

PARISH FAMILY 14

ST. ALPHONSUS | ST. BENEDICT | ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

"THE SEED SOWN ON
RICH SOIL BEARS
ABUNDANT FRUIT."

MATTHEW 13:1-23

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 PM Vigil at St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM Vigil at St. John

Sunday: 8:30 AM at St. John
9:00 AM at St. Alphonsus
10:30 AM at St. John
11:00 AM at St. Benedict

DAILY MASSES

Mon - Thurs: 7:30 AM at St. Alphonsus
Thurs: 6:00 PM at St. Benedict

Fri: 9:00 AM at St. John

Sat: 8:00 AM at St. Alphonsus

(except 1st Sat: 9:00 AM at St. John)

School Masses (Sept-June): All are welcome!

Refer to This Week's Calendar, page 2.

RECONCILIATION

Mon - Thurs: 7:00 - 7:20 AM at St. Alphonsus

Thursday: 5:00 - 5:45 PM at St. Benedict

Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM at St. Alphonsus

Sunday: 8:00 - 8:45 AM at St. Alphonsus

Sunday: 9:45 - 10:15 AM at St. John

By appointment: info@parishfamily14.org

First Friday Reconciliation and Adoration:

7:00-8:00 PM at St. Alphonsus



ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH

5816 15th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107

Website: <https://stalseattle.org>



ST. BENEDICT PARISH

1805 N 49th St, Seattle, WA 98103

Website: <https://parish.stbens.net>



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

106 N 79th St, Seattle, WA 98103

Website: <https://stjohnsea.org>

Parish Family Admin Office: 206-782-2810 | 206-770-6494 (Fax) | info@parishfamily14.org | 106 N 79th St, Seattle
Parish Family Faith Formation Office: 206-632-0843 ext 6005 | lcorcero@parishfamily14.org | 1805 N 49th St, Seattle



For pastoral emergencies, please call: 206-271-3543.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

July 12, 2026

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 55:10-11/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

	ST. ALPHONSUS	ST. BENEDICT	ST. JOHN
July 12 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11 AM Parish Family Mass No Reconciliation at St. Al today 12 PM Parish Family BBQ - See you here!	8 AM Reconciliation 9 AM Mass with CLOW (Livestream) No Coffee & Donuts 12 PM Parish Family BBQ at St. Alphonsus - See you there!	8:30 AM Mass 9:45 AM Reconciliation 10:30 AM Mass - CANCELLED No Coffee & Donuts today 12 PM Parish Family BBQ at St. Alphonsus - See you there! 7:30 PM Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
July 13 Monday <i>Saint Henry</i>	7 AM Reconciliation 7:30 AM Daily Mass 7 PM RIP: Judy Bouse Men's Group - McGrath Rm	7 PM Gospel Study via Zoom	
July 14 Tuesday <i>Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin</i>	7 AM Reconciliation 7:30 AM Daily Mass RIP: Judy Bouse	7 PM Young Adult Men's Group - St. Mary Room	
July 15 Wednesday <i>Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	7 AM Reconciliation 7:30 AM Daily Mass INT: Tamiah Furlow		
July 16 Thursday <i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</i>	7 AM Reconciliation 7:30 AM Daily Mass 10 AM Scripture Study 6 PM Grounded in Grace - Family Center	5 PM Reconciliation 6 PM Daily Mass	
July 17 Friday	8:15 AM Adoration Chapel open to 8 PM		9 AM Daily Mass
July 18 Saturday <i>Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest; BVM</i>	8 AM Daily Mass INT: Fr. Paul Nkolombidzo 4 PM Reconciliation 5 PM Vigil Mass		5 PM Vigil Mass (Livestream) SVdP Collection at Mass
July 19 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8 AM Reconciliation 9 AM Mass	11 AM Mass with CLOW (Livestream) Special collection for St. Vincent de Paul 12 PM Coffee & Donuts 12 PM Grief Support - St. Mary Room	8:30 AM Mass 9:30 AM Lectio Divina 9:30 AM SVdP Meeting - Portable 43 9:45 AM Reconciliation 10:30 AM Mass SVdP Collection at both Masses Coffee & Donuts after both Masses 7:30 PM Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
	For livestream and recorded masses, click the links:	https://parish.stbens.net www.facebook.com/stbenseattle	www.stjohnsea.org/live-stream-masses



Sign up to **get notified of mass cancellations** or mass time changes.
<https://bit.ly/PF14NotifyMe>



Subscribe to **weekly bulletin and e-newsletter**.
<https://bit.ly/PF14WeeklyBulletin>



Submit your **questions & feedback** about our Parish Family.
<https://bit.ly/PF14Queries>

PARISH FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

SEE YOU ALL!

