WEEKLY BULLETIN

Feb 1st-7th, 2025



MISSION STATEMENT We the Catholic community of Our Lady of Fatima united by faith, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to evangelize and assist in the faith formation of all. We are committed to encourage, affirm and call forth everyone into participation by providing opportunity for ministry. We seek to deepen our personal relationship with Jesus Christ Our Savior and provide an environment in which all have an opportunity for a greater sense of communion, family and community.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

Pastor: Father César Vega-Mendoza Pastor@olf.church Deacons: Mark Krcma, Armando Escamilla, Frank (Paco) Martinez



The Presentation of the Lord

Welcome to Our Lady of Fatima Parish

We welcome all our visitors. May your time with us be grace-filled and may the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and your loved ones. **OFFICE HOURS** Monday-Friday 9am to 5:00pm Closed for lunch 12pm to 1pm

> Phone: 509-765-6729 Website: OLF.Church

Flocknote: ourladyoffatima26@flocknote.com Facebook: Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Moses Lake, WA Address: 200 N. Dale Road – Moses Lake, WA 98837

What's Happening at OLF This Week?					
Monday	3rd	Bible Buddies Group 12pm Vigil Mass Choir 5:30pm Adult Choir 5:30pm Spanish Bible Class 6pm Apóstoles de la Palabra 6pm La Busqueda 6pm			
Tuesday	4th	OCIA 6-8 pm			
Wednesday	5th	TOPS Group 8:30am Rosary Group 9am OLF Book Group 9am Religious Ed K-6 6-7:30pm			
Thursday	6th	Soup Kitchen 11am-1pm OCIA 6-8pm			
Friday	7th	Galantine's Cookie Class! 6pm First Friday Children's Choir Practice 4-5pm			
Saturday	8th	Valentines Dinner 6pm			
Sunday	9th	RE 7th-12th grade 9:45-11:15 am Youth Group 6pm			

Announcements:

- Evangelization Retreat is February 21st-23rd
- We have a lot of openings for Flower Dedications and Mass Intentions, contact the office if you would like to place one on the schedule
- PREPARES: donations needed! There will be a bassinet in the Gathering Area February 8th to 22nd, collecting clothing and diapers from sizes newborn to5t.
- ◆ Valentines Dinner by Movimiento Familiar will be February 8th, Prepay in the office!

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE	PRAYER REQUESTS
WEEKDAY MASSES:Monday7:00amEng Communion ServiceTues - Fri7:00amEng. Mass7:30amRosary	Repose of the Soul Jorge Negrete, Bill Herup, Robert Gonzalez Jr., Antoinette Wilcoxson, Manolo Pruneda, Bert Morales, Kristin Vedder, Lloyd Arbaugh, Adrian Baeza Escobedo, Margarita Hernandez, Roberto DeLeon, Ramona Rodriguez, Pat
Tue 7:00pm Sp. Mass Thurs 7:00pm Sp. Mass	Ramirez, Damien Rocha, Jesus Delgado, Rojelio Adame,, Tito Gonzalez, Enedina Garza, Brian Wilson,
<u>ADORATION:</u> Monday 7am - Friday 7pm Adoration Chapel Thursday Holy Hour 6:00pm	Rolando Adame, David Adame, Kim Hoiness,, Sebastian Baker, Adriel Miranda, Maria Hernandez, Marchell R Espinoza, Reyes De La Cruz, Diana Keller, Mitzy Cruz, Lucy Gunn, Maria Cruz Rodriguez, Maria Luz Borjas, Helen Theis, Anthony Homer, Mitchell Thompson, Daniel Zarate, Zendaya Martinez, Leroy Gonzalez, Jessie Jimenez, Nickie Anderson, Lorna Paola Villanueva <u>Physical/Spiritual Health</u> Dolores Carvalho, Lucy Messer, William McCormick, Jean Agbisit, Lorraine Medrano, Anita Huerta, Corinne Geblin, Gina Ruiz, Francisca Garcia, Fran Bill, Jill Murray, Sally Richards, Corina Miranda, Minga Rubio, Darlene Boechler, Gail Altenhofen, Diane Stevenson <u>Military:</u> Daniel Jay, Shane Herup, James Herron, Christopher E. Uvalle, David Martinez, Paul E. Hanover, John Herup, JC Hernández, Bettany Noregas
RECONCILIATION:	
Tuesday 5:30pm to 6:45pm Church Confessional Thursday 6:00—6:50pm During Holy Hour Saturday 3:30pm to 4:30pm Chapel Confessional	
WEEKEND SCHEDULE:Saturday Vigil5:00pmEng.7:00pmSp.Sunday8:30amEng.	
11:30am Sp. <u>First Friday & Saturday:</u> ** First Friday Mass 7:00pm Sp. First Saturday Rosary 6:30am Bilingual First Saturday Mass 7:00am Bilingual followed by 15 minutes of reflection	

