ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR  

The Transfiguration of the Lord

PRELUDE

Pavane – Danse Liturgique
Richard Proulx (1938–2010)

Andante in F Major
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

The Introductory Rites

O wondrous type! O vision fair
WAREHAM

ENTRANCE

1. O wondrous type! O vision fair
2. With Moses and Elijah nigh
3. With shining face and bright array,
4. And faithful hearts are raised on high
5. O Father, with the eternal Son,
of glory that the Church might share,
the incarnate Lord holds converse high;
Christ deigns to manifest today
by this great vision’s mystery;
and Holy Spirit, ever One,
which Christ upon the mountain shows,
and from the cloud, the Holy One
what glory shall be theirs above
for which in joyful strains we raise
vouchsafe to bring us by thy grace
where brighter than the sun he glows!
bears record to the only Son.
who joy in God with perfect love.
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
to see thy glory face to face.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Cantor, then ALL:

1., 3., 4. Lord have mercy.
2. Christ have mercy.

Missa Orbis factor
Vatican XI
GLORIA

Mass in Honor of St. Benedict

Robert Le Blanc (b. 1948)

Cantor or Choir:

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

The Liturgy of the Word:

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 97

Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-19
ALLELUIA

Unity Mass
Norah Duncan IV (b. 1952)

GOSPEL
Matthew 17:1-9

HOMILY
Father Michael G. Ryan

CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic
and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Byzantine chant

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

Christ upon the mountain peak
Paul Bouman (1839–1901)

Christ upon the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing
Let us, if we dare to speak, with the saints and angels praise him — Alleluia!
Trembling at his feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the Law shout through them their joyful greeting — Alleluia!
Brian A. Wren (b. 1936)
SANCTUS

Cantor, then All:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Choir: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Cantor, then All:

Hosanna in the highest, in the highest.

Choir: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Cantor, then All:

Hosanna in the highest, in the highest.

MYSTERY OF FAITH

Cantor, then All:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

AMEN

All:

Amen, Amen, Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

AGNUS DEI

Cantor:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

ALL:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Please kneel following the Lamb of God and remain kneeling until it is time for your row to go forward for Holy Communion.
COMMUNION

As for the vision you have seen, tell no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.

(10:00 & Noon)

Jesus Christ, radiance of the Father, and the exact representation of his person, upholding all things by the Word of his power, as he was purging our sins, was pleased to manifest his glory upon a high mountain.

HYMN OF PRAISE

'Tis good, Lord, to be here

SWABIA

1. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night; Your face and garments,
   beauty to behold, Where Moses and E-is your kingdom come; We long to hold the
   we may not remain; But since you bid us

2. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night; Your face and garments,
   beauty to behold, Where Moses and E-is your kingdom come; We long to hold the
   we may not remain; But since you bid us

3. Ful-berger of the past! Prom-ise of things to be! We hail your bod-y
   like the sun, Shine with un-borrowed light.
   li-jah stand, Your mes-sengers of old.

4. Before we taste of death, We may not remain; But since you bid us
   like the sun, Shine with un-borrowed light.
   li-jah stand, Your mes-sengers of old.

5. 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet your kingdom come; We long to hold the
   like the sun, Shine with un-borrowed light.
   li-jah stand, Your mes-sengers of old.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

FINAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

PROCEDURE

Fanfare for Organ
Richard Proulx

Praeludium in E Major
Vincent Lübeck (1654–1740)
ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL
The Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle

PASTOR
The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

PAROCHIAL VICAR Reverend Alex Pablo

IN RESIDENCE Reverend David A. Brant

PASTORAL ASSISTANT for ADMINISTRATION
Lawrence N. Brouse (206-382-4280)

FAITH FORMATION
John Simpson, Director of Faith Formation (206-654-4658)
John Marquez, RICA (206-654-4640)
Tami Kowal, Children’s Faith Formation (206-219-5822)
Open Position, Youth & Young Adults (206-382-2018)
Leticia Escobar, Faith Mentors & Faith Friends (206-619-0816)
Patty Pruitt, Administrative Assistant (206-274-3108)

LITURGY
Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy (206-264-2086)
Julie Sharples, Spencer Truong, Peter Burns, Wendell Dyck, sacristy (206-654-4646)

MUSIC MINISTRY (206-382-4874)
Joseph Adam, Director of Music & Cathedral Organist
Christopher Stroh, Assistant Director of Music & Organist
Stacey Sunde, Director of Youth Music
Marjorie Sunday, Music Office Assistant

SOCIAL OUTREACH and ADVOCACY
Patrick Barredo, Director (206-382-4515)
Peter Burns, Outreach Assistant
Cathedral Kitchen: Mick McHugh (Director) (206-264-2091)
Tom Bentler, Obed “Mike” Sanchez (206-264-2091)

