



St. Barbara

Catholic Church

SAYING GOODBYE

Take a look at how Father Dave has impacted our community in his time as pastor of St. Barbara Church.

TIME OF TRANSITION

Times of newness and transition can be difficult. Take a look at how we plan to navigate these changes as a community.

LOOKING AHEAD

What is in store for the year 2021-2022 here at St. Barbara?



A LETTER FROM FR. DAVE

These past months have been filled with ‘last times’: last time to celebrate Holy Week at Saint Barbara, last time to bring hosts down to the historic church for weekday Mass, last time to see some of the parishioners who are moving or who spend the spring and summer elsewhere, last time to watch all the rhodies and azaleas on the parish grounds bloom. It is difficult to say, “Good bye”. As Mark Few, coach of the Zags said when asked why he did not take a higher paying offer to coach elsewhere, “Don’t mess with happy.” This has indeed been a joyful place to be and I am so grateful for the people I have met, the faith moments we have shared, and the opportunity to be part of the life of this special community. Know you will always have a warm place in my heart and in my prayers.

Blessings,

Fr Dave

A Time of Transition

St. Barbara Family,

In the spring of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic turned everything upside down, the Archdiocese of Seattle contacted our pastor, Father Dave, letting him know that all scheduled retirements (his included) were being delayed by one year due to the turbulent times we were facing. Father Dave took his ministry as shepherd seriously as he dropped all of his own plans and intentions to face probably one of the most difficult years any of us have ever experienced. It has been so encouraging to have his consistent support as we have faced so many trying things. He helped us by providing Mass online when everything first shut down and has continued to minister and shepherd us as we have faced the many obstacles associated with safely gathering and celebrating Mass during a viral pandemic.

As COVID vaccinations become more widely distributed and we see glimpses of normalcy returning to our communities, Father Dave's retirement plans are back in motion. The weekend of June 26-27 will be Father Dave's final weekend as our pastor. We are so grateful to him for all he has done for this community and so excited for this well-deserved time of respite for him on his own journey. At the same time, our hearts are heavy as we say goodbye to someone who has been a beloved leader of this parish community for the past eight years.

Times of change and transition can be very difficult to navigate. We tend to settle into familiarity and consistency and displacement can feel painful. The transition to new pastoral leadership is bound to feel uncomfortable as we say goodbye to someone we cherish and usher in the unknown. Our consolation can be found in the knowledge that this home, this familiarity that we have settled into was never meant to be our eternal home. St. Augustine is famous for saying "our hearts are restless until they rest in You, O Lord my God." This world will be full of things that feel new and different and even difficult because the comfort and familiarity that we all long for are only truly found in the eternal presence of God. As we continue on our spiritual journey, we are called to embrace the challenges, to welcome new perspectives and new life into our hearts as we find tiny glimpses of the Father's eternal love sprinkled in our world.

In the pages of this newsletter, we invite you to spend time reflecting with gratitude on Father Dave's many gifts to this parish. We also introduce you to Father Anthony Davis and invite you to welcome him into our parish community with open minds and hearts, grateful for his ministry and excited to see what he will bring to our community.

May God bless you and your family today and always,

The St. Barbara Staff

*Prayer
of Transition*

We ask you to guide us in our time of transition. We need your wisdom, that we might be receptive to change, conversion and growth. We need your grace to redirect our hearts so we may be willing to offer ourselves in joyful service. Do not allow fear, ignorance or pride to limit the work of Your Spirit. Amen.



Thank you Father Dave for eight years of pastoral leadership. Thank you for the spirit of family and community that you brought to St. Barbara parish. Thank you for your commitment to our parish history and tradition, and for helping us build new traditions. Thank you for making us feel at home and welcome in this place.



NATIVITY DISPLAY

Over the past 8 years, St. Barbara has become well known for our annual Advent Nativity display featuring hundreds of nativities from all over the globe. Thank you Father Dave for so generously sharing your collection and your passion with us!

PARISH OFFICE

In 2018, under Father Dave's leadership, the parish purchased and retrofitted a new Parish Office building located conveniently next to the main Church. A mobile home unit located near the historic Church had temporarily been used as a Parish Office for many years but was in dire need of repairs and ill-fitted for the purpose of an office building.

VINE MAPLE PLACE PARTNERSHIP

Father Dave has had a longtime commitment and passion for aiding homeless and displaced persons. In 2020, the mobile home that had previously been used as a Parish Office was restored and updated and a partnership with Vine Maple Place was formed. Vine Maple Place manages the unit, allowing families in need of longer term help in our community a shelter and help getting back on their feet.



PRAYER GROTTTO

Over the last year, Father Dave and several dedicated parishioners have worked long hours to build a beautiful prayer grotto featuring a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe and a hand-carved cross. This was truly a labor of love and has become a beautiful place of prayer for our parish.





