

PARISH PROFILE

Enumclaw parish maintaining traditions, embracing diversity

Sacred Heart parishioners filled with gratitude for God's blessings

ENUMCLAW

BY ARMANDO MACHADO

Sacred Heart Parish in Enumclaw is a community whose members have always sought to live their faith and share their love as disciples of Jesus.



Victor Olvida

"Sacred Heart is a Catholic church grateful for the faith of our fathers, and confident that with the Holy Spirit's guidance we can bring the same message of love and faith to the world today," said current pastor Father Victor Olvida.

Journeying together in faith "has led parishioners on pilgrimages, on mission trips, to prison ministry and to care facilities to celebrate Mass twice a month," Father Olvida said.

He pointed to the dedicated work of parish staff and volunteers, including Mathew Weisbeck, director of Faith Formation, and Barbara Berndt, longtime administrative assistant. An annual parish event is participation in an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service where "our city joins together to sing and pray and thank God for all of His blessings to each of us," said Father Olvida.

Embracing diversity

Once dominated by farming, mining and logging, the Enumclaw area has become a diverse community and Sacred Heart has changed with it. Lilia Arroyo, coordinator of the parish Hispanic Ministry, said Spanish Mass was introduced to Sacred Heart 10 years ago — first once a month, later every two weeks and eventually every Sunday because of the growing Hispanic population which now comprises 20 percent of the parish community.

Arroyo said one of the highlights of that ministry is faith formation

Parish Snapshot

Founded: 1891

Registered Households: 835

Pastor:
Rev. Victor Olvida

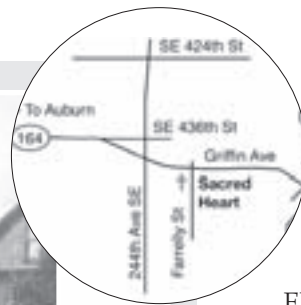
Address:
1614 Farrelly Street
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Phone: (360) 825-3759

Pastors:

Rev. F.M. Fafara (1898-1908)
Rev. Aloysius Mlinar (1908-1911)
Rev. John Tscholl (1911-1912)
Rev. Z. Rozanski (1912-1913)
Rev. E.T. McCarthy (1913-1915)
Rev. William Fisser (1915-1917)
Rev. Nicholas O'Rafferty (1917-1924)
Rev. J.A. O'Hagen (1924-1934)
Rev. A.H. Allard (1934)
Monsignor Patrick F. Farrelly (1934-1970)

Rev. George Rink (1970-1976)
Rev. John Lynch (1976-1979)
Rev. Bill Hausmann (1979-1987)
Rev. Steve Szeman (1987-1988)
Rev. Dick Basso (1988-1992)
Rev. Jerry Woodman (1992-1993)
Rev. Gary Zender (1993-1999)
Rev. Fabian McDonald (1999-2000)
Rev. James Northrop (2000-2005)
Rev. Victor Olvida (2005- Present)



workshops presented by a group of missionary nuns from Mexico serving the Hispanic community in Western Washington.

Church History

The parish was established in 1891 by Archbishop Aegidius Junger, after originally serving the community as a mission church of Holy Family Parish in Krain, located 10 miles north of Enumclaw. Father F.M. Fafara served as the first pastor. When the railroad went through Enumclaw, Krain and Holy Family Church eventually closed. All that remains of the original parish is the Krain cemetery, site of the annual All Souls devotion.

In 1973 Sacred Heart moved to its present location on Farrelly Street, which was named for its longest-

serving pastor, Monsignor Patrick Farrelly. Along with the move came the steeple from the old building located at Griffin and Porter as a memorial to the parish's history and the faith of deceased parishioners.

Monsignor Farrelly paved the way for the new location by negotiating and paying for 20 acres of land where the parish is currently located. Father George Rink, who succeeded Monsignor Farrelly, served as pastor during the building and relocation phase.

A warm and welcoming home

Even as the church grows in numbers and diversity, newer members such as Jackie Morgan, who belongs to the Steering Committee for the Mother of Preschoolers group, find Sacred Heart to be a "warm and wel-

coming faith community and we are happy to be here."

Parishioners credit the welcoming atmosphere in no small part to the many gifted priests who have served the parish. Karen Ewaskow, a parish office volunteer, quoted Elizabeth Johnson, a 95-year-old lifelong parishioner, as saying that she is "very grateful for the many wonderful priests who have led and guided our church throughout the years."

Father Gary Zender, who served as pastor of Sacred Heart from 1993 to 1999, said he immediately felt at home at Sacred Heart in Enumclaw, because it was similar to the community where he grew up, St. Peter's Parish in Deming.

"It's a rural area, with the same kind of people — open and friendly," he said. "And even if someone wasn't Catholic, they were very proud of Sacred Heart."

Father James Northrop, who took over as pastor in 2000, said one of the customs he really enjoyed was praying the rosary on the Eve of All Souls Day at the Krain Cemetery. "We placed candles on the graves and they always did a good job of remembering the faithful departed and celebrating their faithfulness to the Catholic Church."

Father Northrop also mentioned the Msgr. Farrelly Scholarship Fund for the youth.

"That has built up and I thought it was great to offer graduating (high school) seniors a little assistance with their college expenses. It was a good place to experience my first pastorate," he said.

February 10-11 Sacred Heart, Enumclaw participated in the Progress P3 subscription program. Five dollars from each subscription they sold went to their youth group. For more information on this program contact Marketing Associate **Keri Hake** at 206-382-2075 or kerih@seattlearch.org