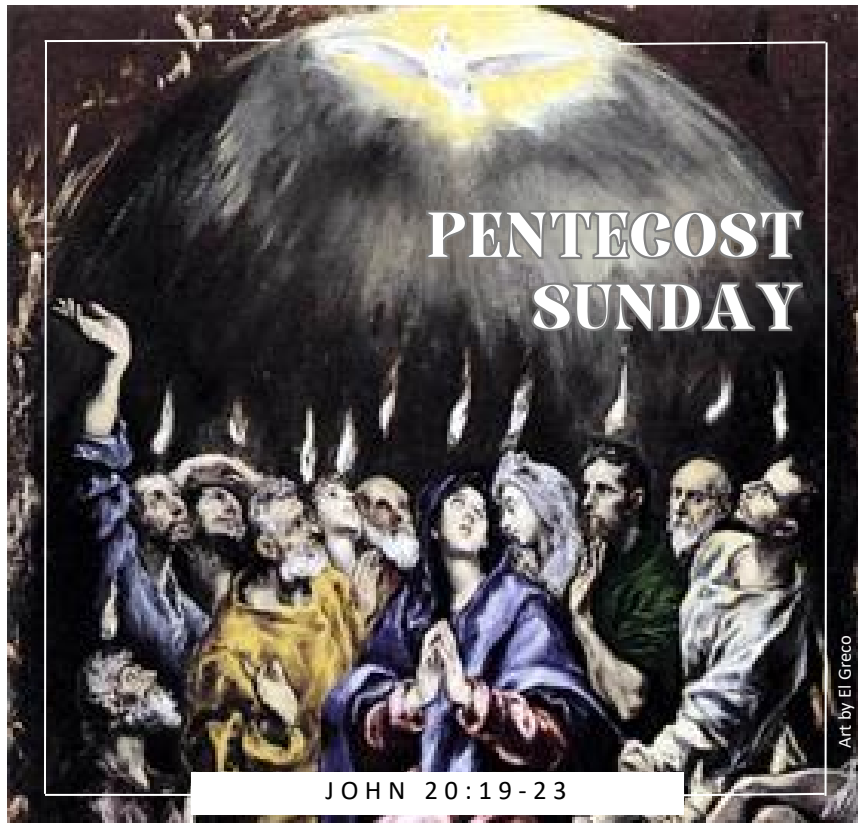


JUNE 8, 2025

PENTECOST SUNDAY

# PARISH FAMILY 14

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



## SUNDAY MASSES

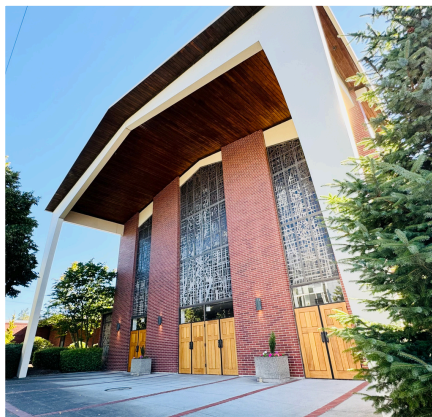
Saturday: 5:00 PM Vigil at St. Alphonsus  
5:00 PM Vigil at St. John  
Sunday: 8:30 AM at St. John  
9:00 AM at St. Alphonsus  
10:30 AM at St. John  
11:00 AM at St. Benedict  
7:00 PM at St. Benedict

## DAILY MASSES

Mon - Thurs: 7:30 AM at St. Alphonsus  
(except **1st** Wed and **1st** Thurs,  
refer to School Masses)  
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: All are welcome!**  
**1st** Wed: 8:45 AM at St. Alphonsus  
**1st** Thurs: 9:00 AM at St. Benedict  
**1st** Fri: 9:00 AM at St. John

## CONFESSION

Saturday: 4-4:45 PM at St. Alphonsus  
4:30 PM at St. John  
First Thursday Confession and Adoration:  
7-8:00 PM at St. Alphonsus



### ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH

5816 15th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107  
Phone: 206-784-6464  
Email: [parishinfo@stalseattle.org](mailto:parishinfo@stalseattle.org)  
Website: <https://stalseattle.org>



