January 5, 2025 Epiphany of the Lord



BEHOLD, MAGI FROM THE EAST.

St. Columban Parish

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m. Saturday 5 p.m. Daily Mass Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. (*Except First Fridays*) Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 6:30 p.m. Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m. Anointing of the Sick By request

Rosary Prayer Group Monday 7 p.m. **Spanish prayer group** Tuesday 6:30 p.m., Hall **Sacramental Preparation** Contact the office

The church is available for prayer during office hours upon request.

St. Peter Mission

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149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m. First Friday Mass 9:00 a.m. Confessions Sunday 7:30-7:45 a.m. Anointing of the Sick By request

Parish Office at St. Columban

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org 360-458-3031 **Monday-Thursday** 9:30 a.m.– 2p.m. Friday by appointment **Sacramental Emergencies** In danger of death call: 360-704-7051 **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** Help line 360-458-1904

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

For your Prayer and Meditation

Reflect on the Sunday Liturgy

Entrance Antiphon

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Sunday Readings *Is* 60:1-6/*Ps* 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12 -13 (see 11)/*Eph* 3:2-3a, 5-6/*Mt* 2:1-12

First Reading Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Isaiah foresees a time when the people of Jerusalem will be overwhelmed with happiness and prosperity. What gift could you receive that would bring you great joy

Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

St. Paul informs the Ephesians that he received a revelation of God's plan to save all people through Christ Jesus. What do you think makes your friends or relatives open to this idea?

Gospel

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

The visit of the magi teaches us about God's desire for the whole world know about his Son, Jesus. When do you first recall hearing about Jesus?

Communion Antiphon We have seen his star in the East and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Mass Intentions

Parishioners may schedule a Mass intention on our website or by calling the office. Sunday Masses are offered Pro Populo



The Code of Canon Law confirms the practice of offering Masses for particular intentions is ancient. "The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works" (945 §2).

Prayer Intentions

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sisters and those who have asked for our prayers

For The Sick and Homebound*

Robert Fisher, Marcella Thornton, Theresa Gonzales, Joe Judge, Pam Henslee, Mary Taylor, Leslie Seffern, Gaby Makinster, Maria Espino, and Mort Kimball.

For The Deceased

(360) 458-3031

All the souls in purgatory, especially Fr. Jim Lee and all those who have no one to pray for them. *May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

For our young people, that they may eagerly seek and generously respond to their vocations from God.

For peace in the world, for God's protection on those in danger, the defeat and true repentance of unjust aggressors, and mercy for those who have died by violence.

Monthly Intentions of the Pope: For the right to an education—Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Connect with us

nyelm.org
458-3031 spañol x2

LIVESTREAM

youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/saintcolumbanyelm instagram.com/saintcolumbanyelm

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pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm

MOBILE APP

"Our Catholic Community" (Apple App Store & Google Play)

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PARISH STAFF

Fr. Bryan Ochs Pastor parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org *not private

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Fr. Martin Bourke Senior Priest in residence

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St. Columban Finance & Pastoral Council Please be patient as this council is being restructured. Members will be posted once they have been officially appointed by our Pastor. St. Peter Advisory Commission Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston

Sunday Letter

Welcome to our Parish Family

St. Columban Parish proclaims the Roman Catholic faith to the communities of McKenna, Nisqually, Rainier, Roy, Tenino, and Yelm in southeast Thurston and southwest Pierce counties. Our community has grown since its origins at the former St. Margaret Mary Church in McKenna, and our current church in Yelm is named for the Irish-born 6th century missionary to Europe St. Columbanus of Bobbio. We have also been present in Tenino since 1891 through St. Peter Mission, named for the apostle and first pope.

Since July 2024, Sacred Heart Parish in Lacey, St. Columban Parish, and St. Peter Mission formed into Parish Family 40 under our pastor, Very Rev. Bryan Ochs.

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I can't believe it is 2025. We are a quarter of the way through the 21st Century and it feels like we are behind schedule on a few things. Flying cars, for example. How



has this not happened yet? I thought I'd own a spaceship by now.

