



+ May 15, 2021

To my Brothers and Sisters at St. John of the Woods,

Peace of Christ be with each of you.

As many of you know, I requested that parishes in Pierce Deanery work together to develop one new, vibrant, mission-focused Catholic community that joyfully shares the Gospel, celebrates the sacraments, welcomes new parishioners, offers faith formation, provides outreach ministries and much more. Strategic planning work to realize this vision is well underway with Stakeholders and 10 subcommittees starting to meet and developing high-level plans. Reports from each of these groups will be forthcoming.

As part of this Strategic Planning process, St. John of the Woods would become a mission of the new parish. As a mission, the parish councils would merge along with parish administration. However, Mass schedules and other sacramental celebrations will continue.

We recognize that the strategic planning process will take time and will require several steps along the way toward the formation of the new parish. Therefore, starting July 1, 2021, St. John of the Woods will take an *interim step* in this longer journey and will become a mission of St. Ann's parish to begin the process of forming the new parish. Father Tuan will remain the pastor and your Mass and sacramental celebrations will not change. Additionally, St. John of the Woods will continue to have representation in the Stakeholder group and on the subcommittees, which is important as we continue to work together to form the new parish.

I want to thank everyone who has participated in the process thus far. Please pray for everyone involved – especially your leaders and fellow parishioners who will journey with you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us the grace to work together building a stronger Catholic community grounded in the mission of the Church. As always, I remain,

In the heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Etienne".

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