MENTAL HEALTH and WELLNESS MINISTRY
Anisa Ralls, Director (206-382-4269)

MUSIC MINISTRY
Joseph Adam, Director of Music & Cathedral Organist
Christopher Stroh, Assistant Director of Music & Organist
Stacey Sunde, Director of Youth Music
Marjorie Sunday, Music Office Assistant

PARISH OFFICE
Yanti Kapoyos, Immigration Legal Coordinator
Sayuko Setvik, Tutoring Coordinator
Patrick Suhrbier, Senior Immigration Legal Services (206-382-4511)

ST. JAMES IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE
Patrick Suhrbier, Senior Immigration Legal Services
Sayuko Setvik, Tutoring Coordinator
Laura Murton, Immigration Legal Coordinator
Erica de Klerk, Refugee Welcome Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP and DEVELOPMENT
Maria Laughlin, Director (206-382-4284)
Caroline Okello, Welcome & Volunteer Coordinator (206-654-4650)

PARISH OFFICE
Yanti Kapoyos, Weddings and Funerals (206-382-4288)
Bev Mauser, Louise Menella, Wedding Coordinators
Mary MacLean, Bookkeeper (206-382-4564)
Maggie Corrigan, Office Manager (206-622-3559)

FACILITIES and GROUNDS
Tang Nguyen, Facilities Supervisor (206-264-2087)
Alan Fraser, Brian Jones, Abeba Ghezai, Tim Williamson, facilities

CELEBRATIONS of the SACRAMENTS

MASS
Sundays 8:00am - 10:00am - 12 Noon - 5:30pm
Weekdays 8:00am (M, T, W, Th, F, S) & 12:10pm (M, W, F)

VESPERs and BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT
Sundays at 4:00pm

CONFESSIONS/SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturdays, 8:30am-9:30am (following 8:00am Mass)

BAPTISM
Communal celebrations are held monthly. A preparation program for parents and godparents is required. Contact Patty Pruitt for information, 206-274-3108.

MARRIAGE
Registered parishioners may begin the scheduling process up to 14 months in advance. Contact Yanti Kapoyos, Wedding Office, 206-382-4288.

ANOINTING of the SICK
In case of serious illness, impending surgery, or advanced age, please call the parish office. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick should not be delayed until the person is unconscious or in imminent danger of death. Call the parish office for information.

FUNERALS for parishioners, contact Yanti Kapoyos, 206-382-4288

CATHEDRAL COLUMBARIUM Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.
After-hours Emergency answering service for parishioners: 206-467-3049
804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: 206-622-3559 FAX: 206-622-5303
Website: www.stjames-cathedral.org

WELCOME, VISITORS! If you are a visitor to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are – whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish here in the Archdiocese.

The Transfiguration of the Lord August 6, 2023

ON THE COVER This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Icon of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Joan Brand-Landkamer, Cathedral iconographer.

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR are offered by Mayrose Daguio in loving memory of Julie Daguio on the 2nd anniversary of her death.

FLOWERS AT THE SHRINE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY in the north transept are in loving memory of Eileen Henchey from her children.

HOSPITALITY AFTER SUNDAY 10:00AM MASS Join us in Cathedral Hall for tasty breakfast burritos, fresh fruit, and the chance to visit with fellow parishioners.

HOSPITALITY AFTER NOON MASS All are welcome to a special “First Sunday” lunch in Cathedral Hall. We’ll be serving chicken wraps and fresh fruit.

WELCOME TO DEACONS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE At Vespers today, we welcome many of the deacons of the Archdiocese, along with their spouses, to the Cathedral. They are gathering for a consultation on Partners in the Gospel. Over the next few weeks, we will be hearing a lot more about Partners in the Gospel, and in late September, we will host parish-wide consultations as we look at how this process will impact our parish.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY The Solemnity of the Assumption is coming up on August 15. Masses for the Holy Day will be Monday, August 14 at 5:30pm and Tuesday, August 15 at 8:00am and 12:10pm.

CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION 2023-2024 St. James Cathedral provides the Children’s Faith Formation program from September to June for children ages 4-11, and Confirmation (for children 7th and 8th Grade). Classes take place on Sunday from approximately 11:00 am to 12:10pm. Registration begins in late August. Keep an eye on the bulletin for details! Information, Tami Kowal, Director of Children’s Faith Formation, 206-219-5822 or tkowal@stjames-cathedral.org

PARISH REMEMBRANCE Throughout the year, because we are the Cathedral Church, we remember in prayer at Mass and Vespers each of the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Seattle on a Sunday near their feast day. This week we pray for the parishes of St. Philomena in Des Moines and St. Lawrence in Raymond.
ST VINCENT DE PAUL THANKS YOU
A young man works part-time at the sport stadiums. His paychecks vary depending on the number of events happening at the fields. When his uneven income left him short of money to pay his rent, this neighbor called the SVdP Helpline (206-767-6449) requesting assistance. With your help, we were able to offer enough rent assistance to give him relief. Fortunately, while continuing to work part-time, the young man enrolled in a training program for a job that would result in full-time work. Information, Jo Ann Wiesner, 206-291-4012 or wiesnerjo@gmail.com.

