Walla Walla Catholic Parishes The Baptism of the Lord | January 9, 2022

Weekend Mass Times

Ministry

Fr. Matthew Nicks, Pastor Fr. David Gaines, Parochial Vicar Fr. Curtis Seidel, Chaplain Catholic Schools Deacon Jim Barrow Deacon Maclobio Robles Deacon Olegario Reyes Anne Guest, R.E. Director Martha Jimenez Youth / Sp. RE Karin Western, Facility Coordinator / Bookkeeper

Weekday Mass Times

St. Francis Monday - Friday......7 :00 am Assumption Wednesday & Friday......8:30 am St. Patrick's Tuesday & Thursday12:00 noon

Confessions

Saturdays	Assumption	2:30 pm
Sundays	St. Francis	8:00 am
	St. Patrick	9:00 am
Wednesdays	St. Patrick	4:30 pm
(First) Fridays.		

Tri Parish Phone: (509) 525-3310 St. Francis: Ext. 1 Assumption: Ext. 2 St. Patrick: Ext. 3

Mailing Address: 408 W. Poplar Walla Walla, WA 99362



From the Pastor January 9, 2022



Some time ago, a parishioner asked that, in the bulletin, I address how the Church makes decisions and, further, whether the Church has the right to make those determinations in areas of faith and

morals.

These, or course, are very important questions for consideration and, their answer, an essential aspect of what sets Catholicism apart from every other derivative form of Christianity. union, open up my home to house the homeless, or make any other challenging decision in life, if *God Himself* made it clear that it was *His will* for me?

Additionally, on an experiential level, for the average Christian sitting in the pew these questions are important as they have concrete implications for one's every day life. Indeed, it is because of these implications that many people attempt to elevate their personal autonomy and liberty over and against the teaching office of the Church. E.g. who are a bunch of old celibates to tell me what I do with my money, my relationships, my time, my body, etc.

Such questions are, in and of themselves, valid and worth addressing. However, the manner in which they are often proposed is indicative of one who, from the outset, is not actually interested in seeking truth, but of justifying one's current predilections and practices. Therefore, a more important and fundamental question must be asked before seeking to address the Church's authority in such matters and the manner in which she makes such decisions.

Each of us needs to ask ourselves (and be brutally honest with our responses), would I even accept God Himself telling me such things? Would I make difficult, life altering, sacrificial

decisions and changes if God Himself appeared before my waking eyes and command that I do so? Would I make these changes if I didn't or even couldn't understand why He was asking them of me?

Would I end a relationship, quit a lucrative job, abandon the use of contraceptives, separate from a spouse with whom I am not married in the Church, give 10% or more of my income to charity, embrace a different form of worship (whether ancient or new), choose to have a child resulting from a crisis pregnancy, be absent from a family member's celebration of a same-sex union, open up my home to house the homeless, or make any other challenging decision in life, if *God Himself* made it clear that it was *His will* for me?

If we are honest, we can all find a question of this type that challenges us; before we can honestly assess the Church's authority, we must assess our own openness to God's authority over us. Are there things we would be unwilling to change, even if He was the one asking? Because the manner in which the Church makes decisions in areas of faith and morals and whether she has the right to do so are moot points if one has already denied that right to God.

Next week, we will continue this theme, first addressing how we can have a more radically open heart to God in our life and then, subsequently, seeing how that openness paves the way to understanding more fully the way in which the Holy Spirit works through the teaching office of the Church.

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever!

In Christ,

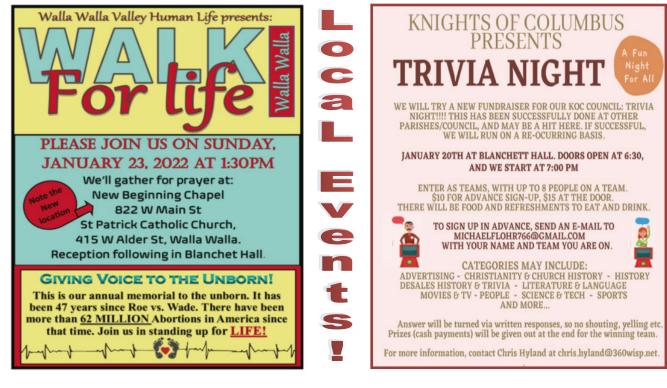
For Mik

Fr. Nicks

Pulpit Announcements



Thank you for your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal! If you have not yet pledged, please go online at <u>dioceseofspokane.org</u> or use one of the blank envelopes in the back of the church.





