

<https://www.saintmichaelparish.org>

We have a brother priest, Fr. Jim Lee of St. Michael's parish in Olympia, whom many of you are familiar. He is dearly loved, respected, cherished and spiritually blessed in service to his community and all.

There are no words to express the connection he has with his parish, full of life, personality, intelligence, dedication, exudes a sense of sainthood, educator and first year trainer of newly ordained priests, leading the flock from all walks of life has been diagnosed with ALS. In true form, he wants to work until he is physically unable, but even his presence will be enough for those who share his heart and will continue to feel his presence.

It is hard to shed a tear when you know the overwhelming spiritual love he will continue to share with us faithfully. Our wonderful Shepherd, Most Rev. Archbishop Sartain, has granted his request to remain in his parish and rectory (a position he has held for 20 years) until he enters the Kingdom of Heaven, joyously.

I will always take with me the vision of his out stretched arms symbolizing Christ on the cross at Easter. Unbelievable homilies that leave you in a meditative state only to be awakened by the continuation of mass, his willingness to listen to his flock with joy, infectious smile, love for the children of our future, and fantastic baptisms.

His love of music and allowing musicians to express their passion/support of the mass is something rare. He gets it, and he understands.

One instance I will never forget, most of you know I love music, I was to cantor for a former great friend and choir member who had passed. I wanted to sing the "In Paradisum" in both Latin and English (it takes a while). Many other priests' would not have allowed that, but he said, "I'm not going anywhere".

Truly, a great man and I ask all to pray for his healing, if not, his comfort and surrounded by love.

Please view his homily at <https://www.saintmichaelparish.org>. This is just a small example of what Fr. Jim has brought to this parish for over 20 years.

Thank you for everything Fr. Jim,
Kim Washburn-ST