

Parish Transition Update - May 21, 2015

Here's the latest information about the changes happening at St Patrick:

- Our parish Transition Planning Team held its second meeting, continuing to work on plans for Father Seamus' farewell; to welcome our 3 new Priests - Fathers, Fuchs, Graham and Lamanna, SJ; and to ensure we keep you-- our parishioners actively engaged and informed of what is happening.
- Members of the Transition Team, representing the various councils and commissions in our parish and school are: Charles Christnacht, Georgeann Cujkati, Mary Randall, Mary Larsen, Sandra Kuharic, Gavin MacHutchin, Cathy Leone-Woods, Dave Beardemphl, Bill Eckert and Kevin Lovejoy. Don't hesitate to a member of the Transition Team or other parish leaders or staff if you have any questions.
- Save the Date-- Saturday, June 20 for Father Seamus' farewell party.
- We are grateful to members of the Pastoral Council who have agreed to extend their time on the Council to assist us through the transition. Look for more information in the fall about election of new pastoral Council members.
- Check the website, myParish and the bulletin for answers to your "Frequently Asked Questions" about the transition.
- Father Seamus' mother Margaret says the weather in Ireland is awful. It is windy, rainy and cold, however Father did play 6 rounds of golf in 7 days in the warm sunshine of Portugal. He returns to St Patrick on June 4.

Glad You Asked That!

Question: How long will we be under this new Pastoral Team Model?

Answer: The Bishop and the Jesuit community have agreed to this arrangement for one year. What happens after that is yet to be determined.

Question: Who's planning the transition at St. Patrick?

Answer: A Transition Planning team of 8 members has been assembled with representatives from the staff and various parish leadership groups. The team has met with advisors from the Vicar of Clergy Office, and will continue to meet in the coming months to plan Father Seamus' farewell, the welcoming of the new priests, and to ensure the continuity of parish programs and ministries.

Question: What are the roles and responsibilities of the Pastoral Coordinator?

Answer: They are very similar to much of what Kevin Lovejoy has been doing the past four years as Parish Administrator. With the advice and counsel of the parish staff and the Pastoral, Finance, Stewardship Councils and School Commissions, Kevin will oversee our day to day mission, ministry and community life, which includes liturgy and music, adult/religious education, youth ministry, social outreach, RCIA, the Sacraments, the parish school, pastoral care to the sick and homebound, and other services and programs of the parish.

Question: What services will the 3 Sacramental Priests be providing?

Answer: They will celebrate Weekend Masses, private and community Reconciliation services, Funerals, Weddings and Anointing of the Sick. The extent to which they will be able to celebrate Daily Mass and other special Masses, or provide support to our parish and school Faith Formation programs and ministry groups is still being discussed. We hope to have more details to share in the coming weeks.

To the Parishioners of St. Patrick Catholic Church,

You have heard the letter from our archbishop which was read at all Masses on the weekend of May 16th and 17th, and you may have some questions about its meaning. We would like to try to explain what it means.

First of all, Archbishop Sartain, who joined us recently for Confirmation, has been working hard to care for our needs. As our local shepherd, he respects Fr. Seamus' decision, knows our sacramental needs and has given us a great gift in those chosen to lead us at this time.

Kevin Lovejoy, who has been serving our parish for the past 4 years as our administrator, is being tasked with a new leadership role as Pastoral Coordinator. This role has been very successful in other parishes throughout the archdiocese. He will run the day to day administrative duties of our very active parish community. He will be responsible for the staff, the budget, and making sure that the buildings are maintained and our ministries are supported.

Our staff and the Vicar of Clergy's Office at the archdiocese will work with Kevin to ensure a smooth transition. A transition team has been formed to facilitate this process; this team will work with Kevin to provide timely and accurate information, answering your concerns and questions and working to help our new sacramental leaders as they formally join our parish community.

Our sacramental needs will be handled by the Jesuit community in Tacoma under the guidance of Fr. Tom Lamanna, the superior. Fr. John Fuchs, a very familiar face for us, and Fr. Jerry Graham are charged to care for us at Mass, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and so forth. They have decades of experience and hearts dedicated to the faithful service of the Church.

It's true that we won't have a pastor at this time, which is true of many parishes throughout the world. However, we have a wonderful situation thanks to the generosity of the Jesuit community of Tacoma. In some ways it feels like my experience as a young Catholic when we had a number of priests in our parish. We'll experience a wonderful variety of styles in presiding and preaching.

I'll still be here as well, so that's one more familiar face. I have to say that I'm pretty excited about this new model. I pray that we can be open and welcoming to all involved.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Bill Eckert