Walla Walla Catholic Schools

Strong in Virtue, Exceptional in Learning, Generous in Service

WWCS Mother/Son Brunch is January 30th!

It is almost time for the WWCS Mother/Son brunch! This is an opportunity for the schools to recognize and appreciate the important role that all mothers have in the formation of our awesome students. Mothers and sons in the WWCS system from grades 6-12 are invited to attend! All attendees are welcome to start the day with Sunday Mass at 9:30 AM, with the brunch following Mass. Look for more details coming soon!

Sacred Music Question of the Month

Music at Mass: What is the Mass Ordinary?

Want to enroll your child at the ELC, Assump-

tion, or DeSales for the 2021-22 school year?

Contact our Enrollment Coordinator, Geoff

White, for more information and to schedule a

tour! Email Geoff at gwhite@thewwcs.com, or

contact him by phone at (509) 525-9283.



To learn the answer, scan the OR code with your phone

scan the QR code with your phone!

We would love to see members of our parish community get out to support our student athletes! To view the full game schedules for all of our sports seasons, check out the athletics page on our website. **thewwcs.com/seasons-and-teams**

DeSales Catholic High School Principal: John Lesko 919 E Sumach St, Walla Walla, WA (509) 525-3030 Assumption Catholic Grade School Principal: John Lesko 2066 E Alder St, Walla Walla, WA (509) 525-9283



Assumption Early Learning Center Geoff White - ELC/Director 2096 E Alder St, Walla Walla, WA (509) 525-9478

Tri-Parish Faith and Formation

Sacraments

<u>Baptism</u>

Baptism classes are the first Saturday of every month. Please contact Deacon Jim Barrow at: jimb@bmi.net or call your parish office.

Confirmation & First Eucharist For information, please contact

Annie Guest: **509-906-4429**

Marriage Preparation

Contact one of the priests at least 4 months before your desired wedding date.

<u>RCIA</u>

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is starting up soon. Contact Andrew Neal at: andrew.neal.84@gmail.com Or contact your parish office.

Adult Education

<u>Natural Family Planning</u>

For information on learning family planning methods approved by the Catholic Church call: Kathy Martuscelli at 529-1020.



If you have a loved one homebound, in a nursing home or facility who is Catholic, get them on the list to receive Holy Communion. Call your parish office for contact information.

WOMEN OF FAITH: All women are invited to participate in this fall's offering- Church of the Holy Spirit, Acts of the Apostles (1-14) by Stepehn Binz. We will begin onThursday October 7, 1-3 pm. We will gather in the St. Patrick Nursery. All Covid 19 protocols willbe observed. If you would like to participate, please email Sue Logsdon at slogsdon@hotmail.com or call her at 529-3719. The book is about \$14, plus shipping and tax.

THE TRI-PARISH PRAYER GROUP

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt.18:20 We meet in the ST. PATRICK'S NURSERY Monday 4:00 to 5:00pm. You are welcome to share your prayer requests and/or join with us. For more information please call Loraine Valencsin at 529-4378 or Sue Erlebach at 520-6324. WA State COVID Protocol followed.

Sacramental Prep & Religious Ed

Tri Parish R.E. Director | Anne Guest DRE@thewwcs.com 509-906-4429 Classes at Assumption Catholic School 2066 E Alder, Walla Walla <u>Spanish Sacramental Religious Ed</u> <u>Tri Parish Youth Group Leader</u> Martha Jiminez 509-525-3310 St Patrick's Parish office 408 W Poplar St, Walla Walla

JOIN US FOR YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY NIGHTS IN THE YOUTH ROOM! 5:00pm Middle school | 7:00pm High school

5.00pm Middle School / 7.00pm High School

JANUARY 9, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Baptism by: Venerable Fulton Sheen,

"The sunshine, the carbons, and the rain could never share the life of the plant unless they died to their lower existence and were assumed or taken up into plant life Plants could never share the sensitive and locomotive power of animals, unless they died to their lower existence and were taken up by the animal. None of the things in lower creation could live in man, and share his arts, his sciences, his thinking and his loves unless they ceased to be what they were, submitting to the death of knife and fire.