Being serious though for a moment though, 2025 is bringing a lot of reasons to feel optimistic about the future of the Church. Several years ago I started watching a YouTube channel of an atheist who had argued repeatedly about the danger of believing in God and being religious. The reason that I started to watch him was because he didn't like the direction that the world was heading in as religion declined. He had argued for years that if religion died it would be replaced by science, and logical thought. But this isn't what he saw happening. In fact, he lamented that people seemed less logical and less interested in truth as religion waned.

Rather than considering that Christianity might actually be something that steers people to truth and, therefore, logic and opening his mind to the possibility of God, this youtuber doubled down and has embraced the philosophy of Nihilism completely, which is a philosophy that nothing has any meaning whatsoever. It is depressing as it sounds and, sadly, he seems to experiencing that as well.

But I bring it up because I recently checked in on his channel for the first time in several years and saw a video about the end of the "New Atheists." The "New Atheists" are people like Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris and others who sought to spread Atheism the way others spread religious faith. In the video, he admitted that this movement was basically over. Most of the people either died, renounced atheism to become Christian, or became "Cultural Christians" who don't believe in God but have come to prefer the world with Christianity to the world without it and have thus stopped spending their time opposing it.

I found it interesting because I remember how threatening this "New Atheism" movement felt at first. Bishop Robert Barron launched his Word on Fire ministry practically in response to these personalities. Word on Fire is stronger than ever, but the New Atheist movement is being declared over. It turned out that it was just kind of a fad. It opened with a bang, but now it has just slowly dwindled.

Not only are people not turning into the New Atheists, but many people are exploring Christianity and our Catholic Faith. This is certainly true in our parishes, as we have seen many young people (and especially young men) explore our faith through OCIA. It isn't just our parishes either. Parishes across the Archdiocese are seeing a positive trend.

The thing is that we can't forget that even when things seem bleak that God is still knocking on the door of the hearts and minds of many people. Yeah, things have gotten bleak, but this only makes what we are offering look more attractive to many. People have seen a world without Jesus, and they don't like it. God is working in the hearts and minds of many, which is why Christianity will never just be a fad. We aren't on an unending downward trend of faithlessness. It seems, to me, like we hit bottom and are on the rise again.

This won't be automatic though. We still need to provide good pastoral care, and form people to be strong disciples who others, faithful and non-faithful alike, can rely on in difficult times. I'm already seeing this in our parishes, and I'm excited to see it continue into the future.

So, Happy New Year! I hope 2025 will bring you and our entire parish joy and hope for the future.

Fr. Bryan

Dialogue for Justice: Catholic Advocacy to Reduce Poverty

Jesus' appearance as a child on the world stage of the Roman Empire creates a deadly tension. Herod, an insecure regional leader, feigns a holy interest while talking with the Magi. "I want to do him homage," (Mt 2:8) he lies. Herod is only interested in protecting his

Continued on next page

In our Parish

Continued from previous page

precious position. There can be no competition for his throne. It will lead him to do horrible things when he orders his soldiers to slay all boys under the age of two. (On December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents honored those first martyrs.) How mothers and fathers must have grieved over the loss of their children. Today as in years gone by, it is with deep sadness that mothers and fathers lose their children to violence and to other circumstances beyond their control. The number of people migrating worldwide due to extreme poverty is staggering. How many children become separated from their parents? What happens to them? How painful it must be to be forced to give up your child/ren because you are so desperate. January is Poverty Awareness Month. Pope Francis challenges us "to make a serious examination of conscience, to see if we are truly capable of hearing the cry of the poor." To learn more about poverty in the United States visit povertyusa.org. Lord, open my eyes to see you in the face of those in poverty. Open my ears to hear you in the cries of those exploited. Open my mouth to defend you in the public square as well as in my private deeds. I recall that what I do to the least I do to you. Amen. (Being Neighbor, USCCB, 1998)

Peace, Deacon Terry, ofs

Announcements

Parish Family Advisory Council nominations Thank you all who have submitted nominations to Fr. Ochs for joining the Parish Family Advisory Council.