Letter From Father César



Dear Parish Family,

The Liturgy of the Hours (*Prayers that Priests, Deacons and Religious are to do for themselves and on behalf of all the faithful*) has, in the second readings section for the office, a Sermon On Pastors by Saint Augustine, bishop. This Sermon has given me a good insight on the difficult role of pastor in the parish, it writes;

"I must distinguish carefully between two aspects of the role the Lord has given me, a role that demands a rigorous accountability, a role based on the Lord's greatness rather than on my own merit. The first aspect is that I am a Christian; the second, that I am a leader. I am a Christian for my own sake, whereas I am a leader for your sake; the fact that I am a Christian is to my own advantage, but I am a leader for your advantage. Many persons come to God as Christians but not as leaders. Perhaps they travel by an easier road and are less hindered since they bear a lighter burden. In addition to the fact that I am a Christian and must give God an account of my life, I as a leader must give him an account of my stewardship as well." Divine Office: Office of Readings; 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

This reflection by St. Augustine prompts me to ask you for your prayers for me as your fellow Christian Brother and at the same time as your pastor. I do need your prayers, especially when I must make hard decisions that deal with the spiritual wellbeing of the souls and the material aspect of the parish that has been entrusted to my care.

I would like to call your attention, especially this weekend, to the local **March for Life** which reminds us of our Catholic Advocacy in defending the fundamental right of every human being. The 2025 theme on Respect for Life Sunday, which happens in October, is: "*Life shines in Darkness.*"

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has stated (that) "We do not begin life as free and autonomous individuals. We are entirely dependent on others for our very existence. We are born into families - the 'schools of love' where, over time, we learn to forgo the immediate satisfaction of every self-centered desire, and we find true, lasting joy in bringing good and happiness to others. We will not be fit for heaven until we have learned to love one another as God loves us, as he radically demonstrated on the Cross. If we don't learn to love sacrificially, we may not only fail in reaching heaven, but we will also make life on earth hellish for ourselves and others. How we care for an unexpected child, a parent suffering from cognitive impairment or an infant with a disability, an immigrant, and our students, does not reflect the degree of their humanity, but our own. We are as dependent on them as they are on us. There can be no compromise with the standard Jesus sets and continually calls us to: The measure of love is to love without measure?'

Let us continue to pray, promote, nurture, and defend the gift of Life from the womb to the tomb, into Eternal Life. May God bless us all on this journey.

Greetings and Blessings Fr. César Vega-Mendoza Pastor "On the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple, we present ourselves to God with purified spirits, so that our eyes might see the light of salvation and we might thus bring it to the entire world, as the Saints did."

Pope Frances

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

First Reading – Malachi 3:1-4: The Lord's Purifying Arrival **Second Reading** – Hebrews 2:14-18: Human to Redeem Humanity

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 24: Proclaim the King of Glory **Gospel** – Luke 2:22-40: Presentation of Jesus at the Temple

What is the Presentation of the Lord, and what do the Candles Represent?

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is an ancient celebration in the Church, also known as Candlemas. On this day, many parishes bless candles, which symbolize Jesus as the Light of the World. The feast takes place on February 2, forty days after Christmas, and commemorates the day when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to God. Candlemas is filled with traditions that honor Jesus as the Light of the World, with one of the most notable being the blessing of candles. In many churches, parishioners bring candles from home to be blessed during the Candlemas Mass, and these blessed candles are used throughout the year—especially during storms or difficult times—as reminders of Christ's light and protection.