### ST. BENEDICT PARISH

1805 N 49th St, Seattle, WA 98103  
Phone: 206-632-0843  
Email: [parish@stbens.net](mailto:parish@stbens.net)  
Website: <https://parish.stbens.net>



### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

106 N 79th St, Seattle, WA 98103  
Phone: 206-782-2810  
Email: [parishoffice@stjohnsea.org](mailto:parishoffice@stjohnsea.org)  
Website: <https://stjohnsea.org>

# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

## JUNE 8, 2025 PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

	ST. ALPHONSUS		ST. BENEDICT		ST. JOHN	
<b>June 8 PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	9 AM 10 AM	Mass Coffee & donuts after Mass	11 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Mass (Livestream) INT: Susan Donat Social Hour Mass	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 1 PM	Mass Lectio Divina Mass with CLOW Coffee & donuts after both Masses School Baccalaureate Prayer Service and Graduation
<b>June 9 Monday</b> <i>The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church</i>	7:30 AM 7 PM 7 PM	Daily Mass RIP: John Shram OCIA Men's Group	9 AM 7 PM	Paul Ladniak Funeral Gospel Study		
<b>June 10 Tuesday</b>	7:30 AM	Daily Mass RIP: Beverly Ann Sager				
<b>June 11 Wednesday</b> <i>Saint Barnabas, Apostle</i>	7:30 AM 8:45 AM 7 PM	Daily Mass School Baccalaureate Mass School Graduation				
<b>June 12 Thursday</b>	7:30 AM 10 AM 6 PM	Daily Mass INT: Angie Calvetti Scripture Study Pastoral Council Meeting	12 PM All Day	Fitness Group - <i>Cancelled</i> School Jog-a-Thon	3 - 4 PM	Family Adoration
<b>June 13 Friday</b> <i>Saint Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	8:15 AM to 8 PM 6 PM	Adoration Chapel open PF Design Commission Meeting			9 AM	School Mass - <i>All are welcome!</i> (Livestream) INT: Mildred Wesley and Brian Wesley
<b>June 14 Saturday</b>	8 AM 4 PM -4:45 PM 5 PM	Daily Mass RIP: Celedonia Centeno Confession Vigil Mass	9 AM	Craft Group	4:30 PM 5 PM	Confession Vigil Mass with Baptisms (Livestream)
<b>June 15 MOST HOLY TRINITY</b>	9 AM 10 AM	Mass No Coffee & donuts after Mass	11 AM 12 PM 7 PM	Mass (Livestream) RIP: Mark Dome Social Hour Mass	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Mass Lectio Divina Mass with Baptisms No Coffee & Donuts today
	For livestream and recorded masses, click the links:		<a href="https://parish.stbens.net">https://parish.stbens.net</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stben&lt;br/&gt;seattle">https://www.facebook.com/stben seattle</a>		<a href="http://www.stjohnsea.org/live-stream-&lt;br/&gt;masses">www.stjohnsea.org/live-stream- masses</a>	



Sign up to **get notified of mass  
cancellations** or mass time changes.  
<https://bit.ly/PF14NotifyMe>



Subscribe to **weekly bulletin  
and newsletter.**  
<https://bit.ly/PF14WeeklyBulletin>







# Parish Family BBQ

**SUNDAY, 13 JULY 2025, 12 - 3 PM**  
**ST. JOHN PARKING LOT**  
 106 N 79th St, Seattle, WA 98103

Come together as one Parish Family for a day of delicious food, exciting games and wonderful fellowship.

**We can't wait to see you all there!**

Potluck dishes are assigned based on the first letter of your last name:

**A-J Dessert**  
**K-R Salad**  
**S-Z Side Dish**



**RSVP  
NOW!**

[https://bit.ly/PF14  
PicnicRSVP](https://bit.ly/PF14PicnicRSVP)

Please RSVP so we can plan for enough food and space for everyone. But even if you don't RSVP—or aren't able to bring a dish—you're still very welcome. There will always be plenty of food and a place for you at our table!

For more info, please contact **Teresa Gillett** at 206-782-2810 ext. 355 or [tgillett@stjohnsea.org](mailto:tgillett@stjohnsea.org).



