

# First Sunday of Lent March 9, 2025

Weekend Masses: Saturday (Vigil) 5:00 PM Sunday 8:30,11:00 AM and 5:30 PM

Reconciliation: Wednesday 7:15-8:30 PM, Friday: 5:00-6:00 PM & Saturday: 9:15-10:30 AM, or by Appointment (Call Main Office)

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration - See pg 2

Parish Office (253) 631-1940
Faith Formation (253) 631-6175
13055 SE 192nd Street Renton, WA 98058
www.ststephenslife.com
Listing of Parish Staff on the back inside page

### Musings from a Short Home Visit

By: Fr. Marlo Abad

St. Augustine once said, "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." I felt that with my recent travel back home, I got to read more pages of the book and gained more learning. It is as if I were seeing the world... and life for that matter from a new vantage point. The word that encapsulates my 3-week "stay-cation" is connectedness... February 3 when I left for the Philippines, I was nervous because of the series of air disasters that happened that week. My connectedness with you somehow eased those worries as I knew you prayed for my safety and I am thankful for that. I arrived in Manila midnight of February 4, after a long 16-hour flight. I was picked up from Ninoy Aquino International Airport by Fr. Jay Bonete. Fr. Jay used to serve as priest administrator of St. Theresa Parish at Federal Way.



He brought me to a nearby restaurant before heading for my hotel and enjoyed a good catching up with one another over a hot noodle soup. I stayed in Manila for four days to adjust to the time zone and visit friends in the area.

On February 8, I flew to my home province in Capiz where I stayed for two weeks. I am one type of person who prefers to meet old acquaintances rather than go to places. If ever we went to places which we did at Campuestuhan Mountain Resort in Negros Island and Bucari in Leon, Iloilo, they were mostly to be with family and friends. It was a nice bonding moment, too, with my niece Genevieve who works as a nurse in Wales in the UK. She also spent home vacation after 13 years of working abroad. I had the chance too, of meeting my Archbishop Victor Bendico and the priests of the Archdiocese. There was a meaningful sharing of experiences with the seminary formators who used to be my students when they were seminarians. It gave a sense of pride on my part hearing about their present journeys in their priestly ministries and how they have matured in terms of dealing with real life challenges.

One fulfilling moment I had was when I said mass in my former place of assignment. It took us 45 minutes to ride on the pump-boat from mainland Roxas City to the island. Olotayan is a sole island barangay\* with about 300 households. I served in that island as the first Mission Station priest back in 2021. The place is really poor as fishing is the only means of livelihood among the locals. Bad weather for them means no food to eat and no money to spend. I can recall before I left them to come here to the US, I facilitated the application of the college hopefuls of the island to one generous foundation that helps finance their studies. I felt called deep within to help these students. For soon, they will be professionals who will be of help to their respective families and hopefully, alleviate their poor living conditions...In coming to the Philippines, I carried with me two 50-pound luggage, stuff that I gathered from some generous parishioners here. Thanks to those who donated their slightly used clothing, shoes, personal accessories, toys and chocolates. It was a delight to witness the joy of the kids receiving something from "America." There is nothing so fulfilling as to bring a smile on the faces of those who suffer and are in want.

Yes, connectedness is why we exist. The message of the song holds true when it says that no man is an island, no man stands alone, that each one's joy is joy to us, and each one's dream as our own..." I arrived on February 26 here in Renton, renewed and refreshed. The short time spent with family and loved ones corroborated that sense of meaning and joy to my priestly ministry and mission here in our Parish Family #23. I see now the wisdom of Jesus when He invited his disciples to "come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." (Mark 6:31) Vacation or rest when seen from the perspective of the Lord is indeed, an act of faith. It is a rhythm of grace, designed by God that nourishes and strengthens my connectedness not only to my family, friends, and former parishioners but even more to Jesus, for whom "all things have been created through Him and for Him." (Col. 1:16)

### **Weekly Readings**

March 9 First Sunday of Lent Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

March 10 Monday of the First Week of Lent Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

**March 11 Tuesday of the First Week of Lent** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

March 12 Wednesday of the First Week in Lent Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32 March 13 Thursday of the First Week in Lent Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

March 14 Friday of the First Week of Lent Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

**March 15 Saturday of the First Week of Lent** Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

March 16 Second Sunday of Lent Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

<sup>\* (</sup>in the Philippines) a barangay is small territorial and administrative district forming the most local level of government.

