



Joint Parish Planning “Creating One New Parish for All”

Spotlight On: The Weekend Liturgy Subcommittee

A subcommittee with an important and complex task is the Weekend Liturgy Subcommittee. Devising a schedule for weekend worship in multiple locations required time and careful consideration of many factors. The following is an update from this subcommittee providing insight into the approach they used to develop their recommendations for the new weekend mass schedule.

Why are we reviewing mass times and making changes to the weekend schedule?

The primary reason for reviewing mass times is to be sure we are preparing for the future of our larger parish. The goal of the subcommittee was to understand and make recommendations for a mass schedule that minimizes the impact on parishioners while maximizing the time for the Priest, Deacons and support staff to provide an appropriate level of care and attention to all the parishioners.

Who was a part of making this recommendation?

The subcommittee consisted of members from each of our five parishes including: St. John the Baptist, St. Leo/St. Ann’s, St. Paul’s, St. Peter’s and St. Joseph’s. The recommendation of this subcommittee was provided to the Priests and Deacons for their review.

What process did the subcommittee use?

The members of the subcommittee first met with Fr. O’Brien to understand the goals and requirements of the project. Members of the subcommittee then attended each weekend mass celebrated at each church in our Parish Community of Rome, Holland Patent, and Lee Center, over a three-month period. When visiting each mass, the subcommittee counted the number of parishioners, measured available seating space, reviewed facility details such as parking, accessibility, social gathering space, and determined overall capacity. Consideration was also given to driving time between locations. The subcommittee assembled and analyzed all this information to develop the recommendations.

What factors were considered when making this decision?

The subcommittee looked at many factors when formulating a new mass schedule for our larger Parish. Some requirements were provided by our Bishop such as the overall number of masses, need for a Sunday evening mass, Saturday vigil guidance, priest availability, and others. The subcommittee considered each of these elements in addition to attendance, capacity, and facility information before making final recommendations.

How does this change other ministries in the church like education and music?

As we combine our Parishes, the subcommittees, Priests, and Deacons are looking at all the special characteristics that make us who we are as individual churches and seeking ideas to enhance and blend them to enrich our Parish Community. The Mass schedule is just one part of this process.

In addition to celebrating Mass, what are the other responsibilities of our Priests?

Our Priests are busy people! In addition to celebrating Mass, our Priests celebrate mass at nursing homes, visit the sick, conduct wedding and funeral masses, visit schools, and have many other duties in their role as spiritual advisors and leaders. One of the main goals of this subcommittee was to make sure we were balancing the needs of our parish community with our Priests’ abilities to serve the people.

What about other masses like weekday mass, Christmas, Easter, and others?

Details about weekday mass and mass schedules around holydays have not yet been decided. Consideration is being given to adding masses around holydays where attendance is expected to be higher. Discussions are ongoing and future announcements will be made as decisions are finalized.

(This information is current as of January 6, 2025)