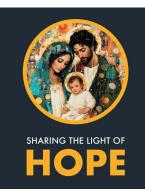
Thank you to all who helped with the decorating and clean-up of our Christmas decorations, especially our Altar Society, families, and Knights.

Tickets for the annual Knights of Columbus

Spaghetti Dinner will be on sale after all Masses now through the night of the dinner on Jan. 25, after the 5 p.m. Mass. Ticket sales support the charitable works of the Knights used to serve our parish and our local community.

Catholic Community Services of Western

Washington will have a guest speaker next weekend to speak about their annual Appeal for the Poor. Catholic Community Services and Catholic Housing Services are our local Catholic Charities at work, serving



tens of thousands of individuals and families in our neighborhood and across western Washington. Please join the thousands of volunteers and staff to support our neighbors in need through prayer, advocacy, volunteerism, or a generous donation.

Epiphany Chalk to bless your home will be available after all Masses this weekend. Read more about this custom on Page 6.

The Jubilee Year 2025 has commenced! Read more about it on Page 7.

Are you registered?

Registration ensures that we know you are here, makes us aware of your needs and gifts, but most of all it helps us to welcome you to the parish! Stop by and introduce yourselves! The Parish Office is open Mon-Thu 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. or call us for an appointment on Fridays. You may also register online at <u>saintcolumbanyelm.org</u>

Faith Formation

From the Catechism

534 *The finding of Jesus in the temple* is the only event that breaks the silence of the Gospels about the hidden years of Jesus. Here Jesus lets us catch a glimpse of the mystery of his total consecration to a mission that flows from his divine sonship: "Did you not know that I must be about my Father's work?" Mary and Joseph did not understand these words, but they accepted them in faith. Mary "kept all these things in her heart" during the years Jesus remained hidden in the silence of an ordinary life.

Next Sunday Faith Formation Classes

Jan. 5, 12, NO CLASS Jan. 19

Children & Adults, contact: Mrs. Makinster Elementary & Adult Faith Formation, <u>gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org</u> 360-458-3031 x2 habla Español

Youth Ministry, contact: Mr. Lucero

ym@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Parents, check your emails! We will communicate with you directly over email regarding YM events.

Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

Please pray for our candidates and catechumen as they prepare to join the Church this Easter.

Bible Study

Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at the Winter Clothes Closet.

Weekly Calendar

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY January 6	St. Andre Bessette
Rosary Prayer Group 7:00p.m.	Church
TUESDAY January 7 St. Raymond	of Penyafort, Priest
Daily Mass 9:00a.m.	Church
Winter Clothes Closet 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Small Hall
Spanish Prayer Group 6:30p.m.	Church
WEDNESDAY January 8	
Daily Mass 9:00a.m.	Church
Bible Study 10:00a.m.	St. Peter
Winter Clothes Closet 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Small Hall
THURSDAY January 9	
Daily Mass 9:00a.m.	Church
Altar Society Weekly Cleaning 9:30a.m.	Church
Choir Practice 6:00p.m.	Church
Winter Clothes Closet 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Small Hall
Bible Study 6:30p.m.	Small Hall
FRIDAY January 10	
Daily Mass 9:00 a.m.	Church
Daily Mass 9.00 a.m.	Church
SATURDAY January 11	•
Confession 3:30p.m.	Church
Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00p.m.	Church
SUNDAY January 12 Bay	otism of the Lord
Confession 7:30-7:45a.m.	St. Peter
Sunday Mass 8:00a.m. Int.: Pro Populo	St. Peter
Religious Ed 9-10:15 a.m.	RE Bldg
Confirmation Classes 9-10:15 a.m.	Hall
Sunday Mass 10:30a.m. Int.: Pro Populo	Church
Altar Society & DOM Fellowship 11:45a.	n. Parish Hall

After Mass Breakfast & Coffee Hospitality

Join us after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Parish Hall

Jan. 5 – Daughters of Mary

Jan. 12 — Altar Society

Jan. 19 – KofC Breakfast

Jan. 26-Youth Ministry Coffee & Donuts fundraiser



Altar Society

A team of talented parishioners beautifully maintain and clean the Church every Thursday after Daily Mass.

