

St. Paul Cathedral
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“St. Paul Cathedral Parish is a diverse body of Catholic people whom God calls by name, given a mission by Jesus Christ to be a faithful sign, a realistic foretaste and an instrument of the Kingdom of God. As Cathedral Parishioners, we recognize our responsibility to show leadership by example and to provide service to God’s people.”

My Dear Parishioners:

Well, our blessings & prayers to all as we enter into a new year. Again, thank you to all who contributed in any way to our celebrations during the Christmas Season. We are so blessed having so many of you share your time, effort, support & talents for our Cathedral Family of Faith.

1. As this letter is being sent out to you, I am at the Cathedral Ministries Conference in Seattle at St. James Cathedral, which draws over 150 pastors, rectors & ministers from all over the English-speaking world to study, discuss, pray about and discern the importance of Cathedrals which are visible signs of unity with Rome & our Holy Father.
2. Next week I will be taking off for my first 1/3 of annual vacation to a warmer clime so please spare our office personnel by holding all calls until after my return on the 31st of January. Thank you!! (It’s thanks to my past life – Naval service, that makes it possible for me to take this break and I am grateful.)
3. This Sunday is the annual Martin Luther King celebration with a commemoration of his life and witness to non-violence. A church service to which you are all invited and urged to attend will be held at Central Lutheran Church at 3:00 PM. Please join us!!
4. On Sunday January 27th we as a Diocese commemorate the 46th anniversary of “Roe vs. Wade”, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal in the United States of America. (The actual date is Tuesday the 22nd of January.) **BISHOP TYSON WILL CELEBRATE THE 11:00 AM MASS ON THAT SUNDAY FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN.** As Catholic Christians, we are a PRO-LIFE people, concerned with every person from conception to natural death. While being anti-abortion is the keystone to our convictions, there is so much more than one issue when it comes to pro-life: care of children, those mentally and physically challenged, immigrants, the elderly, homeless and hungry people all over God’s creation – and the list goes on and on. Show your pro-life conviction by joining with our Bishop for this special Mass & celebration. A reception will follow the Mass in and around our Assembly Place.
5. Tomorrow we begin our annual emphasis on UNITY among Christ’s followers with the Week of prayer for Christian Unity, a nationwide observance in which we increase our prayer for mutual respect and understanding of Christians of all denominations. This week ends fittingly on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on Friday 22 January, our patron saint. Pray for the intercession of St. Paul for our parish & for greater unity among Christians.

6. Saturday the 2nd of February is the great Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when candles are blessed for the New Year. Mass will be offered as usual in the chapel at 8:00 AM and candles blessed at that Mass.
7. Sunday February 3rd, I give thanks to God for another anniversary of priestly ordination, 61 in all, and promise once more to serve you more devotedly as long as God permits me to remain with you. Every year it gives me great pleasure & fulfillment to commemorate this special day in my life.
8. Our Parish Council (Parish Advisory Board) meets once again on Monday the 11th of February. Again, any concerns or suggestions, contact Sandi Hays, President, or one of the members whose names are on the board in the vestibule.
9. May I also take this opportunity again to thank you for all your greetings, cards, gifts and remembrances at Christmas? Your kindness and generosity is overwhelming to say the least. THANK YOU AGAIN & AGAIN!!
10. With all the ‘news’ of abuse in the Church throughout the world, we apologize to all who have been victimized and ask your help to “keep us informed” if you have knowledge of any such situations so that we can intervene and take proper corrective actions to prevent the spread of further sinful & criminal behavior on the part of clergy or laity involved in the Church. Don’t give up or let discouragement overwhelm you. Our God is stronger than any earthly evil and His promise of caring, love and mercy surrounds us. May we all pray for all victims of abuse within and beyond the borders of the Church!!
11. The next mailing will be a preamble to Lent, with leaflets enabling you to daily join with the Lord more effectively in your homes during this special time of the year.

May God bless and keep you and yours.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Ecker". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Rev. Msgr. John A. Ecker – VG
Pastor

P.S. Just in case you didn’t have the opportunity to be a part of the Annual Catholic Appeal in October/November enclosed is an envelope and pledge card for your convenience. Thank you.