

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter



• 4TH SUNDAY
OF EASTER •

MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE.

©LPI

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.

Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration First Friday 6:30 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 may be open for prayer during office hours upon request.

St. Peter Mission

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

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

Welcome Home

Reflect on the Sunday Liturgy

Readings: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c)/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

Entrance Antiphon The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading: The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region.

St. Paul and Barnabas experienced resistance from some of the Jews and leaders of the city of Antioch. What sustains you in difficult and challenging experiences?

Psalm: We are his people, the sheep of his flock. (Ps 100)

Second Reading: “For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Rv 7:17)

St. John sees a vision in which those who have suffered and died for the faith are comforted by God and relieved of their distress. Is there a family member or friend you could comfort this week?

Gospel: Jesus said: “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (Jn 10:27)

We hear how Jesus gives eternal life to all who follow him. How does following Jesus impact your work or family life?

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.

Additional resources for Bible Study may be found at www.sundayscripturestudy.com



Mass Intentions

Parishioners may schedule a Mass intention on our website or by calling the office. Masses are at St. Columban Church unless indicated.

Sunday, May 11, Fourth Sunday of Easter
8 a.m. *St. Peter*, Pro populo
10:30 a.m., Pro populo

Monday, May 12, Sts. Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyrs
No Mass

Tuesday, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima
9 a.m. Marie & Wess Goss

Wednesday, May 14, St. Matthias, Apostle
9 a.m. Brian Riggle

Thursday, May 15, St. Isidore
9 a.m.

Friday, May 16
9 a.m.

Saturday, May 17
5 p.m. Pro populo

Prayer Intentions

For The Sick and Homebound

Robert Fisher, Joe Judge, Pam Henslee, Mary Taylor, Maria Espino, Mort Kimball, Adrian Moralez, Judy Cusick, Theresa Gonzales, Clarene Rapoza, and John Scotto.

For The Deceased All the souls in purgatory, especially Kathryn D. O'Sullivan, Trinidad Francisco Cervantes, Pope Francis, Donald Bell 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.

Monthly Intentions of the Apostleship of Prayer

For working conditions: Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

Connect with us

WEBSITE saintcolumbanyelm.org

PHONE (360) 458-3031
Ministries x1, Spanish/Español x2

LIVESTREAM
youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm

SOCIAL MEDIA
facebook.com/saintcolumbanyelm
instagram.com/saintcolumbanyelm

ONLINE GIVING
pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm



St. Columban Finance & Pastoral Council *Member names 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

PARISH STAFF (360) 458-3031
parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Fr. Bryan Ochs
Pastor

Fr. William Dodoma
Parochial Vicar

Fr. Martin Bourke
Senior Priest in residence

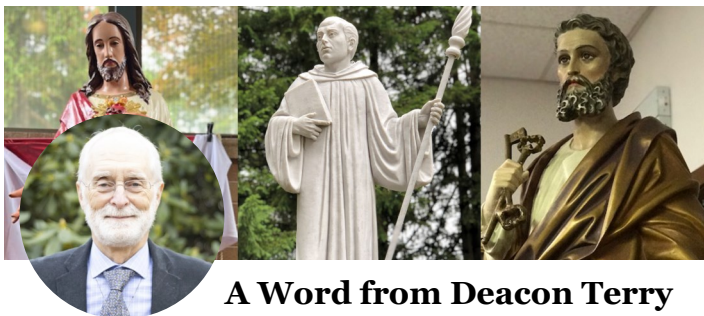
Matthew Tolar
PA for Admin, Bookkeeping & Records
matthew@3hearts.org
(360) 491-0890 Ext. 1301

Gabriela Makinster In Office: Tu-Th
Elementary & Adult Faith Formation,
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org x2
**habla Español*

Chad Lucero
Youth Ministry & Confirmation
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org x3

Steven Slater
St. Columban Maintenance
steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino *St. Peter Maintenance*
parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org



A Word from Deacon Terry

Dear Parish Family,

What a beautiful image our Church gives us today! Our brief Gospel reading – only four verses - from John highlights the love Jesus has for us. He is described as a shepherd who guides and watches over his valuable flock. We are, thanks be to God, his flock! Welcome to Good Shepherd Sunday!