Daughters of Mary

Meets monthly, There is no meeting for December but join us **January 21** at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall for our Annual Christmas Party!

daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Liturgical Ministries

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org Altar Servers, Choir, Greeters/Ushers, Readers

Please check your schedules and arrive in time for Mass.

Knights of Columbus

The Council and Assembly meet monthly third Wednesdays of every month at 6p.m. in the hall, with Vespers beginning at 5:30 p.m. **Next Council & Assembly meetings:** Wednesday Jan. 15.



Wednesday Jan. 15. Join us for the Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday, Jan. 25 after the 5 p.m. Mass. Tickets are on sale now.

St. Peter Circle

Meets second Tuesdays every other month at St. Peter Tenino. Next scheduled meetings: Jan. 14, Mar. 11, and May 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Meets monthly, on the third Thursday of the month in the parish hall at 7 p.m. **Next** meeting is Jan. 16.





Winter Clothes Closet

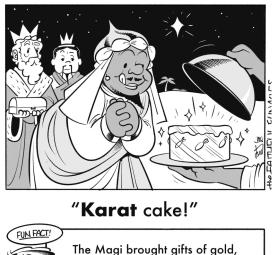
Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, &

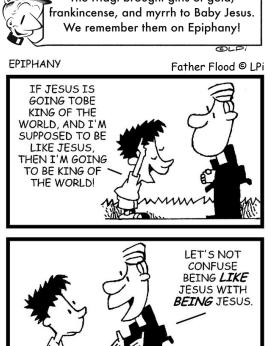
Thursdays 6-8p.m. Free to all in need, no questions asked. Donations are through the parish office or by using the bin in the narthex. Please do not leave donations outside the doors of the office or hall.

Keep in mind donations should be of good, re-usable quality; something you would wear. Items such as boots, gloves, hats, scarves, coats, blankets, etc. are needed; rather than summer apparel such as swimsuits, shorts, & flipflops which are not particularly useful for keeping warm during the winter months.

Sunday Features







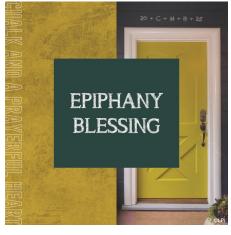
Devotions, *Explained*!

Epiphany Blessing, Explained

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

Instructions on blessing your home with Epiphany Chalk:

Take the blessed chalk and first write the initials of the three Wise Men, connected with Crosses, over the inside of your front door (on the lintel, if possible). Then write the year, breaking up the numbers and the year so that they fall on both sides of the initials. It should look like this, for example



20+C+M+B+25

with the "20 "being the millennium and century, the "C" standing for the first Wise Man, Caspar, the "M" standing for Melchior, the "B" standing for Balthasar, and the "25" standing for the decade and year. It is also popularly believed that the Kings' initials stand for "*Christus mansionem benedicat*" ("Christ bless this house").

While you do this, or after, you may say the following prayers:

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Loving God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and abiding in your will. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.



BYDER MERE

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The Three Wise Men: Share Your Gifts | Drawing Closer to God | Episode 6

Ms. Kim explains the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the importance of the wise men's gifts by teaching students how to draw the three magi. She challenges kids to do an act of kindness for someone, offering it as a gift to Jesus.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.

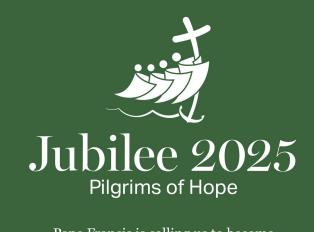


An offering from the PAUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and Igratics press

Other Events & Announcements

Jubilee Year 2025

During the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis is calling on all the faithful to become Pilgrims of Hope. The Jubilee Year began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica this past Christmas Eve. The doors will remain open until the end of the Jubilee Year on January 6, 2026. During the Jubilee, millions of pilgrims are expected to travel to Rome to walk through the Holy Doors and participate in Jubilee events. An indulgence is granted for those who participate in the Jubilee. Learn more at the link below.



