



+ October 11 - 12, 2025

To the parishioners of
Holy Cross, Lake Stevens
St. Mary of the Valley, Monroe
St. Michael, Snohomish

Dear Friends,

I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus.

This is a difficult time. As you have just heard, Father Jay DeFolco has resigned as your pastor. He has done this reluctantly and after such a long fight to not let his health burdens get in the way of leading you. He loves being your pastor, and this decision grieves him deeply. But I have not only accepted his resignation; I have assured him that we will not leave his side, nor yours, in the coming weeks and months ahead.

As Archbishop, I have the important responsibility of providing ongoing pastoral care and sacramental ministry for your parish family. After careful discernment and consultation with the Priest Personnel Board, I have appointed Father Roy Baroma, Jr., as the priest administrator for your parish family, effective October 13, 2025. This appointment will continue through the end of the assignment year ending on June 30, 2026. Please know that it is my intention to appoint a new pastor for the next assignment year beginning July 1, 2026.

Father Phil Bloom will continue to serve as a parochial vicar, and I have asked Bishop Eusebio Elizondo to provide sacramental and pastoral support through the remainder of the year. The Archdiocese of Seattle will provide them with all the necessary support and assistance to ensure quality pastoral care for your parish family.

I also wish to personally express my gratitude to the entire parish staff. You have journeyed with Father Jay through this battle with B-Cell Lymphoma. He loves this assignment, and much of that is because of the great staff and volunteers he works with each day. Your work does not go unseen. Thank you for your dedication.

Times of transition and grief are challenging. I encourage you to unite as a community and find ways to encounter each other and support each other during this difficult time. Please count on my prayers. As always, I remain,

In The Heart of Christ,

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