### Parish Calendar

Sunday March 9

8:30 am - 9:30
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Apologetics Meeting

Monday March 10

9:00 am - 10:00 am

10:00 am - 11:45 am

2:00 pm 3:20 pm

Darling Dusters
Food Pantry (drive by only)

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
6:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Divine Mercy Chaplet
St. Vincent de Paul Family Meetings

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Evening Prayer

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm **Mass** (Fr. Dolejsi)

7:00 pm - 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Meeting

**Tuesday March 11** 

9:15 am- 11:30 am
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Scripture Study
Stations of the Cross
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Evening Prayer

Mass (Fr. Chanda)

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Girlfriends Lit & Latte Book Club Meeting

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Scripture Study 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm OCIA Class

Wednesday March 12

10:00 am 10:45 am
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
4:00pm - 5:45 pm
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Rosary Group
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Food Pantry (drive by only)
Evening Prayer

7:15 pm- 7:45 pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

7:15 pm - 9:0 pm 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Lent Parish Mission
Young Adult Group Meeting
Respect Life Ministry Meeting

**Thursday March 13** 

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Encounter School of Ministry Class

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Mass** (Fr. Fabian)

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm
7:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Respect Life Ministry Meeting
Precious Blood of Jesus Devotion

Friday March 14

6:30 am - 7:30 am Men's Prayer/Reflection (Doors open at 6:15)

10:00 am - 11:45 am Food Pantry (Drive by only)

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Our Lady of Rosary Makers Meeting 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Evening Prayer

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm Knights of Columbus Fish Fry 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday March 15

7:30 am - 8:30 am Exodus 90 8:30 am - 9:00 am **Mass** (Fr.

8:30 am – 9:00 am 9:15 am -10:30 am 10:30 am -12:00 pm 3:00 am - 3:30 pm 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Mass (Fr. Dolejsi) Sacrament of Reconciliation Eucharistic Minister Training Divine Mercy Chaplet Vigil Mass (Fr. Chanda) Saturday Night Social



The Archdiocese of Seattle is celebrating its 175th anniversary! We are all invited to join Catholics across Western Washington to serve others together as the living Body of Christ through the Season of Service, which runs from March to May 2025.

During this time, let's come together to volunteer our time serving others. We're aiming for 175,000 hours of service to recognize our legacy of faith – and demonstrate our commitment to serving others.

You can participate by serving others and logging your hours. You can join service opportunities at our parish, school or ministry. Watch the bulletin for details in the coming weeks to come!

#### **Adoration Invitation - At St.**

Stephens we enjoy Perpetual Adoration of Jesus in the chapel/church. That means Jesus is exposed in the Monstrance 24 hours 7 days (except during scheduled Masses). At this time we find ourselves with open hours needing to be filled by committed adorers. Is Jesus calling you to Come and Adore Him? Please go to the Adoration sign up table in the narthex and find up-to-date information on what hours are available and/or need to be filled or visit



https://ststephenslife.com/ eucharistic-adoration or contact coordinator Bernie 206-427-6085 or Tina 206-715-8462.



### Food Pantry Needs - Thank you!

Canned vegetables, Oatmeal Packets Canned Soup, Mac & Cheese

Size 4, 5, and 6 Diapers and fragrance-free wipes for the Gabriel Project.

	Feb 17, - Feb 23, 2025	Feb 10, - Feb 16, 2025	FY To date July 1 2024-January 31, 2025
Collections-actual	13,282	23,224	600,645
Collections-Budget	14,632	22,580	681,252
Variance	(1,350)	644	(80,607
*EFT-Actual	6,238	8,517	274,383
*EFT-Budget	12,586	5,218	300,994
Variance	(6,348)	3,299	(26,611
Total Collections Variance	(7,698)	3,943	(107,218

Outreach Collections			
Outreach Assistance	20	263	17,947
Food Pantry	66	865	30,991

New Fiscal Year began 7/01/2024

\*EFT= Electronic Funds Transfer (Online Collections)

## Faith Formation Programs

**Faith Formation** This is for children and teens through 12th Grade, as well as Adult Scripture Study. Check out your areas right away, as things are happening fast! If you have questions, we're happy to help. Join us, build community, and grow in our Lord!



Children/Family Classes and Activities: Wednesday Nights (some Friday night activities)





**Baptism Classes** In-person classes to prepare for Infant Baptism are now available. Pre-registration is required to attend. Class size will be limited, and you must have proof of pre-registration to be admitted. Please, only 2 parents, baby, 2 godparents (5 total) per family. Pre-register by calling (253) 480-7106 or emailing Ellen Golden at egolden@ststephenslife.com.