WELCOME BACK Would you yourself – or someone you know – like to take another look at the Catholic Church? If, for one reason or another, you have been away and long for community, or feel hungry for something more, Welcome Back might be just the right place to safely express your concerns. A new in-person six-week series will begin in late August. Information, John Simpson, 206-654-4658 or jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org.

ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A CATECHIST? Do you want to share in the mission of Jesus Christ which you have experienced in the Catholic Church? Do you want to accompany young people as the Holy Spirit guides them—and you—into deeper knowledge of the truth? Then you might be called to be a catechist for Children’s Faith Formation! Materials and support provided. Please reach out to explore how you can serve our children and together with them attend to the voice of the Good Shepherd. Information, Tami Kowal, Director of Children’s Faith Formation, 206-219-5822 or tkowal@stjames-cathedral.org.

PREPARING FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The Archdiocese of Seattle mandates a 2 year preparation period for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. This normally begins when a child starts 1st grade, and continues into 2nd grade. Some children start a year later (2nd and 3rd grades). If your child will be in 1st or 2nd grade this fall, please sign them up in August, 2023 for Sacramental Preparation beginning this September. Information, Tami Kowal, Director of Children’s Faith Formation, 206-219-5822 or tkowal@stjames-cathedral.org.

YOUTH PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION IN 2024 The Archdiocese of Seattle changed the age of Confirmation in 2019. Candidates for Confirmation are now typically in 7th or 8th Grade. Our Confirmation program runs from September to May. If your child will be in one of these grades this fall, please sign them up in August, 2023 for classes beginning in September. Information, Tami Kowal, Director of Children’s Faith Formation, 206-219-5822 or tkowal@stjames-cathedral.org.

CATHEDRAL BOOK GROUP: WILKERSON’S CASTE September 7, 2023, 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the Pastoral Outreach Center The Cathedral Book Club and the Racial Solidarity Team are jointly sponsoring a discussion of Isabel Wilkerson’s Caste, an exploration of the unspoken and unacknowledged caste system that has shaped our country’s history. Copies are available for purchase in the Cathedral Bookstore.

LET ALL CREATION SING!
CHOIR CAMP LITURGIES This coming week, you are invited to join participants in our annual Choir Camp for Morning Prayer each day at 9:30am in the Cathedral Chapel. They will also sing at Mass on Monday, August 7 at 12:10pm.

PILGRIMAGE OF PEACE This week, our own Archbishop Etienne and Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe, representing two major nuclear strongholds in the U.S., conclude a Pilgrimage of Peace, during which they have established an ecclesial and personal relationship with the bishops of Japan to work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, expressing our heartfelt sorrow for the devastating experiences endured by their nation. You can still join them on a Novena for Nuclear Disarmament at https://archseattle.org/about-the-archdiocese-of-seattle/archbishop-etienne/pilgrimage-of-peace/. “Nuclear war begins, I believe, in our hearts. And that is where it must end. For that reason, deterrence is not extrinsic to the evil of nuclear war. From that moral perspective, deterrence finds itself at the center of the evil. In other words, our intention or willingness to do the sin could become the sin.” – from an address by Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen to Pax Christi USA, Chicago, July 31, 1987.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS! Volunteer Services is a program of Catholic Community Services committed to helping elders and adults with disabilities remain living independently through a network of caring, community-minded volunteers of all ages. Assistance needed includes light housework, yardwork, shopping and errands and/or pet care. Information, Jonny Procov, program manager, 206-328-5787 or vc@ccsw.org.
MARY: MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

Some can still remember when Pius XII proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption in 1950. But it was anything but a new concept! The faithful have long believed that at her death, Mary was taken body and soul into heaven, and a feast has been celebrated in her honor on August 15 since the fifth century.

Mary’s Assumption is also our feast day. In Mary’s birth into heaven, we see our final destiny, when our bodies will be raised, and we, too, will share in the resurrection. When Mary goes home to heaven, heaven becomes our home: “there is even room in God for the body. Heaven is no longer a very remote sphere unknown to us. We have a mother in heaven…. Heaven is open, Heaven has a heart” (Pope Benedict XVI).

Mary, Mother of the Church, is also an image of the Church. Her Assumption, as the preface of the day tells us, was “the beginning and the pattern of the Church in its perfection.” In Mary, we have the perfect model of discipleship. In Mary’s Assumption, we, the Church, have one foot in heaven already. And in Mary’s prayers, we have help, guidance, and protection along the way.