Parish
Family

BBQ

JULY 12, 2026
SUN, 12 PM
ST. ALPHONSUS

Let's make memories as
One Parish Family.

Special Mass and Reconciliation Schedule on July 12, 2026

8:30 AM – St. John
No 10:30 AM Mass
(Reconciliation at 9:45 - 10:15 AM)

9:00 AM – St. Benedict
No 11 AM Mass
(Reconciliation at 8 - 8:45 AM)

11:00 AM – Parish Family Mass at
St. Alphonsus
No 9 AM Mass (No reconciliation)



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

TWO YEARS OF BLESSINGS, ONE PARISH FAMILY

This July marks the second year of our Parish Family, a significant milestone in the Partners in the Gospel strategic pastoral planning process.

Over the past two years, our Parish Family has taken important steps in the Partners in the Gospel journey - celebrating liturgical seasons as one community, unifying communications and development efforts, integrating parish offices especially the Faith Formation Team, gathering for a shared Parish Family BBQ, and listening and speaking together to discern our gifts, charisms, opportunities, and challenges.

To see a detailed summary of all that we have accomplished together as a Parish Family with God's guidance and grace, please visit:
bit.ly/PF14PITGJul2026. There you will also find links to important documents and a photo compilation highlighting our celebrations throughout the liturgical year.

Our Parish Family is currently in the "Who Are We?" stage. While this phase was originally anticipated to be completed in 2025, we have embraced a steady and prayerful pace, allowing for meaningful listening, discernment, and participation. We are confident that this approach will position us well to fulfill our desired outcomes within the overall timeline.

We will continue to work through the One Parish Planning process, asking ourselves: *What opportunities do you see (in our parish and in the wider community) to more effectively serve and accompany others? What challenges do you see that exist in the parish and in the wider community?*

Our goal is to create a strategic pastoral plan over the next year, with input from our parishioners. We will share it with our Parish Family, gather feedback, finalize the plan and submit it to the Archbishop.

As we enter year three, we ask for your prayers that our Parish Family may continue to grow in unity, wisdom, and missionary discipleship as we discern God's call for us together.

DISCOVER HOW PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL IS SHAPING OUR PARISH FAMILY!

What is Partners in the Gospel?

Read here: bit.ly/WhatIsPITG

What is our Parish Family story and how did we start as a family?

Read here: bit.ly/PF14PITGStory

Who are leading our Partners in the Gospel? Read here: bit.ly/PF14PITGLead

Where are we now in the One Planning Process? Read here: bit.ly/PF14PITGNow

What did we achieve together?

Read here: bit.ly/PF14PITGAchieve

What's coming up?

This September, we will host Listening Sessions focused on identifying the opportunities before us and the challenges we are called to address together as a Parish Family. Additional details and the schedule will be shared soon. We encourage everyone to participate and lend their voice to these important conversations. We hope to see you there!



Questions? Email our PLC:

partners.info@parishfamily14.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults/Children) is for anyone who is interested in the Catholic faith.

**St. Alphonsus - July 25
9:00am | McGrath Room**

COME TO
AN INQUIRY
SESSION!

Questions? Contact Claire Shea at 206-632-0843 ext 6003 or cshea@parishfamily14.org

MINISTER TRAINING

EXTRAORDINARY
MINISTERS OF HOLY
COMMUNION TRAINING

**JULY 20, MONDAY, 7 PM
ST. BENEDICT CHURCH**

All aspiring and currently serving Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are invited to join!