At some point in most of our lives, we may have owned a pet. It may have been a something rather traditional...a dog, a cat, or a bird. Maybe there are some of you had something more exotic...a snake, tropical fish, a rabbit, or a rat! Then there are some of you who may have entered your pet in the county fair...a pig, a cow, or a sheep. Animals come in many forms, shapes, and sizes. No matter what it was, we grow attached to God's creature. It becomes a part of the family and is cherished...loved. In many ways they can shepherd us through joyful and turbulent periods of our lives. There is something about their silent presence that brings us comfort. We give thanks to God for creating such a variety of animals that grace our world.

Jesus uses the image of sheep to describe us and the image of a shepherd to describe God the Father. We belong to his flock because we hear his voice through the Gospels. It is his word that keeps us close to him for spiritual safety. If we fail to listen to his voice, then there is a chance we might just slip away into dangerous spiritual territory. A prowling wolf may be waiting for us!

The Easter season invites us to celebrate the great mystery of our faith and to listen intently to the voice of Jesus, our Shepherd. We are a just month away from another great Church event, Pentecost. The Holy Spirit wants to reveal [Himself] to us in a personal and intimate way. So what are we invited to learn?

In his book, "God is Not Fair and Other Reasons for Gratitude", Fr. Daniel Horan, OFM writes about hearing the Word, living the call. We have the capacity for a relationship with God in terms of being "hearers of the Word" (Karl Rahner). God discloses himself to us. God (the Shepherd) is the speaker, and we (his sheep) are the receivers who have "ears to hear."

Our identity is not what we (or others) think of ourselves. Our true identity comes from God. Our Gospel journey challenges us to shed our worldly concept of who we think we are and "learn to see ourselves and others with the

eyes of God" (Horan).

All of us know how hard it is to shut out the world. TV, computers, cell phones and other electronic gadgets distract us from the soul work we all are called to do... especially if we want to hear the quiet, whispering voice of God that comes to us through the whispering of the Holy Spirit. How can we hear the stirrings of the Shepherd's voice if we spend too much time listening to the howling of the world?

The season of Lent called us to "give up." Give up sweets, a latte, some indulgence we enjoy. Might I suggest Good Shepherd Sunday invites us to a different challenge...to "add time." Add a few moments of time every day (put it on our calendars)...it does not have to be a lot, just to read a short passage from Holy Scripture and then bask in silence. Don't be in a hurry. Let the words sink in. Can we hear our loving Shepherd speak to us in those words? He will!

Dialogue for Justice: Catholic Advocacy to Reduce Poverty

The early Church did not have an easy go of it (Acts 13:14, 423-52). When invited, Paul and Barnabas spoke "words of exhortation" (Acts 13:15) to those who were attending services in Antioch. Their words were so inspiring that many in attendance followed them afterward. This did not please the synagogue officials in the least. St. Mark tells us that "jealousy," "violent abuse," "incitement," and "persecution" were heaped upon the apostles and those who chose to follow them. As if that wasn't enough, they were "expelled from the territory" (Acts 13:50). Persecution knows no boundaries. It comes in the form of religious, ethnic, racial, gender, and so many other variations. There is a burning desire in the human condition that wants to keep people in "their place" so that a group can maintain control. Some forms of persecution garner headline news. Christians in the Middle East have suffered tremendously over the past two decades. The executive summary of a Catholic report entitled *Persecuted and Forgotten* outlines the terrible struggles the Catholic Church endures in countries like India, Syria, Nigeria, and China to name just a few. Harassment, torture and death are common experiences in the Christian communities of so many countries. One church in Lebanon has welcomed 800 families (6000 refugees) from Syria! We remember the words of the Gospel: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?" And we remember the reply the Son of Man gives: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matt 25: 37-38, 40).

May the Lord give you peace, Deacon Terry, ofs

Deacon Terry Barber one of three deacons in our Parish Family and a secular Franciscan.

In our Parish Family

Announcements

Happy Mother's Day! Thank you to our amazing volunteers at St. Peter and our Knights of Columbus and Daughters of Mary at St. Columban for making this day extra special.