ST. ALPHONSUS • ST. BENEDICT • ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

# FAITH IN FOCUS



## Eucharistic Prayer Choice

THE EUCHARISTIC Prayers used at Mass are in four categories. The first group, simply numbered one through four, contains the principal prayers for Mass throughout the liturgical year.



A second group is used in Masses for Reconciliation. The two prayers of this group were originally composed for the Holy Year 1975, when Paul VI was pope, but they have been approved for general use, especially in penitential seasons and days when the Scriptures invite us to reconcile.

A third group is for use in Masses for Various Needs and Occasions. Masses may be offered for a variety of intentions, such as the church, society, weather, and family. There are four variations of the Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, each with its own preface and intercessions.

The final group is for Masses with Children. These three prayers were originally composed with specific age groups in mind, but they are used interchangeably now for any group of preadolescents. These Eucharistic Prayers are still lengthy, but they aim to engage children through a simplified vocabulary and the singing of additional acclamations. These prayers were not included in the revision of the third edition of *The Roman Missal*, but they were updated to match the language of the Missal and printed in a separate volume.

Of the first group, Eucharistic Prayer I is recommended on Sundays, solemnities, and feasts of the saints mentioned in the prayer. It is also called the Roman Canon, and it was the only Eucharistic Prayer used in the Roman Rite for many centuries. Prayer II is based on a text from the third or fourth century. It is shorter and recommended for weekdays. Prayer III, newly composed after the Second Vatican Council, is especially fitting for Sundays and feasts. Prayer IV, which tells about salvation history, is especially suited for weekdays and Sundays in Ordinary Time. Its preface never varies.

*Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Gestures, Postures, and Customs of the Liturgy* © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

## SAINT OF THE MONTH

**Saint Peter**

**Feast Day: June 29**

Patron Saint of fishermen, net makers, and ship builders.



Saint Peter is the first Pope of the Catholic Church. Though Saint Peter's birth date remains uncertain, he is believed to have died in 64 AD. He was canonized by Christ as the "rock of the church" described in Matthew chapter 16, verse 18.

Saint Peter was born Simon Peter of Cephas. He was a fisherman who met Jesus while in his boat. He and his brother Andrew had been experiencing trouble catching fish but when Jesus saw the boats, he told them to cast their nets into deep water and He would fill them. Peter and his brother cast their nets and sure enough they caught so many fish their nets began to tear. By the time the nets had been emptied on board, the boats were nearly sinking. When Simon Peter realized what happened, he admitted he was a sinful man and Jesus told him, "from now on it is people you will be catching." Peter became one of Jesus' disciples that very day and was present for several miracles.

Following Christ's death, it was Peter who denied knowing Jesus three times before a rooster crowed twice and following the Resurrection, Jesus gave Peter three chances to make up for the denials by asking Peter if he loved Him. Each time Peter responded that he did love Jesus, and so he was resolved of his guilt. There are several stories of Peter's accomplishments following Jesus' ascension, including the story of how he escaped King Herod with help from an angel. Peter helped spread the Gospel to Gentiles, baptized people, and was eventually martyred. When he was to be crucified, he admitted he was not worthy of dying the same way Jesus did, and was crucified upside-down. Following his death, Peter was buried on Vatican Hill, where Emperor Constantine I honored him with a large basilica. In 1950, bone shards were discovered and Pope Paul the 6th announced they belonged to Peter.

On November 24, 2013, Pope Francis revealed the relics of nine bone fragments for the first time in public during a Mass celebrated at St. Peter's Square. Artwork featuring Saint Peter often depicts him as an elderly man holding a key and book, though his symbols also include an inverted cross, a boat, and a rooster.

