

Beloved in Christ,

Thanks for your patience and prayers! On July 28th, members of all six of our parish councils met to comment on a draft of a Mass schedule. Though never easy, I was edified by the electronic comments we received from council members over the following days in support of the draft. The new Mass schedule below came about after much prayerful consideration over what is best for the faithful of all our parishes, studying particular circumstances, available resources and archdiocesan criteria for Mass times. Last week, it was approved by our dean to begin on September 1st. This is a concrete step in the five-year process of moving from six independent parishes to one canonical parish with six campuses. If this affected the Mass in which you were accustomed to participating, I invite you to please consider another Mass at the same campus, a similar Mass time at another campus in our family of parishes, or even a Mass time that is convenient outside of our family. The important thing is that we encounter Jesus in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, especially on Sunday, the Resurrection Day.

As a reminder, these are the criteria from the Archdiocese for Mass times that had an impact on the adjustment of our schedule:

- To promote a more sustainable schedule, better liturgical experience, and sense of community, we need to strive to have each Mass at greater than 50% capacity. Although some Masses will still be considerably less than 50% full, this is a significant first step.
- For numerous liturgical and spiritual reasons, no priest is to offer more than two Masses per day. A third Mass may be offered in emergencies.
- Because of retreats, continuing education, and vacations for our four priests, we will need the retired priest to cover for us as many as 24 weeks per year. We are grateful for our retired priests for covering for us during these times and for illnesses and emergencies. However, it would not be wise to have a schedule that is dependent on them regularly.
- We need to promote ample time for priests available for confessions.
- We need to be able to visit with our people after Mass rather than rushing out to another Mass.

This is the schedule that will begin September 1, 2022:

Sunday

8:00 AM – St. Luke
8:30 AM – Mary Help of Christians
9:00 AM – St. Augustine
9:30 AM – St. Brigid
10:00 AM – St. Luke
10:30 AM – Sacred Heart (English)
11:15 AM – St. Paul
12:00 PM – Sacred Heart (Spanish)

Monday

8:30 AM – St. Luke
9:00 AM – Mary Help of Christians

Tuesday

8:00 AM – St. Brigid
8:30 AM – St. Luke
9:00 AM – Mary Help of Christians

Wednesday

8:00 AM – St. Brigid
8:30 AM – St. Luke
9:00 AM – Sacred Heart
6:00 PM – St. Paul

Thursday

8:00 AM – St. Brigid

8:30 AM – St. Luke

8:30 AM – St. Paul

9:00 AM – Sacred Heart

Friday

8:00 AM – St. Brigid

8:30 AM – St. Luke

8:30 AM – St. Paul

9:00 AM – Sacred Heart (First Friday)

Saturday

9:00 AM – St. Brigid (Latin)

4:00 PM – Mary Help of Christians

4:30 PM – St. Brigid

5:30 PM – St. Luke

Here is a short explanation about some of the specific adjustments:

- Duplicate Mass times in the old schedule:
 - o 8:00 at St. Luke and St. Brigid
 - o 11:15 at Mary Help of Christians and St. Paul
 - o 12:00 at St. Luke and Sacred Heart (Spanish)
 - o 4:00 Saturday at Mary Help of Christians and St. Paul
 - o 5:30 Saturday at St. Luke and Sacred Heart (English)
- Considering the needs of each parish, these are some of the solutions:
 - o St. Brigid's next Mass is 90 minutes later than the 8:00, so it should be less drastic to cancel the 8:00 at St. Brigid and the noon Mass at St. Luke. Both St. Luke and St. Brigid have plenty of room and are only 7 miles apart.
 - o Numerous people have indicated several factors that an earlier Mass time at Mary Help of Christians would greatly increase Mass attendance, so we will try it at 8:30, thus eliminating the duplicate time with St. Paul.
 - o St. Augustine's new time is 30 minutes later to allow for more confession time.
 - o Sacred Heart's new time of 10:30 for English Mass allows for the same priest to offer both Masses without the huge break in between.

In our area, we are blessed with options for Sunday Mass at St. John Bosco Chapel at Wright State University at 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM. WPAFB also has multiple times for Mass on Sundays.

In the month of October, every parish in the Archdiocese performs the official "October Count" at all Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. This is important data for planning and allocation of resources. Tell a buddy, bring a friend back to Mass!

If you have any questions about this new schedule, please contact any of us priests by calling the parish office. Thanks again for your prayers and graciousness during this time of transition. Be assured of my daily prayers for you.

God bless,
Fr. Bedel
Pastor