



+August 4, 2022

Dear parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church,

Peace be with each of you.

I write today to share difficult information about a priest who has served your parish, Father M. Charles "Chuck" Palluck. Father Palluck retired from full time ministry in the Archdiocese of Seattle in 2009 and has been assisting parishes since that time.

This week we received an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, which was reported to have occurred more than 30 years ago, when Father Palluck was the pastor of St. Barbara Parish in Black Diamond. Please note that allegations are claims that have not been proven true or false.

Upon learning of this allegation, we immediately followed our protocols, which includes informing law enforcement, suspending Father Palluck's priestly ministry during the investigation, notifying all parishes where he served and releasing a statement to the media.

We take allegations of abuse very seriously and are committed to providing a safe environment for everyone in our care. The Archdiocese of Seattle has a longstanding commitment to transparency, accountability and assistance to people who may have been sexually abused by clergy or by anyone working on behalf of the Church.

Like you, I want healing for our people and our Church. We must continue to pray for everyone impacted by any form of abuse and encourage people who feel they have been harmed to come forward to receive the healing they need. If you feel that you have been harmed by a member of the clergy or a layperson working on behalf of the Church, or know others who have, please contact law enforcement. I also encourage you to call the archdiocesan Abuse Helpline (1-800-446-7762). You may also wish to read more about our commitment to healing on the Protect and Heal website (<https://protect-seattlearchdiocese.org>).

I understand that news like this is very upsetting. Please know that we are here to support you, your parish staff and your community during this time. You may contact us at chancellors.office@seattlearch.org.

Please join me in praying for all involved in this very difficult situation, and be assured of my continued prayers for you. I encourage you to support and pray with each other during this time. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

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