Source: <https://catholic.org>

## PARISH FAMILY LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Pastor

Fr. Colin Parrish  
[pastor@parishfamily14.org](mailto:pastor@parishfamily14.org)

### Director of Operations

Dani D'Amelio  
[ddamelio@parishfamily14.org](mailto:ddamelio@parishfamily14.org)  
206-782-2810 ext 314

### Director of Communications

Racquel Servito  
[r.servito@parishfamily14.org](mailto:r.servito@parishfamily14.org)  
206-632-0843 ext 210

### PAA, St. Alphonsus Parish

Lori Corcoro  
[lcorcoro@stalseattle.org](mailto:lcorcoro@stalseattle.org) | 206-784-6464

### PAA, St. Benedict Parish

Harold Hamilton  
[paa@stbens.net](mailto:paa@stbens.net) | 206-632-0843 ext 216

### PAA, St. John the Evangelist Parish

Mary Wiseman  
[mwiseman@stjohnsea.org](mailto:mwiseman@stjohnsea.org)  
206-782-2810 ext 314

### Principal, St. Alphonsus School

Nick Padrnos  
[npadrnos@stalseattle.org](mailto:npadrnos@stalseattle.org) | 206-782-4363

### Principal, St. Benedict School

Brian Anderson  
[b.anderson@stbens.net](mailto:b.anderson@stbens.net) | 206-633-3375

### Principal, St. John the Evangelist School

Abby Mansfield  
[amansfield@st-johnschool.org](mailto:amansfield@st-johnschool.org)  
206-782-2810 ext 310

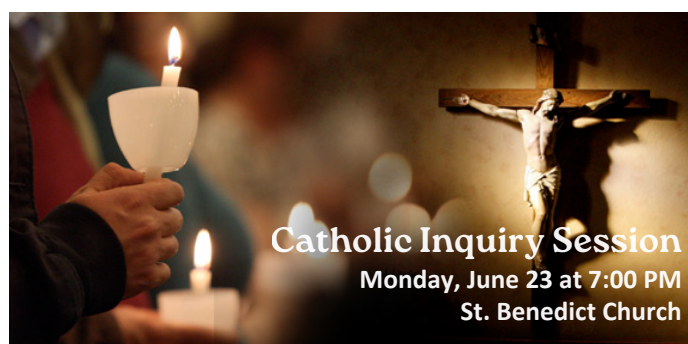


# UPCOMING EVENTS



Children preschool age and older are invited to join us for Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) during the **10:30 AM Mass most Sundays at St. John**. It's a special opportunity for kids to hear and reflect on the Sunday readings in a way that's engaging and age-appropriate. We hope to see your little ones there!

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Daniel Pelfrey at [ceff@stjohnsea.org](mailto:ceff@stjohnsea.org).



## Curious About Catholicism? Let's chat!

Whether you're spiritually curious, thinking of becoming Catholic, or just realized your Confirmation never actually happened (no judgment—we've all forgotten a few things since childhood), come join Daniel Pelfrey for a **Catholic Inquiry Session!**

Bring your questions and your curiosity. Whether you're brand new to the faith or a lifelong Catholic looking to brush up, all are welcome.



Donate new socks and other essential items to support the men at St. Martin de Porres Shelter.

**Place your donations at the laundry baskets in the vestibule of St. Alphonsus Church after all Masses through Father's Day weekend (June 14 & 15).** We would be happy to collect them as well, contact your Parish Office.

Your kindness can make a real difference. Thank you for your generous support!



Scan the QR code or visit the link: <https://bit.ly/PF14VBS2025>



### REGISTER NOW for Vacation Bible School!

 **August 11-15, 2025**  
 **12:30 PM to 3:30 PM**  
 **St. John - Egan Hall Mezzanine, 123 N 79<sup>th</sup> St.**  
 **Grades K-4 (in the coming school year)**

This year's program is entitled Parachute with the Angels. During this fun week, campers will check-in with St. Catherine, pick-up their flight plan and meet their co-pilot: their very own Guardian Angel!

Campers will earn their wings and soar through the sky as one of God's special "Angeltroopers," encountering exciting characters from the Bible whose lives were transformed by angels. Who knows? They may even meet Mary, Queen of Angels, along the way!

Contact Teresa Gillett at [tgillett@stjohnsea.org](mailto:tgillett@stjohnsea.org), or call the Parish Office at 206-782-2810 with questions or for more information.

# PARISH UPDATES

## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE – JUNE 2 MEETING

The Pastoral Leadership Council concluded the first part of its journey with a fruitful and spirit-filled meeting last June 2.

The day focused on *Healing of Wounds: The Lord's Mercy Towards Our Humanity*, offering time for reflection and growth.