The event has roots in Jewish tradition. According to the Law of Moses, every firstborn son belonged to God, and Jewish parents were required to bring their son to the Temple and offer a small sacrifice in thanksgiving. By bringing Jesus to the Temple, Mary and Joseph faithfully followed God's law, demonstrating their humility and obedience.

The Church has celebrated the Presentation of the Lord for centuries. In the early Church, people gathered in the evening for a candlelit procession to honor Christ as the Light. The date, February 2, was chosen because it falls exactly 40 days after Christmas and aligns with the Jewish tradition. For some Catholic communities, it also marks the end of the Christmas season.

The feast highlights three key themes. First, it affirms Jesus as the Light of the World, a light for all people. Second, it shows that Jesus came to fulfill the law, not to abolish it—He and His family faithfully followed the customs of their people. Third, it honors the deep faith of Mary and Joseph, who obediently followed God's will at every step.

In the Gospel of Luke, we encounter two devout figures, Simeon and Anna, who meet Jesus at the Temple. Both recognize that Jesus is special, having waited their entire lives for this moment. Simeon praises God, calling Jesus a "light for revelation to the Gentiles," signaling Jesus' mission to save not just Israel, but all nations.

On Candlemas, the Church invites us to reflect on how Jesus brings light into our lives. Like Simeon and Anna, we are called to recognize Jesus in the world around us, and to look to Mary and Joseph as models of faith and obedience.

Through the Presentation of the Lord, Jesus fulfills the Mosaic Law. According to Jewish law, every firstborn son belonged to God, and parents were to present their child at the Temple with an offering. By bringing Jesus to the Temple, Mary and Joseph faithfully adhered to the law, even though Jesus is God's Son. This act shows that Jesus came to complete the law, not to reject it.

During the Presentation, Simeon refers to Jesus as the "Light of Revelation," meaning that Jesus came to bring God's truth to everyone. This light is not only for Israel, but for all nations, including the Gentiles. Simeon's words highlight that Jesus' mission is for the entire world—He brings hope and salvation to all people, not just one group.

Simeon also offers a prophetic warning about Jesus, calling Him a "sign of contradiction." This means that Jesus would face opposition some would accept Him, while others would reject Him. This foreshadows the suffering and death Jesus would experience on the cross. His life and message would be difficult for many to accept, and His followers would face challenges as well.

Simeon's words to Mary indicate that she, too, would share in Jesus' suffering. He tells her that a "sword will pierce her soul," symbolizing the deep sorrow she would endure as she witnessed the rejection and suffering of her Son. This moment prepares Mary for the trials she would face in Jesus' life and death. Her love and faith would be tested, but she would remain close to her Son until the end.

The Presentation of the Lord also bridges the Old and New Covenants. In the Old Covenant, people followed the law to grow closer to God. With Jesus, the New Covenant is established, where people are saved through faith in Him. By being presented in the Temple, Jesus honors the Old Covenant while opening the way for all people to be saved. This moment signals the fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus.

The Presentation of the Lord reveals that Jesus came to bring light, hope, and salvation to the world. Through the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph, Jesus' mission begins humbly but with great purpose. This feast invites us to embrace the light of Jesus and trust in His plan for our salvation and for the world.

(Information taken from Loyola Press, Young Catholics, and Bishop Barrons Word On Fire)

<u>Prayer</u>

Lord, help us recognize Your holiness and our need for Your grace. Strengthen us to witness our faith with courage and sincerity. Guide us to follow You wholeheartedly, leaving behind anything that holds us back. Amen.

Reflection Questions

• How can we trust God as Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna did?

Are there any promises or prayers I am waiting on God to answer?

• What sacrifices can I make to grow closer to God?

FAMILY CONNECTION

Luke 2:22–40—Simeon recognizes the infant Jesus as the promised Messiah

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Discuss with the family the persons of Simeon and Anna as they meet Jesus.