For more info, email dpelfrey@parishfamily14.org.



COMING IN
September

Welcome to Alpha!

OPEN INVITATION
TO OPEN
CONVERSATIONS.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, please join our Parish Family Grief Support Group monthly drop in sessions this summer.

**JULY 19 10 PM | SUNDAYS
AUGUST 9 ST. BENEDICT PARISH
CENTER - ST. MARY ROOM**
No registration is required.

Note: An 8-week series will start October 4.

For questions, contact Maggie at margaretalquist1@gmail.com

Want to put your faith into action?

Our Social Justice Ministries need hearts and hands like yours. For more details, go to bit.ly/PF14SocialJustice. Everyone is welcome!

Sancta Vita

Sancta Vita is requesting your help in providing two gift baskets for baby's first year to the Next Step Gala Auction.

Please consider bringing infant necessities or a toy or book appropriate for an infant to one year old. Gift cards to Fred Meyer, Target or Amazon are also useful. Items may be placed in the basket in St. Alphonsus vestibule or dropped by the Next Steps Office at 19526 64th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA 98036. All items are needed by August 2.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

SVDP society assists the poor and needy within our parish boundaries through grocery, transportation and rent vouchers. Support by donating and volunteering with them. For more info, contact the following:

St. Alphonsus: Doug Martin - doug@martinenv.com

St. Benedict: Sherry Zane - svdp@stbens.net

St. John: Joyce Farrell - joycefarrello8@gmail.com

If you need assistance, please call Helpline Call Center at (206) 767-6449, M-F, 8 AM - 3 PM.



PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Please remember the following people who are ill, homebound, or need your prayers this week: Marnie Ahern, Akeem Arana, Ken Brewster, Michael Eugene James Chiles & his surviving wife & family, Anne Fuller, Louise Gervais, Brian Gough, Rich Huntsman, Tom Jepson, Marcus McCannel, Jeffry Myers, Joel Ocampo, Jennifer Parrish, Patricia Patterson, Nina Pedersen, Bill Quackenbush, Kate Quinones, Lou Ayres Salumbides, Abby Simpson, Scott Tom, and Lillian Yamamoto. For those who have died, that they may rest in the healing embrace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord. For Armed Forces personnel throughout the world, that they come home safely to their families, we pray to the Lord.

Note: The prayer list is updated every first week of the month.

To keep your request active, please resubmit it each month. To request a prayer, please call the Faith Formation Office at 206-632-0843 or use the QR code or this link: <https://bit.ly/PF14Prayer>.



READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 19 - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

God gives repentance for our sins.

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

We begin today with a reading from Wisdom that repeatedly emphasizes God's mercy. Then Saint Paul tells us that out of God's mercy, the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and helps us to pray. In the Gospel, Jesus relates three parables about the kingdom of heaven. One can sense God's mercy enabling us to reach it. So together we can sing with confidence in the responsorial psalm, "Lord, you are good and forgiving."

Psalm

"Lord, you are good and forgiving."

Psalm 86

Second Reading

The Spirit intercedes for us.

Romans 8:26-27

Gospel

Let the seeds grow together until harvest.

Matthew 13:24-43

PARTICIPATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Invite your friends and family to attend Mass and experience the peace, community, and spiritual growth it brings. Sharing our mass times with them can help strengthen our Parish Family!

Week of July 5, 2026

St. Alphonsus Parish

MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 5 PM	76
Sunday, 9 AM	162

PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 3,792.00
Online Donations	\$ 3,938.69
Mailed-in	\$ 942.00

Total Collection \$ 8,672.69

Weekly Budget \$ 9,833.00

Under Weekly Budget \$ 1,160.31

Thank you so much for all your support to St. Alphonsus Parish!

Set up your recurring online giving now!



St. Benedict Parish

MASS ATTENDANCE

Sunday, 11 AM	158
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PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 594.98
Online Donations	\$ 3,888.16
Mailed-in	\$ 428.00

Total Collection \$ 4,911.14

Weekly Budget \$ 6,055.00

Under Weekly Budget \$ 1,143.86

Thank you so much for all your support to St. Benedict Parish!