Youth Conference Registration Open - Registration for the Steubenville NW Conference (July 11-13) in Spokane is now open! This three-day summer event is a great opportunity for teens to connect with other faithful youths from around the region. The Conference is available to high schoolers, including teens entering high school this coming fall and seniors who will graduate this year. It will take place at the Davenport Grand Hotel in downtown Spokane (where we have stayed in years passed). The total cost of the event is \$375 (inclusive of ticket, lodging, and transportation). A \$200 down-payment is required upon completing the registration form. (Scholarships are also available, just ask me for more details). To register, please fill out the following form: https://archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/1842/responses/new





**Teen Bible Study** Our new Teen Bible Study in the youth office, which happen every Tuesday night from 6:00-7:00 PM. Drop in anytime to join the fun!



**New Eucharistic Minister Training** - Is the Lord calling you to become a Eucharistic Ministers? Are you curious about the ministry? Join us for a training class on Saturday, **March 15th from 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM**. Please RSVP to Janet at JStewart@ststephenslife.com.



The **Gabriel-PREPARES** team at St. Stephen needs two very important gifts: 1. larger size Diapers and Pull-ups and 2. Your volunteer time. Leave diapers, pull-ups and wipes by the Food Pantry baskets in the Narthex. Our team of 8 currently assists & mentors 10 families with a total of 38 children, including several newborns and two pregnant Moms. We are in need of more trained and CCS approved volunteers, including couples as we receive new requests weekly. Our next monthly meeting will be **Wednesday**, **March 26**, **7:15 PM - 8:45 PM** in the Outreach dining room by the side door. Contact RobertaJorgensen@comcast.net or Kathleen Tansey at 253-653-6074. To learn more, go to www.preparesforlife.org.



**Pilgrimage to Fatima!** - Join Fr. Mark Kiszelewski, pastor of St. Cecilia and Kathleen Tansey, experienced group travel advisor from St. Stephen on a 13 day Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes with Avila, Loyola, Barcelona and more in October 2025. To learn more go to: travel.nativitypilgrimage. com/kiszelewski or contact Kathleen at 253-653-6074 or Kathleen@travelcenter4u.com



**St Vincent De Paul March 9: First Sunday of Lent** - today's Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Your financial donations to St. Vincent de Paul will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Easter.



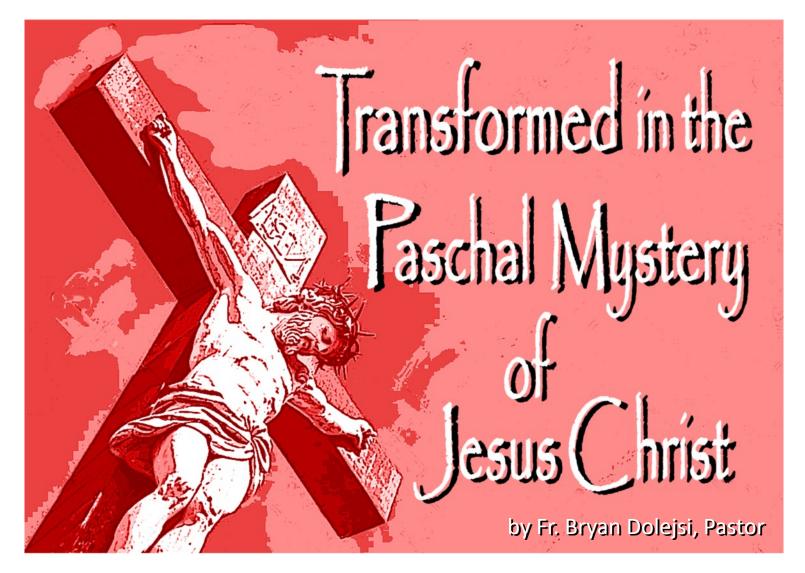
**Girlfriends** Join the Girlfriends Lit and Latte Group. All women (age 18+) are invited! New members are welcome! The Lit & Lattes group is meeting on **Tuesday**, **March 11 at 7:00 PM** to discuss A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving We will be meeting in Classroom #130 and have a Zoom option. Please RSVP to Vicki Kennerud at <a href="https://wkennerud@comcast.net">vkennerud@comcast.net</a> or to request Zoom link



If you are grieving the death of a loved one, come find strength and compassion with the St. Stephen's Grief Support Group on Sunday, March 16th from 1:00-2:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Chapel as well as on Zoom. Our topic will be "Pain, Pain Go Away". For information and to register, contact Sharon Rasmussen at srasmussen910 @yahoo.com. "God comforts us in all our troubles so that we will be able to comfort others." 2 Corinthians 1, 4



Women's Guild - Reminder! St. Stephen's Women's Guild will meet at 10:00 AM on March 12th in the Social Hall.