Members also briefly explored Working Genius and healthy team dynamics, deepening their understanding of how to collaborate effectively.

Discussions began around selecting the Council's Secretary and Chairperson, decisions that will be finalized at the next meeting. We're grateful that Teresa has generously stepped up to serve as Secretary.

As summer approaches, the Council will take a break from regular meetings. However, Fr. Parrish may invite members for a casual social gathering to stay connected. Regular meetings will resume in September, every 2nd Thursday of the month, with the first agenda set by the Parish Leadership Team.



To learn more about what was discussed during the meetings, you can view the recaps at this link: <https://bit.ly/PF14PLC2025>.

If you have any questions, feel free reach out to your respective Parish Council.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PARISH FAMILY LEADERSHIP

works together to serve our parishes with faith, care, and collaboration. Here's a quick look at who they are and what they do.

**PLT** Our **Parish Leadership Team (PLT)**, made up of staff members from our Parish Family – Fr. Parrish, Dani, Racquel and Mary, meets every week and attends most of meetings of the Councils. They help connect the Councils' work with the day-to-day life of the parish, by planning meetings, sharing helpful info, and offering input for thoughtful decision-making. While the team may evolve over time to meet the needs of the Parish Family, their role remains the same: **to support and serve our parish family with care, collaboration, and a shared heart for ministry.**

The **Pastoral Leadership Council (PLC)** is a new and important part of our Parish Family! Made up of 9 members—3 from each of our three parishes—this team was carefully chosen by Fr. Parrish, and we're so grateful they said yes to the call. The PLC's main role is **to help listen for where the Holy Spirit is leading our Parish Family**. They'll do this by praying with and reflecting on data from listening sessions, financial and facilities reports, and helping identify the unique gifts of each parish. Their guidance will help shape important decisions for the future.

**PCs** Each parish in our Parish Family has its own **Pastoral Council (PC)**. These councils, composed of committed parishioners and the parish Pastoral Associate for Administration (PAAs), serve as a consultative voice to the Pastor, **offering insight on pastoral care and helping to carry out the mission of the Church at the local level**. Think of them as the "ground team," they stay closely connected with what's happening in their own communities and bring those insights to the broader leadership conversation. While each PC focuses on its own parish's needs, they **work together in alignment with the Parish Family's overall vision, helping us grow stronger as one united community.**

Each of our three parishes has its own Finance Council, made up of the parish PAAs and dedicated parishioners who help ensure good stewardship of our financial resources. These existing councils serve in a consultative role, **offering the pastor valuable advice and insight on how to manage and plan for the parish's financial health**. Their responsibilities include long-term financial planning, helping to create and oversee the parish budget, and offering clear analysis of financial reports. They also review proposed goals and projects to make sure they align with the parish's resources and priorities.

**DO YOU KNOW YOUR PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS?** We've introduced our PLC members in our last month's bulletin. But do you know who serves on your parish's Pastoral and Finance Councils?

These members play key roles in guiding parish life and stewarding resources. Knowing them helps strengthen trust, communication, and our shared mission. You might even recognize a familiar face. So, stay tuned—we'll be introducing them to you in the next issue of our bulletin!





**From Washington bishops to the lay faithful**

**Subject: Update on State Law**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you may know, Governor Ferguson signed into law a provision that seeks to require priests to violate the Seal of the Confessional in some circumstances. Priests are unable to violate the Seal under any circumstances. As the Vatican wrote on the topic in 2019,

The inviolable secrecy of Confession comes directly from the revealed divine right and is rooted in the very nature of the Sacrament, to the point of not admitting any exception in the ecclesial sphere, nor, least of all, in the civil one.<sup>1</sup>

Indeed, the Church has said that “political action or legislative initiative[s] aimed at ‘breaching’ the inviolability of the seal” are “an unacceptable offense against *libertas Ecclesiae*, which does not receive its legitimacy from individual States, but from God.”<sup>2</sup>


Given this troubling development in state law, we are addressing this matter through litigation. While the details of this case are sensitive and will be handled with care, we want to assure you that this action is being taken to protect the mission and integrity of the Church.

