



# St. Benedict CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 22, 2021

Dear St. Benedict Community,

Attached is the letter from Archbishop Etienne regarding the pairing of St. Benedict and St. Catherine Parishes. As the letter indicates, this has been discussed as part of the deanery planning process for many years. Practically, this means that Fr. Bryan and I will continue in our roles until June 30 when a new pastoral leader will be assigned for St. Benedict and St. Catherine collectively. Both Fr. Bryan and I support this decision. Each parish and school will continue to operate with autonomy while looking for ways to collaborate and share resources. Already we are considering shared CYO involvement.

Our parishes have a lot in common. We are roughly the same size, have similar liturgical styles, committed members, strong schools and hearts of service for others. We will be meeting at each parish to discuss specifics - Mass schedules, all kinds of sacramental preparation, faith formation, youth and young adult activities, various ministries, staffing and finances. With guidance from the archdiocese, we will consider ways in which we can work together for the mutual benefit of both communities. A joint meeting including members of the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, School Commission and Human Concerns and Social Justice Commission is currently being scheduled. There also will be opportunities for you to provide input in the next few months.

I will keep you informed at each step in this process. We should know by early May who the next pastoral leader will be and will share that information with you as soon as we are able. At the same time, we will be able to share what is next for Fr. Bryan and me. Let's pray for our community, for the community at St. Catherine, and for each other, trusting the Holy Spirit will guide us through this process.

Lenten Blessings,

*Marti Lundberg*

Marti Lundberg  
Pastoral Coordinator  
St. Benedict and St. Catherine Parishes



+March 20 - 21, 2021

Dear Parishioners of St. Benedict and St. Catherine of Siena,

Peace be with each of you!

In the last week, you have all heard about my request of Marti Lundberg to be appointed interim Pastoral Coordinator for St. Catherine Parish through June 30 while continuing to serve as Pastoral Coordinator for St. Benedict Parish. I am grateful that she has accepted this appointment.

I have asked Marti to support and advance the pairing of your parish communities, which will continue on July 1 with a new pastoral leader. "Pairing" is the canon law term for two parishes coming together to share resources. I have decided to pair your two parishes as a continuation of the planning efforts begun in 2015 by the collective North Seattle parishes. Many of you may have participated in these discussions that occurred at your parishes from 2015 to 2017.

Marti will work with both parish communities over the next several months and consult with the various offices of the chancery. As part of this process, Marti will work with you to acknowledge your needs and concerns, invite your participation in the pairing process, and help your communities to maximize the wonderful opportunities that come from working together to bring about God's kingdom.

Let me be clear, this decision is based not only on resources but a desire for all of us to become more effective witnesses of Jesus Christ. This decision reflects our commitment to missionary creativity and discipleship in these changing times. I am confident that, rooted in the Lord Jesus, you will rise to this moment under Marti's leadership as well as the next pastoral leader and discover the Holy Spirit's plan for St. Benedict and St. Catherine.

As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

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