THE SHRINE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary dates from 1994. Designed by parishioner and architect Susan Jones, it is easy to see why this shrine is one of the most popular places to pray in the Cathedral. The Chapel speaks to Mary’s motherhood. The curve of the railing creates an almost womblike space, which invites us forward. The image of Mary with the Child Jesus is not remote or high above us; instead, she is just at eye-level, and when we kneel down we come even closer to her. The fragrant beeswax candles seem to surround both Mary and her child, and us, with gentle light. On the ceiling of this chapel are stars—a traditional emblem of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These stars have another meaning as well: they form an accurate starmap of the night sky over Seattle on December 22, 1994, the night of the Cathedral’s dedication.

The image of Mary with the Child Jesus in this Chapel is considerably older. It probably dates from the middle of the 19th century. It was carved by an Italian craftsman, and the design was inspired by a medieval altarpiece at the monastery of Blaubeuren, Germany. Mary gazes at us, holding the Child Jesus, who reaches towards us with the fruit that recalls humanity’s fall from grace. This graceful mother seems to hold her child out towards us—and that is, of course, exactly what Mary does in the Church. She leads us to Christ.

FOR REFLECTION

- The Cathedral has many images of the Blessed Virgin Mary (nine at the last counting!). Which of them speaks to you most deeply?
- The lighting of candles before the shrines of the saints is a well-loved Catholic tradition. While there’s no “official” interpretation, the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Chartres, France, offers this meditation at the shrine of the historic image of Our Lady of the Pillar: “I light a candle, that my prayer might rise up like a flame, that my spirit might be enlightened by the word of God, that my heart might burn with love, like the heart of the Virgin Mary.”

PRAYER

Lord our God, grant that like Mary we may welcome Christ by treasuring his words in our hearts and celebrating with deep faith the mysteries of our redemption.

The Sacramentary, Mass of Holy Mary, Mother of God
Sing with the Cathedral Choir!

Auditions for the Cathedral Choir’s 2023-2024 season can be arranged by appointment. Contact Joseph Adam, Director of Music at musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org or 206-382-4874. Experienced singers in all voice parts are welcome!

From September–June, Cathedral Choir rehearses on Thursday nights from 7:30-9:30pm and provides music for the Sunday 10am Mass and special liturgies.
Auditions for the Women of St. James Schola’s 2023-2024 season can be arranged by appointment. Contact Joseph Adam, Director of Music at musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org or 206-382-4874. Soprano and mezzo-soprano/alto singers are welcome!

From September–June, Women’s Schola rehearses on Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm and provides music for the Sunday 5:30pm Mass. Schola repertoire consists of chant and unison, 2- and 3-part motets for women’s voices.
The Hunthausen Charity Golf Tournament is back!
Since 1997, this tournament has raised funds to support the neediest in our community. In 2022, the tournament raised an extraordinary $169,000 for our neighbors in need. This year, we hope you will be there to make the event bigger and better than ever!

Your support is urgently needed as our region continues to grapple with a massive housing and food insecurity crisis. Your support of this event is a tangible response, helping us provide resources directly to those in need. This event makes possible our Cathedral Kitchen, serving hot, nutritious meals every weeknight to homeless and low-income men and women. The tournament also supports other Cathedral outreach ministries, including our Solanus Casey Center, Sunday Early Breakfast, Immigrant Assistance Program, and Mental Health Ministry.

On behalf of the many, many people who are helped through the outreach programs of St. James Cathedral, THANK YOU for your generous support of the Archbishop Hunthausen Charity Golf Tournament.

Sponsorship Opportunities
Your sponsorship of the tournament is tax-deductible and directly supports our Cathedral outreach ministries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
<th>Sponsorship Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Sponsor</td>
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<td>Four complimentary foursomes, course signage, corporate name and logo on all tournament literature</td>
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<td>Birdie Sponsor</td>
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<td>One complimentary golf registration, course signage, listing in program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner Sponsor</td>
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<td>Two tickets to the Benefit Dinner &amp; Auction, listing in souvenir program</td>
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Put together a foursome or join us as a solo golfer!
Registration opens 10:30am
Shotgun start 12:00pm
The entry fee of $275* per golfer includes
Golf Cart - Tee Prizes - Beverage Tickets - Box Lunch - Awards Dinner
*$100 of each player registration is tax-deductible

Join us for the benefit dinner and auction!
The Benefit Dinner is a fun early evening event after the tournament. Join us for a silent auction, a delicious dinner, and a fundraiser for the Cathedral Kitchen.
5:00pm Happy Hour | 6:00pm Benefit Dinner
$100 per person