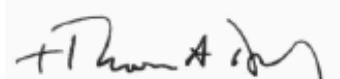
The United States and Washington State Constitutions provide robust protection for our faith and we are confident in our legal position. Our attorneys have filed the case, and we will keep you informed as appropriate, while respecting the confidentiality required in such matters.


Thank you for your prayers and faithfulness. May God bless you, and may Our Lady keep you in her care.


In the Heart of Christ,

  
Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne  
Archbishop of Seattle

  
Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

  
Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly  
Bishop of Spokane

  
Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.  
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

  
Most Rev. Frank Schuster  
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

<sup>1</sup>Note of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Importance of the Internal Forum and the Inviolability of the Sacramental Seal (June 29, 2019).

<sup>2</sup>Id.



# St. Benedict

CATHOLIC CHURCH

## PARISH NEWS

### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ACA!

Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated to the Annual Catholic Appeal!

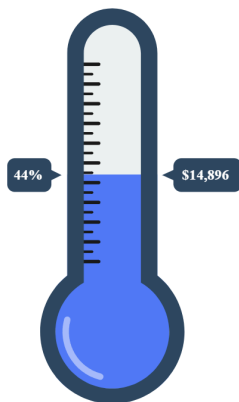
We're happy to share that **we're getting close to reaching our goal.** Your generosity supports the wider mission of the Church and directly benefits us here at St. Benedict.

If we go beyond our goal, the extra funds will support two special projects at our parish: refurbishing the kneelers to make prayer more comfortable, and adding lighting to highlight our beautiful rose window.

If you haven't had a chance to give yet, **there's still time!**

**Every donation—big or small—helps make St. Benedict an even more welcoming and prayerful place.** Let's make this happen together!

GOAL: \$33,710



SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO START  
YOUR GIVING!



<https://bit.ly/ACAGiveNow>

### PARISH MINISTRIES

#### HCSJ Commission

Len Kannapel  
kannapell@yahoo.com

#### St. Vincent De Paul

Len Andrews  
leonardjandrews@gmail.com

#### St. Martin De Porres

Vicky Briones  
vicster912@gmail.com

#### Gospel Study, Book Group & Cabrini Ministry

Brenda Stratton  
bjandmes.bjs@gmail.com

#### Grief Support Group

Margaret Alquist  
margaretalquist1@gmail.com

#### Women's Ministry

Debra Reilly  
debras.reilly@gmail.com

#### Liturgical and Faith Formation Ministries

Harold Hamilton  
paa@stbens.net

#### Social Hour & Earth Day

Anita Hardwick  
a.hardwick@stbens.net  
Simone Knopp  
parish@stbens.net

### HUMAN CONCERNS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



#### St. Vincent de Paul Society

SVDP society assists the poor and needy within our parish boundaries through grocery, transpo and rent vouchers. Support by donating and volunteering with them. For more info, contact Len Andrews leonardjandrews@gmail.com.



#### St. Martin de Porres Sandwich Making

SMDP sandwich makers prepare a total of 800 sandwich lunches every month for men who live at the SMDP shelter in downtown Seattle. Join the next sandwich making on **June 16, Monday, 8:30AM** in the Parish Center. Contact Vicky Briones at vicster912@gmail.com.

### NO CHILD OF YOUR OWN IN THE SCHOOL? YOU CAN STILL CHANGE A LIFE.

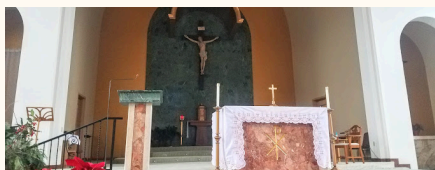
Even if you don't have a child in the school, your support still makes a big difference. **Please prayerfully consider donating to our school.** Your gift helps students grow in faith, learning and love. Thank you for being a vital part of this mission, because it truly takes a village to raise a child.



### Week of June 1, 2025

#### MASS ATTENDANCE

Sunday, 11 AM	106
Sunday, 7 PM	96



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!

#### PARISH COLLECTION

Mass Collection	\$ 609.00
Online Donations	\$ 4,065.91
Mailed-in	\$ 754.85
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$ 5,429.76</b>
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,500.00
<b>Under Weekly Budget</b>	<b>-\$ 2,070.24</b>

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

Set up your recurring online giving now!







