

CLUSTER 28 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

St. Joseph Parish, St. Patrick Parish, St. Pius X Parish, St. Brigid School

Cluster Mass Schedule

On the Back of this sheet is my final determination for a Mass schedule for the Cluster. *This schedule will begin next summer on Monday, August 2.*

Process: The first thing most of you will recognize is that no Mass times or locations have changed from the draft schedule published for your consideration four weeks ago. This reality is not because we have failed to listen carefully to the many comments and concerns that have been expressed this past month in the form of conversations, e-mails, and at the town hall meeting two weeks ago. Along with concerns about the choices presented in the draft, we also received numerous positive comments from parishioners who thought the draft fair and well-balanced; and the Cluster Transition Committee and I spent another long meeting reconsidering the initial choices made in light of the additional input we had received from you. As we considered the draft schedule in light of the input we received, we found ourselves coming back to and re-affirming the choices made in our initial discernment. I have spent a great deal of time thinking and praying (and losing some sleep) over the changes to be made and the effect they will have on individuals and groups. Your heart-felt comments have made real for me the challenge many will experience in these changes. There is no way to measure or compare these losses in the balance of making these hard decisions, and any changes I enact will be a disappointment to some. The truth is that such changes should not be easy for me to make because they impact the habits and traditions of families and our parish communities.

Saturday and Sunday Evening Masses: As presented in our previous comments, our initial survey of liturgies indicates up to one-half of our weekend Mass participants attend these liturgies. Thus we continue to uphold the value of preserving them all. The Sunday evening liturgy occupies a special niche both in terms of its time and musical style. In order to allow two priests (in a pinch) to cover the Saturday Masses, we decided to move one of the 4pm Masses to 5pm. We chose the Mass at St. Joseph because this would make it consistent with the time of the Sunday evening Mass there. This change also provides an additional time option for our parishioners.

Sunday Morning Masses: The Sunday morning schedule eliminates a single Mass from each church. Most of the comments we received were about these proposed eliminations, individuals or groups defending a particular liturgy for many good reasons. A particular concern has been “the gap” between the 8am and 10:30am Masses which exists because we believe it important to uphold Religious Education as central to the life of our community and not have any liturgies in conflict with it. Parishioners argued on both sides about whether the Religious Education Program should be tied more closely to the Mass before it or after, some preferring to start their days earlier and others saying the 8am would be too early for their families. We kept the proposed configuration because we feel it best allows parishioners to make a choice in regard to the timing of their day and better promotes the participation of families in all cluster liturgies. My continued hope is that the music traditions of the 10am liturgy at St. Joseph will transfer to the 8am liturgy there.

Daily Masses: I will devote next week’s insert to reflections on the daily Mass schedule as well as new guidelines for scheduling Mass intentions. On Monday, April 5, we will begin again scheduling Cluster Mass intentions for the Masses after June 30 of this year. Thank you for your patience in this regard.

For now, we will move forward with this new schedule in the hope that it will serve the needs of our community reasonably well. I continue to pray that members of our community who are challenged by these changes will be prayerful, positive, creative and accommodating in adjusting to these changes.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with me (lafontainesj@live.com) or one of the other committee members if at any time you have input you wish to share – you can call your parish or school office for contact information. Please continue to keep us and this process in your prayers.

Schedule of Masses for Cluster 28

These changes will take place on August 2, 2010

Notes/Guiding Principles

*Reduce Masses so that fewer clergy can serve the Cluster
 Each Parish will lose one weekend Mass
 Provide a variety of times for Cluster members
 Ensure adequate space for attendees and parking*

Weekend

Saturday			<i>One-third of our parishioners generally attend a Saturday vigil Mass</i>
	4:00pm	St. Patrick	<i>Pre-Mass confessions continue before all vigil Masses</i>
	4:30pm	St. Pius X	
	5:00pm	St. Joseph	<i>This time is changed so 2 priests can cover the vigil Masses when necessary</i>
			<i>(Chosen to be consistent with the Sunday 5pm)</i>
 Sunday			<i>One morning Mass at each site, no conflicts with Religious Ed program</i>
	7:00am	St. Pius X	
	8:00am	St. Joseph	Choir Mass?, RCIA
	9:00-10:00am	Religious Education	
	10:30am	St. Patrick	
	5:00pm	St. Joseph	

Daily

			<i>On a given day, between 100-120 people currently attend daily Masses</i>
Mon-Fri	9:00am	St. Pius X	<i>Only site with adequate parking, priests not affected by weather issues</i>
Tues/Thur	7:00am	St. Patrick	Workers' Masses <i>(Many working people have requested an early Mass)</i>
Friday	8:00am	St. Joseph	School Mass <i>(open to all Cluster parishioners)</i>
Saturday	8:00am	St. Joseph	
			<i>Eucharistic Adoration from 9:30am-5pm on Friday at St. Pius X</i>
			<i>Morning Prayer before 9am Mass daily</i>
			<i>Rosary following 9am Mass daily</i>

Holy Days

			<i>One Mass at each site</i>
vigil	5:30pm	St. Patrick	
vigil	7:00pm	St. Joseph	
	9:00am	St. Pius X	

Funeral Masses will be celebrated at any church as requested by the family, usually at 10 or 11am
 Wedding Masses will be celebrated at any church as requested by the couple, usually mid-day on Saturday