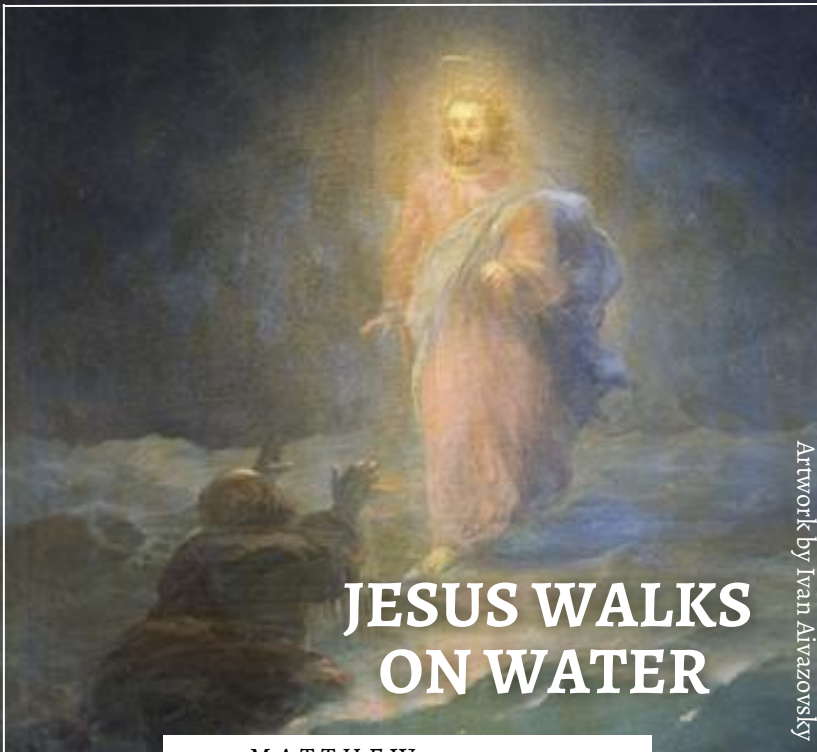


PARISH FAMILY 14

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



JESUS WALKS ON WATER

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Artwork by Ivan Aivazovsky

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 4.

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>

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



www.pf14.org |   @parishfamily14

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

Hello Friends,

I wanted to write a midsummer update for the Parish Family to keep everyone aware of what has been happening in our parishes.

Letter

FROM THE
PASTOR



PARISH PROJECTS

St. Benedict: The parish has welcomed student teachers from Seattle University's teaching program. With our rectory vacant since Fr. John Madigan moved out in May, we saw this as a meaningful use of our available space. We are blessed with the opportunity to support these future Catholic educators by providing them with housing while they complete their studies at Seattle University.

St. Alphonsus: The new speakers for the sound system will be installed toward the end of summer or in early fall.

St. John: The lighting projects (exterior architectural lighting and interior lighting) will begin in September or October. Currently, we are waiting for components to be delivered to the contractor. We will also be doing some touch-up painting in parts of the church.

PARISH FAMILY UPDATES

Director of Parish Ministry: Currently, we are beginning interviews for the Director of Pastoral Ministry position. This position is the ministry counterpart to the Director of Operations (Dani D'Amelio). The new DPM will oversee and direct all ministry programs, events, and groups within the Parish Family, just as Dani does with finances, property, HR, councils, and commissions. I am very excited for this new position to begin!

New Logos and Website: Also, we will have a new set of parish logos soon! This is something that we have wanted for a while now to help visually unify our Parish Family. Each church logo, while distinct, was created by the same designer in the same style. This is intended to help visualize both the unity of our parishes and our uniqueness. Lastly, it is meant to complement our new parish website, www.pfi4.org. Please note that we will be sunsetting our old parish websites in September; however, the school websites will remain in place in their current form.

New Ministries: This fall, we are going to launch "Alpha." The Alpha program helps create spaces where people can freely explore the basics of the Christian faith together. Alpha helps create space for honest conversation around some of life's biggest questions through a series of interactive sessions. The sessions are designed to provide guests with an opportunity to share thoughts, ideas, and opinions in a safe and caring environment. This is a great place to invite your coworkers, friends, and family members who have been looking for something new in their lives. Go to www.AlphaUSA.org for more information.

