



+ April 6-7, 2024

*To the Parishioners of
St. Joseph Parish, Seattle
St. Therese Parish, Seattle*

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 Chris Cartwright, SJ, as your pastor and Father Mike Bayard, SJ, as your parochial vicar. Father Cartwright is the current pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Seattle, and Father Bayard is the parish priest of St. Joseph Parish in Vancouver.

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 Woody McCallister and Father Matthew Pycr, SJ, for their wonderful service and leadership these last three and four years, respectively. 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 Woody will be the pastor of Holy Disciples Parish in Puyallup, Our Lady of Good Counsel Mission in Eatonville, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Tacoma and Sts. Cosmas & Damian Mission in Orting. Father Matthew will be a full-time vocation director living at the Faber Jesuit Community in Seattle.

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 Cartwright and Father Bayard to your parish family. 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