From the Archdiocese

Your Annual Catholic Appeal Gift is Vital

Thank you to all those who have made a gift to the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal! Your support is vital for building up the future of our Church, whether it is through our youth and young adult ministries, teaching the faith and sharing in the beauty of the Gospel, or providing our priests and staff with training, including administrative services needed to support our parish. If you have not yet made your gift, please consider filling out a pew envelope or making your gift online by scanning the QR code. Our ACA goals are \$34,263 for St. Columban Yelm and \$7,041 for St. Peter Tenino. All gifts above our goal will go towards parking improvements at St. Columban & exterior paint at St. Peter.



Resources

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Oct 10-12, Tacoma. wwme.org or contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321.

Project Rachel—Hope and Healing After Abortion

English: (206) 920-6413/Español: (206)-450-7814
projectrachel@ccsww.org

Faith Formation

Our enrolled grade K-5 students logged 25,212 prayers prayed throughout the school year. Thank you for your prayers!

"My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."
-Philippians 4:19



Thank you to all catechists, classroom assistants, and hallway monitors for your assistance to teach and run our Sunday Faith Formation Classes this past school year! Join us for a special thank you outing on Friday, May 16. Contact Gaby or Chad for details.

Learn more about the Faith and prepare your family for the Sacraments: Registration begins in August for our Fall 2025 Religious Education & Sacramental Prep classes for children, youth, and adults. Contact the Parish Office for details.

Ignite NW & Camp Solanus: Are you interested in having your Middle School aged youth attend a Catholic Summer camp or High School aged youth attend a Summer Catholic youth conference? Contact Mr. Lucero for more information about Ignite NW (High schoolers), Camp Solanus (Middle Schoolers) for Boys and for Girls, and Steubenville NW (High schoolers).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

927 All religious, whether exempt or not, take their place among the collaborators of the diocesan bishop in his pastoral duty. From the outset of the work of evangelization, the missionary "planting" and expansion of the Church require the presence of the religious life in all its forms. "History witnesses to the outstanding service rendered by religious families in the propagation of the faith and in the formation of new Churches: from the ancient monastic institutions to the medieval orders, all the way to the more recent congregations."



formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

The 13th Day

In a world torn apart by persecution, war, and oppression, three children in Fatima were chosen by God to offer an urgent message of hope to the world. Based on the memoirs of the oldest seer, Lucia Santos, The 13th Day dramatizes the true story of three young shepherds who experienced six apparitions of Our Lady, which culminated in the final prophesied miracle on October 13.

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  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

This Week

All events are at St. Columban Yelm, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, May 11

7:30 a.m. Confessions, St. Peter
8:00 a.m. Mass, St. Peter
10:30 a.m. Mass, with May crowning, Church
11:30 a.m. Fellowship, Hall

Monday, May 12

7:00 p.m. Rosary Prayer Group, Church

Tuesday, May 13

9:00 a.m. Mass, Church
9:30 a.m. St. Peter Circle meeting, St. Peter
6:30 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group, Hall

Wednesday, May 14

9:00 a.m. Mass, Church
10:00 a.m. Bible Study, St. Peter

Thursday, May 15

9:00 a.m. Mass, Church
9:30 a.m. Altar Society, Church
6:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Church
6:30 p.m. Bible Study, RE Bldg.
7:00 p.m. SVdP meeting, Hall

Friday, May 16

9:00 a.m. Mass, Church

Saturday, May 17

3:30 p.m. Confessions, Church
5:00 p.m. Mass, Church

Sunday, May 18

7:30 a.m. Confessions, St. Peter
8:00 a.m. Mass, St. Peter
10:30 a.m. Mass with Children's First Holy Communion, Church
11:30 a.m. Fellowship, Hall

Sacred Heart Lacey

For Mass times, schedule, and events, please visit sacredheartlacey.com. Contact their office at staff@3hearts.org or 360-491-0890

The International Fatima

Rosary Community of Sacred Heart is inviting the parish family to their monthly Rosary and procession on Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. inside the church at Sacred Heart Lacey. Contact the parish office for more information.

Holy Family School, a private independent Catholic school in Lacey, serving PK-8. Visit Holyfamilylacey.org or call 360-491-7060.

