs of the conference and dinner.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: 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!

Palisades Retreat Center: “Hamlet” or “Acting Noble” Shakespeare Retreat led by Fr. Stephen Rowan, Feb. 14-16. Shakespeare lays out keen observations on the human condition. In this retreat, we will ponder what he says and what he prompts us to think about when we consider the dilemmas involved in how to act “noble” and righting wrongs. To register for this or another upcoming retreat, go to palisadesretreatcenter.org.

Considering Separation or Divorce? Wait! There is an alternative. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has brought healing to tens of thousands of troubled marriages worldwide. Your situation may seem hopeless, but there is always hope and you are not alone in your struggle. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for our upcoming program on Feb. 21-23, call 206-706-2608 or go to www.helpourmarriage.org.

Come on a Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreat! God reveals deep and hidden things and knows what is in the darkness, for the light dwells with him. —Dan 2:22 Have you been hiding your shame and regret in a dark place, hoping no one will ever know? God does know and all he wants is to help you be free of that burden and discover his merciful forgiveness. The next retreats available are March 6-8 or April 24-26. Call for a compassionate, confidential conversation in English: (206) 920-6413 or Español: (206) 450-7814. Visit us at www.ccsvww.org/projectrachel.

Middle and High School Youth News

On Sun., Jan. 26, all 6-12th graders are invited to join us for an Edge/Lifeteen field trip! We’ll meet at Trampoline Zone in Bellingham (on Meridian) from 3-5 pm. Bring $15 for your entrance fee and $5 for grippy socks if you don’t already have a pair. Fill out the safety waiver online AHEAD of time here: http://www.trampolinezone.net/. Please note, this will take the place of our regular Edge/Lifeteen meetings this day. There will be no other youth group meeting this weekend.

Contact April Jordan-Hulsey for more information or to RSVP.

“Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!”

—St. John Paul II

Social Justice Corner

In 1973, seven out of nine Supreme Court justices declared that children in the womb are not recognized as persons under the Constitution. They thereby excluded a whole segment of the human family from the protection of the law, and the understanding that all are created equal.

The Washington State March for Life—taking place this year on January 21st in Olympia—is one great annual family reunion for the pro-life movement in our state. We begin the day with a Mass for Life, then we reassemble for the rally on the steps of the State Capitol—where we are encouraged by speeches from pro-life leaders, legislators, and clergy. After the rally, we are encouraged to leave personal notes for our three lawmakers. The whole event is well organized and peaceful.

What does the March actually accomplish?
- It gives voice to the children. Abortion continues unabated. But it does not continue unchallenged. Our presence in Olympia is a prophetic call to the government. When a tragedy goes on and on, the voice of those who defend the victims must only increase, not fall silent.
- It gives encouragement to our friends in government. Those in Olympia who support the right to life need to hear from us. They need to see that we are out there in great numbers, so that they can continue to call for an end to abortion.
- It encourages us. Participants come away from the March invigorated and inspired for another year of work. They see those laboring with them across the state, and know they are part of a great movement.

—Penny Cowan
WHATCOM COUNTY
PREGNANCY CLINIC
www.whatcomclinic.com

BIG

worth

PROTECT THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE
BECAUSE, LIFE IS A BIG DEAL!
Every day thousands of women are faced with a choice — an unwanted pregnancy. They feel unloved and alone. That choice may be the hardest thing that they will ever face.

At Whatcom County Pregnancy Clinic, we offer these women the love and answers they seek. We give them the most up to date information so that they can make an informed decision. We offer them a non-judgemental environment of compassion, a place where they can come to voice their concerns and to seek out the love of Jesus Christ.

God gave us the gift of life, because it truly produces hope in our lives. As we care for our clients, fear is lifted and the true abundance of God’s grace begins to shine in their lives.

We need your help in this fight to protect lives.

Since Roe v. Wade in 1973, there have been over 61 million abortions in the United States. Abortion is the leading cause of death in our nation — not just in infants, but in the entire U.S. population. Abortion can seem like an insurmountable evil — a problem against which we have little power to fight.

PROTECT THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE
BECAUSE, LIFE IS A BIG DEAL!

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