



For Immediate Release

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne Issues Decrees for St. Patrick Seattle

SEATTLE, July 11, 2022 – After more than a year of strategic planning, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne issued a decree for St. Patrick Parish in Seattle, which will take effect on September 1, 2022. Specifically, the parish of St. Patrick will merge into St. Joseph Parish with Father Chris Cartwright as the pastor.

“By bringing together communities and resources, we will better provide pastoral care for all of God’s people,” said Archbishop Etienne, who began these efforts in 2020 in Tacoma, Everett and Seattle. “Strengthening our parish communities gives us great hope for the future and will enable them to more fully carry out the mission of the Church.”

While Seattle is recognized as a growing city, many parishes in this area have experienced declining trends, with fewer engaged parishioners who attend Mass or participate in the sacraments, stewardship, faith formation or other parish life activities.

St. Patrick Parish was established in 1918 in Seattle and is recognized for its outreach to the poor, its social justice efforts, its strong lay leadership and its welcoming community. For the past decades, St. Patrick Parish has served the deaf, deaf/blind and L’Arche communities, offering ASL and other support for Masses, liturgies and other parish activities.

However, similar to other parishes in the area, engagement at the parish has been slowly declining. Since 1995 its Mass attendance dropped 50%, from nearly 400 to less than 200 in 2018. Its close proximity to other parishes in the Seattle area results in a large cluster of parishes — some within walking distance — while people must travel more than 45 minutes to reach their closest parish in other parts of the archdiocese.

“We simply cannot continue with the status quo,” said Archbishop Etienne. “We want active, living parish communities that welcome young people and foster missionary disciples. Therefore, I accepted the recommendations from the Strategic Planning Committee and the Presbyteral Council to make parish changes across the South Seattle deanery.”

Once St. Patrick Parish is merged into St. Joseph Parish, the parish boundaries will change and all the parish assets, including the property and buildings at St. Patrick’s, will become part of St. Joseph Parish. For more information, please read the [St. Patrick decree](#) and [cover letter](#) or the [St. Joseph decree](#) and [cover letter](#).

“With the grace of the Holy Spirit, these changes are designed to help us carry out the mission that Jesus originally gave to his 12 disciples — to go and share the Good News,” said Archbishop Etienne. “We must be flexible in how we do this so that we can help others know Christ’s love.”

About the Archdiocese of Seattle

The Archdiocese of Seattle encompasses all of Western Washington, stretching from Canada to Oregon and from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. There are 72 Catholic schools, and 174 parishes,

missions and pastoral centers in the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in eight languages. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne leads the archdiocese with his auxiliary bishops, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and Bishop Frank Schuster. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit archseattle.org.

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Media Contact: Helen McClenahan | helen.mcclenahan@seattlearch.org | Media line: 206-402-9373