

May 31st, 2020 / Pentecost



OUR PARISHES

St. Mary of the Rosary

502 E. Main Avenue, Chewelah, WA 99109
Mass: 4 pm Saturdays & 10:am Sundays

Holy Ghost

3083 Hemlock St., Valley, WA 99109
Mass: 8:00 am Sundays

Sacred Heart

110 S. Main Street, Springdale, WA
Mass: 6:00 pm Saturdays

St. Joseph (Jump off Joe)

3150 Church Road, Valley, WA
Summer Masses TBA

*Confessions by Appointment Only
Please contact Fr. Booth by email or phone*

PARISH OFFICE

Contact us:

Catholic Parishes of South Stevens County
southstevens@dioceseofspokane.org
935-8028 | chewelahcatholic.org
Mail to: PO Box 26, Chewelah, WA 99109-0026
We are located at St. Mary of the Rosary

Pastor: Fr. Stephen R. Booth, MM
sbooth@dioceseofspokane.org
935-4106

Office Secretary: Kellie Trudeau
ktrudeau@dioceseofspokane.org

*Please contact the office for the Sacrament of
Baptism, Anointing of the Sick and Marriage.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome back! Please stay in touch!

Welcome back to the Catholic Parishes of South Stevens County! We have missed all of you. If you feel like you have not been able to keep in touch with our parishes, please sign up for our Flocknote newsletters by text or email! This has become our main way to communicate to everyone and we will continue to send out weekly news (and special announcements!). Thank you all for supporting us as we work into a new normal. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions. Visit our website to sign up: chewelahcatholic.org

Diocese Announces Priest Assignments

Bishop Thomas Daly announced on May 18 that the new Pastor for the parishes of South Stevens County will be **Fr. Kenny St. Hilaire** assisted by Parochial Vicar, **Fr. Michael Ishida**.



Due to the sudden retirement of two priests, the parishes of Stevens County and Ferry County have been combined into one cluster of 9 churches. Fr. St. Hilaire will continue as pastor-in-residence at Immaculate Conception Parish in Colville and Fr. Ishida will be the priest-in-residence at St. Mary of the Rosary, Chewelah. Fr. Ishida will reside at St. Mary's Rectory in Chewelah. They will begin their ministry in our parishes on July 1st.



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St. Mary's Council Meeting— June 4th

There will be a St. Mary's Parish and Finance Council meeting on Thursday, June 4th at 5:30 in the parish hall. Social distancing will be practiced.

Notes from the Parish Office

The office has not resumed regular hours as of yet, but feel free to contact us at anytime! We regularly check email and voicemail. Also to note, during the parish closure we announced the new logo for the Catholic Parishes of Stevens County (pictured top left) and we just redesigned the website to fit the logo. We are regularly updating the website with new information so please let us know what you think.

If you would like to donate...

We know these have been difficult times for everyone, but if you would like to donate to any of our four parishes, please write checks payable to the parish of your choice and drop in the collection basket or mail to St. Mary of the Rosary, PO Box 26, Chewelah, WA 99109-0026.

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

A message from Fr. Booth:

Bishop Daly released a statement on Wednesday, May 27th reopening all parishes in Phase II counties (including Stevens County) for weekend worship. BUT note that there are a number of restrictions--please read all the following:

Obligation

- The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place until further notice. This means that although Sunday Mass is available once again, the dispensation remains for all Catholics throughout the diocese. If you do not attend Sunday Mass, it is not a sin.
- Vulnerable, at risk, or otherwise concerned persons must remain at home.
- Anyone who has even the slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness must remain at home.

Occupancy

- Parishes are limited to offer Mass for up to 25% of church occupancy. Pews will be closed off with tape to limit the church to 25% occupancy. (Only 7 pews will be open at St. Mary's and Holy Ghost). Once the open pews have been filled observing the 6' distance between individuals or family groupings/individuals, there will be no more seating. If you do not come early, you may be turned away.
- A distance of no less than 6 feet must be maintained between households/unrelated individuals.
- The names and contact information of those attending Mass must be provided BEFORE MASS and kept on file in the parish office for 30 days. This means you will need to arrive at least 15' earlier to write this information down on a form we will provide.
- Please do not congregate before or after Mass.
- Entry will be limited to the front doors of the church.

Sanitation

- Maintaining proper distance between parishioners and containing the respiratory droplets from people is essential.
- Parishioners are REQUIRED to wear face masks while in the church (unless it aggravates existing breathing problems. I was able to buy a limited number of masks that will be available if you do not have one.
 - Provision for hand sanitizer is mandated. Like everyone else we have had an impossible time trying to obtain hand sanitizer. If you have individual-size bottles, I encourage you to bring them for your use and the use of your family.
 - Doors to the church should be propped open to increase natural air flow.
 - Employ sanitation methods following gatherings.
 - Pew missals, envelopes, song books will be removed.
 - Holy water fonts are to remain empty.
 - The Sign of Peace is to be omitted.
 - Do not pass the collection basket from parishioner to parishioner. Please drop your offerings into a basket that will be next to the front doors.

- There is to be no procession/presentation of gifts by the faithful.
- Congregational singing is prohibited.

Abbreviated Time for Gatherings

Limiting the amount of time which people are gathered is recommended by health care experts.

- Homilies should be brief – 3 minutes or less.
- Take advantage of optional shortened bible readings and use of Eucharistic Prayer II.
- Liturgical processions inside church buildings are prohibited. If possible, simply enter and exit from the sacristy.

Holy Communion

- Parishioners will receive Holy Communion only on a flattened hand. Although this was only a recommendation in the Bishop's letter, I challenged this with him and the priest providing the guidelines. Since I'm in the prime demographic for COVID19 (as are the majority of our parishioners) I will not give Communion on the tongue for my safety and the safety of others!
- Households/unrelated individuals approaching for Holy Communion should be separated from other households/unrelated individuals following the six-foot separation guideline. There will be blue X's on the carpet indicating 6' foot distancing for the communion line.

Wearing gloves and using tongs are not permitted for giving Communion

Mass Schedule

We will follow our regular weekend Mass schedule with Saturday Masses at 4 pm at St. Mary of the Rosary and 6 pm at Sacred Heart. On Sunday, Mass will be celebrated at 8 am at Holy Ghost and at 10 am at St. Mary of the Rosary.

Weekday Masses will resume on Tuesday, June 2nd with the 6 pm Mass at Holy Ghost; Wednesday Mass at 9 am at St. Mary of the Rosary; Thursday Mass at 12 Noon at St. Mary of the Rosary; and on Friday at 9 am at St. Mary of the Rosary. Although next Friday is First Friday, communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick is suspended until further notice. With the Sunday obligation rescinded for the time being, I would encourage those of you who may be concerned about crowding at weekend Masses to substitute a daily Mass instead.

Please bear with me as we implement these new strictures and regulations. Since COVID19 can be carried by asymptomatic carriers it is essential that we observe them for the safety of all. We are entering in a different era where we are going to be asked to make certain sacrifices for the benefit of others--as Americans and Christians we can do no less!

Blessings, Fr Steve