St. Benedict has been leading the charge in youth ministry for our Parish Family. Having a youth group in our parish is something that we will absolutely need in the future, so I ask that you please fill out the survey included in this bulletin and posted on our Parish Family website.

PRIEST UPDATES

As noted before, Fr. John Madigan moved out of St. Benedict and up to St. Thomas in Lynnwood. He is a retired senior priest and needs to be nearer to friends and family.

Fr. Patrick Sherrard, who lived in residence at St. Alphonsus, moved out in May and relocated to St. Thomas in Tukwila. He is the chaplain at Kennedy Catholic High School, and he needed to be closer to it because the commute was becoming unwieldy.

Fr. Justin Ryan, the Vocations Director, Fr. Paul, and I are still living together at St. Alphonsus, and no change is expected for any of us.

PRIEST SCHEDULE

Fr. Paul Nkolombidzo: As for schedules, Fr. Paul is now on vacation for most of August. You can tell he is adventurous because he is going to spend part of that time in Palmer, Alaska, with a strong desire to see Mt. Denali. I am constantly impressed with this man.

Also, he will be starting a master's program in nonprofit management at Seattle University in September. His Bishop sent him to the U.S. partly for this reason, as his diocese needs people to build up its internal structures as it grows! This will mean that he will be part-time for us, but it won't impact our sacramental schedule.

Fr. Colin Parrish: You have most likely noticed that I haven't been around too much this summer. The reason for this is that I have been taking care of my parents quite a bit. My mom had heart surgery in June, and my dad just had open-heart surgery. As an only child, I am the primary caretaker for these things, so I have had a lot on my plate. Admittedly, this has been going on since Lent. As it is, I will need to spend most of August doing the same while also trying to take some vacation time, which doesn't look likely to happen at this point. However, I have been trying to do some things to keep myself sane. One is prayer, but I have also pursued some personal hobbies. I did my first DJ set on a radio station in Vancouver, B.C., which was awesome.

As it is, I will be working with Dani and Fr. Paul to restart our priest rotation in late August and early September so that St. Benedict can see me again, since this past weekend was the first time they had seen me in three months.

LASTLY, SOME THANKS!

I was so happy with our Parish Family BBQ! It was absolutely delightful! The only downside for me is that I met so many people whom I hadn't met before. It is hard to know that there are people who are at Mass every week, but I don't know them. Also, serious props to the Crafting For A Cause group of St. Benedict for their booth; it was legit!

Blessings to you all!

Fr. Colin Parrish, Pastor

August 9, 2026

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

August 9, 2026

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33

	ST. ALPHONSUS		ST. BENEDICT		ST. JOHN	
August 9 NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8 AM 9 AM	Reconciliation Mass	11 AM 12 PM	Mass with CLOW (Livestream) Grief Support Group - St. Mary Room	8:30 AM 9:45 AM 10:30 AM 7:30 PM	Mass Reconciliation Mass with CLOW Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
August 10 Monday <i>Saint Lawrence,</i> <i>Deacon and Martyr</i>	7 AM 7:30 AM 7 PM	Reconciliation Daily Mass INT:Aurelia Introduction to The Liturgy of the Hours - Wilson Room	7 PM 7 PM	Gospel Study via Zoom Young Adult Women's Group - St. Mary Room		
August 11 Tuesday <i>Saint Clare, Virgin</i>	7 AM 7:30 AM	Reconciliation Daily Mass RIP: Pam Keefe	7 PM	Young Adult Men's Group - St. Mary Room		
August 12 Wednesday <i>Saint Jane Frances de</i> <i>Chantal, Religious</i>	7 AM 7:30 AM	Reconciliation Daily Mass RIP: Margie Keefe				
August 13 Thursday <i>Saints Pontian, Pope, and</i> <i>Hippolytus, Priest,</i> <i>Martyrs</i>	7 AM 7:30 AM 10 AM	Reconciliation Daily Mass RIP: Bob Flynn Scripture Study - McGrath Room	5 PM 6 PM	Reconciliation Daily Mass		
August 14 Friday <i>Saint Maximilian</i> <i>Kolbe, Priest and</i> <i>Martyr</i>	8:15 AM to 8 PM	Adoration Chapel open			9 AM	Daily Mass RIP: Regina Tarleton
August 15 Saturday THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	8 AM 4 PM 5 PM	Daily Mass Reconciliation CANCELLED Vigil Mass RELOCATED to St. John			5 PM 6 PM	Vigil Mass (Livestream) SVdP Collection at Mass Ice Cream Social - Courtyard
August 16 TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8 AM 9 AM	Reconciliation Mass	11 AM	Mass with CLOW (Livestream) Special collection for St. Vincent de Paul	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:45 AM 10:30 AM 7:30 PM	Mass Lectio Divina SVdP Meeting - Portable 43 Reconciliation Mass SVdP Collection at both Masses Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
	For livestream and recorded masses, click the links:		www.pf14.org/st-benedict-live-streaming www.facebook.com/stbenseattle		www.pf14.org/st-john-live-streaming	



