

## **May 2021 Stakeholder Update**

The Joint Stakeholders group for the merging Tacoma parishes of Holy Rosary, Saint Ann, Saint John of the Woods, Saint Rita, and Visitation met on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. Also present were Leigh Stringfellow and Deacon Sam Basta from the Archdiocese Pastoral Planning Office, and Fathers Tuan Nguyen, Patrick McDermott, and Martin Bourke.

Reports were heard from the ten working subcommittees on subjects ranging from parish diversity to assessing the facility needs of faith formation programs and dozens of parish ministries.

This brought a renewed emphasis on each merging parish having representation in each subcommittee and the importance of all stakeholders continuing to communicate with their parish communities. To support that effort, the Archdiocese has a new web page focused on the transition at <https://archseattle.org/about-the-archdiocese-of-seattle/archbishop-etienne/archdiocesan-strategic-planning/pierce-deanery/>. Future subcommittee updates will appear on the website on a monthly basis.

Because of the concerns of parishioners and stakeholders, more work was done developing and adjusting the merger timeline. More information gathering on the part of the stakeholders and subcommittees will be required to complete the working timeline over the coming months, but it has already resulted in some clarifications.

On July 1, Holy Rosary and Saint Ann will merge on an interim basis, with Saint John becoming a mission church. In about a year, depending largely on the development of the facilities at Saint Ann, Saint Rita and Visitation will join with them, creating a brand new parish.

For Visitation, Fr. Tuan and Fr. McDermott have consulted with Fr. Martin regarding the future Mass schedule at Visitation church. Their goal is to keep the schedules as they are now, but they are still working out the details on how it will be possible to cover those Masses. No final determination has been made. The current plan is that during this coming transition year, all liturgies, religious education, and other events will continue to be held at Visitation facilities.

For St. Rita, the planning and celebration of the centennial and funeral considerations will continue. Events such as the church picnic will not be happening, and any additional questions will be answered by their pastor, Fr. Mulholland.

The work of the subcommittees will continue through the establishment of the new parish. The stakeholders next meet in July.