Because Simeon and Anna lived lives of prayer and fasting in the Temple, they were filled with the Spirit of God. That is why they were able to identify Jesus as the Savior even though Jesus was only a baby. To these two holy people, he was recognizable as the Redeemer who had been promised. Simeon described Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

We too are called to recognize Jesus as Lord. Together as a family discuss ways to recognize Jesus as Lord by praying and attending Mass, fasting, and serving others. As a family, decide on one specific sacrifice you can make in order to alleviate the suffering or need of someone you know.

Looking for fun ways to connect with your kids and help them find fun and joy in being Catholic?

Check out the Catholic Kids Bulletin! This is a weekly bulletin designed to engage children and teach them about each weeks readings. Located on the Religious Education Table!

Parents Group During Religious Education:

Parents, Grandparents and other interested adults are invited to join us on Wednesday nights during Religious Ed for a Bilingual group in the gathering area of the church. We are beginning a new study on the Creed, learning more deeply about the beautiful Catholic faith that we profess. For information or questions, please call Hilary at 480-740-4082

Religious Education News and Information

Dates to Remember: 1st Communion Retreat-April 5th at 8 am

1st Communion Mass-May 3rd at 10 am

> Confirmation– July 6th at 5 pm



Accention

our lady of fatima

Youth Group

Bring a friend & Let's GO Bowling!!! Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

6-8 PM

Pick up and drop off at Lake Bowl 1165 N. Stratford Rd, Moses Lake



MASS INTENTIONS				
Sat	1st	7 am (BI) 5 pm (En) 7 pm (Sp)	Bob Tatum (L) Sophie Villanueva (L), Augustine Gomez (D), Valerie Kot (D) All Priests, Parishioners of OLF	
Sun	2nd	8:30 am (En) 11:30 am (Sp)	Hope Whitney (L), Rafael Villasenor (D) Manuel Vela Jr. (D), Consuelo Robledo (L)	
Tues	4th	7 pm (Sp)	Hector Adamos (D)	
Wed	5th	7 am (En)	Nino Rocha (B)	
Fri	7th	7 am (En)	Freeman Tucker (L), Kathleen Delgado (B)	

If you would like to offer a Mass intention please contact the parish office. A Mass offering of \$10 is requested.

Remembrance Flowers



The flowers this weekend are dedicated in loving memory of:

Manuel Vela Jr Ignacía Martínez Rafael Víllaseñor Guadalupe Gomez



If you would like a Remembrance Flower in memory or honor of a loved one, please call the Parish Office.

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Evangelization retreat will be February 21st-23rd, 2025 in the Fatima Center.

If you have any questions concerning the retreat, please contact Prelita at (509) 431-4561



News This Week:

- Pancake Breakfast Feb. 3rd after 8:30am mass
- Pro-Life Walk Feb. 3rd 1:30pm
- Knights of the Year Jerry Ellis & Anthony Mejia
- · Family of the Year The family of Jerry & Susie Ellis
- Adoration Program Scott Schwab
- Men's Retreat Mark Krcma

Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound and Nursing Homes

If anyone knows of a parishioner or someone who is homebound or in one of the local nursing homes who would like to receive Holy Communion, please call Carrie Tatum 509-989-6591



We invite everyone to join us on Wednesday mornings at 9 am in the Fatima Center as we gather for prayer and discussion of the latest book we are reading. For information, call Dee at 509-750-6728



Attention: If you are planning a Quinceañera in 2025 please contact the office. The Quinceañera needs to attend a 6 week class before her Quinceañera day. For questions or more information, contact:

Anita Reyna 509-361-9639

SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE

If you have been abused or victimized by a member of the Catholic clergy, please believe in the possibility for hope, help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. The Yakima Diocese has a sexual abuse hotline for those who wish to report some incident

concerning that issue as regards to a bishop, priest, deacon or diocesan employee or volunteer. Our diocese provides a private/ confidential phone line for those wishing to report incidents of sexual abuse regarding clergy, diocesan or church employees or volunteers 1-888-276-4490.