Now, since there is a life above the human, the Christ-life, man, or the old Adam, cannot share in it unless he dies to himself. But here there is no confiscation or violent appropriation as there is when the cow eats grass. Christ will not take us up to Himself unless we freely give ourselves to Him. This death to the life of sin, this sharing of the divine life, is Baptism."

Tri-Parish Outreach and Evangelization

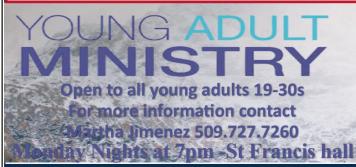


If anyone is interested in a 30-day preparation and consecration to our Lady, they can contact Katherine Anderson by phone: 541-701-7937 or email: unitedtohiswill@gmail.com



Love the Madonna and *pray* the rosary, for her *rosary* is the *æeapon* against the *evils* of the world today. A message from Padre Pio

Learning about our faith has never been more accessible! FORMED.ORG Our Free parish access: wwcatholic.formed.org



Are YOU or someone you know Interested In learning more about the Catholic Church? Contact your parish office or email Andrew Neal at: andrew.neal.84@gmail.com

THE TRI-PARISH PRAYER GROUP "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt.18:20 ST. PATRICK'S NURSERY Monday 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. You are welcome to share your prayer requests and/or join with us. For more information please call

Loraine Valencsin at 529-4378 or Sue Erlebach at 520-6324.



Mission Statement: The Tri-Parish Catholic Social Concerns Ministry is made up of parishioners from St. Patrick, St. Francis and Assumption parishes, who strive, in the light of Gospel values, to raise awareness of and address social concerns in our community and society through word and deed. For more information regarding this column, contact Sue Logsdon at <u>slogsdon@hotmail.com</u>.

DISCIPLESHIP requires humility. "It is owing to his favor that salvation is yours through faith. This in not your doing, it is God's gift; neither is it a reward for anything you have accomplished, so let no one pride himself on it." (Eph. 2:8-9)

"How much and how many of us are still obsessed with the idea that we must merit, earn, and deserve our heavenly reward? ...But salvation is God's gift to us. We must willingly, humbly, and gratefully accept his gift and cooperate with it by permitting his divine life to be operative within us. "Msgr. David Rosage <u>Abide in Me</u>. Dec. 22

CCC 2559 "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." (St. John Damascene) But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or 'out of the depths' of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted (Lk18:9-14); humility is the foundation of prayer.

<u>REFLECT</u>: Do I take pride in my faith, as something I have accomplished by myself? Or conversely, do I feel I need to earn God's gift of salvation? Neither is humbly accepting God's grace at work in my life. Am I humble?

St. Mother Teresa speaks on humility: "Let us not be afraid to be humble, small, helpless, to prove our love for God. The cup of water you give the sick, the way you lift a dying man, the way you feed a baby, the way you teach a dull child, the way you give medicine to someone suffering of leprosy, the joy with which you smile at your own home – all this is God's love in the world today." *Do Something Beautiful for God*, *December 13*

Tri-Parish Ministries and Evangelization



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

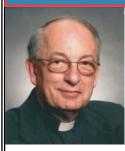
Is God calling YOU to become a Knight? Application forms are available from any member of the Knights of Columbus. Website: www.koc766.org **New Grand Knight: Jeff Elstrom** ieffelstrom@gmail.com



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS Court St. Cecelia # 668

Deanna Smith, Regent 525-1516 Or Monesa Grant Vice Regent 509-240-7724

PRAY THE ROSARY TO END ABORTION The Students for life from DeSales meets on the first Sunday of the month to pray the rosary to help the unborn in danger of abortion. Please join us on the first Sunday of the month at 2:00pm in front of **Planned Parenthood on first street. Please** join us in praving for an end to abortion!