Come for this Lenten retreat talk presented by our Pastor, Fr. Bryan Dolejsi on March 1 at St. Anthony and again (the same talk) on **March 12 at St. Stephens**. Each will immediately follow Mass.

Each of us is baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This talk draws upon our rich spiritual tradition of Scripture, saints and modern day examples to lay out a plan to use the disciplines of Lent to help transform us more and more into a disciple of the Risen Christ.

St. Anthony - March 1, from 8:45 am to 10:15 am.



(this talk will be live-streamed at https://ststephenslife.com/holy-mass-live-stream).



# Lent & Easter



### Lenten Retreat Talk - March 1 or March 12

Come for this Lenten retreat talk presented by our Pastor, Fr. Bryan Dolejsi on March 1 at St. Anthony and again (the same talk) on March 12 at St. Stephens. Each will immediately follow Mass.

Each of us is baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This talk draws upon our rich spiritual tradition of Scripture, saints and modern day examples to lay out a plan to use the disciplines of Lent to help transform us more and more into a disciple of the Risen Christ.

St. Anthony - March 1, from 8:45 am to 10:15 am.
St. Stephen the Martyr - March 12 from 7:15-9:00 pm\*
\*(live-streamed at https://ststephenslife.com/holy-mass-live-stream).



**Lent Online:** For excellent Lenten resources visit https://archseattle.org/lent/ as well as https://formed.org/



## Give Up a Saturday for Lent

April 5th, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM (8:30 AM Mass Optional)

ALL AGES are invited to join our Campus Crew in "Preparing the Way" for Easter by working to spruce up the the Grounds, inside buildings and our hearts on April 5th 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Various tasks include: weeding; spreading beauty bark; pressure washing sidewalks & plazas; exterior & interior window cleaning; pew cleaning/waxing; painting and kitchen cleaning; and lunch preparation & serving all prepared by loving hands & prayerful hearts. Watch for Signup opportunities coming soon!

# Friday Fish Fry & Stations of the Cross

Come for a delicious meal served by our Knights of Columbus followed by the Stations of the Cross. Meal begins at 5:00 PM. Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM (right after the 6:30 PM Mass).



**Mid-day Stations of the Cross** at 12:00 noon on Tuesdays throughout Lent (main Church) for this wonderful time of prayer.

**Friday Stations of the Cross** at 7:00 PM (shortly after 6:30 PM Mass) March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11.

Holy Week Decorating - Saturday, April 12 at 9:30 Easter Decorating - Saturday, April 19 at 9 AM



# The Living Stations of the Cross, Good Friday, 8:00 PM

This dramatic portrayal of the Lord's passion is presented by our parish teens. Combining theatrical arts, music, prayer and reflection, the Living Stations are an important part of our parish Triduum. All are welcome! You might consider inviting a friend! Teens wishing to participate should contact Michael Joseph at mjoseph@ststephenslife.com



## **Easter - Triduum Schedule**

Holy Thursday Mass 7:00 PM
Good Friday Service 3:00 PM
Good Friday Living Stations of the Cross 8:00 PM
Holy Saturday Decorating for Easter 9:00 AM
Easter Vigil Mass 8:30 PM
Easter Day Masses 8:30 and 11:00 AM (times not yet confirmed)



## **Divine Mercy Novena**

April 18 at 4:30 PM April 19 at 3 PM April 20 at 1 PM April 21-25 at 7:15 PM April 26 at 9:15 AM

**Divine Mercy Holy Hour** - Sunday, April 27 at 2:30 PM (time not yet confirmed)

### **Parish Information**

New to St. Stephen's? Welcome! Learn more about our vibrant community by visiting our web site at <a href="www.ststephenslife.com">www.ststephenslife.com</a>. Registration forms are online or may be obtained from the ushers and put in the collection basket or mailed in. **Bulletin Notices:** The **content deadline is 12:00 PM on the Friday** a week before the weekend you wish it to appear (8 days in advance). Notices about parish events or items of interest to the parish are welcome, however posting cannot be guaranteed. Email notices to: <a href="mailto:ourbulletin@gmail.com">ourbulletin@gmail.com</a>.