Set up your recurring online giving now!



St. John Parish

MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 5 PM	64
Sunday, 8:30 AM	116
Sunday, 10:30 AM	100

PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 2,958.00
Online Donations	\$ 13,440.78
Mailed-in	\$ 1,472.00

Total Collection \$ 17,870.78

Weekly Budget \$ 17,229.00

Over Weekly Budget \$ 641.78

Thank you so much for all your support to St. John Parish!

Set up your recurring online giving now!

<https://bit.ly/PushpaySJ>



FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTS

SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS

Faith Sharing Group

July 12, 7:30 PM | St. John Group via Zoom; For zoom link and more info, contact tressa.lombardi@hotmail.com

Men's Group

July 13, 7 PM | St. Alphonsus Men's Group at St. Al McGrath Room; (Contact: Brian LeBlanc at brianleblanc76@gmail.com)

Gospel/Scripture Ministry

July 13, 7 PM | St. Benedict Gospel Study via Zoom
Meeting ID: 834 8544 8854 Password: 846849
(Contact: Brenda Stratton at bjandmes@msn.com)

July 16, 10 AM | St. Alphonsus Scripture Study in the St. Alphonsus McGrath Room (Contact: Mary Green at mgquilt46@gmail.com)

Grounded in Grace

July 17, 6 PM | St. Alphonsus Family Center
If you are navigating the pain of divorce or marital separation, join Grounded in Grace, a safe and confidential space for healing and hope. Explore spirituality as a source of strength, share your experiences, and find peace and clarity on this new path. For more information, please contact Olivia Raese at olivia@raesegroup.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Women's Group

Please note the corrected date. Thank you!

Faith Sharing Potluck
July 28, 6:30 PM | St. Alphonsus McGrath

Questions? Contact olivia@raesegroup.com.

Looking to grow in faith and friendship?

Check out the many Small Faith Sharing Groups across our Parish Family! Scan the QR code or go to: bit.ly/PF14SmallGroups.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS



Infant Baptism

Infant Baptisms in our Parish Family are celebrated during Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses across our three churches, offering families the opportunity to welcome their children into the faith within the Sunday community.

Parishioners of Parish Family 14 may choose from the following upcoming dates and locations:

- August 16, 11:00 AM Sunday Mass at St. Benedict
- September 26–27, 5:00 PM Vigil and 10:30 AM Sunday Masses at St. John the Evangelist
- November 14–15, 5:00 PM Vigil and 9:00 AM Sunday Masses at St. Alphonsus

Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC)

If your kids are from another faith tradition but feel at home in our Parish Family, or baptized Catholic but want to learn more, OCIC might be the perfect place for them to grow in faith. For more information, please contact Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org.



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Are you an adult seeking confirmation or interested in becoming Catholic? Join our OCIA! Email Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org for more information. All are welcome!



Please feel free to contact us for the following:

Baptism, First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, Youth Confirmation, Sacrament of Matrimony and Funerals - Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children - Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org

Parish Advocates for Annulment - annulment@stjohnsea.org

FAITH IN FOCUS



Saint Benedict

Feast Day: July 11
Canonized: 1220



Benedict was born to a noble family in Nursia, Italy, about 480 AD.

When he grew up, he studied in Rome. Then, wanting to pray alone, Benedict lived for three years in a cave near Subiaco.

During that time, people began to talk about the holiness of the Subiaco hermit. So men came to Benedict and asked him to help them lead holy lives.

In around 529, Benedict formed these men into a community of monks at Monte Cassino, near Naples, Italy. Benedict wrote a rule, or way of life, for these monks. They promised to live in poverty; to obey their abbot, or leader; to live purely; and to stay at Monte Cassino and not run off when things got hard.

In his rule, Benedict also set up eight times a day for the monks to pray together. By praying the Psalms, they would praise and honor God. Prayer would help them live with one another in community. (Benedict knew that this was not always easy!) The "Rule of St. Benedict," with 73 short chapters on spiritual and administrative concerns, is one of the most famous rules in monastic life.

For the next 20 years, Benedict served the monks as their abbot and founded 12 monasteries. He encouraged the monks to serve one another and to help the people who lived nearby.

