

Eastside Snohomish County Parishes (Family 8)
Parish Family Advisory Council Minutes
May 6, 2025

PFAC Members Present:

Holy Cross – Carmella Barger, Laurel Cheap, Angel & Emilia Herrera, Pat Thomson
St. Michael – Judy Bartelheimer, Andrew Brodland
St. Mary of the Valley – Jorge Maldonado, Jim McDaniel, Janina Meeks, John Sekreta

PFAC Leaders (Staff) Present:

Holy Cross – LeeAnn Balbirona, Annette Van Dyke
St. Michael – Caitlin Bowers
St. Mary of the Valley – Veronica Mendez
St. Michael School – Rosa Rivera (Principal)

Priest Present:

Fr. Jay DeFolco, Pastor

Liaison Present:

Gina DePalma

Meeting commenced at 6:35pm with opening prayer.

Fr. Jay's Updates:

- A lot will be happening over the next 2 years, and Fr. Jay encouraged members to pray about their role on the Advisory Council. Members were asked to discern whether they are prepared to support the mission of the One Parish Plan, willing to work with the resources the Archdiocese is providing and able to share our findings, changes and other information with the parish community in a positive manner.
- Some things are beyond our control. Eventually, we will be down to two priests and things will change. We are working towards being one parish. As members of the Parish Family Advisory Council, you will lead these changes and help the community transition by remaining positive, encouraging and hopeful.
- One of our challenges is to find ways to bridge our communities. Encourage attendance at picnics or other activities. One thing we share is the school. There was nice support for the school auction. The school brings our parishes together.
- Construction Updates: St. Mary of the Valley roof replacement will likely happen in October or November. Holy Cross will need to work on the design of a parking lot addition with 100 stalls. St. Michael is ready to plan a capital campaign to add additional classrooms.
- Sr. Carmen from St. Mary of the Valley has been recalled by her order, so they are advertising the position of PA-Faith Formation. Christian, their Admin Assistant, has taken a job with another parish and will not be replaced. LeeAnn will be taking on bulletin editor duties.

Parish Surveys

- The Archdiocese would like us to distribute two parish surveys to parishioners: demographics and “What Are Our Gifts”. The PFAC reviewed the surveys as a combined handout and a spirited discussion ensued, with lots of comments and ideas. There was a consensus that the surveys should remain separate and also be translated into Spanish. Annette will take all these comments into consideration and will email members the new versions. The target date to distribute the surveys is the weekend of May 31-June 1.

Parish Viability Metrics & Budgets

- As part of the One Parish Plan (OPP) process, the PFAC is asked to look at the viability metrics for our family to see how we can be sustained as one parish. These metrics include Evangelization (Sacraments received), Facility Utilization, Staffing, Building Viability, and Financial Viability. The spreadsheet with the metrics was handed out to members, along with proposed budgets for all parishes. The focus was to consider the last two metrics while reviewing the budgets.
- A request was made to change Holy Cross’s actual budget to reflect June 2025. An updated version will be emailed to everyone.

The meeting closed with prayer at 7:55pm.

Next PFAC meeting is on June 3 at 6:30 pm at St. Michael