# St. Benedict

CATHOLIC CHURCH

## FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTS

### Infant Baptism

Our next Parish Family baptism is on  
**June 15, 2025, Sunday, at  
11 AM.**

Register through our website:  
<https://parish.stbens.net/baptism>.

For baptism preparation classes, please  
contact the Parish Office.

### Gospel Study

**Every Monday, 7 PM, via Zoom**

Discover the treasures of the Gospel and  
strengthen your connection with God  
and others as we explore Scripture  
together in a welcoming and faith-filled  
community.

For inquiries, contact Brenda Stratton at  
[bjandmes.bjs@gmail.com](mailto:bjandmes.bjs@gmail.com).

### Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

Are you an adult who participates in the  
life of the church, but has not been  
confirmed? Would you like to receive  
this sacrament of initiation and become  
a full member of the Catholic  
community? Please contact Daniel  
Pelfrey at [CEFF@stjohnsea.org](mailto:CEFF@stjohnsea.org).



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### LECTORS, SACRISTANS AND EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS!

Whether you'd like to greet people with a smile,  
read at Mass, or serve at the altar, there's a  
place for you. It's a great way to grow in faith,  
meet new friends, and make Mass even more  
meaningful. No experience needed—just a  
willing heart!

JOIN NOW



<https://bit.ly/StBLiturgicalMin>



## A MASS FOR YOUR INTENTIONS

If you wish to offer a Mass in memory of a departed loved one or  
in thanksgiving for blessings received, contact the Parish Office at  
206-632-0843 or [parish@stbens.net](mailto:parish@stbens.net). It's a beautiful way to honor  
someone special or express your gratitude through prayer.

## PARISH STAFF

### Pastor

Fr. Colin Parrish  
[pastor@parishfamily14.org](mailto:pastor@parishfamily14.org)

### PA for Administration

Harold Hamilton  
[paa@stbens.net](mailto:paa@stbens.net)  
206-632-0843 ext 216

### Music Director

Andrew Koch  
[music@stbens.net](mailto:music@stbens.net)  
206-632-0843 ext 214

### Facilities Supervisor

Anita Hardwick  
[a.hardwick@stbens.net](mailto:a.hardwick@stbens.net)  
206-632-0843 ext 222

### Admin/Front Desk Staff

Simone Knopp  
Alexis Knopp  
[parish@stbens.net](mailto:parish@stbens.net)  
206-633-3375 ext 210

### School Principal

Brian Anderson  
[b.anderson@stbens.net](mailto:b.anderson@stbens.net)  
206-633-3375

### School Office Manager

Stacey Nice  
[s.nice@stbens.net](mailto:s.nice@stbens.net)  
206-633-3375

## FUNERAL MASS



### Paul Ladniak

June 9, 2025  
Monday, 11:00 AM

*Paul is a cherished member of our parish  
community. Please join us as we honor his life, give  
thanks for his witness of faith, and pray for the  
repose of his soul.*



St. Benedict  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## SCHOOL NEWS



### CONGRATULATIONS 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS!



#### Bishop Blanchet High School

Olivia Claire Adams  
Lena Burkhead  
Jack Todd Madison  
Noah Robert Miller  
Jayna Magdalena Fellores Orquia  
Karsten Dale Shepard  
Max BoJun Simonitch  
Emma Chris Worthy

#### Holy Names Academy

Cabrea Jeanne Barnes  
Juniper Jane Green  
Fern Makanda Lackey  
Hazel Mae Quinn  
Eva Lucia Torres

#### Seattle Preparatory

Sebastian Kalenius

#### Bishop O'Dea High School

Tristan G. Feeney  
Campbell Jonathan Foster  
Samuel C. Greger  
Lucas Asher Hermesen

#### Edmonds-Woodway High School

Juliette Michael Fellores

#### Lincoln High School

Charlotte Anne Campbell  
Sinead Coleman

#### Roosevelt High School

Rocco Tadeo Buccioli Medina



### LAST SPOTS FOR SUMMER CAMP 2025 REGISTRATION

Summer Camp is available for St. Benedict School students entering K - 5th grade. There is limited space, 30 students per week. Spots are first come, first serve.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact Ms. Erika at [e.mariano@stbens.net](mailto:e.mariano@stbens.net).