Then, in about 547, Benedict died. The monks buried him next to his twin sister, Scholastica, at Monte Cassino.

The rule Benedict wrote has influenced Western civilization since his death. The monasteries that followed it kept learning alive in Europe throughout the centuries of the Dark Ages.

Resource: <http://www.saintsresource.com/benedict-of-nursia>

formed[™]
Forming Catholics for *Life*.

This Week on Formed

Week of July 12, 2026



<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/3603608>

St. Kateri Tekakwitha | God's Princesses

Follow along with Sister Imelda as she tells of the inspiring journey of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, a young Mohawk girl who comes to know the Gospel with the help of pioneering priests. Choosing to follow Jesus, Kateri is faced with great challenges as she does her best to bring God's love to her own people! A fun and inspiring example of not giving up!



<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/2689422>

St. Bonaventure | Catholic Saints

A Franciscan cardinal-bishop and contemporary of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure is an excellent example of saintly humility. Known as the "Seraphic Doctor," St. Bonaventure loved God above all else. Join Dr. Chris Mooney and Mary McGeehan as they explore the life of this great saint.



<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/3561162>

What Catholics Believe About Mary: Immaculate Conception, Virginity & the Rosary

Join Dr. Edward Sri as he answers some of the internet's most asked questions about Mary. Who is Mary? Why do Catholics pray to Mary? How could she be a virgin if Jesus had brothers and sisters according to the Bible? Find out answers to these and more questions in this episode of What Catholics Believe.

Our Parish Family has a **free Formed subscription** for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our Parish Family to get free access to these contents and much more!



*For the Sacred Heart enthronement prayer, the Morning Offering, litany, novena and others, go to archseattle.org.sacredheart or scan the QR code.



 **Archdiocese of Seattle**

An offering from the  **AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE**

THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE



Wednesday, July 22 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Virtual

This presentation will describe the state of the culture and healthcare related to serious illness and the end of life and review Catholic Church teachings, applying them to real issues today. Through explaining palliative care and hospice, physician assisted suicide and euthanasia, and common ethical issues that can come up, this talk will work to correct many common misunderstandings and help inform and empower you to be an advocate for the dignity of vulnerable people around this time of life and make decisions consistent with your faith beliefs. Registration: <https://bit.ly/4aW9Ux4>



July 24, 5:00 PM - July 26, 4:00 PM

Warm Beach Camp & Conference Center in Stanwood

Are you or someone you know between the ages of 13–18? Sponsored by the Bukás-Loób sa Diyos (BLD) Youth Ministry, Youth Encounter has helped countless young people experience God's love and the support of a vibrant faith community. We invite teens to join us for a faith-filled weekend of prayer, worship, inspiring talks, small-group sharing, recreation, music, and fellowship. For more information and to register, go to <https://archseattle.org/events/youth-encounter-22>



Sat, July 25 | 10 AM - 12:30 PM | St. Mary Magdalen, Everett

St. Mary Magdalen Parish invites you to join us as we celebrate our Patroness St. Mary Magdalen on the weekend of her Feast Day! Featuring a Brunch with Guest Speaker, Dr. Sarah Bartel. Her talk is on St. Mary Magdalene's Witness for faith-filled women of the church and the importance of their roles in today's modern world. Dr. Bartel's inspirational talk is specifically addressing women of all ages.

For more information and to register, go to <https://bit.ly/4vIWokd>



Tuesday, July 14 | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM | Virtual

Are you interested in taking care of the environment, forests, waters, flora and fauna, and creatures of the earth? All parishioners, parish leaders, and volunteers are invited to join us at our monthly LSM-WA Chapter Meetings! For meeting link, please contact Terri Nelson, Director of Integral Human Development at the Archdiocese of Seattle at terri.nelson@archseattle.org



A Leadership Retreat for High School Students

Ascend is a three day Catholic leadership retreat for high school students who want to go deeper in their faith, discover how God has gifted them, and return home ready to lead.

You don't have to wait until you're older to lead. God is already calling you right now, where you are. The world needs leaders formed by Christ, not just talented, but transformed.

