

Dear Parishioners of the Cathedral of St. Mary,

In April I announced a new Sunday Mass schedule that will begin June 30/July 1. As Pastor, I am aware of a lot of deep feelings about the change. I deeply respect those feelings, and I did sit with a group recently, and I am open to listen to anyone who would like to talk to me about it. I am writing this letter to better communicate the reasons for this change.

The primary reason for this change in Mass schedule is to facilitate the encounter with Jesus Christ by all who come here on Sunday to worship the Lord in the Holy Mass. As the Lord commanded us to “Keep Holy the Sabbath Day”, we are striving to keep Holy the Lord’s Day on Sunday for all people. The two hours between the Masses gives people more time to pray without having a rushed mentality entering and exiting the Cathedral. It will also allow more time for fellowship in Hartmann Hall, which has really grown due to the efforts of the Parish Council and the Amazing Parish committee, and will help with parking availability as well.

The 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday gives our seniors more daylight time in traveling to and from Mass. Around the country this has been very popular Mass time. I am not sure how the 6:00 pm Saturday evening Mass will work, but the staff and I did not want to add a fourth Sunday Mass in the early afternoon.

On Sunday, moving the 7:30 am Mass to 8:00 am was to give more sunlight to people especially during the winter, but also the attendance at this Mass has really dropped off. By moving the 9:00 am Mass to 10:00 am, my staff and I thought some of 9:00 am parishioners would go to the 8:00 am Mass and help grow that community, and some of the 9:00 am parishioners would choose to go to the 10:00 am Mass as well.

The 12:00 pm Mass allows the RCIA people to attend both class and Mass. The Lenten RCIA Scrutinies will now be celebrated at the 12:00 pm Mass. Also, this allows CCD kids and parents to have two choices, the 10:00 am or the 12:00 pm Mass. As for changing Sunday 5:15 pm Mass to 5:00 pm, the staff and I thought a little earlier might be better.

Weddings or funerals will not be a real issue. Weddings are usually scheduled at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. If a couple desires an evening wedding, it would have to be on a Friday night. Funerals can be scheduled on Saturday morning and maybe at 1:00 pm if the schedule allows.

Confessions on Saturday from 2:00 – 4:00 pm will now be in the south side chapel so to allow a little more space for possible weddings and funerals taking place in the main church. Confessions on weekdays and on Saturday evenings from 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm will be in the main church.

This change has the full support of, and collaboration with Bishop Steven, the priests here at the Cathedral, the Cathedral Staff and Parish Council. We also tried to balance this change with the schedules of the other parishes in Cheyenne, namely Holy Trinity and St. Joseph, since our Catholic identity also includes the whole Cheyenne Catholic community. We cannot act in isolation from one another.

Lastly, as Pastor, I am always open to listen to your thoughts and feelings on this change. I know changes are never easy, but I hope this letter will ease any concerns you may have.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. August