A Silent Post-Christmas retreat with: Father Mike Saveleskey Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM **Following Jesus in Ordinary Time in Ordinary Ways** Using selected scenes from the Gospel narratives, we take time to explore the often hidden

dynamics of our Christian journey into God's Kingdom. Grace and blessing abound for those whose hearts are attentive and for those who have made a decision to follow Jesus, the Word of God incarnate in our work-a-day world. Jesus summons us to break through the walls of personal prejudice and pitfalls of culture to walk with him in faith. We call him "Teacher and Lord," and indeed He is! \$45 per person \$55 with use of a room for the day. This Day of Reflection is Silent. At Immaculate Heart retreat center: https://ihrc.net/

Are you interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound and care facilities? Contact Kathy: 529-1020 or Shirley: 240-1407.

Walla Walla Vallev **Eucharistic Adoration**

Thursday 12pm - Saturday 12pm At Assumption Church in the Adoration Chapel Greg & Sue Fazzari: gfazzari@thewwcs.com Mike & Terri Neal: nealfamily@live.com Don & Kathy Martuscelli: kathy.martuscelli@gmail.com If you are interested in an hour, Contact us at: triparishadoration@gmail.com

Are you interested in LATIN MASS? To receive notifications about Latin Mass, text 84576 with the phrase WWLATIN.



Check out the Tri-Parish App

To Get the App Search in the App Store or Google Play Store for: Walla Walla Catholic www.ParishSolutionsCo.com/Walla Prayers, Readings, Bible, Catechism & More!



Elizabeth Ministry

We are a woman-to-woman mentoring program to support women during the joys, challenges and sorrows of the childbearing years. We provide peer support, spiritual nourishment and inspirational resources. For assistance or if you are interested in joining our ministry, contact: Nancy Milton We provide peer support, spiritual nourishment and inspirational resources. Support may be provided in the form of visits, phone calls, e-mails, greeting cards, prayer, and other assistance. Contact Nancy at: nancyjmilton8@gmail.com or 916-612-1546.

Chesterton Society Meeting

his is a fun group full of folks who love G.K. Chesterton. For more information, contact Kathy Wikman, 509 386-7813 or email: kwikman3@gmail.com

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

722 W. Alder Street - Walla Walla, Washington 99362 (509) 525-3310 Ext. 1



O riginally founded in 1915 as a spiritual home for Italian immigrants, St. Francis Parish is a community of Roman Catholics who draw strength and vision from the Gospel and participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Inspired by their patron saint's spirit of humility and simplicity, they strive to be instruments of God's peace and reconciliation by serving those in need in the Walla Walla Valley.

MASS INTENTIONS Jan 9-16 Sunday, |January 9 8:30 AM | Eugene Aliverti+ Monday 7:00 AM | Dick & Shad Gannon + Tuesday 7:00 AM | Elizabeth Valente+ 12:00 PM Wednesday 7:00 AM | Gilbert Manuel+ Thursday 7:00 AM | Joe Landoni+ 12:00 AM Friday 7:00 AM | Pat Escobar+ Sunday, 8:30 AM | Joe Landoni+

Tuesday & Thursday 8:00a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Office Manager: Terri Neal Leave a message at 525-3310 Ext. 1 or email: <u>stfrancis@wwcatholic.com</u>

"Your Sunday Contributions" November 2021 Expenses:\$13,533 Collected: \$16,380

Organizations

Finance Council: Chair: Dominick Elia, Lorraine Manuel, Andrew Neal, Kevin Magnaghi

Pastoral Council: Stephen Fausti, Donny Biagi, Marguerite Daltoso, Chad Kjeldgaard, Rosalie Lesko, Patrick Frierson, Christina Magnaghi,

St Ann's Altar Society

All women of St. Francis are invited and encouraged to join St Ann's. Please call Lisa Cox (386-3238) for more information. Saint Ann, Pray for us.

