

Dear parishioners of parish family # 33 (Holy Family and St. Andrew Churches)

“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”
[Number 6:24-26].

This is the blessing of the priest from the book of Numbers which I often pray when folks ask me to pray for them. Once again, I beg the Lord to bless us and keep us in his love, grace, and peace.

I am grateful to celebrate the first weekend Masses of July 2024 at St. Andrew in Sumner. It was a good way to meet parishioners and have a brief conversation with them before and after each Mass and at the Parish Hall. I look forward to meeting with parishioners at Holy Family this weekend's Masses.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself so that you have a better understanding of who I am. My name is Fr. Thomas Tran, a diocesan priest of the Archdiocese of Seattle. I am your new priest. Praise God and thank you, Jesus. If you do not know who I am or haven't met me before do not hesitate to come and say Hi to me. I was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ on June 6th, 2020 at St. James Cathedral during the COVID-19 pandemic. My first assignment as a priest was as a Parochial Vicar of All Saints parish in Puyallup and Saint Martin of Tours Parish in Fife; then Saint Michael Parish in Olympia; and recently a Priest Administrator at St. John Bosco Parish and Immaculate Conception Mission in Steilacoom. I am grateful to God and thankful to Archbishop Etienne for this assignment. I look forward to working with Fr. Jerry Burn to meet you, to serve you, to get to know you, to journey with you, to pray with you, and to be with you. Thank you for your warm welcome, prayers, and support since I arrived at this parish family 33, on July 1st, 2024. Last week, I celebrated daily Mass at Holy Family Parish and St. Andrew Parish on last Friday, weekend Masses. Currently, I am residing at Holy Family Rectory in Auburn and will alternate with Fr. Jerry to celebrate Holy Mass and minister the sacraments for you and with you. I am honored and truly grateful to be your priest as we journey together in the Partners in the Gospel. Together with Fr. Jerry we will serve you and glorify God with you.

I like to close with a prayer of Maxine Shonk, OP: *“May the God of Strength be with you, holding you tight in a strong embrace and sustaining within you a foundation of faith, grace, and a place of unfailing love. May you be the sacrament of God's strong presence to those whose hands you hold. May the blessing of Strength be with you.”*

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Tran, Parochial Vicar of Holy Family and St. Andrew parishes.