



+March 1, 2022

St. Patrick Catholic Church
815 E. Edgar St
Seattle, WA 98102

My Brothers and Sisters at St. Patrick Parish,

Blessings on each of you!

Today, I wish to update you on the Strategic Planning process at your parish. As you may know, these efforts were paused while the Jesuit provincial worked through the leadership transition at St. Joseph Parish. I have been in communication with the Jesuit provincial, and they have determined their leadership plan. Specifically, Deacon Steve Wodzanowski, as current interim leader, will make decisions related to a possible merging until a new pastor arrives. With this plan in place, the strategic planning at St. Patrick's may resume. At this time, I ask that you continue exploring your parish options and share your preferences with me by July 1, 2022.

I wish to reiterate why there is an urgent need for strategic planning. First, strategic planning is not about closing parishes. It is all about creating faith-filled, vibrant parish communities. It's about ensuring we answer Pope Francis' call to read the signs of the times and re-envision the Church. It's about understanding the realities we face to today with limited resources, aging buildings, declines in parishioners, and more. Knowing these realities, we'll re-envision the structure of the Church – not just for today but for the next 20 years – so that we can more effectively be partners for the Gospel and carry out the mission Christ gave to each of us.

I know this is a painful process, and I share that pain with you. But, at the same time, we all know that the status quo cannot continue. We must move forward.

Our Archdiocesan Strategic Planning team, including Bishop Elizondo, Leigh Stringfellow, and Dn. Sam Basta will continue to accompany you through this final step in your journey of deciding which parish St. Patrick will unite with to create a new parish family. I thank you all for your continued participation with the Strategic Planning process.

Please know that I keep your community in my prayers. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Paul D. Etienne'.

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