President: Lisa Cox

Lisa Cox

Linens: Claudia Deccio, Debbie Kleinhesselink

If you know of a parishioner who is sick or in crisis, get us their name and address and we will send them a card of encouragement. Call the parish office and leave a message or email: <u>stfrancis@wwcatholic.com</u>

<u>Please</u> call or email the office if you can help a parishioner who doesn't drive get to Sunday Mass. Thank you!

WE THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of those who donate time at St Francis parish!

You help make our parish run smoothly and we are so very thankful!

Especially in these winter months, we are grateful for those who clear our parking lot, sidewalks and stairs! Thank you to all those who set up the trees and Creche for Christmas, clean the church each week and keep the plants watered. Thank you to our sacristans, lectors, Eucharistic ministers and altar servers! Thank you to our music leaders and donuts and coffee crew. We have many "elves" around here at St. Francis and we are grateful for all of you!

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church

2098 E. Alder Street Walla Walla, Washington 99362 (509) 525-3310 Ext. 2



In 1953, Bishop Charles D. White established the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Walla Walla. The community undertook the building of a grade school. Over the next decade, there were added a convent, the rectory and our spacious modern church. Following the example of our Patroness, Assumption Parish strives to live a sacramental life, witnessing the Gospel, in our service to others.

MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY 8-16

 Sat, 10:30am
 1/8/22 Loyd Mahan +

 Sun, 10:30am
 1/9/22 Assumption Parishioners

 Wed, 8:30am
 1/12/22 Bridget Marie Kirby +

 Fri, 8;30am
 1/14/22 Lucy Chubb +

 Sat. 10:30
 1/15/22 Don Johnson

 Sun, 10:30am
 1/16/22 Assumption Parishioners



ASSUMPTION CHURCH WOMEN President | Michelle Moramarco: 509 301-5325 Vice-President | Teresa Ascherl: 425-327-8603

Happy New Year. Mark your 2022 calendar for the Assumption Women's January 11th meeting. Our guest speaker will be Fr Nicks.

MANY THANKS from Assumption Church!

Thank you to Jon and Christine Bachtold for donating the beautiful Christmas trees in our church and to Klicker's for the beautiful wreaths. Also, A THANK YOU to Konen Koncrete for clearing the parking lot of snow! We are grateful!



Apologetics: Are you looking for a "clear and compelling case for Sacred Tradition, on the basis of logic, history and Scripture? You might enjoy reading By What Authority written by Mark Shea. Mr. Shea is an award-winning columnist for the National Catholic Register. We WELCOME you to Assumption Parish. If you wish to learn more about us, please fill out the Welcome Card located in the pew racks.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9am-12pm Thursday: 9am-12pm

OFFICE MANAGER: Mary White Email: **assumption@wwcatholic.com**

PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Anne Golden, Mike Levens, Patty Konen, Sally Buchanan-Rojo, Jerry Anhorn Jr, Michelle Moramarco, Chandra Hall

"Your Sunday Contributions" November 2021 Expenses:\$26,830 Collected: \$18,904



request call Rose Brown at: 509-525-2488.

Anointing of the Sick

If you or someone you know is homebound, & wants to receive the Sacrament of Anointing, please contact your parish office at 525-3310.

Set up online giving. It is easy and there is a button on our new website: wwcatholic.org or sign up here: <u>https://osvonlinegiving.com/4582</u>

TRI-PARISH DIAPER DRIVE

Please put your donations in the Baby carriage in the back of Assumption Church of diapers and wipes for Catholic Charities and other agencies in town that are in need of diapers. It will be there year round.

BABY BASKET MINISTRY

Mary Owens, 525-3697 and Kit Chryst, 301-0818, are looking forward to preparing a basket of gifts for your newborn. We are just a phone call away to schedule a time to do a no contact or in person contact (with masks on, of course) delivery. Waiting to hear from you!