For more information, visit:

<https://bit.ly/StBSummerCamp2025>

### ENROLLMENT OPEN PRESCHOOL- PREKINDERGARTEN 2026/2027

Enrollment is now open for Preschool and Prekindergarten!

Come see what we have to offer.

*Tuition assistance is available.*

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## The Sacrament of Confession and Washington law Q & A

Q: What is the new Washington law, and why have the bishops in Washington filed a lawsuit?

A: Washington State recently adopted a law targeting Catholic priests by requiring them to break the seal of the confessional by reporting to civil authorities suspected child abuse and neglect disclosed during the Sacrament of Confession, subject to imprisonment and fines for violation. This law goes into effect July 27, 2025. The bishops have filed a lawsuit because the law violates the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

Q: What is the seal of the confessional, and why is it important?

A: The seal of the confessional is the absolute obligation of a priest to maintain complete confidentiality regarding anything revealed during the Sacrament of Confession. This obligation, rooted in divine law and centuries of Catholic tradition, allows penitents to seek forgiveness and spiritual guidance in an atmosphere of trust and mercy. Canon law explicitly states that "the sacramental seal is inviolable" and that a priest who violates it faces automatic excommunication. The seal protects the sacred encounter between the penitent and God, mediated by the priest, as instituted by Christ. Throughout history, priests have been martyred rather than violate this sacred duty.

Q: Why can't priests comply with the law and report certain confessions?

A: The seal of the confessional is a divine mandate, not a human rule. Priests are bound to uphold the seal, even at personal cost, as a matter of fidelity to their sacred duty. Breaking it would betray the penitent's trust and violate the sanctity of the sacrament, which is a means of grace and reconciliation. The Church holds that forcing priests to report confessions undermines the freedom to practice faith and could deter penitents from seeking forgiveness, harming their spiritual lives, which must be seen in the view of eternity.

Q: Doesn't this law aim to protect people, like victims of abuse?

A: The intention to protect individuals, most especially children, is praiseworthy, but the law's targeting of the priest-penitent relationship in the confessional is misguided. The Church has robust measures to address abuse, including mandatory reporting by clergy in non-confessional settings and cooperation with civil authorities where the seal is not involved. In fact, each diocese in Washington has safe environment and mandatory reporting policies that go beyond what is required in state law. The confessional is a unique, sacred space where penitents seek God's mercy. Compelling Catholic priests to breach its confidentiality does not guarantee better outcomes but risks deterring penitents from seeking reconciliation, which could prevent voluntary disclosures outside the sacrament that lead to justice and healing.

Q: How does this law violate religious freedom?

A: The law violates religious liberty by compelling priests to act against a core Catholic doctrine, forcing the Church to conform to state demands over divine law. It seeks to make the Sacrament of Confession an instrument of the state rather than a place of encounter with God's mercy. The First Amendment protects the free exercise of religion, which includes the Church's right to uphold its sacraments without the government seeking to redefine aspects of those sacraments. The Church's mission to offer forgiveness through the sacraments is rooted in Christ's command, and courts have historically recognized confessional privilege as essential to religious practice. The law also specifically targets the priest-penitent relationship while permitting other recognized, secular privileges to remain, such as the attorney-client privilege, some counselor privileges, and spousal privilege.

Q: What are the bishops hoping to achieve with this lawsuit?

A: The bishops seek to have the offending provisions of the law declared unconstitutional, ensuring priests can remain faithful to their sacred duty of upholding the seal of the confessional, and the mediation of God's mercy to the penitent, without legal penalty. The lawsuit aims to protect the Church's right to practice its faith freely and safeguard the confidentiality that encourages penitents to seek reconciliation. A favorable ruling would affirm religious freedom and preserve the integrity of the Sacrament of Confession for all Catholics.

#### Additional Resources

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1440 – 1470.
- Code of Canon Law, c. 983, 1386.
- Note of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Importance of the Internal Forum and the Inviolability of the Sacramental Seal (Approved by Pope Francis, June 21, 2019).  
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