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>

UPCOMING EVENTS

**INTRODUCTION TO
THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

August 10, 2026 | Monday | 7 PM
Wilson Room - St. Alphonsus
Family Center

Come learn more about what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls "the prayer of the whole People of God" (1175) and how it can sanctify each part of your day.

Members of the Men's Group will be giving a short presentation on the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the "divine office."

All are welcome!

Celebrate the
**SOLEMNITY OF THE
ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
with an *Ice Cream Social* on
August 15 at St. John Courtyard,
following the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass.



All are welcome!

Please note that the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass at St. Alphonsus will be relocated to St. John on this day.

Help bring Christ's presence to our *homebound parishioners!*



Please join us for a **Training Session for Homebound Ministry!**

August 29, 2026 | Sat | 10:30 AM
McGrath Room - St. Alphonsus

Current ministers and those wishing to become ministers to the homebound are welcome!

Questions? Contact Lori in the Faith Formation Office at 206-632-0843 or faithformation@parishfamily14.org

**OPEN INVITATION
TO OPEN
CONVERSATIONS.**



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.

We'll gather each Wednesday evening for 11 weeks:

- September: 23, 30
- October: 7, 14, 21, 28
- November: 4, 11, 18, 25
- December: 2

REGISTER NOW!



THE GREAT WALLINGFORD
BRATWURST FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 18 & 19, 2026

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase before and after Mass on the three Sundays leading up to the festival: August 30, September 6 and 13.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

AUGUST 9
12 PM | SUNDAY
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



**Next Step Gala Registration Is Now Open
— Get Your Tickets Today!**

Date: Saturday September 19th, 2026
Time: Doors open at 5:30pm
Silent Auction 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Dinner and Program to follow!
Location: Holy Rosary Pastoral Center
630 7th. Avenue North
Edmonds, WA 98020

Register at: <https://nssupport.org/gala2026/>

Sancta Vita

"The Gospel of Life is not for believers alone: it is for everyone. The issue of life and its defense and promotion is not a concern of the Christian alone. Although faith provides special light and strength, this question arises in every human conscience which seeks the truth and which cares about the future of humanity. Life certainly has a sacred and religious value, but in no way is that value a concern only of believers. The value at stake is one which every human being can grasp by the light of reason; thus it necessarily concerns everyone."

- Saint Pope John Paul II

Want to put your faith into action?

Our Social Justice Ministries need hearts and hands like yours. For more details, go to www.pf14.org/social-justice-ministry. Everyone is welcome!

