

Feast of the Annunciation 2020  
“Saying Yes to God in Difficult Times”  
Fr. Frank Schuster

Today is the Feast of the Annunciation. The Church celebrates this day because it marks the occasion when Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Blessed Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. This day is also very special in the life of our parish because it marks the anniversary of the dedication of our church. We opened our doors for the first time on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012. That celebration together was beautiful and, on a personal note, it was one of the best days of my life.

It is therefore a very difficult pill to swallow that the Governor’s “Stay home – Stay healthy” order due to the pandemic goes into effect at the end of the day on this our anniversary. We don’t know how long it will be until we can gather again as a community in our spiritual home. However, I believe we all understand that it is in the common good that social distancing be enforced until this disease passes us by. As your pastor, I ask that you follow Governor Inslee’s “Stay Home –Stay Safe” policy. Having said that, the parish is not closing. The reason why the feast of the Annunciation is special is because our Blessed Mother was open to the grace of God. She said “yes” and the parish too says “yes”. The Church’s mission continues on. We will simply have to be creative. We already have wonderful faith formation opportunities for all ages on our website thanks to Mary and Nicole. We will continue to live stream Mass and make those videos accessible on our parish website.

And, I am not going anywhere either. I plan on still being a priest through all of this. My email goes straight to my phone and I also have an emergency number on my voicemail as you all know. We will also have limited times available for those in our parish who wish to have private prayer time in the church for those who are in good health, we still have Camp Unity and St. Vincent de Paul to support and so our mission continues.

My friends, today is a special feast day because it celebrates our mother in faith saying yes to God. Our parishioners also said yes to God when we built this church. And as we prepare to shelter in place for the coming weeks, we can take time to reflect on ways we can all continue to grow in faith, and say “yes” in the measure we love God and family, and the most vulnerable in our community, through Christ our Lord. Amen.