To register visit www.stjames-cathedral.org/golf
Information, Maria Laughlin at 206-382-4284 or mlaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org
ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL | 804 NINTH AVENUE | SEATTLE, WA 98104
## ARCHBISHOP HUNTHAUSEN
**Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner**

**Monday, August 28, 2023**

**Glendale Country Club, Bellevue**

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
(please complete SPONSOR INFO box at left)

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### GOLFERS
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### BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION
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- [ ] Check enclosed (payable ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL GOLF)
- [ ] Bill my VISA/MasterCard (circle one)
  - Sorry, we cannot accept AmEx/Discover

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### SPONSOR REGISTRATION

- Sponsorship Category
- Sponsor/Corporate Name*
- Address
- City/State/ZIP
- Contact Person
- Phone
- E-Mail

* Include name as you would like it to appear on all tournament literature and signage. If you would like your corporate logo to appear on signage, please e-mail logo to mlaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org.

### PLAYER REGISTRATION

If you are registering as a single player, you may list names of other golfers you would like in your foursome.

- Player #1
  - Name
  - Address
  - City/State/ZIP
  - Phone
  - E-Mail

- Player #2
  - E-Mail

- Player #3
  - E-Mail

- Player #4
  - E-Mail

### DINNER ONLY REGISTRATION

- Name(s)
- Address
- City/State/ZIP
- Phone
- E-Mail

If you prefer, you may register and make your credit card payment at our secure website, [www.stjames-cathedral.org/golf](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org/golf)
On the first Friday of each month, all are welcome to a contemplative prayer in St. James Cathedral, with song, silence, and candlelight. The service includes the meditative chants of the ecumenical Taizé community in France, founded by Brother Roger Schutz as a sign of reconciliation after World War II.

This September’s service falls on the World Day of Prayer for the Season of Creation. In his message, commenting on this year’s theme “Let Justice and Peace Flow”, Pope Francis urges us to “join the mighty river by transforming our hearts, . . . add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our lifestyles, . . . and for the mighty river to continue flowing, we must transform the public policies that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow”.

**Friday, September 1 at 6:30pm**
St. James Cathedral  
804 Ninth Avenue  
Reception to follow

“In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to ‘renew the face of the earth’ (cf. Ps 104:30)”.

Pope Francis

www.stjames-cathedral.org
TOGETHER
Gathering of the People of God

Friday, September 22, 2023
PRAYER | 6:30pm
SYNODAL GATHERING for YOUTH and YOUNG ADULTS | 7:30pm
St. James Cathedral
804 9th Avenue, Seattle, 98104

Together, we gather to pray for the Church as we prepare for the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which begins on October 1. All are welcome to this celebration of Evening Prayer with the beautiful music of the ecumenical community of Taizé in France. In a special way, all youth and young adults are invited to participate. This prayer is part of a worldwide prayer vigil leading up to the next phase of the Synod. Find out more at https://together2023.net/

Following the prayer, youth and young adults are invited to gather in Cathedral Place Hall for a meal and an experience of synodality with Archbishop Etienne. Together, we share our own experiences and hopes for our Church, and reflect on how we can carry out our mission more effectively. The Archbishop wants to carry the voices of young people with him when he goes to Rome to participate in the Synod as a delegate. Please come, pray, share, and experience what synodality is all about!

All are welcome to join in the prayer. Youth/young adults must register for the dinner and synodal gathering that follows.

The prayer will be livestreamed at https://vimeo.com/event/3538193 and at https://www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofSeattle/

Youth and young adults, register for the event!
PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

A LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP PAUL D. ETIENNE
TO THE PRIESTS AND PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH IN WESTERN WASHINGTON

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)

When St. Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians centuries ago, he began with a word of thanks. I wish to begin this letter with a word of thanks and an assurance of my prayers for all of you. As your Archbishop, I am endlessly amazed by — and profoundly grateful for — the witness you give to Jesus Christ in this beautiful part of God's creation. I am grateful for the lay leaders in our parishes, schools, Chancery offices and ministries, and Catholic Community Services and Catholic Housing Services for their dedicated service in the name of Christ. I am grateful to our deacons and religious for the many ways they have answered the call to serve God's people. And I am grateful to our priests, to whom I can only say: Thank you for all the ways you witness to Christ in the world and for the loving service you give to God's holy people. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

We are all partners in the Gospel. And why does this matter? The Gospel shares the life of Jesus and is the foundation of our faith and understanding of Jesus' teachings. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus speaks to us saying, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” This is known as the Great Commission and is ultimately why the Church exists today.

The proclamation of the Kingdom of God is not a task we do alone, nor is it a responsibility reserved to the ordained. All the baptized are called to do this holy work together, as one body — the Body of Christ — and whatever affects one, affects us all.