Pope Francis is calling us to become Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee year.

Learn how to participate locally archseattle.org/Jubilee2025

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

For a complete list of events happening around the Archdiocese of Seattle visit <u>archseattle.org/eventslist</u>

Young Adult Silent Retreat

Jan. 17-19 | Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center, Federal Way

As we step into a new year, we invite all young adults ages 18-35 to pause, reflect, and renew your spirit at the Young Adult Silent Retreat, "That my joy may be in you" -Jn 15:11, led by the Benedictines, Abbot Marion from Saint Martin's Abbey and Mother Prioress Noella from Our Lady of the Rock Monastery

For questions about registration or the retreat, please contact <u>Diana.CasallasLopez@seattlearch.org</u>

For more happenings in our Parish Family Please visit <u>www.sacredheartlacey.com</u> **Project Rachel Hope & Healing After Abortion** English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 projectrachel@ccsww.org

Marriage Help

Retrouvaille <u>www.marriagehelpnw.com</u> Worldwide Marriage Encounter <u>wwme.org</u>

Washington State Catholic Conference represents the Catholic bishops of Washington in their efforts to support public policies that promote the common good. Visit <u>wacatholics.org</u>.

Holy Family School, a private independent PK-8. school in Lacey<u>Holyfamilylacey.org</u> 360-491-7060

High School Placement Test offered at Pope John Paul II High School

The HSPT is a standardized test administered to 8th graders that helps schools know where to place students academically when they enter high school. The test takes approximately three hours to complete and an essay will be administered after the standardized portion of the test.

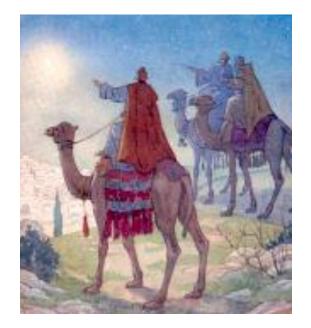
We host a Prospective Parent Information Session during the first hour of the HSPT for parents and guardians. The HSPT can be shared with any school that accepts the HSPT regardless of where it was proctored.

The cost of the test is \$30 which can be paid online for anyone with a JPII FinalSite account, or via cash/ check on the day of the test. Registration is required and can be accessed via the QR code or at: popejp2hs.org/high-school-placement-test-hspt/



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Blessing of Chalk on Epiphany



What is Blessed Chalk:

It is traditional for parish priests to bless chalk for each family so that they may mark the names of the three Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) over their doors. In the blessing of homes this serves as a witness of their faith to follow the Star and protection against evil in obeying the warning not to return to Herod. We as Catholics are called to always to follow the light of Christ and to resist the temptations of the enemy. Marking the initials of these three Magi and the current year is a way of dedicating ones household to remain faithful to Christ and serves as a symbol of that promise as you go to a from your house each day.

The chalk is a type of memento ("*Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return.*"), a reminder of the dust of the earth from which man was made. See Genesis 3:19.

Note that any color of chalk is valid for this blessing.

JOIN US FOR

THE ST. COLUMBAN 2025 ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Sponsored by the KofC Council 17152

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 6 to 8 p.m. St. Columban Parish Hall: 506 First St. S, Yelm

MENU: Spaghetti, Meatballs, Sausage, Salad, Bread, Italian Sodas, Hors d'oeuvres, beverages & dessert

TICKETS: \$13 ages 12 and over, \$6.50 kids 3-11 (under 3 FREE). Purchase tickets after Sunday Masses at St. Columban, at the office, or at saintcolumbanyelm.org/knights

Also featuring: Special Auction & Games for Children

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHARITABLE WORKS OF YELM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

You have the power to save lives Give Blood

St. Columban Parish Hall Thursday, February 13 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Pre-register for an appointment online: <u>redcrossblood.org</u> Search for "KnightsYelm"







December 29, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

WSCC Washington State Catholic Conference

May the peace of our Lord be with you this Christmas season.