Pope John Paul II High School, a Catholic, college-prep high school in Lacey. Visit popejp2hs.org or call 360-438-7600.



Parish Groups

Altar Society

A team of talented parishioners beautifully maintain and clean the Church weekly.



Daughters of Mary

Meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All women of the parish are invited **May 27** at 6 p.m. in the Hall. Please bring a snack to share!



Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers, Choir, Greeters/Ushers, Readers, & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



Knights of Columbus

The Council and Assembly will meet next on Wednesday, **May 21** at 6p.m. in the hall



St. Peter Circle

Meets second Tuesdays every other month at St. Peter Tenino. Next meeting: **May 13, 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 scheduled meeting: **May 15.**



Presented by the Knights of Columbus Yelm Council 17152

7TH ANNUAL COATS FOR KIDS CAR SHOW

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025

9AM-3PM

ST. COLUMBAN CHURCH - 506 FIRST ST S. YELM, WA



Proceeds benefit the purchase of winter coats for distribution within our community at Thanksgiving time.



Spectators free.

\$20 Entry Fee per car.



NEW! Children's Hot Rod Coloring Contest
Trophies for Top 10, People's Choice, Father's Favorite, Knights' Choice, Club Participation, Longest Distance, and Most Patriotic

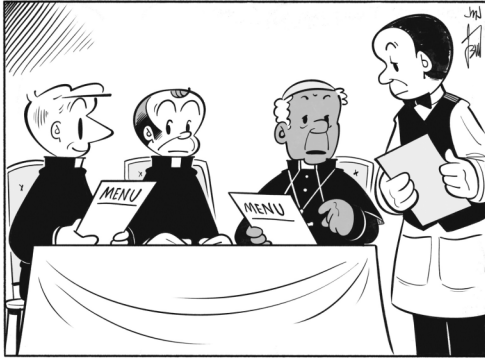


kofcyelm@gmail.com



Features & Outside Events

"What do you call a priest, a deacon, and a bishop asking for food at a restaurant?"



"Holy Orders."



FUN FACT!
Holy Orders refers to the sacrament in which a man is ordained a priest. When a man shares in the priesthood of Christ, he is then able to dispense the sacraments and offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

GLP

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Father Flood © LPI

LIFE IS SO HARD.

DID YOU EVER ENJOY A GREAT ADVENTURE MOVIE WHERE THE HERO OVERCOMES ALL KINDS OF BAD STUFF AND WINS IN THE END?

SURE.

JUST THINK OF YOUR LIFE AS A GREAT ADVENTURE MOVIE.

© 2007 LPI



seattlemensconference.org

Liturgy Corner

Communion Reception in the Hand Particles

Just like any bread, the wafers we use for communion have particles or crumbs that fall off of them as they are touched and moved.

The Church teaches that once the host has been consecrated it becomes literally the Body of Christ. So when those particles fall, it is the precious pieces of Jesus himself falling to the ground. During distribution of Holy Communion, priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion ensure that particles fall back into the ciborium or onto the paten held by the altar server. The particles are then carefully collected and consumed by the priest on the altar after communion when he purifies the vessels.

Communion on the Hand

When the host is placed on your hand, the movement from your hand to the mouth, if you're not done carefully, can cause particles to fall to the floor. If your preference of reception is on the hand, please use your palm like a paten and consume the Host over it in order to catch particles. Check your palm and finger tips, and if you see particles on them, lick them off.