FAITH FORMATION

SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS

Faith Sharing Group

August 9, 7:30 PM | St. John Group via Zoom; For zoom link and more info, contact tressa.lombardi@hotmail.com

Men's Group

August 10, 7 PM | St. Alphonsus Men's Group at St. Alphonsus Family Center, Wilson Room; (Contact: Brian LeBlanc at brianleblanc76@gmail.com)

Gospel/Scripture Ministry

August 10, 7 PM | St. Benedict Gospel Study via Zoom
Meeting ID: 834 8544 8854 Password: 846849
(Contact: Brenda Stratton at bjandmes@msn.com)

August 13, 10 AM | St. Alphonsus Scripture Study in the St. Alphonsus McGrath Room (Contact: Mary Green at mgquilt46@gmail.com)

Young Adult Group

Catholic young adults (ages 21–35) are invited to join our Parish Family 14 Young Adult Group! Grow in faith and community with fellow young adults through Bible studies, monthly social events, and volunteer opportunities.



- The men's Bible study meets every Tuesday in the St. Mary Room at St. Benedict
- The women's Bible study currently meets every Monday.

Contact youngadultsp14@gmail.com to be connected.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FORMING A
YOUTH GROUP?

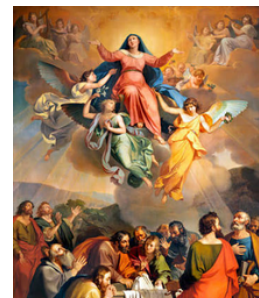


ANSWER THE SURVEY!
bit.ly/PF14YGSurvey

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 www.pf14.org/small-groups.



Solemnity of the Assumption



THE CATHOLIC Church believes that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was assumed body and soul into heaven at the end of her life. We believe in the resurrection of bodies that decay after death; Mary needed no resurrection of the body because hers was preserved from corruption. She was assumed into heaven.

This belief is a counterpart to the Catholic belief in the Immaculate Conception. To prepare a womb for the coming of the Word Made Flesh, God preserved Mary from all sin from the moment of her conception. Mary did not experience any sin—including original sin, which leads to further sin and death. Hence, sinless (immaculate) Mary also did not experience death as other mortals do. She was assumed into heaven.

The Preface for this day was composed after the Second Vatican Council. It includes these ideas about Mary, as well as this idea about the Church: We are a pilgrim people. This image had been enshrined in the council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. The entire Church makes a pilgrimage toward heaven. Mary, who achieved this goal, is a sign of hope and comfort for everyone else along the way. She is the beginning and the image of the Church as it comes to perfection.

The Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated in the evening of August 14 and anytime during the day on August 15. When this solemnity falls on a Sunday, it replaces the prayers and readings of Ordinary Time. August 15 is a holyday of obligation in the United States of America, except in those years when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday. This allows those responsible for preparing Sunday worship to relax a bit more.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

For SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION,

please visit www.pf14.org or feel free to email us at faithformation@parishfamily14.org

- Infant Baptism
- First Holy Communion and Reconciliation
- Youth Confirmation
- Sacrament of Matrimony
- Funeral
- Order of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children
- Parish Advocates for Annulment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Please remember the following people who are ill, homebound, or need your prayers this week: Marnie Ahern, Linda Amsden, Tom Barrett, Ken Brewster, Michael Eugene James Chiles & his surviving wife & family, Diane Crockett, Steven d'Amelio, Anne Fuller, Louise Gervais, Brian Gough, Rich Huntsman, Tom Jepson, Marcus McCannel, Jeffry Myers, Joel Ocampo, Jennifer and Jay Parrish, Patricia Patterson, Nina Pedersen, Bill Quackenbush, Kate Quinones, Kathryn Robinson, Lou Ayres Salumbides, Abby Simpson, Anita Stull, Scott Tom, Shannon Weiler, and Lillian Yamamoto. For those who have died, especially Sandra Gillis and Judith Hall, 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, AUGUST 16 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

The Lord brings foreigners into his house of prayer.

Psalm

Psalm 67

"O God, let all the nations praise you!"

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

The call of God is irrevocable.

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

Great is the faith of the Canaanite woman.

Today's readings stress God's desire that we reach out to others. Isaiah preaches that God welcomes foreigners who come to worship the LORD. Paul calls himself "the apostle to the Gentiles" and hopes this might draw more of his own people to Christ. Impressed by the tremendous faith of a Canaanite woman who relentlessly cries out to him, Jesus answers her desperate prayer. May today's readings remind us that our faith calls us to reach out to all peoples.