In these pages, I wish to reflect with you on some of the challenges we face today in our local Church, how we will meet these challenges together, and how, as partners in the Gospel, we can build up healthy and vibrant parish communities.

READING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

In Gaudium et Spes, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of the Second Vatican Council, we read: “In every age, the Church carries the responsibility of reading the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel” (4). It is our responsibility not
only to be aware of what is happening around us, but also to read and interpret those signs in the light of the Gospel. In other words, we are called to see, to judge and to act.

What are the signs of our times that we need to see and respond to? In the last 10 years, we have witnessed significant shifts in religious practice in our region. Between 2010 and 2019, there has been a substantial drop in Mass attendance across the Archdiocese. Participation in the sacraments is down as well — 30% fewer baptisms and 18% fewer Catholic weddings, to cite just two examples. Fewer people at Mass means that some of our parishes are struggling financially. These statistics predate the COVID-19 epidemic, which drastically exacerbated these trends.

Of course, statistics do not present a full picture of life and vitality in our local Church. Wonderful things are happening, with God’s grace, every day. Nevertheless, we would be failing in our call to “read the signs of the times” if we simply ignored the trends, made light of the dramatic changes we are witnessing and kept on doing what we have always done. The status quo is no longer an option. The realities of our situation call for a new response — indeed, for a re-envisioning of parish life.

RE-ENVISIONING PARISH LEADERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

As we begin this restructuring process, we must always keep first and foremost our desire and our efforts to help our people grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. He is our life, our hope, our salvation. Strengthening the faith of our people and redoubling our efforts to advance the mission of the Church must always be our top priorities.

But what is the mission of the Church? This is a question that many today cannot succinctly answer. For the past two years we have been praying and developing a deeper understanding of our mission. Ultimately, the mission of the Church is to:

- **Encounter Jesus Christ**
- **Accompany each other**
- **Live the joy of the Gospel**

Everything we do as Church is to help realize this mission.

However, we must carry out this mission within the present context. Partners in the Gospel is our response to the realities we face. It is a significant process of restructuring to maximize our existing pastoral leadership and provide a sustainable structure for the future. It will allow us to keep our parishes and schools vibrant and mission-focused.

Partners in the Gospel envisions that, beginning on July 1, 2024, most of our 174 locations (including parishes, missions and stations) will become part of a family with other parishes. Each family will be served by one pastor and one or more parochial vicars. The family groupings are being developed based on size, geography, cultural and ethnic makeup, financial health and school presence. The final configuration of the parish families will be the fruit of profound prayer, exhaustive work and study, and broad consultation.

For well over a year, the Archdiocese of Seattle has been collaborating with expert analysts from PartnersEdge, who worked with us to develop a draft configuration plan in consultation with the Presbyteral Council, the Partners Oversight Committee and the priests, deacons and lay leaders of the
Archdiocese. In September, the plan will enter the most important phase of the consultation process, when it is presented to the faithful of the Archdiocese for input.

I urge all the faithful to participate prayerfully in this consultation process. We want to hear from you. Not only that, we need to hear from you. Your knowledge of and love for your own parish community makes your input into the proposed family structures invaluable. Pope Francis has called us to be a more synodal Church — that is, a listening Church, a Church that journeys together. Please participate in the listening sessions and consultations in your parish community, whether in person or online. Please share your wisdom and experience and be part of this journey.

**BECOMING A FAMILY**

After the consultation process is completed, the final parish family configurations will be announced in early 2024, and the announcement of priest pastoral assignments will follow in spring 2024. The families will become a reality on July 1, 2024. The pastor, the parish staff, parish leadership and parishioners will then work together over about three years to discern how to become one faith family, given their own unique situations, needs, challenges and gifts.

This process will take time — and we will not rush it. In the first year, the focus will be on getting to know the people and the cultures of each parish community, finding opportunities to meet each other, and coming to understand the unique gifts we bring to the family.

Later in the process, parishes in the family will begin actively looking for ways to collaborate with each other and share ministries that overlap. Families will grow together and begin to see themselves as one parish, striving to encounter Jesus, accompany one another on the journey of faith and live the joy of the Gospel in the world. Then, in the final year, the family will create a “One Parish” plan for becoming one canonical parish.

What does it mean to become one canonical parish? It means that even when there are several church buildings, many administrative operations are centralized. For example, one finance council will serve the entire faith family. Other important functions of the parish, like faith formation, might also be shared. This reality will look somewhat different in each parish family. By July 1, 2027, most faith families will be ready to come together as one canonical parish.

Archdiocesan policies for Partners in the Gospel are being prepared and will be available on the archdiocesan website. I have intentionally kept these policies simple. I want to keep the “musts” to a minimum to foster the pastoral creativity within each family — so that pastors, working in consultation with their people, can develop the way of being one family that works best for their communities.

