

Dear Parishioners of St. John's, St. Anthony's, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha,

Many months ago, the Pastoral Councils of our three parishes met numerous times to discuss timely matters with the goal of continuing to sustain, as well as enhance, the spiritual well-being of all of our beloved parishioners. In this joint, cooperative, and successful endeavor, top priority was given to the reworking of Mass Schedules.

In the last bulletin insert of February 19, we listed changes in the Daily Mass Schedule and those for the Holy Day Mass Schedule that took effect immediately. The next item will be a more major one: Proposed Changes in the Weekend Mass Schedule.

At the promptings of our two Priests, Fr. Longobucco, Fr. Carlino, and the three Pastoral Councils took up the challenge of proposing changes in the Weekend Mass Schedules with the following goal in sight:

To ensure that, in the event of one of the two Priest's sudden and unpredictable illness at the beginning of any weekend, the other Priest could say his Masses. That would be quite a challenge, a sacrifice, and an expenditure of considerable energy for that Priest. Nonetheless, it is one that is not only doable but done willingly on the part of both Priests.

About a year ago St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish realigned their Weekend Mass Schedule. They are willing to do that again, and St. John's and St. Anthony's Churches are willing to join them in this effort.

Regarding a prudent addressing of finances and wise stewardship of the use of the physical plants of our churches, everyone knows that St. John the Evangelist Church is much larger than St. Anthony's, able to seat over 1600 people while St. Anthony's can barely seat 300. This is the reason and sober fact underpinning the newly proposed Weekend Mass Schedule, which changes St. John's schedule slightly while not changing St. Anthony's.

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The following is the proposed schedule for the three parishes:

Saturday Vigil Masses: 4:00 PM St. John's and 5:00 PM St. Kateri's (Union Street).

Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM St. Anthony's, 9:30 AM St. Kateri's (Union St.), 10:30 AM St. John's, 11:30 AM St. Kateri's (Rosa Road), 11:45 AM St. Anthony's Spanish Mass, and 4 PM St. Anthony's.

In this proposed schedule, two points cannot be emphasized enough:

- 1) The 11:45 AM St. Anthony's Spanish Mass, and 4:00 PM St. Anthony's each have the unique character of being substantially different from the other Weekend Masses; for the Spanish Mass accommodates the Spanish community, and the original intention, years ago of the Sunday Evening Mass (at St. Anthony's now, and for years at St. John's) was to accommodate the Union College Students.
- 2) This proposed Mass Schedule should not be considered the final one. Why so? If either of our two Priests is transferred or retires, the other Priest would likely remain as Pastor of the three parishes with no additional help provided. If and when that happens, because one Priest can only celebrate so many Masses on any given day, undoubtedly the Weekend Mass Schedule would have to be revisited.

To give all Parishioners of all three Parishes the opportunity to discuss this proposed new Mass Schedule, the following are two meetings that will be held at the end of April:

Thursday, April 27, 9:30 AM at St. John the Evangelist Parish Offices (Cafeteria).

Thursday, April 27, after the 6:00 PM Mass at St. Kateri's (Rosa Road).

We are hoping that many of our Parishioners from our three beloved parishes will attend.

Thank you, and continue to enjoy the Holy Easter Season,

Fr. Longobucco, Fr. Carlino, and the Members of the Pastoral Councils of our three parishes