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" - Luke 12:48

A Reflection for Mother's Day

We must now focus our meditation on virginity and motherhood as two particular dimensions of the fulfillment of the female personality. In the light of the Gospel, they acquire their full meaning and value in Mary, who as a Virgin became the Mother of the Son of God. These two dimensions of the female vocation were united in her in an exceptional manner, in such a way that one did not exclude the other but wonderfully complemented it. The description of the Annunciation in the Gospel of Luke clearly shows that this seemed impossible to the Virgin of Nazareth. When she hears the words: "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus", she immediately asks: "How can this be, since I have no husband?" (Lk 1: 31, 34). In the usual order of things motherhood is the result of mutual "knowledge" between a man and woman in the marriage union. Mary, firm in her resolve to preserve her virginity, puts this question to the divine messenger, and obtains from him the explanation: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you" - your motherhood will not be the consequence of matrimonial "knowledge", but will be the work of the Holy Spirit; the "power of the Most High" will "overshadow" the mystery of the Son's conception and birth; as the Son of the Most High, he is given to you exclusively by God, in a manner known to God. Mary, therefore, maintained her virginal "I have no husband" (cf. Lk 1: 34) and at the same time became a Mother. Virginity and motherhood co-exist in her: they do not mutually exclude each other or place limits on each other. Indeed, the person of the Mother of God helps everyone - especially women - to see how these two dimensions, these two paths in the vocation of women as persons, explain and complete each other.

Motherhood

In order to share in this "vision", we must once again seek a deeper understanding of the truth about the human person recalled by the Second Vatican Council. The human being - both male and female - is the only being in the world which God willed for its own sake. The human being is a person, a subject who decides for himself. At the same time, man "cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of self". It has already been said that this description, indeed this definition of the person, corresponds to the

fundamental biblical truth about the creation of the human being - man and woman - in the image and likeness of God. This is not a purely theoretical interpretation, nor an abstract definition, for it gives an essential indication of what it means to be human, while emphasizing the value of the gift of self, the gift of the person. In this vision of the person we also find the essence of that "ethos" which, together with the truth of creation, will be fully developed by the books of Revelation, particularly the Gospels.

This truth about the person also opens up the path to a full understanding of women's motherhood. Motherhood is the fruit of the marriage union of a man and woman, of that biblical "knowledge" which corresponds to the "union of the two in one flesh" (cf. Gen 2:24). This brings about - on the woman's part - a special "gift of self", as an expression of that spousal love whereby the two are united to each other so closely that they become "one flesh". Biblical "knowledge" is achieved in accordance with the truth of the person only when the mutual self-giving is not distorted either by the desire of the man to become the "master" of his wife ("he shall rule over you") or by the woman remaining closed within her own instincts ("your desire shall be for your husband": Gen 3:16).

This mutual gift of the person in marriage opens to the gift of a new life, a new human being, who is also a person in the likeness of his parents. Motherhood implies from the beginning a special openness to the new person: and this is precisely the woman's "part". In this openness, in conceiving and giving birth to a child, the woman "discovers herself through a sincere gift of self". The gift of interior readiness to accept the child and bring it into the world is linked to the marriage union, which - as mentioned earlier - should constitute a special moment in the mutual self-giving both by the woman and the man. According to the Bible, the conception and birth of a new human being are accompanied by the following words of the woman: "I have brought a man into being with the help of the Lord" (Gen 4:1). This exclamation of Eve, the "mother of all the living" is repeated every time a new human being comes into the world. It expresses the woman's joy and awareness that she is sharing in the great mystery of eternal generation. The spouses share in the creative power of God!

The woman's motherhood in the period between the baby's conception and birth is a bio-physiological and psychological process which is better understood in our days than in the past, and is the subject of many detailed studies. Scientific analysis fully confirms that the very physical constitution of women is naturally disposed to motherhood - conception, pregnancy and giving birth - which is a consequence of the marriage union with the man. At the same time, this also corresponds to the psycho-physical structure of women. What the different branches of science have to say on this subject is important and useful, provided that it is not limited to an exclusively bio-physiological interpretation of women and of motherhood. Such a "restricted" picture would go hand in hand with a materialistic concept of the human being and of

the world. In such a case, what is truly essential would unfortunately be lost. Motherhood as a human fact and phenomenon, is fully explained on the basis of the truth about the person. Motherhood is linked to the personal structure of



the woman and to the personal dimension of the gift: "I have brought a man into being with the help of the Lord" (Gen 4:1). The Creator grants the parents the gift of a child. On the woman's part, this fact is linked in a special way to "a sincere gift of self". Mary's words at the Annunciation - "Let it be to me according to your word" - signify the woman's readiness for the gift of self and her readiness to accept a new life.

