



DECREE

To Reverend David H. Young, Pastor, and to the Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish at Holy Family Church in Frances, Washington

WHEREAS, St. Joseph Church in Pe Ell, Washington was built and dedicated as the parish church of St. Joseph Parish; and

WHEREAS, it has not been used for divine worship since 2017 and the community has been gathering for worship both at Holy Family Church in Frances and at Saint Joseph Church in Chehalis; and

WHEREAS, the cost to maintain St. Joseph Church is too great for the community to bear; and

WHEREAS, the pastor of St. Joseph Parish has petitioned me, with the consent of his finance council and pastoral council, to relegate the church to profane use; and

WHEREAS, I have been assured that the parish will continue to maintain and manage the cemeteries associated with Saint Joseph Church in Pe Ell; and

WHEREAS, I have heard the opinion of the Presbyteral Council on this question in accordance with canon 1222 §2 at our meeting of January 18, 2024; and

WHEREAS, I am satisfied that the good of souls will not suffer detriment by this decision.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby decree that

1. St. Joseph Church located at 417 North Main Street in Pe Ell, Washington be relegated to profane but not sordid use in accordance with canon 1222, effective August 8, 2025.
2. This decree is to be communicated as soon as possible to the pastor of St. Joseph Parish and to his parishioners through publication in the parish bulletin or by other suitable means. It should also be posted to the website of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery
of the Archdiocese of Seattle
this 24th day of July
in the year of our Lord, 2025.



Paul D. Etienne

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

Benjamin Altenhofen

Benjamin Altenhofen, JCL
Chancellor