

## Updated Mass Times

The Pastoral Council spent a significant amount of time discussing future Mass times. In Fr. Joe's absence, we have only one priest now, and in July 2023, when Fr. Gadache becomes pastor at St. Bernard's we will again have only one priest.

In our discussions we did our best to keep the wellbeing of the entire community front and center.

Some of the many factors considered by the Pastoral Council were:

- *Long term impact on the wellbeing of one priest*—Four Masses a weekend, plus school Masses, weddings, and funerals is unsustainable for any one priest to handle for an extended period of time. Therefore it was decided to go to three Masses a weekend.
- *Parishioner involvement in liturgical ministries*---Since Covid, about 68% of those who previously attended Masses are attending now. Thus, finding liturgical ministers for the current four Masses is challenging.
- *Vibrancy of the Masses*---Our mission statement speaks of "spirit-filled worship" A full church and the energy that it brings adds to that spirit and vibrancy of the Mass.
- *Current attendance numbers*---Using video recordings, we count attendance at every single Mass. We have been able to track numbers for years. As indicated above, post-covid attendance has dropped significantly.
- *Input from parishioners*---Responses from parishioners varied widely. From 'don't take away my Mass' to 'we will adapt' and everything in between. The one very clear feedback was a desire to move the Saturday night Mass to 5:00 pm as it had been for years. (Our sincere thanks for your input)

In an attempt to achieve the needed results with the least change we made the following decision:

Starting November 14th we will have one daily Mass at **5:30 p.m.** Tuesday through Friday. (No Monday Mass)

Starting New Year's Eve weekend Dec. 31-Jan. 1, the Saturday evening Mass will be at **5:00 p.m.** instead of 5:30. The Sunday Masses will be at **7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.** There will no longer be an 11:30 a.m. Mass.

Until Dec 31-Jan. 1, we will be arranging for an outside priest to preside at the 11:30 a.m. Mass, since Fr. Gadache is still presiding at 11:00 am African Mass at St. Gerald's. Using an outside priest as a long term solution comes with uncertainty that we can regularly find someone and a considerable financial impact on the parish. The Archdiocese indicates what this amount is.

We will be working on a publication with all the Mass times in our 'family' of parishes.

Thank you for your support and understanding, as we work to make our parish "A Place to Call Home."

Respectfully submitted,  
St. Pius X Pastoral Council