

East Snohomish Catholic Parishes

Holy Cross | St. Mary of the Valley | St. Michael

October 10, 2025

As many of you know, I was diagnosed with B-Cell Lymphoma in February 2023. Over the past two years, I have fought this illness with everything I have. Recently, I have experienced increased confusion, and I am undergoing a series of tests to better understand what is causing this.

After prayerful discernment and in consultation with Archbishop Etienne and the Office of the Vicar for Clergy, I have decided to resign from my pastoral responsibilities. Archbishop and the Office of the Vicar for clergy have assured me that the parish will be well-supported administratively, and I will also receive the care I need during this time of increased health challenges.

Please know that I will do my best to stay in touch with you. However, I kindly ask for your understanding and grace as I take the time and necessary space to focus on my health.

I am deeply grateful to my incredible parish staff, my brother priests—Father Bloom and Father Baroma—as well as Archbishop Etienne, Bishop Elizondo, Bishop Schuster, and the Office of the Vicar for Clergy for their unwavering support and care.

I assure you of my continued prayers and thank you sincerely for yours.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jay DeFolco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Joseph "Jay" DeFolco
Pastor