

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