

## **Temporary Weekend Mass and Confession Schedule Beginning July 8-9**

Dear Parishioners of St Ann's, St Martin's, St Stephen's, St Mary of Mercy, St Patrick's, St Mary's (Salem), and Epiphany Parishes:

The new grouping of parishes that takes effect July 5<sup>th</sup> of this year has made it necessary to construct a new weekend Mass schedule in order to accommodate all of the parishes. My initial letter included much more detail on how this new, temporary Mass & Confession schedule was arrived at, but the letter became too long. So let me just say that Saturday evening Masses were more or less left as they currently are. For Sunday Masses, a main consideration was to try to set times between 8:30 am and 10:30 am as much as possible. Current Mass times were also considered and input was sought from all the priests involved.

### **(Temporary) Weekend Mass Schedule, Beginning July 8 & 9**

#### Saturday evening

- 5 pm Montrose or Salem: rotate monthly
- 5 pm Alexandria/Emery-Bridgewater: rotate monthly

#### Sunday

- Montrose: 8:30 am
- Humboldt: 10:30 am
- Salem: 9 am
- Epiphany: 11 am
- Alexandria or Emery or Bridgewater (AEB): 10 am.

### **(Temporary) Weekend Confession Schedule, Beginning July 8 & 9**

Saturday evening: 4:15 pm to 4:50 pm, wherever Saturday evening Mass is.

Sunday:

- Montrose, Salem, AEB: Confessions begin 40 minutes before Mass and go for a ½ hour.
- Humboldt, Epiphany: after Mass until all are heard.

PLEASE BEAR IN MIND: this schedule is only *temporary*. A permanent schedule is one of the things to be discussed over the course of this first year. Also, without actually being there it's hard to have a good sense of what might work the best. On the one hand, then, it will be too cumbersome to make frequent adjustments to the schedule throughout this first year but at the same time, this schedule will be evaluated as we go along and perhaps some adjustments made after (say) 3 months or so, as experience indicates. Please try to bear in mind that there will be no ideal schedule, perfectly suitable to everyone; but we will try to do the best we can.

Another goal was to simplify the schedule as much as possible, especially the rotation of locations. Thus, the Saturday evening Masses will rotate every other month as follows:

Odd Months 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11: Montrose and Emery have the 5 pm Saturday evening Mass

Even Months 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12: Salem and Alexandria have the 5 pm Saturday evening Mass.

So one month Montrose will get the Saturday evening Mass and the next month it will be in Salem. Alexandria and Emery will rotate Saturday evening and Sunday every other month. This is a change for Bridgewater – when it's Emery's month (rather than Alexandria's) to get the Saturday evening Mass, Bridgewater will have Saturday evening the first week of the month.

A schedule for *weekday* Masses will be determined later.

I would like to join your current pastors as well as Fr Hamak in echoing the call to keep our mind fixed on our Lord through all of this – becoming like Him, forging union with Him, growing in knowledge and love of Him, in short – on getting to Heaven. If we lose that, then we've lost. Please continue to pray sincerely for our priests and our new "pastorate." Without our Lord and His guidance, we have nothing.

Thank you and God bless you,  
Fr Kuhn.