The eternal mystery of generation, which is in God himself, the one and Triune God (cf. Eph 3:14-15), is reflected in the woman's motherhood

and in the man's fatherhood. Human parenthood is something shared by both the man and the woman. Even if the woman, out of love for her husband, says: "I have given you a child", her words also mean: "This is our child". Although both of them together are parents of their child, the woman's motherhood constitutes a special "part" in this shared parenthood, and the most demanding part. Parenthood - even though it belongs to both - is realized much more fully in the woman, especially in the prenatal period. It is the woman who "pays" directly for this shared generation, which literally absorbs the energies of her body and soul. It is therefore necessary that the man be fully aware that in their shared parenthood he owes a special debt to the woman. No program of "equal rights" between women and men is valid unless it takes this fact fully into account.

Motherhood involves a special communion with the mystery of life, as it develops in the woman's womb. The mother is filled with wonder at this mystery of life, and "understands" with unique intuition what is happening inside her. In the light of the "beginning", the mother accepts and loves as a person the child she is carrying in her womb. This unique contact with the new human being developing within her gives rise to an attitude towards human beings - not only towards her own child, but every human being - which profoundly marks the woman's personality. It is commonly thought that women are more capable than men of paying attention to another person, and that motherhood develops this predisposition even more. The man - even with all his sharing in parenthood - always remains "outside" the process of pregnancy and the baby's birth; in many ways he has to learn his own "fatherhood" from the mother. One can say that this is part of the normal human dimension of parenthood, including the stages that follow the birth of the baby, especially the initial period. The child's upbringing, taken as a whole, should include the contribution of both parents: the maternal and paternal contribution. In any event, the mother's contribution is decisive in laying the foundation for a new human personality.

From MULIERIS DIGNITATEM,
apostolic letter of Pope St. John Paul II, 1988



Clergy: Answerable to God or State

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne

May 4, 2025

Towards the end of this year's legislative session, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill (SB5375) making all clergy mandatory reporters of abuse, with no exemptions for the privileged communication between priest and penitent during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This means that by Washington State Law, Catholic clergy are now required to violate the seal of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, better known to many as confession. On Friday, May 2, 2025, Governor Ferguson [signed the bill into law](#).

This weekend at Mass, the first reading was from the Acts of the Apostles. After the apostles were arrested and thrown into jail for preaching the name of Jesus Christ, St. Peter responds to the Sanhedrin: "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). This is our stance now in the face of this new law. Catholic clergy may not violate the seal of confession – or they will be excommunicated from the Church. All Catholics must know and be assured that their confessions remain sacred, secure, confidential and protected by the law of the Church.

The Catholic Church agrees with the goal of protecting children and preventing child abuse. The Archdiocese of Seattle remains committed to reporting child sexual abuse, working with victim survivors towards healing and protecting all minors and vulnerable people. Our policies already require priests to be mandatory reporters, but not if this information is obtained during confession.

The Catholic Church in the U.S. has been committed to preventing sexual abuse for many decades, reporting incidents of abuse to law enforcement and cooperating with civil authorities. In the Archdiocese of Seattle such efforts began in 1986.

While we remain committed to protecting minors and all vulnerable people from abuse, priests cannot comply with this law if the knowledge of abuse is obtained during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Three-year history of this bill

Various forms of this bill attempted to provide limited protections for privileged communications, but those accommodations for religious practice prevented this bill from passing in previous legislative sessions. Conversations between the Washington State Catholic Conference staff and legislators and efforts to collaborate on an amicable solution eventually failed this session ushering this most extreme version of the bill to pass and receive the Governor's endorsement. What began as a well-intentioned effort, ended in a problematic and unnecessary version of the bill signed into law.

Once the approved bill went to the Governor for his signature, the Bishops of the State of Washington asked for a meeting to discuss our concerns with the Governor who unfortunately did not respond to our request.

Constitutional Amendment Rights

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an **establishment** of religion, or prohibiting the **free exercise** thereof."

With this law, the State of Washington is specifically targeting religious conduct by inserting the government into the Catholic tradition, namely, the highly defined ritual of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The state is now requiring priests to violate an essential element of the rite, the confidential communication between the priest and penitent in which the absolution of sin is offered.

This law also attempts to supersede the Code of Canon Law, which states:

Canon 983: The sacramental seal is inviolable; therefore, it is a crime for a confessor in any way to betray a penitent by word or in any other manner or for any reason.

