



## ST. JOSEPH PARISH

*Sequim, Washington*

November 23, 2020

Mr. David Garlington  
City of Sequim Public Works Director  
152 W. Cedar Street  
Sequim, WA. 98382

Dear Mr. Garlington,

In 2015 St. Joseph Parish requested a mid-block crosswalk in front of the church at 101 E. Maple Street. This was in response to years of challenges for parishioners crossing the street to get to Mass and other parish events. Our request was approved and the crosswalk installed by the City of Sequim in 2015. We are very grateful for this mid-block crosswalk because this section of Maple Street is very heavily traveled, in part due to the Post Office location just a block to the east.

On Saturday, November 14, 2020 immediately following the evening Mass (so around 5:40pm) two elderly parishioners proceeded to cross to the parish parking lot and were struck by a car while in the crosswalk; the car was coming from the east. These two sisters were hospitalized with serious injuries; one had to be air-lifted to Seattle. Police responded to the scene and a report should be on file. The police have a copy of the surveillance video of the accident, filmed from a camera mounted at our parish facility. One of these parishioners had very significant injuries and died the morning of November 18<sup>th</sup>. We are deeply saddened by this loss, and many parishioners have expressed fear that this could happen again. It's very treacherous for our elderly parishioners trying to cross to and from their cars.

We have re-positioned the flood-lights on the porch roof of the church to add some light to that section of the street when dark outside. In addition, volunteers with flashlights will act as "crossing guards" before and after Saturday evening Mass. These are 'band aids' only. We are requesting a more permanent solution to this unsafe section of Maple Street and hope that the City of Sequim will respond promptly. It will go a long way to the reassurance of the citizens of Sequim who are parishioners at St. Joseph Parish.

I would like to explore with you what options might be available to heighten the safety of our parishioners. If at all possible, my firm request is that the City install crosswalk signs with flashing lights activated by pedestrians wishing to cross (something similar to what the City of PA put in at Civic Field crosswalk on Race Street).

I'm looking forward to hearing from you very soon.

Cathy Wiswell  
*Pastoral Coordinator*