SACRED ART

Father Dave is very passionate about sacred art. He has made it a tradition here at St. Barbara to boldly celebrate the liturgical seasons with wood carvings and beautiful banners. Many of the wood carvings were hand-carved by Father Dave himself. He also designed and in many cases hand-colored many of the liturgical banners on display in the church. Two of the three crucifixes that are used in rotation at the front of the Church were hand-crafted by Father Dave.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Under Father Dave's leadership, the Wednesday Community Meals program found its home at St. Barbara. Every Wednesday evening, volunteers from St. Barbara and other local churches gather to prepare and serve meals for community members. This ministry has become very meaningful to members of the Black Diamond Community and is a blessing to both those who serve and those who are served.



CARE FOR GOD'S CREATURES

Father Dave's passion for animals led to many projects including his annual Lent and Advent reflection booklets featuring photos of his feline friends and daily reflection passages. His love for God's creatures big and small reminds us all of God's love for each and every one of us and for the world He created.

SIGNS

With the help of the Knights of Columbus, Father Dave oversaw the installation and restoration of signs marking the historic Church and the main Church. Our campus is large and these signs help visitors know where things are located!



Come celebrate with us

Come celebrate Father Dave's many gifts to our parish community during his eight years at St. Barbara! Each of our events will be outdoors and adhere to current gathering restrictions.

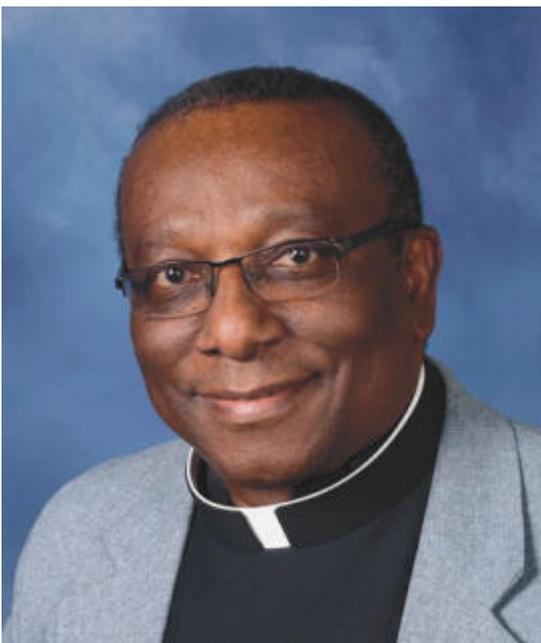
Saturday, June 26: Wine & Cheese outside on the porch following the 5pm Mass

Sunday, June 27: Pastries & Coffee outside on the porch following the 8am Mass

Sunday, June 27: Tailgate at 11:30am in the parking lot. Please bring a picnic and/or grill to prepare your family's lunch. Dessert provided. In the spirit of tailgating, feel free to decorate your car!

Card receptacles will be in the narthex of the Church beginning the weekend of June 5/6 or you can mail cards to Father Dave at the Parish Office: PO Box 189, Black Diamond, WA 98010

Welcome Father Anthony Davis



We are privileged to welcome Father Anthony Davis as the new pastor of St. Barbara beginning July 3-4.

Father Davis has been Priest Administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Enumclaw since July 2011. He is committed to unity and love and has challenged Sacred Heart parish and staff to explore new and vibrant ways of being one people in serving Our Risen Lord.

Father Davis grew up in Ghana, Africa, and is a passionate follower of his home country's soccer team: the Black Stars!

We look forward to welcoming Father Davis to the parish!

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, we are very hopeful that in-person faith formation will be possible this coming year. Registration for all students will be available on our website beginning in August. Please continue to watch your email and our website, but here is what we envision for next year!

FAITH FORMATION PRE-K–GRADE 5

We look forward to returning to in-person Faith Formation classes for our youngest students. We are looking forward to starting “Classes Between the Masses” from 9am–10am on Sunday mornings for all students through Grade 5. It will be so wonderful to have all of our different age groups gather at one time to help parents with multiple kids stick to one schedule!



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6-8)

Middle School Youth Group will meet Wednesday nights from 7-8pm. Come learn about your faith while experiencing a solid Catholic community and experiencing Jesus in a personal way. If you would like to volunteer with the Middle School program, please contact Sara Hotchkiss at re@stbarbarachurch.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 9-12)

High School Youth Group will meet Sunday nights from 7-8pm. Come experience a supportive community as you travel through high school! We will engage in service projects, learn about our faith, and have some fun along the way. If you would like to volunteer with the high school program, please contact Sara Hotchkiss at re@stbarbarachurch.org.

CONFIRMATION & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

We are excited to brainstorm some new possibilities for our Confirmation and Adult Faith Formation programs moving forward. Confirmation is transitioning to grade 7+ in the Archdiocese of Seattle. More information and the details of our offerings will be coming soon! Keep watching our website, bulletin and your email for more information to come!

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