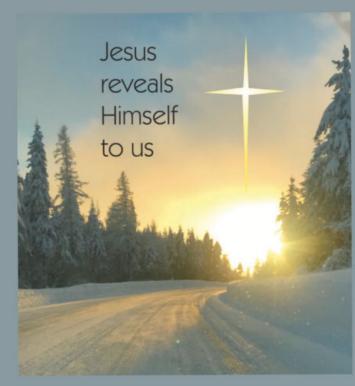
St. Patrick Catholic Church

408 West Poplar Street Walla Walla, Washington 99362 (509) 525-3310 Ext. 3



B orn of the original 1846 Diocese of Walla Walla, St. Patrick Parish is a culturally diverse community of Roman Catholics who, in cooperation with other Christians in the Walla Walla Valley, strive to worship God, foster spiritual growth among its members, and serve others according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ST. PATRICK PARISH



+ THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CHURCH CLEANING AND DECORATING. TAKE DOWN WILL BE ON MONDAY JANUARY 10, 1:00 PM.



Have a submission for the bulletin send it to: wallawallacatholicparishes@gmail.com Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9AM -1:00PM | 2:00PM-7:00PM

Office Manager: Griselda Sanchez Email:stpatrick@wwcatholic.com

Pastoral Council:

Antonio Caso, Salvador Esquivel, Shawna Sweeney, Steve Droke, Catherine Worden, Monica Gaffrey, Roger Treis.

"Your Sunday Contributions" November 2021 Expenses:\$39,454 Collected: \$35,589.61

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 8 7:00 PM | Tri Parish Parishioners Sunday, January 9 7:30 am | Antonio Caso 9:30 am | Shari Gannon Entrikin **12:00pm | Ernesto Olivera** Monday 7:00 AM | Dick & Shad Gannon + Tuesday 7:00 AM | Elizabeth Valente+ 12:00 PM Wednesday 7:00 AM | Gilbert Manuel+ Thursday 7:00 AM | Joe Landoni+ 12:00 PM Friday 7:00 AM | Pat Escobar+

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR PARISH!

https:osvonlinegiving.com/4583 There is also a button on our website: wwcatholic.org



We are looking for volunteers who would like to help serve doughnuts, coffee & milk, and clean up after on a rotating basis. If you could email us or catch us after Mass and kindly provide us your full name and

preferred Email, we would greatly appreciate it. Warm Regards, Bonnie and Matt Stroemel Contact us at: Mathias.Stroemel@providence.org

Parroquia San Patricio 408 West Poplar Street Walla Walla, Washington 99362 (509) 525-3310 AVISOS EN ESPAÑOL La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José



acida original de la Diócesis de Walla Walla de 1846, la parroquia de San Patricio es una comunidad diversa culturalmente de Católicos Romanos que, en cooperación con otros cristianos en el Valle de Walla Walla, se esfuerza por adorar a Dios, fomentar el crecimiento espiritual entre sus miembros y servir a los demás de acuerdo al Evangelio de Jesucristo.

BAUTISMOS Y PLATICAS PREBAUTISMALES

La próxima platica pre Bautismal se llevará acabo el <u>7 de febrero</u> <u>2022</u> a las 7PM en el salón Natividad. Para asistir a la clase pre Bautismal en enero, tendrá que registrarse **antes** del 4 de febrero. Pase por la oficina parroquial para registrarse para las clases prebautismales y el bautismo de su hija o hijo.

El próximo Bautismo se llevara acabo el 26 de febrero.

RICA

Para mas información llame a la oficina.

Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor



9 DE ENERO DEL 2022

Horario de Oficina: Martes - Viernes 9:00am – 1:00pm | 2:00pm-7:00pm Office Manager: Griselda Sánchez Correo Electrónico: <u>stpatrick@wwcatholic.com</u>

INTENCIONES DE MISAS

Sábado Enero 8 7:00 PM | Feligreses de la Tri Parroquia **Domingo Enero 9** 7:30 am | Antonio Caso 9:30 am | Shari Gannon Entrikin 12:00pm | Ernesto Olivera Lunes Enero 10 7:00 AM **Martes Enero 11** 7:00 AM | 12:00 PM **Miércoles Enero 12** 7:00 AM | **Jueves Enero 13** 7:00 AM | 12:00pm Viernes Enero 14 7:00 AM | Sábado Enero 15 7:00 PM | Feligreses de la Tri Parroquia **Domingo Enero 16** 7:30 am 9:30 am 12:00pm

CAMPAÑA CAPITAL

¡Gracias por su apoyo a la Campaña Capital! Si aún no se ha comprometido, todavía hay tiempo para hacer su compromiso.