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 August 2, 2026

St. Alphonsus Parish

MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday, 5 PM	184
Sunday, 9 AM	180

PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 4,855.00
Online Donations	\$ 3,657.71
Mailed-in	\$ 1,325.00

Total Collection \$ 9,837.71

Weekly Budget \$ 9,775.00

Over Weekly Budget \$ 62.71

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	155
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PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 844.90
Online Donations	\$ 3,981.08
Mailed-in	\$ 2,515.00

Total Collection \$ 7,340.98

Weekly Budget \$ 6,212.00

Over Weekly Budget \$ 1,128.98

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	No Mass
Sunday, 8:30 AM	149
Sunday, 10:30 AM	116

PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 8,240.00
Online Donations	\$ 9,592.52
Mailed-in	\$ 534.00

Total Collection \$ 18,366.52

Weekly Budget \$ 17,294.00

Over Weekly Budget \$ 1,072.52

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

Set up your recurring online giving now!

<https://bit.ly/PushpaySJ>



THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE



Tuesday, August 11 | 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



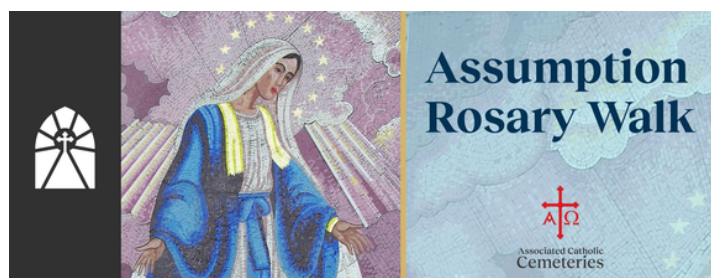
Thursday, August 13 | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Isaac Orr Conference Room at the Chancery

Young Catholic Professional invites you to join us for an Executive Speaker Series event with Enerino Caruccio! Enerino "Rino" Caruccio is a retired global finance executive with more than 40 years of leadership experience at General Electric and Amazon. Throughout his career, Rino served as a trusted financial advisor to senior executives and boards of directors, helping guide strategic decisions at the highest levels. As he reflects on his professional career and faith journey, Rino will share practical insights on integrating faith into the workplace and navigating the challenges that come with it. For more information and to register, go to <https://bit.ly/4q2gZT6>



Thursday, August 20 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Virtual

AI expert Father Philip Larrey discusses the philosophical and ethical implications of Artificial Intelligence, including the dignity of the human person and the need for adaptation to rapid technological change. Father outlines the potential impacts of AI on society and how the Church can influence those outcomes for the better. Register for this webinar at <https://bit.ly/4b7ROsD>



Wed., August 12 | 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM | Holyrood Cemetery

All Catholics are invited to join us at Holyrood Cemetery for a Rosary Walk in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Wichert will lead us through the grounds to pray for loved ones. A Rosary walk through the cemetery's sacred ground emphasizes peace and contemplation, hope in the Resurrection, and reminds us that a cemetery is a place of active prayer, not just burials and rest.

The Rosary Walk should take about 60 – 75 minutes and is free to attend. Just bring your Rosary and meet us in front of the Chapel Mausoleum. For any questions, please contact Alana Niemi, Outreach Office Manager for Associated Catholic Cemeteries at lanan@mycatholiccemetery.org



August 17 - 21 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | St. James Cathedral
August 23 | 9:00 AM - 11:15 AM | sing at 10 AM Sunday Mass

Children and youth throughout the region are invited to register for Choir Camp at St. James this Jubilee year of St. Francis! Choir Camp is a fun and engaging week of prayer, musical instruction, singing, teamwork, and community outreach. Tuition is \$150 per child. Scholarships are available.