Come as you are. Leave ready for more.

Learn more and register at

<https://archseattle.org/events/ascend-youth-leadership-retreat>



**Aug 11, 1:30 PM - Aug 13, 1:00 PM
Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center**

All high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates are invited to find God's voice in the silence at **Unplug with the Lord**, a special youth retreat. Attendees will discover the importance of contemplation by creating space to slow down and listen. Through prayer and reflection, they will learn how to deepen their awareness of God's presence.

Highlights

- Keynote presentation by Fr. Justin Ryan
- Multiple breakout sessions with peers to reflect and learn
- Daily Mass

Cost is \$100 per person. Register at <https://bit.ly/4vrPtAd>

For additional questions, please contact Chloe Iverson, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry, at chloe.iverson@seattlearch.org



July 1, 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with each of you!

As we reach the two-year anniversary of the formation of parish families across the Archdiocese of Seattle, I share my deep gratitude for all the hard work and engagement from the clergy, parish and school staffs, lay leaders, volunteers and parishioners. Together we prayed, listened to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and discerned how to renew parish life in Western Washington. We are on a holy journey, and I encourage you to not lose hope along the way – but instead see the light of Jesus Christ leading us forward.

When I first arrived in the Archdiocese of Seattle, many of my brother priests shared their frustrations and pain in serving communities where the practice of faith was declining. Many were saddened by empty pews on Sunday and families who no longer engaged in their faith as they did decades ago. In many places, sacramental life was dwindling, too, and volunteers were aging out of service. For some, time was spent “putting out fires” related to building maintenance and financial woes rather than “sparking the fire” of faith in the younger generation.

Our priests described the tangible impacts of decades of change:

- Parishes were once built for a local community who could walk to Mass or take a short car ride. The advent of freeways changed that dynamic.
- Many cultural parishes built to serve a specific immigrant population changed as the next generations no longer needed language-specific pastoral care.
- The aging status of many parish and school buildings required greater investments of time, energy and money – all of which pulled priests and other resources away from evangelization efforts.
- The number of priests who have died has far outpaced the number of men entering the seminary. Last year alone, we celebrated the lives of eight archdiocesan priests who died – while ordaining one new archdiocesan priest this year.

Scholars across the country have pointed out an array of factors for declining engagement in the Catholic Church. While there is great hope in the latest news of young people entering the Church, the fact remains that Mass attendance in 2026 has not yet rebounded to 2019 levels.

It is easy to be overwhelmed by these challenges, and on some days, I certainly feel this way. Yet Jesus himself gave us the mission to go and make disciples of all nations. He calls each of us to encounter him, accompany one another and live the joy of the Gospel every day. It is this mission and our trust in Him that give us hope for the future.

After much prayer, discernment and consultation with priests, lay leaders, other dioceses, and parishioners through the local synod, we developed a strategic pastoral planning process with the goal of refocusing all that we do as the Catholic Church in Western Washington on our mission.

How can we reorganize and restructure parishes so that we are spending more time reflecting Christ’s radical love rather than trying to preserve the status quo that was designed for a different era?

This is why our Partners in the Gospel journey began and continues.

Like Moses leading people in the desert, we know this is not an easy journey. In these first few years, we have felt like we are spending significant time focused on administration, finances and buildings. Yet, as many other dioceses have shared with us, this initial administrative focus is required but should not distract

from the real work of re-envisioning and reinvigorating our pastoral presence in our communities.

How can we combine efforts so that, together, we can better serve our communities as the living presence of Christ, especially for those who are sick and dying; for those who are poor or living on the margins; for the young who seek purpose? This is what Jesus called us to do!

We are partners

I intentionally chose the name “Partners in the Gospel” because this effort does not sit solely on the shoulders of our priests or our parish staff. It is an effort that we all own in partnership as co-responsible stewards of our local Catholic Church. Together, as the people of God, we are courageously re-imagining how to respond to the needs of the world today rather than struggling to maintain a parish structure built for a bygone era.