### Main Office Phone: TEL 253-631-1940 / FAX 425-255-2943 Ten digit phone numbers listed below are direct lines.

Pastor	Fr. Bryan Dolejsi		frbryan@ststephenslife.com
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Marlo F. Abad		frmarlo@ststephenslife.com
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Sylvester Chanda		frchanda@st-anthony.cc
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Gilberto Mora Tapia		-
Deacon	Dec. Carl Chilo		sstmdeaconcarlchilo@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec. Sonny Ungco		sonny.ungco@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec.lke Tarabi		ike.tarabi@outlook.com
Director of Parish Operations	Tom Jones	253-480-7114 (103)	tjones@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Associate	Anne Merklin	253-480-7108 (126)	AMerklin@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Assistant for Outreach	Lisa Grigaliunas	253-480-7109	lgrigaliunas@ststephenslife.com
Office Manager	Betty Mencke	253-480-7103 (100)	bmencke@ststephenslife.com
Liturgy Coordinator	Janet Denby-Stewart	253-480-7115 (102)	JStewart@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Care	Marijean Heutmaker	253-480-7116 (106)	Mheutmaker@ststephenslife.com
Bookkeeper	Debbie Blakely	253-480-7113 (101)	DBlakely@ststephenslife.com
Facilities & Parish Life Coordinator	Kim Anderson	253-480-7120 (129)	KAnderson@ststephenslife.com
Director of Faith Formation	Shannon Battles	253-480-7112 (114)	SBattles@ststephenslife.com
Youth Ministry	Michael Joseph	253-480-7110 (113)	mjoseph@ststephenslife.com
Young Adult Ministry/Talents Ministry	Beth Nieva	253-480-7105 (123)	bnieva@ststephenslife.com
Evangelization & Communications	Bill Swedberg	253-480-7107 (121)	bswedberg@ststephenslife.com
Marriage & Child Baptism Prep	Ellen Golden	253 480-7106	egolden@ststephenslife.com
Faith Formation Support Coordinator	Maria Trejo	253-631-6175 (115)	MTrejo@ststephenslife.com
St Stephen Housing Association	,	253-480-7122 ` ´	office@ststephenhousing.org
SVDP Help-Line		206-767-6449	
•			

**Marriage:** Couples seeking Marriage must contact the church 9 months before their wedding date. Some preparation and Parish Registration are required before a date can be set. Contact See contact information above to reach a Staff person for Marriage or Baptism. **Annulments:** (for those who are civilly divorced). For compassionate and confidential answers to your questions, please contact our Pastoral Associate, Anne Merklin, 253-480-7108 (ext. 126), AMerklin@ststephenslife.com.

**Baptism:** Preparation and Parish Registration are required for both Parents and Godparents/Sponsors. Baptisms are held monthly. Contact the Faith Formation Office for details (253-631-6175).

**RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) For adults desiring to become Catholic, including those needing baptism. Contact Anne Merklin 253-631-1940 ext 126. <a href="mailto:sstmassociate@gmail.com">sstmassociate@gmail.com</a>

**Praying For Sick** 

Erlinda David, Canlas Ingraham, Angel M. Piol, Jeff Tobin, Estrellita & Patrick Staeheli, Frank Ratajczyk, Cincy Lagmay, Delia Dela Cruz Piol Please note we are revising the list of those who are ill and in need of prayers. Names will be posted for 3 weeks unless we receive further notification. If you or a loved one would like to be included in the bulletin listing please contact Betty Mencke at 253-631-1940.

### **Recent Deaths**

Conrado Redila, Peter Olson, Charito Rubis Galindo, Buddy Day, Mike Romero, Names will be posted for 3 months.

### **Serving in the Military**

Captain Philip Clay, LT Luke Carpenter (deployed), Zenaida Roth, Joey Buslon Poland, Specialist, Anthony Vogeler, Fort Carson, Colorado.

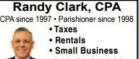
To add names to the box, please email ourbulletin@gmail.com, or contact Betty Mencke, 253-631-1940. To contact the Prayer Chain, please see Teresa Wright, at 425-255 0301 or teresa2pray@gmail.com

Rachel's Corner: Hope and Healing After Abortion The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord raises up those who are bowed down. - Psalm 146: 7-8. When thoughts come to your mind regarding the day you were involved in an abortion decision, do they make you feel blind to hope, entrapped in regret and burdened with shame? Call for a compassionate, confidential conversation, and be free again. Registering now for our Virtual Healing Series. English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814

Email projectrachel@ccsww.org Visit us at www.ccsww.org/projectrachel or www.facebook.com/projectrachelww Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services. You are loved with an everlasting love!









#### **Furlong Counseling & Consultation** Rhonda Furlong, MA, LMHC -Counselor & Licensed Therapist one & Online Video Counseling/Therapy

olictherapists.com/rhonda-furlong-lmho or call us 425-728-0060 Serving individual adults











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