

COMBINED PASTORAL COUNCIL
Eastside Parishes of Snohomish County
January 7, 2025

Opening Prayer

Comments on Advent & Christmas

Diversity of celebrations; different cultural experiences;
collaboration between sister parishes (ie – SMV & HC poinsettias);
having the information readily availability;
recruiting volunteers successful;
Need for more volunteers for setup and programming such as Posadas;
Appreciation of combined bulletin;
people more comfortable attending other Masses at sister parishes;
children’s participation was great;
lots of choices for the Masses
Good emphasis on Epiphany;
HC Christmas pageant done on Epiphany rather than Christmas which was much less hectic;
Posadas very successful
OLG Feast: opportunity for community to gather and learn about the feast; positive experience.
Giving Tree at the three parishes;
St. Michael’s children’s choir;
beautiful floral rosary at St. Mary of the Valley.
Introduced Hallow to the parish for Advent;
music was outstanding at all Masses; clear the choirs worked very hard.
Children’s choir did a great job. Welcoming music for youth.
Wonderful decorations at all three parishes.
Posadas was successful but stressful; hall at SMV packed/overflow;
Bishop Elizondo did a wonderful job covering at SMV.
Attendance was great at all three parishes;
would like to have a quiet day or two of reflection.

Discussion on future major projects/needs

Fr. Jay: Holy Cross plans for new hall; must need another 100 parking stalls which is about \$1M. HC has \$500K which can be used as seed money for the lot, or should it be used to pay off the debt for the present church? These are the questions we need to address.

Rosa Rivera (via Fr. Jay): need of more classrooms at St. Michael School; need for two additional classrooms. Split-grade classrooms are practical solutions for space. School also needs a new gym, but the classrooms are the priority. Possibly separate portables; two classrooms plus a couple other breakout classrooms.

Fr. Jay: major capital campaign for all three parishes; portables are about \$300K each, so it's still very expensive. Is this a good time to move forward with the planning? Capital campaign next year.

SMV roof needs to be replaced. Is this a good time to focus on other projects? Other facility issues that need to be addressed? New pews? Security cameras? Carpet? Painting?

Opportunity to talk among other parishioners to discuss these issues.

St. Michael Summary:

School and building options; this has been a discussion at the parish council for a long time; discussion of splitting rooms or using the Red House; should go big rather than only adding two classrooms; we'll need a gym, library, etc. Possible short-term solution to bypass fire code.

Holy Cross:

Discussion of using sale of land money to pay down current mortgage or as starter money for next phase of construction. General agreement that we need to keep moving forward rather than put money toward paying down church construction mortgage. We are already paying 150% of the required mortgage payment each month. Need for a parking lot to allow us to move to the next phase of construction: building a larger parish hall.

SMV:

Priorities: roof and pews; carpets; new hallway; new fence around the rectory; remodel the interior of the church; hoping for new offices with bigger space.

About St. Michael School: could we relocate Pre-K to the hall at SMV? Might take pressure off now; temporary solution.

Fr. Jay:

continue dialogue among yourselves and with others; request input; ask for hopes and ideas. Plan to hire an Admin who oversees all three parishes and assists with the plans to move forward; someone who has experience working with capital campaigns, architects, etc. We are trying to grow and meet the needs of the people. We are not at the point to consolidate; we need more space. Time for us to make decisions about our future. We need to expand. Pushing at capacity at Masses; wonderful problem. This is the time to begin laying the groundwork for growth.

--council minutes submitted by Caitlin Bowers on 1/8/2025 with additions by LeeAnn Balbirona (in blue) on 1/13/2025.