Canon 1386: A confessor who directly violates the sacramental seal incurs a *latae sententiae* [automatic] excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See; he who does so only indirectly is to be punished according to the gravity of the offence.

Once the state asserts the right to dictate religious practices and coerce information obtained within this sacrament - privileged communication - where is the line drawn between Church and state? What else may the state now demand the right to know? Which other religious practices will it try to legislate? Why is this privileged communication between priest/penitent the only one singled out? Why not attorney/client? Doctor/patient? Spouses?

This new law singles out religion and is clearly both government overreach and a double standard. The line between Church and state has been crossed and needs to be walked back. People of every religion in the State of Washington and beyond should be alarmed by this overreach of our Legislature and Governor.



Annual Catholic Appeal 2025

TOGETHER IN FAITH

WE ARE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
IN WESTERN WASHINGTON

We celebrate Mass and pray together. We care for the sick and visit the homebound. We teach youth our faith and invite new Catholics into the faith. We welcome the stranger and visit the incarcerated. We are the living body of Jesus Christ. **Together in Faith, we are the Catholic Church of Western Washington.**

The Annual Catholic Appeal is an opportunity for you to support the mission of the Church in Western Washington. Your gift supports faith formation, local outreach, education, administration ministries for parishes – and much more.

Your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal provides ministries that no one parish can manage alone. Together in faith, your support fosters the mission of the Catholic Church and brings more than 60 ministries to life across Western Washington.



Photos by Stephen Brashear

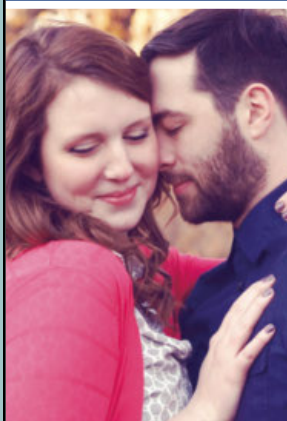


MAKE YOUR ACA GIFT TODAY

Archseattle.org/GiveACA | 800-809-4921



catholicmatch®
Washington



CatholicMatch.com/WA

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Camarie Fox

cfox@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2174

YELM FARM & PET/VALLEY WATER SOLUTIONS

**Pump & Well Supplies, Pet &
Livestock Feed, Dog/Cat Treats & Toys,
Propane, Fencing & More**
11242 Ball Hill Rd SE, Yelm
360-400-4141
Dave's Cell 360-359-1016

Rbmd

Real Busy Mommy Designs LLC
(360) 890-1656

realbusymommy@outlook.com
www.realbusymommydesigns.com
448 Sussex Ave E • Tenino, WA

Unique religious gifts
and custom apparel

Robin and Brett Fleskes
Owners & parishioners

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

SUPPORT
OUR
PARISH



CAPITAL
HEATING & COOLING

Delivering Comfort Since 1937

Lacey, WA

capitalheatingandcooling.com

(360) 491-7450

RE/MAX

REALTY SOUTH
Chrissy DeHan

Broker - Parishioner

Specializing in Yelm Area
buyers and sellers

(360) 789-4093

ChrissyDeHan@gmail.com

www.chrissyhomes.com



New Construction & Repairs
Interior Upgrades
Outdoor Living Spaces
Low Income Assistance
Contractor License # SUPRECC771P7

(360) 999-9058

elizabeth@supremecandc.com

www.supremecandc.com



CHURCH SUPPLIES & FURNISHINGS
CANDLES ✦ BOOKS ✦ BIBLES
RELIGIOUS GIFTS & DECOR
STATUARY ✦ JEWELRY ✦ ROSARIES
SACRAMENTAL & SEASONAL ITEMS
& SO MUCH MORE!

5201 4th Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98108
(206) 622-3100

Visit us Online!

kaufers.shop

**DOES YOUR NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION NEED
A NEWSLETTER?**

OUR COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER EDITION



Engaging,
ad-supported
print and digital
newsletters to reach
your community.

Visit lpicomunities.com

Scan to
contact us!



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Columban, Yelm, WA

A 4C 05-1744