

April 24, 2020

Skagit Valley
Catholic
Churches
live streamed
Mass

Sunday

10:00 – English

11:15 – Spanish

Daily Mass

Tuesday through
Friday at 5:00 pm
with Fr. Ben Bray on
his YouTube
Channel.

Prayer at St,
Charles Church

The Church will be
open on Friday
afternoon from 3:00
to 9:00 for prayer.
The Blessed
Sacrament will be
exposed at 3:00 pm.

We are following the
social distancing
guidelines as
recommended.



A letter from our pastor, Fr. Tom McMichael

Dear Friends,

Franciscan friar Fr. Richard Rohr writes in his book *Falling Upward* that “. . . the most common one-liner in the Bible is “Do not be afraid”; in fact, someone counted and found that it occurs 365 times!”[p. 6] I confess that I did not go back and check to see if this is true, but I do know that “Be not afraid” is a phrase we hear over and over in both the Old and New Testaments. Indeed, are there any words that are more important for us to hear right now in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis? The Risen Lord Jesus says to each of us: “Do not be afraid.”

This is a strange and anxious time. It is tough to be isolated; it is even tougher to be sick or have loved ones who are sick. I want you to know I continue to pray for you all and for the many who are struggling. I also want you to know that ministries in our Skagit Valley Catholic Churches continue. I, Fr. Ben, and Fr. Paul continue to respond to calls to visit the sick and hear confessions. Masses, though not public, are being celebrated and livestreamed on our SVCC Facebook page on Sundays at 10:00 (English) and 11:15 a.m. (Spanish). SVCC clergy, staff, and volunteers are reaching out by phone and email. I was privileged to join a wonderful virtual meeting of our RCIA class yesterday; many of our school and parish meetings are now being done virtually as well. On top of that, the faithful supporters and volunteers of our Tri-Parish Food Bank have adapted to the new health concerns and the increased demand for help; Director Lilia Ortiz reports that last Saturday the food bank served an amazing 485 families.

These are extraordinary and difficult times here in the Skagit Valley and in many parts of our world. As we know from Holy Scriptures and experience, God is present, faithful, and active in precisely times like these. I ask for your continued prayers and partnership as we seek to continue to serve our Lord and our neighbors together.
“Do not be afraid.”

Fr. Tom

P.S. Our SVCC parishes and ministries are especially in need of your financial support right now. I thank all of you who have sent offerings and special gifts these past few weeks. For those who haven't, tithes and offerings can be mailed to your parish office or made electronically through your parish website. Thank you.

Fr. Tom McMichael
Pastor, Skagit Valley Catholic Churches

Contact Information

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St. Charles pray for us

Mass Intentions and Prayer Intentions

St. Charles has several ways in which we support one another through our communion in faith and prayer. The ways that are most familiar to many occur during our celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. These are prayers for a particular person or concern such as an ill friend or family member, the repose of the soul of a loved one, or a thanksgiving for a blessing received.

In Eucharistic celebrations a single designated **Mass intention** is often but not always announced by the priest.

These requested intentions will be listed in our St. Charles email newsletter. Because of the limited number of Masses being celebrated now we will only be able to accommodate a limited number of requests for designated intentions. There is only one intention designated for each Mass and at least one Sunday Mass intention is always celebrated *Pro Populo* (for the people)—the intention is for the people of the whole parish.

A family member may also ask that their loved one's name to be added to the **Prayers of the Faithful**. These petitions may be for healing grace, thanksgiving, a birthday or an anniversary. We also include a petition for the repose of the souls of our dear ones who have gone before us in the light of Christ—often those who have recently died or on the anniversary of death. In these petitions we lift up our needs and those of our neighbors, our joys, sorrows, and thanksgivings.

Please submit all prayer requests at this time to: denise@skagitcatholic.org

Prayers for Healing

Dorothy Bluhm Urbick

Prayers for the Repose of the Soul

Kerry E Laird (Stump)

Prayers for Thanksgiving

For the Ortiz family's restored health

2020 Stewardship of Treasure

July to March Income	\$241,327
July to March Expenses	\$252,044
Shortfall	\$(10,716)
March 2019 Donations	\$ 25,468
March 2020 Donations	\$ 17,906

As Fr. Tom mentioned in his letter above, St. Charles Parish is in need of your financial support.

The numbers above are reflected only through March and I do not see any great improvement so far for the month of April.

You are welcome to mail your stewardship contribution – our mailbox is locked. We are picking up mail on a daily basis.

Another option to consider is to give through our online giving. By going to the St. Charles web site you can click on the Online Giving icon/logo and it will take you to the page to create a new account. You can contribute to the parish, the TriParish Food Bank or any of the Archdiocese Collections.

Your contributions support the ministry and operations of St. Charles Parish. We are grateful for your support.

Denise Rhone, PA Administration and Ministry Support

The St. Charles Parish website is located at: www.stcharles-burlington-wa.org



St. Charles Borromeo Prayer

Almighty God, you have generously made known to human beings the mysteries of your life through Jesus Christ your Son in the Holy Spirit.

Enlighten my mind to know these mysteries which your Church treasures and teaches.

Move my heart to love them and my will to live in accord with them.

Give me the ability to teach this Faith to others without pride, without ostentation, and without personal gain.

Let me realize that I am simply your instrument for bringing others to the knowledge of the wonderful things you have done for all your creatures.

Help me to be faithful to this task that you have entrusted to me.

Amen.

**Preparing for
Saturday
distribution**



TriParish Food Bank

Immaculate Conception +
St. Charles + Sacred Heart

Distribution: Saturday
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

All are welcome

“For I was hungry and you
gave me food...”

Matthew 25:35

I would like to say a big thank you to all of our volunteers who have worked very hard during this time. Thank you to the board members for all your help and presence.

During Holy Week, I overheard the beautiful conversations amongst each other, many asking why each one was here. One volunteer said they were there because it was Good Friday and Jesus gave up His life for us, so it was the least he could do. This week was no different--you were all there to continue to do God's work.

Every time we are done giving food, we ask ourselves how we will have enough food for the next week. God always answers our prayers in many mysterious ways. This past Saturday, Pat from the Knights of Columbus showed up with a truck load of food and checks he had collected from his neighbors from the retired community. Throughout the day, other people stopped by to donate money. A member from our parish decided to donate their stimulus check to the food bank, saying someone else may need it more than him.

This weekend, we were prepared for 300 families, thinking we would have enough for our clients. Throughout the day, more and more people showed up as food was running out. Miraculously, a Youth Migrant Project youth group from St. Anne's came to drop off four-car loads of food. We could not believe the amount of food they brought! Thankfully for this group, we were able to serve everyone that came through. We served 485 families in need.

Lilia Ortiz,
Director,
TriParish Food Bank

Covid-19: A Prayer for Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For all affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, we pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone. For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, we pray for recognition of all God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for solidarity. For public official and decisionmakers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen

