



+ April 6-7, 2024

*To the Parishioners of
St. Philomena Parish, Des Moines
St. Thomas Parish, Tukwila*

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 Todd Strange as your new pastor and Father Ben Bray as your new parochial vicar. Presently, Father Strange is the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Issaquah, and Father Bray is the priest administrator of Holy Trinity Parish in Bremerton.

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 Jim Northrop and Father Steve Woodland for their tremendous service and leadership these last seven years and 14 years, respectively! I ask you to please keep them in your prayers as they move forward together in responding to God's call at Sacred Heart Parish in Enumclaw, St. Aloysius Parish in Buckley and St. Barbara Parish in Black Diamond.

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 Todd Strange and Father Ben Bray to your parish family. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

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