- All children/youth entering grades 1 through 8
- Unchanged (treble) voice
- Any level of singing experience is welcome

For more information and to register, go to <https://bit.ly/3TEojVK>



Saturday, August 29 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Isaac Orr Conference Room at the Chancery

Teaming Up with Your Spouse to Tackle Life's Challenges – for young adult couples in the early years of marriage. Register at <https://bit.ly/4xlDZin>

August 3, 2026

In response to the devastating wildfires impacting communities in Eastern Washington, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne has requested that our parishes take up a special collection to support those affected by this disaster. Funds raised will benefit the **Spokane Complex Fire Support Fund established by Catholic Charities Eastern Washington**, which will assist individuals and families impacted by the wildfires.

To support this effort, the QR code links directly to the Spokane Complex Fire Support Fund at Catholic Charities Eastern Washington. For those who wish to give by check, please write checks payable to your parish with "Eastern Washington Wildfires" in the memo line. Checks can be dropped off in the collection basket at Mass or in the Parish Office during the week.



Thank you for your partnership in responding to this urgent need and for your generosity in supporting our brothers and sisters in Eastern Washington. Together, we can offer hope and assistance to those facing significant loss and hardship.

God bless,



Jaime Jamison
Chief Development Officer
Archdiocese of Seattle



Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

August 2026

Parish Family 14
Seattle, WA

One Minute Meditations

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Although born into wealth, St. Bernard desired a life of simplicity, holiness, and austerity. Born in 1090 in Fontaines, France, he entered the monastery at Cîteaux in his twenties, followed by most of his family. Recognizing his holiness and noting the overcrowding of the monastery, the abbot sent St. Bernard to establish a new monastery in Clairvaux. St. Bernard went on to found monasteries for nuns, worked for the Holy See, and preached the Second Crusade.

More than the mission

No matter our age, we all need to hear these words: "I love you without measure." At the Transfiguration, the Father declared of Jesus, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 17:5). He means those words for us as well. Before all else, we are God's beloved children.

Significantly, the Father speaks these words before Jesus goes to the Cross, before His saving mission is complete. We often reverse that order, allowing our identity to depend on our accomplishments or faithfulness. We assume God will love us once we have fulfilled our mission. But the Gospel reveals the opposite. God's love is not earned but freely **given**. Our mission flows from our identity, not the other way around.

"For I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

Be Like Christ. Love Like Christ.

What does it mean to "be like Christ" in the context of our everyday lives? The key is to love as He loves. Here are five practical ways to love like Jesus.

Learn His pattern. The Gospels show us how Jesus responded to the sick, the brokenhearted, the marginalized, and even His enemies. Scripture provides the pattern, while prayer and the Sacraments provide the grace to live it. The more we immerse ourselves in Christ's life, the more naturally His way of loving becomes our own.

Cultivate His heart. Jesus describes Himself as *"gentle and humble of heart"* (Matthew 11:29). His humility comes from His complete obedience to the Father's will. His gentleness is strength under perfect self-control, expressed in His patience, mercy, and compassion, even toward those who rejected Him. As we imitate His way of love, our own hearts are slowly transformed as His.

Show genuine interest. Jesus often asked open-ended questions, not because He lacked the answers, but to draw people out. *"What do you seek?"* (John 1:38). *"What are you discussing*

with each other?" (Luke 24:17) Genuine love begins with genuine interest. Asking thoughtful questions communicates that people are seen, heard, and valued.

Choose the charitable interpretation. St. Theresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart wrote, *"If the actions of our neighbors have a hundred sides, we ought always to look at them on the best side."* Love resists rushing to judgment and gives others the benefit of the doubt, creating space for understanding rather than

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29).

suspicion.

Always act out of love. St. Paul exhorts us, *"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31). Jesus lived every moment in perfect love for His Father and for us. Love was not merely one aspect of His life; it was the motive behind everything He did. Following Christ means allowing love to shape not only our greatest sacrifices but also our smallest daily actions.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Formula prayers are not a substitute for personal prayer but a time-tested way of entering into it and deepening it. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He gave them the Our Father (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4), a prayer to be prayed repeatedly. Scripture also contains many communal prayers, especially the Psalms, which

Why do Catholics pray formula prayers?

served as Israel's prayer book and remain the Church's today. By praying these inspired words, Catholics join generations of believers in worship. Whether at Mass or beside a hospital bed, formula prayers unite the faithful, expressing not only personal devotion but also the shared faith of the whole Church.