We, the Bishops of Washington State, stand with our brothers and sisters who are immigrants and refugees. The threats of mass deportations and forced separation of families have caused great fear for refugees and migrants and their families – documented and undocumented. These threats are contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the dignity of every human person that is central to the teachings of our Catholic faith.

In his encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis reminds us, "If every human being possesses an inalienable dignity, if all people are my brothers and sisters, and if the world truly belongs to everyone, then it matters little whether my neighbor was born in my country or elsewhere" (#55).

While we uphold that we are a nation of laws, as we've stated in the past, we also know that the U.S. immigration system is severely flawed and in need of a comprehensive overhaul. As Christians we know our love for God is measured by our love of neighbor, particularly the most vulnerable. Rooted in Scripture, the Catholic Church has a long tradition of standing with those forced to migrate, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35). Therefore, we cannot separate our love for God from our love for others, as we echo Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote and integrate immigrants (*Fratelli Tutti* 129).

Even the Statue of Liberty reminds us that migration is part of the fabric of our nation, with a line from Emma Lazarus, a Jewish-American immigrant author, engraved on its pedestal: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

During this time of uncertainty and fear, we stand with our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters. May all our brothers and sisters on the margins, especially migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, know that our parishes are open for prayer, comfort and solace. May each of us embrace the Gospel teaching and Pope Francis' call to recognize the dignity of others as we welcome the stranger. As pilgrims of hope entering into a Jubilee year, we journey together through these uncertain times knowing Our Lady of Guadalupe walks with us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

In the Heart of Christ,

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne Archbishop of Seattle

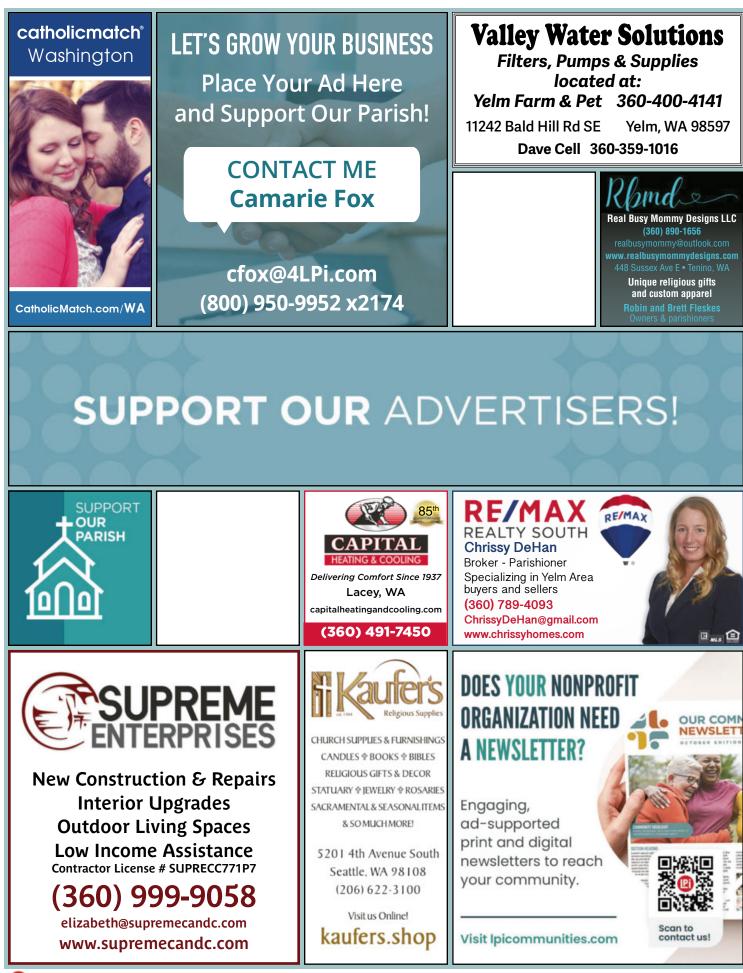
Most/Rev. Joseph J. Tyson Bishop of Yakima

Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly

Bishop of Spokane

Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S. Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

Most Rev. Frank Schuster Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle



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