MISA EN LATIN

Para recibir notificaciones sobre la Misa en Latín, envíe un mensajes de texto al 84576 con la frase WWLATIN.

QUINCEAÑERAS

¡Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para las Quinceañeras en Walla Walla! Para registrarse para una quinceañera, escanee el código QR aquí.





CARTA DEL PARROCO JANUARY 9TH 2022



Hace algún tiempo, unfeligrés me pidió que, enel boletín, hablara sobre cómo la Iglesia toma decisiones y, además, si la Iglesia tiene derecho a tomar

esas determinaciones en áreas de fe y moral.

Estas, por supuesto, son preguntas muy importantes a considerar y, su respuesta, un aspecto esencial de lo que distingue al catolicismo de cualquier otra forma derivada del cristianismo.

Además, a nivel de experiencia, para el cristiano promedio que se sienta en la banca, estas preguntas son importantes ya que tienen implicaciones concretas para la vida cotidiana. De hecho, es debido a estas implicaciones que muchas personas intentan elevar su autonomía y libertad personal por encima y en contra del oficio de enseñanza de la Iglesia. Por ejemplo. ¿quiénes son un montón de viejos célibes para decirme qué hago con mi dinero, mis relaciones, mi tiempo, mi cuerpo, etc.?

Tales preguntas son, en sí mismas, válidas y vale la pena hablar de ellas. Sin embargo, la forma en que a menudo se proponen es indicativa de alguien que, desde el principio, no está realmente interesado en buscar la verdad, sino en justificar sus predilecciones y prácticas actuales. Por lo tanto, debe hacerse una pregunta más importante y fundamental antes de tratar de abordar la autoridad de la Iglesia en tales asuntos y la manera en que toma tales decisiones.

Cada uno de nosotros debe preguntarse (y ser brutalmente honestos con nuestras respuestas), ¿aceptaría yo que Dios mismo me dijera esas cosas? ¿Tomaría decisiones y cambios difíciles, que alterarían mi vida, sacrificables, si Dios mismo apareciera ante mis ojos despiertos y me ordenara que lo hiciera? ¿Haría estos cambios si no entendiera o ni siquiera pudiera entender por qué me los estaba pidiendo?

¿Terminaría una relación, dejaría un trabajo lucrativo, abandonaría el uso de anticonceptivos, me separaría de un cónyuge con el que no estoy casado en la Iglesia, daría el 10% o más de mis ingresos a la caridad, abrazaría una forma diferente de adoración (ya sea antiguo o nuevo), elegir tener un hijo como resultado de un embarazo en crisis, estar ausente de la celebración de un miembro de la familia de una unión entre personas del mismo sexo, abrir mi hogar para albergar a las personas sin hogar o tomar cualquier otra decisión desafiante en la vida, ¿si *Dios mismo* dejara en claro que era *Su voluntad* para mí?

Si somos honestos, todos podemos encontrar una pregunta de este tipo que nos desafía y antes de que podamos evaluar honestamente la autoridad de la Iglesia, debemos evaluar nuestra propia apertura a la autoridad de Dios sobre nosotros. ¿Hay cosas que no estaríamos dispuestos a cambiar, incluso si Él fuera el que preguntara? Porque la manera en que la Iglesia toma decisiones en áreas de fe y moral y si tiene el derecho a hacerlo son puntos discutibles si uno ya le ha negado ese derecho a Dios.

La semana que viene, continuaremos con este tema, primero abordando cómo podemos tener un corazón más radicalmente abierto a Dios en nuestra vida y luego, posteriormente, viendo cómo esa apertura allana el camino para comprender más plenamente la forma en que el Espíritu Santo obra a través del oficio de enseñanza de la Iglesia.

¡Alabado sea Jesucristo, ahora y por siempre!

En Cristo,

Fr. Nick

Padre Nicks



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com St. Francis/St. Patrick/Assumption, Walla Walla, WA A 4C 05-1560