Parishes will not be left to do this work alone. The Archdiocese of Seattle will provide a liaison for each parish family to support you, work with you, connect you with resources and help you achieve the various benchmarks along the way to becoming one canonical parish.

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**Accompany each other**

Stephen Brashear
A GRACED OPPORTUNITY

In the nearly 175-year history of the Archdiocese of Seattle, Partners in the Gospel is unprecedented in its scope, and in some ways, our local Church will look quite different when the process is complete. But this is not the first time our local Church has dealt with change. Far from it! The history of the Archdiocese of Seattle is the story of people encountering change with faith, courage and imagination. From humble beginnings to grand visions, from times of retrenchment to times of dizzying growth, we have adapted creatively, welcomed the stranger and responded to the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel. This local Church has always encountered challenges with faith in God and confidence in God’s promises. Missionary creativity and pastoral flexibility have been the hallmarks of our history.

I have great confidence that we will encounter the present moment with that same faith and vision. Coming together as parish families will involve a lot of change, and change can be difficult. Letting go of what is familiar and facing the unknown can be unsettling, even painful. But times of change can also be exciting. There are new possibilities, even a new adventure. I firmly believe that this process presents us with an extraordinary opportunity. If we open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and respond creatively, this reorganization offers us the possibility of renewing and re-envisioning parish life in order to carry out our mission more effectively.

We are all called and gifted by the Lord to be apostles and evangelists (cf. Ephesians 4:11-12) — and we are all called to conversion (cf. Mark 1:15). If we look within, it seems to me that each of us needs re-evangelization. We all need to be more and more convinced of the power of the Risen Christ, who has already conquered sin and death. Then, and only then, are we capable of being living witnesses to the resurrection of Christ. We need to live the Gospel by putting it into action. We need to awaken from our worldly slumber and be renewed in the life of the Risen Jesus!

There is so much Gospel work for us to do. We live in a region with great wealth and great poverty. There is need all around us — material need and spiritual need. So many people look to us for help. So many people are hungry for good news. And we have good news to share — the best news of all. What Jesus said to his disciples, he says now to us: “I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest” (John 4:35).

As our communities work together to become new faith families, we have a graced opportunity to reflect on what it truly means to be a community of missionary disciples. In the Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis wrote about what a parish is. It is a passage that deserves to be quoted at length:

The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be “the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.” This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does
not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach (Evangelii Gaudium, 28).

I believe that this process of Partners in the Gospel — which will stretch us in many ways — can help us achieve this vision of what a parish can and ought to be. Our parish families are called to become what Pope Francis calls “a community of communities.” I believe that, not just after this process, but through the way we carry out this process, we can become more vibrant and healthy faith communities.

While I was still a priest in Indianapolis, there was a growing parish in need of a new church. I asked the pastor when he was going to build a church, and his response was memorable: “Before I build a church, I need to build ‘Church’ among the people.” This seems to me our primary opportunity in Partners in the Gospel — to build Church among our people. This is precisely why the Church Fathers in the Second Vatican Council call us the People of God!

**HOW DO WE MEASURE HEALTH AND VIBRANCY?**

How do we know we have healthy, vibrant, sustainable parishes? I am aware that we must be careful how we define health and vibrancy when it comes to parish communities. Financial stability is certainly one measure — but if we base our judgment exclusively on numbers, we put some communities at a disadvantage. Thriving programs for adults and children are another measure of health — but if that is all we look at, we might sideline small and rural communities with fewer resources. Each parish is unique, and as parishes become part of families, we do not want to lose that uniqueness.

Partners in the Gospel is not intended to make our communities all look alike. We must not discard our individual histories, nor lose the gifts that small and rural parishes bring by holding them to standards that only work for larger, more affluent parishes. As Partners in the Gospel unfolds, we have a particular responsibility to keep in mind our ethnic and cultural communities and ensure that they are being well served and fully included in the broader faith family. We need to bring the Church’s “preferential option for the poor” to bear in this process.

We must recognize our diversity for what it is — a gift from God.

So how do we know if a parish is truly vibrant? I want to suggest some areas which can serve as benchmarks of health and vibrancy — pillars of parish life. These pillars are not necessarily distinct or prioritized in any way, as many overlap and build on each other. They are also not exhaustive, but are simply a way for us to examine parish life.

A healthy parish community is focused on **discipleship**. The word “disciples” — which means “learners” — expresses a key dimension of our relationship with Christ, since we never stop learning from the teacher. We are missionary disciples, always in need of being evangelized ourselves, and always called to spread the good news and lead others to Christ. A healthy parish community provides ways for all members and seekers to grow in discipleship.
A healthy parish community is grounded in worship and prayer. The celebration of the Eucharist at each Mass is the center of parish life, truly the “source and summit,” drawing each member of the community deeper into relationship with Christ, forming them into one body and sending them forth in love and service.