Since the formation of the parish families two years ago, we have seen communities embrace each other, extend generous hospitality, combine ministries to serve more people, offer joint youth programs and much more. This year, we welcomed more people into the Church than we have in years – many of whom expressed appreciation for their rich experiences with the joint faith formation programs offered by parish families. Dozens of reports from priests confirm that, while One Parish Planning may be challenging, they are filled with hope as they see some of the fruits of this effort already. Reports like this give me great hope and I know that this is just the beginning.

At the same time, we have experienced the reality that change is hard and slow. It requires us to set aside our own personal desires and agendas to recognize the needs of the larger Catholic family. And herein lies the opportunity to go beyond our comfort zones – beyond “our Mass” or “our ministry” – to recognize that everything we have is gift from God and that we are called to share what we have with others. What gifts, talents, opportunities and more do our parishes have that can be combined and shared for the greater good? This is at the heart of our One Parish Planning process, which guides parish families as they work together to creatively re-imagine parish life as a new parish community.

I wish to thank our clergy for saying “yes” to what some may see as impossible pastoral assignments during this time. Their fortitude and pastoral hearts of service are greatly appreciated. I also wish to thank our parish and school staffs for graciously navigating new territory and seeing the opportunities for positive changes as parishes work more closely together. I offer special thanks to the volunteers serving on the Parish Family Advisory Councils, responsible for representing parishioners and leading the parish family through the One Parish Planning process.

Finally, I wish to thank all parishioners who have been engaged in the process: through our baptismal calling and dignity, listening to the Holy Spirit, attending community consultation sessions, sharing ideas and feedback, praying for the effort, volunteering in new ways and participating in parish life as One Parish Planning progresses.

In-person community sessions this fall

This effort is truly led by the Holy Spirit. Let us be strengthened by this truth as we journey to renew parish life, bringing the light of Christ into the world today. This fall, my team will be hosting in-person community sessions throughout the archdiocese to provide you with an update on the progress of Partners in the Gospel and answer your questions. I invite all of you to participate in these sessions.

Please continue to pray for this effort, asking God to guide us so that we truly listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and to our good and gracious God who shapes and forms the desires of our own hearts. Please know of my continued prayers for you, and I humbly ask for your prayers for me. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul D. Etienne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

OPEN INVITATION TO OPEN CONVERSATIONS.



Alpha in the Catholic Church



FOR TEENS



What is ALPHA?

Alpha is a program that is built to empower you in your faith. After sharing a meal, we will have the opportunity to participate in guided small group conversations on topics like, “How can I have faith?”, “How do I make the most of the rest of my life?”, and “Does God Heal Today?”.

If you haven’t had a conversation like this before, or you’re not where to turn, Alpha is for you. Alpha is NOT a bible study, a deep dive into church teaching, or a presentation on one certain way to do things. It IS a space to share your experience, and learn from others in your community, right now.

Who is it for?

ADULTS + YOUNG ADULTS + TEENS + KIDS OF ALL AGES

Do you have a desire to live more like Jesus but don’t know where to start? Are you searching for a community? Don’t have anyone to talk to about life’s bigger questions? Catholic curious? Whether you’re a long time parishioner, or wondering where the Church can possibly fit into your busy life, everyone has a place at the Alpha table here in our parish family.

In addition to the main program, there is a **teen group** and **childcare for kids 1-12!**

When is it?

Wednesday nights starting on September 23rd!
Mark your calendars today for this 11-week program!

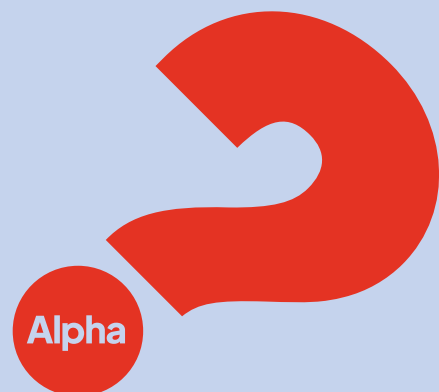
Sept 23, 30

October 7, 14, 21, 28

November 4, 11, 18, 25

December 2

REGISTER NOW!



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Parochial Vicar

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