



Pastor's Announcement
May 21, 2018

This past weekend I announced my plans for the future at all the Masses, and I wanted to send this announcement so that those who were not at Mass would know what I said.

I have been thinking and praying these past few weeks about my future. After the last two years with my older brother's ill health and the recent diagnosis of ALS for his wife, I decided that I needed to be more available to my family, and I didn't think it would be fair for Sacred Heart for me to be gone for extended periods of time to assist my family when needed. Therefore, after talking to Archbishop Sartain, I decided that I would ask for senior status which means that I will be leaving Sacred Heart on July 1.

I know that this is not what we had anticipated, but I just feel that I need to be with my family more. I have not lived close to my family for almost 50 years, and I want to be able to be more available to them. Although I have mixed feelings that necessitated this decision—I am grateful for the accomplishments and insights of the past six years and I regret not being able to continue some of the projects that lie ahead—I am confident that this is indeed the best decision for me and for our parish.

So what will happen at Sacred Heart after July 1? Archbishop Sartain has appointed Deacon Sam Basta as pastoral coordinator and Father John Madigan as parish priest beginning July 1 for an anticipated 1-year term. As pastoral coordinator Deacon Basta will be the pastoral leader here at Sacred Heart and will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of parish life. Father John will provide priestly ministry. During this next year, Archbishop Sartain and the Priest Personnel Board will further discern the next pastoral leader for Sacred Heart in order to provide the parish with dedicated pastoral leadership and care.

I was excited when I found out that Father John Madigan was coming to Sacred Heart to provide priestly ministry. Father John was the first pastor that I had the privilege of working with when I came to the archdiocese 32 years ago. He is a wonderful priest and will do a great job; he is one of our senior status priests and finished his ministry as pastor at Holy Rosary parish in Seattle. I also know Deacon Sam Basta who is currently serving as a deacon at St. Louise; he too is a veteran pastoral minister who will do well in being present to Sacred Heart on a regular basis.

There are obviously a lot of details to work out in the coming weeks, and there will be assistance from the archdiocese to help with those. I am confident that our excellent parish and school staff and other parish leaders will continue their dedication and hard work to make Sacred Heart successful. All of our current parish staff is returning with the exception of Pastoral Associate Carol Guenther who is leaving; Deacon Scott Pickett will be the new Pastoral Associate and will begin at the end of June.

I ask that you keep me, Father John, and Deacon Sam in your prayers during this time of transition, and I will keep you in mine.

Blessings,

Father Steve Sallis, Pastor