What to do when you don't feel like praying

Not feeling like praying is something even faithful Christians experience. In fact, seasons of dryness can be a normal part of spiritual growth. While they may have different causes, they do not necessarily mean something is wrong. Here are three ways to respond:

Pray about not wanting to pray. Bring your reluctance to God. You don't have to overcome your feelings before coming to Him. Honest prayer is still prayer, and God meets you with love exactly where you are.

Keep it simple. We value brief messages from those we love: "I love you," "Good luck today," or "Thinking of you."

Prayer can be that simple. The goal is relationship, not length. A heartfelt "God, help me," "Jesus, I trust in You," or "Come, Holy Spirit" is enough.

Choose presence over performance. Approach prayer the way you would spending time with a close friend. We don't cancel plans with someone we love simply because we're tired.

In the same way, keep showing up. God delights in your company (Proverbs 8:31). He is not looking for a perfect performance but for a heart that continues to seek Him, even when prayer feels dry or difficult.

from Scripture

Matthew 16:21-27, God's ways are not our ways

At first glance, this passage seems like bad news. Jesus predicts His own death, a revelation that must have stunned the disciples. They had just come to recognize Him as the long-awaited Messiah. Instead of leading a triumphant victory over Rome, Jesus spoke of suffering, rejection, and execution. To them, it looked like failure, not triumph.

Peter responded as many of us do when faced with suffering: he resisted the Cross. He wanted Jesus to avoid it and was sharply rebuked. Yet had Jesus turned aside, we would have remained

in our sins, separated from God. Instead, He freely embraced the Cross. He chose us. From the perspective of the Resurrection, what appeared to be defeat was in fact Christ's decisive victory over sin and death.

God desires our happiness, not merely our temporary comfort. He desires our eternal joy. The Christian life is not about avoiding the crosses God permits but embracing them with trust, as Jesus did. And we never carry them alone. Christ walks beside us, bearing the heavier end of every cross.

Q & A Can the Pope make mistakes if he's infallible?

Yes. The pope is human and, like anyone else, can make mistakes in his personal opinions, decisions, or everyday statements. Papal infallibility does not mean the pope is incapable of error. Rather, it means that, under specific conditions, the Holy Spirit preserves him from definitively teaching error in matters of faith and morals (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 891).

Papal infallibility applies only when the pope is:

Defining a doctrine of faith or morals. The teaching must concern divine revelation or truths closely connected to it. It does not apply to scientific claims, political views, interviews, homilies, or personal opinions. For example, in 1950, Pope Pius XII infallibly defined the dogma of Mary's Assumption into heaven.

Speaking ex cathedra ("from the chair"). The pope must speak in his official capacity as the successor of St. Peter and clearly intend to proclaim a doctrine that is binding on the entire Church. In *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII explicitly invoked his apostolic authority to "pronounce, declare, and define" the Assumption as a divinely revealed dogma.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 7—St. Cajetan (1547). St. Cajetan was born in Italy to a noble family. He went on to study civil and canon (Church) law at the University of Padua. He worked to reform the Church by founding the Theatines, a religious order modeled on the teachings of the Apostles.

August 9—St. Edith Stein (1942). Formerly Jewish, she was an atheist intellectual in Germany. After studying St. Teresa of Ávila, she converted to Catholicism, and became a Carmelite nun. Although her order tried to shelter her from the Nazis, she was taken to and executed at Auschwitz.

August 15—The Assumption of Mary. Declared a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. This feast highlights the Church's respect for the dignity of the body in view of our future resurrection. Note: This year, it is not a holy day of obligation.

August 24—St. Bartholomew (First Century). One of the Twelve Apostles and the son of Tolomai, Bartholomew is thought by some scholars to be the apostle, Nathanael, who went with Philip to see Jesus. After Jesus's Ascension, Nathanael spread Christianity to India and in Armenia, where he was martyred. He is the patron saint of Armenia and Belgium.

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