

Father's Notes

September 15, 2024

Attention all St. Thomas and St. Philomena parishioners!

On Sunday September 29th during the 8:30 AM mass at St. Philomena parish, we will have a special event called a mass of pastor installation. This will be presided by one of our auxiliary bishops and it is where our pastor, Fr. Todd Strange, will officially be commissioned as the pastor of our parish family. Why are we having this event? In addition to the archdiocese asking us to have this celebration, it is a special moment for our parish family. It is the affirmation of a pastor's service towards a community and the community's response of working to build up the church, uniting their gifts and efforts to the pastor's service and leadership.

This installation mass gives us an opportunity to come together and pray for Fr. Todd. The work of a pastor is both rewarding and challenging, as I can attest to my two previous years in Bremerton. A good pastor relies on those around him and this is needed now more than ever with our diocesan initiative, Partners in the Gospel. All of us, clergy and laity alike, need to discern where our gifts are being utilized. We must pray and support one another unlike ever before. This mass of installation is a good first step not only for Fr. Todd, but for our parish family as a whole. Let us worship together around the Eucharist, the sacrament of unity, as we work towards this new future.

Whether you attend St. Thomas or St. Philomena, I strongly encourage you to attend this special event on Sunday September 29th, at St. Philomena Parish, 8:30 AM.

God bless,
Fr. Ben Bray