



**PARTNERS  
IN THE GOSPEL**

# Nisqually Basin Catholic Churches

## Community Conversations: Challenges and Opportunities in Our Parish Family

During our first parish listening session, parishioners shared thoughtful reflections about both the challenges facing our community and the opportunities before us. These conversations revealed a deep desire for stronger community, greater welcome, and renewed visibility of our Catholic faith in the wider area.

Many participants noted that our broader community faces significant pressures, including the rising cost of living, homelessness, and uncertainty about how to access support services. Rapid population growth, especially the arrival of military families, has brought both blessings and new pastoral needs. Some parishioners also expressed concern about fear and uncertainty in the community related to immigration issues and government policies. These realities remind us that our parish is called to be a place of hope, compassion, and accompaniment for all who seek Christ.

Within parish life, participants highlighted several barriers that can make it difficult for people to feel fully welcomed or connected. Overcrowding at Mass and parking limitations were frequently mentioned. Others noted challenges such as distractions during Mass, limited spaces for families with young children, and language barriers. Some parishioners shared that newcomers and those returning to the Church often struggle to find clear information about ministries, faith formation opportunities, and ways to become involved. Accessibility and transportation challenges were also noted for the elderly and those who are homebound.

At the same time, the listening sessions revealed a hunger for deeper community within our parish family. Many parishioners expressed a desire for stronger personal connections, clearer communication, and a parish culture where every person feels welcomed, supported, and encouraged in their faith. There is also a desire to strengthen relationships with other Christian communities and to make the presence of the Catholic Church more visible in the wider community.

Participants also identified several groups that could benefit from increased attention and outreach in our parish:

- Youth and young families
- The elderly and homebound
- Non-practicing Catholics and those seeking deeper meaning or faith
- Military families
- Immigrant communities

These insights will help guide our parish family as we continue to discern how the Holy Spirit is calling us to grow. We are grateful to everyone who participated in these conversations. Your voices are helping to shape the future of our parish family and strengthen our mission to encounter Christ and bring His love to our community.



More information can be found on the PFAC page on our website:  
[sacredheartlacey.com/pfac](https://sacredheartlacey.com/pfac)