A healthy parish community looks beyond itself to engage in mission and evangelization. A parish is not a place to retreat from the troubles and challenges that are present in our broader community and our world. Rather, it is a place to join with others to be nourished in our life in Christ, from which we are sent into the world to make a difference, alleviate suffering, care for the afflicted and advocate for the voiceless. In service of others, especially the poor, we encounter Christ. A healthy parish recognizes needs and responds, reaching out as the Body of Christ. As disciples, we carry Christ to others in the world and bring them to Christ in return.

Community does not happen by chance. Community must be fostered. A healthy parish community is not cliquish, closed in on itself, but open and welcoming, a wide circle that grows ever wider through active invitation of new members. A healthy community also makes room for members to celebrate and preserve their own culture and faith traditions even as they come together in mutual respect and understanding.

A healthy parish has effective administration. In the Church, administration is not just a necessary evil, the “business side of things.” Rather, administration is a spiritual gift to the Church, and those with administrative responsibilities truly carry out the work of the Gospel. A healthy parish is financially stable, a community whose members support it with their time, talent and treasure. A strong parish is able to maintain its buildings and manage its debt. A healthy parish has the technology it needs to carry out its mission. Good administration gives the pastor and the community the freedom to look beyond immediate needs and dedicate resources to evangelization and mission.

To make all this happen, leadership is key. All of us have experienced the incredible difference a good pastor makes. A good pastor not only guides us in our sacramental encounters with Christ, but also helps us discover our gifts and share them. Good leaders empower others, consult widely and serve humbly. This is the kind of leadership that Pope Francis has modeled for the Church — and it is what he calls all of us to, especially our priests.

We all know that priests are not the only ones who exercise leadership in the Church today. A healthy and vibrant parish also needs the invaluable leadership and support provided by faithful and well-formed deacons and lay people. That is why we as an Archdiocese are relaunching our formation programs both for permanent deacons and for lay ministers.

**OUR JOURNEY**

With Partners in the Gospel, we are embarking on a journey that will take us to new places as a local Church. There will be much that is unfamiliar in the years ahead — there will be joy as well as grief, as together, we learn what it means to be become parish families. My prayer, and my hope, is that in this process, we will build sustainable, vibrant communities — communities that allow priests and people to thrive and carry the Gospel.
more effectively to the people of Western Washington.

We are doing something new. But in a way, we are doing what our local Church has always done when faced with new circumstances and new challenges. I think of the missionary bishops and priests, religious and lay people who established the Church here in spite of formidable realities that could easily have discouraged them — but instead inspired them. I think particularly of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, who, with the dauntless Sisters of Providence, helped build the Church across the Northwest with few resources other than an abundance of faith and a tremendous amount of hard work.

“I do not think that we should wait until we are as well organized as in the East before we act to respond to the needs,” Mother Joseph wrote in 1858. “It seems to me that we should be glad to feel the pinch, in order to do good.” Her words have special resonance for us in this moment. It is all too easy for us to focus on the many challenges and difficulties present in our world and even in the Church. But if the challenges and difficulties are all we focus on, then we will never effectively carry out the mission Christ has entrusted to us.

AN INVITATION

I want to end this letter with an invitation.

I invite all of us to pray. Let us pray for the success of this effort on good days and on bad days — when our efforts are going smoothly and when we encounter challenges along the way. Let us keep praying when we are encouraged and when we are discouraged. Let us invite the Holy Spirit in every day, to guide and inspire everything we do.

I invite all of us to participate. We all have insights and gifts we can share with our parish families. In a particular way, I invite our young people to participate in this effort. We need your presence, your gifts, your voices. As St. Paul teaches, the manifestations of the Spirit are given for some benefit — so let us put our many gifts to work for the benefit of the entire Body of Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:7).

I invite our priests and parish leaders to enter into this process in a spirit of hope and collaboration. I am not going to tell you that it will be easy to re-envision and renew parish life — it won’t be. But I can assure you that it will be possible. Consult widely, listen to each other and the faithful, discern together and think creatively. I have instructed my team at the Chancery that Partners in the Gospel is our focus for the next several years. We are committed to supporting you through this process every step of the way.

Lastly, I invite all of us to become partners in the work of the Gospel. None of us can do this work alone. Jesus calls us in community and as community.

Our task as a local Church is nothing less than to embody the risen Christ: to make him credible by the way we live our faith, by the way we incarnate Christ as Church, the mystical Body of Christ. May the power of the Paschal Mystery of the Risen Christ be our strength and grace as together we lead and re-envision this local Church, as partners in Christ’s Gospel.

In the heart of Christ,

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

This pastoral letter is available in Spanish and Vietnamese at archseattle.org/partners.