

Good News

Dear Friends,

Last Thursday, Bishop Matano requested that pastors in the Diocese of Rochester publish a letter from him to the faithful in the bulletin of August 3/4. This letter acknowledges the Child Victims Act which will go into effect on August 14 and will be open for one year giving victims of sexual abuse as a minor an opportunity to come forward to seek compensation. At this time last year, I addressed the parish at Masses after massive failures by bishops to protect their flock were uncovered. I think many of us were hoping that last year would be the end of hearing about this. It is painful and disgusting and drives a wedge further between the good the Church is supposed to uphold and the evil that has been perpetrated by the ranks of the clergy. This will be a difficult year ahead, but our first and foremost concern must be to care for those who have been abused, and to make every effort possible to work for their healing and restoration of faith. In addition, accountability among bishops and priests is needed now more than ever. The lack of accountability resulted in diminished faith and trust in the gospel message. However, those who have covered up or abused, priests and bishops, who should never been ordained or chosen in the first place, are also in need of prayers for the salvation of their souls. Bishop Robert Barron, a former seminary professor of mine and the current auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, recently said that it is hard to imagine anything worse than a priest abusing a child. This, by even his own admission, is an understatement. Bishop Barron has authored a short book, *Letter to a Suffering Church*, on this topic. A parishioner has made available 25 copies to the parish. If you would like one, please let me know, or you can purchase one yourself at <https://www.sufferingchurchbook.com/>.

After much thought, and prayer, and in consultation with clergy as well as the Parish Council and Liturgy Committee chairs, there will be several changes to the daily Mass schedule after Labor Day. With the move of all daily Masses to St. Mary's, the Monday, Wednesday and Friday daily Masses will shift from 12:10 to 12:15pm. This small change in time will accommodate the ASA schedule so students can attend Mass. Middle school students will attend Mass on Wednesdays, which will be modeled on the traditional Catechesis Day presented by the Holy Father at the Vatican. These days will help us understand more fully the teachings of the Church as contained in the scriptures, and relayed in tradition and the magisterium (teaching authority of the Pope and Bishops). School Masses on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am will be announced one week in advance and are open to parishioners to attend.

Regrettably, the 6:45am Masses on Tuesday and Thursday will be discontinued when daily Masses move to St. Mary's. Instead, the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, specifically Daytime prayer, will be prayed at 12:15pm on these days. This gives All Saints Parish a consistent rhythm of prayer at the same time and place throughout the week, which the majority of parishioners can attend if they so choose. The prayer that is the Liturgy of the Hours is an extension of the Eucharist with the recitations of psalms, singing of hymns, reading of the scriptures (many that are not heard at Mass) along with writings and homilies from the early Church fathers up to the most recent saints of the Church. Daytime prayer will be familiar to some parishioners since it is exact in structure to the prayers which are recited at Mt. Saviour Monastery. I am certainly open to a schedule that will allow parishioners to pray together in the mornings, not just on Tuesday and Thursday, which can be held at the traditional 6:45am time or a bit later. This could include Morning Prayer, daily Mass readings, the Office of Readings (see above), the recitation of the rosary. This is also an opportunity to increase adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In the event that Mass is not offered, these are the most appropriate prayers. If you are interested in participating, please let me know. For example, a few parishioners have stepped forward to lead devotional prayers after the current daily Masses, primarily on Wednesday and Fridays. These have been received well; the changes in the daily Mass schedule do not preclude such communal prayer.

The revised schedule may bring up questions about Mass intentions. For now, we will add double intentions on Monday and Friday. Mass intentions scheduled on Tuesday will move to Monday and Mass intentions scheduled for Thursday will move to Friday. When Mass intentions are booked in advance, it does not leave room for either a recently deceased or a living intention, which is also an important need to bring to Mass. This will continue to be refined.

We are blessed with an abundance of Mass intentions here at All Saints, which we are able to send to local priests who are not able to celebrate Mass in a parish due to health concerns, but who need intentions. We have also sent intentions to missions around the world.

A parish Mass schedule is determined by the availability of priests who are assigned by the bishop to the parish. If we are blessed to have an additional priest assigned to All Saints next year, the Mass schedule can be revisited. We are so grateful to Fr. Brown for his willingness to assist and to be a part of the schedule at our parish. As a senior priest, he would be recognized by his fellow priests and Bishop Matano as "the most generous senior priest in the Diocese of Rochester." If such an award were given, it would be bestowed upon him unanimously. However, as a senior priest, he is not obligated and cannot be part of maintaining the permanent schedule. This would be an unfair expectation of him.

A special thank you to those who made Gabe's farewell reception memorable. Next week will be Deacon Joseph's final weekend in his assignment. This goodbye will not be as difficult as Gabe's because Joseph is a native son who will be back during breaks and holidays.

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