



+ April 6-7, 2024

*To the Parishioners of
Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Sammamish
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Snoqualmie
St. Joseph Parish, Issaquah*

Dear Friends,

I am happy to greet all of you in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus!

As archbishop, I have the important responsibility and honor of providing you with ongoing pastoral care and sacramental ministry in your parish community.

Today, I write to inform you that your parish will be entering a time of transition in pastoral leadership beginning July 1, 2024. I am pleased to announce that, after consultation with the Priest Personnel Board, I have appointed Father Matthew Oakland as your pastor and Father Ramon Santa Cruz as your parochial vicar. Father Oakland is currently the pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in West Seattle, and Father Santa Cruz is the pastor of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Woodinville.

These men are wonderful priests who will diligently and faithfully serve you and your parish family. Be assured that they will receive all the necessary support and assistance from the Archdiocese of Seattle to ensure quality pastoral care for your parish family.

At the same time, I want to personally thank Father Chad Green, Father Duc Nguyen and Father Todd Strange for their tremendous service and leadership. I ask you to please keep them in your prayers as they move forward in responding to God's call in their new assignments. Father Green will be pastor of Christ the King Parish in Seattle and St. Luke Parish in Shoreline. Father Nguyen will be parochial vicar of Assumption Parish, St. Bridget Parish, St. Catherine of Siena Parish and Our Lady of the Lake Parish, all in Seattle. Father Strange will be pastor of St. Philomena Parish in Des Moines and St. Thomas Parish in Tukwila.

Times of transition can be challenging, especially as we prepare to say goodbye to a familiar presence and welcome new pastoral leaders. However, if embraced in an open and positive way, this can be a time of blessing for the entire parish and the Catholic Church of Western Washington. I am confident that will be the case as you welcome Father Oakland and Father Santa Cruz to your parish. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul D. Etienne".

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle