



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

UPDATE

March / April 2024

Last month, the final parish family for North Olympic Peninsula was announced and this month all pastors and key parish leadership attended in-person regional trainings focused on the next phases of the Partners in the Gospel journey. They learned about the key activities that should take place in each phase of the process.



Phase 0: Prepare

We are currently in Phase Zero, which is a time of preparation. Please continue to pray for this effort. Specifically, we pray that parishioners open their hearts to the Holy Spirit. The Priest Placement Board has selected our new Pastor and Parochial Vicars. This selection will be announced at Mass on April 6th and 7th. Our new priests will arrive on or around July 1st. On Monday, April 8th, the news will be shared publicly on the archdiocesan website, NWCatholic.org, social media and more.

A Parish Family Liaison has been hired by the Archdiocese to help with our "New Family" transition. His name is Jason Stolberg.

Parish Liaisons are professionals trained by the Archdiocese of Seattle, who will work in partnership with multiple parish families' pastors and their leadership teams to implement the parish family structure. Each liaison will provide guidance, project management support, and ensure effective communication between the Partners in the Gospel core team, parish family pastor and staff, and the Planning and Mission Effectiveness team. The liaison will also support the parish in the creation of the One Parish Plan, which will be presented to the archbishop (in about three years for most parish families) before becoming one canonical parish.

[Read all Q&As at archseattle.org/partners](http://archseattle.org/partners)

How is your new pastor being chosen?

Every year, the Archdiocese of Seattle's Priest Personnel Board meets to discuss where the archdiocese's priests will be assigned as pastors, priest administrators, parochial vicars or parish priests.

In a typical year, only some pastors will reach the end of their appointed terms and move to new parish assignments. This year, however, most pastors are expected to change assignments under the archdiocese's new model of parish families that are being created July 1, 2024, explained Father Gary Zender, the archdiocese's vicar for clergy and pastor of St. Louise Parish in Bellevue. This new model is part of the Partners in the Gospel strategic planning initiative.

Pastor assignments will be announced at Mass April 6th and 7th. With many of us welcoming new pastors and parochial vicars this July.

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