

+

January 22, 2017

Dear Church Family,

Now that we have unrolled our new Mass schedule I would like to make a few observations. First, judging from the attendance at the Masses last week, from some of the words of encouragement that were shared with me, and from the noticeably increased level of active participation in the Masses that often comes when Churches are closer to full than to empty, I would say there has generally been a wide-spread cooperation in trying the new Mass Schedule. Still, there seems to be a significant population who don't know exactly what to think or how to act. And, sadly, I have even encountered a few parishioners who are very angry about the change. This anger can lead to saying very unchristian things, making rash judgments, and even acting impulsively, like wanting to leave our parishes.

Perhaps these types of reactions to change are quite natural and to be expected, especially when some level of real or perceived sacrifice is involved, but left unchecked they can become divisive and harmful, so for the good of our partnering parishes, we need to check them.

My advice to you and to everybody, and the advice you should be sharing with each other as we come to terms with what it means to be partnering parishes, is simply "Live the Faith!" Turn to the Bible. You need to look no further than to the second reading of today's Mass where we read, "I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose..." How about the timing of these words? It's almost as if the Holy Spirit were speaking right to us as we strive to come together as two parishes that are united in faith and united in mission, isn't it?

And to the extent that it may be a sacrifice to embrace these changes, well then you could view that as yet another opportunity to live the faith. St. James tells us, "Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance" (James 1: 2-3).

When all is said and done, remember we have said the changes made to the Mass schedule are not set in stone. The schedule will continue to be looked at in the coming months to see how the parishioners of both parishes can best be served. After Easter, I will invite you to forward your comments about the Mass schedule to me or any member of the Growth and Formation Committee and they will be given careful consideration as we move forward. In the meantime, let's try to do our best to welcome each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord. Pope Francis reminded us that we should live our faith in such a way that "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus" (Evangelii Gaudium 1). May this joy renew our communities and homes!

Let's come together and get to know each other. I would really like to see all of you at the *Meet & Greet, this Friday evening, January 27, 2017 beginning at 7:00P.M. in St. Charles Borromeo Parish Hall.*

God Bless
Monsignor Majoros

Sacred Heart Parish
sacredheartchurch@rcn.com

St. Charles Borromeo Parish
rectory@scbdh.org

Growth and Formation Committee

Yolaine Kaupas- ykaupas@hotmail.com
Richard Terpstra -manterp@yahoo.com
Joanne Leonard- leopardjfl@aol.com

Deacon John Farrell - jfarrell5113@yahoo.com
Matthew Rinaldi - mattr658@yahoo.com
Leo Witkoski - lwitski7@comcast.net