



Parish Family Announcement

Where we have been - Where we are - Where we are going

What and why

- Partners in the Gospel is a strategic pastoral planning effort taking place across the Archdiocese of Seattle to re-invigorate and renew our local Catholic Church.
- We want parish life to respond to the needs of the people. We want to bring people back to the Catholic faith. We want full Masses, people celebrating the sacraments, more social outreach, an increase of youth – and much more! We want to better help people deepen their relationship with Christ.
- This is why we are making these changes – so that we can be better positioned to carry out the mission Jesus gave us.

Journey so far

- After significant research and discussions with other diocese, the Archdiocese of Seattle selected the parish family model for restructuring, which places 2 or more parishes under the leadership of 1 pastor and one or more parochial vicars.
- The archdiocese spent most of last year in consultation about the proposed parish families, including multiple sessions with priests, deacons, parish, and school staff, lay leaders and more.
- Last fall more than 3,000 pages were submitted in the public input phase.
 - The feedback from parishes resulted in recommended changes to 25 families, which impacted 78 parishes. These parishes were invited for a second round of consultation, which produced more than 450 additional pieces of online input along with feedback from multiple in-person sessions. The results of this were shared with Archbishop Etienne for his final discernment.
- Thank you again to everyone who participated in our input sessions about the proposed parish family. Your feedback is a gift and a sign of your engagement in parish life.
- Archbishop Etienne spent significant time in discernment and prayer over the proposed families and promulgated the final parish families on February 2nd.

Our parish family

- We are in a parish family with St Joseph, Sequim- St. Anne, Forks- St Thomas the Apostle, Clallam Bay- St Mary Star of the Sea, Port Townsend- Queen of Angels, Port Angeles.

- This new family will go into effect on **July 1st of this year.**
- Over the next 3 years the 5 churches will come together to eventually become one canonical parish.
- This does not mean just one church building or campus.
- The pastor and parochial vicars for this parish family will be announced later this spring, and they will begin **July 1st.**
- The current plan for our new family is a Pastor and 2 parochial vicars.
- Once the new pastor is in place he will work in consultation with the Archdiocese on any changes to Mass times, councils, services, staffing etc. **This does not mean that there will be changes.**
- The Archdiocese will provide a “new parish family liaison” to help with the transition.

What parishioners can do

- We ask all of us to continue praying for this renewal effort, and to specifically pray for the members of our new parish family. Look to what role you can play in making our new parish family succeed. We have prayer cards in the church and office for you to take home.
- Lastly, please stay engaged:
 - Sign up for the Partners in the Gospel UPDATE newsletter.
 - Read Northwest Catholic
 - Participate in upcoming prayer and fellowship opportunities.
 - If you have questions or comments about this process, please visit the Partners in the Gospel website - <https://archseattle.org/partners/> - for more information.
 - Visit our website - clallamcatholic.org - for up to date information on our parish family.
 - Please contact our office with questions or comments - [360-457-2351](tel:3604572351) - office@clallamcatholic.org -
- This is a change not only for us – but for all Catholics across the archdiocese.
- We should not be afraid of change. It’s how the Church has evolved over its lifetime.
- With Jesus at the heart of this work, we can live into a future filled with hope, sharing our faith in a new way.
- We pray that we all embrace these changes with open minds and open hearts.
- Amen.