

# Good News

Dear Friends,

Before we begin praying the Liturgy Hours as a parish on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I want you to know more about what we are going to do.

Like the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the psalms at intervals throughout the day connects us to our Catholic brothers and sisters throughout the world who pray the same prayers. This also connects us to our ancestors in faith. As a pious and devout Jew, Jesus himself prayed these psalms at various intervals of the day and on high solemn occasions throughout His lifetime. The evidence lies within the scriptures, in particular the Passion narrative, where Jesus utters His final words from the Cross: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" from Luke 23:46, prophesied in Psalm 31:6.

Here from the preface of Shorter Christian Prayer, the book that we will be using, is more detail:

"The Liturgy of the Hours is "the prayer & song of the Church." Those taking part in it have access to holiness of the richest kind by praying along with the word of God. The Church desires that when possible the celebration of Morning & Evening Prayer occur in public worship. In the Holy Spirit, and through the Church, Christ carries out His redemptive work for God's glorification, and Jesus does this not only through the Mass, but also through Liturgy of the Hours in an exchange of dialogue between God and His people."

It is in this spirit and faith that All Saints Parish will offer, through communal prayer, Liturgy of the Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This will occur according to a consistent schedule that will be publicized in upcoming bulletins. For those who can't make it to church, you are highly encouraged to say the minimal prayers taken from Liturgy of the Hours which will be posted each week. In this way the entire parish can unite in the rhythm of the Universal Church. The format and rhythm will take some time to become familiar, so please be patient. After a few weeks, it will become second nature. Please pray a Glory Be (a form of which is repeatedly used in Liturgy of the Hours) now for our parish.

Note that it is appropriate to pray the Liturgy of the Hours within the context of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Many people from the parish have asked for increased opportunities for this prayer. It seems now is the time to tie together the LOH (Liturgy of the Hours) and Adoration, which we did during the Lenten series a few months ago.

A few ideas have been tossed around about a schedule of prayers during the early morning hours, but nothing has yet been decided. Please pass on any ideas or suggestions at your convenience.

One of the difficulties of closing a church is the potential loss of what has made its character. This character should be a saintly expression of the Catholic faith. Patron saints often shape and mold the tone of a parish. The Immaculate Heart of Mary is a unique liturgical and devotional expression that cannot be lost.

The Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was incorporated on Feb. 28, 1952. It was established as a parish on May 1, 1952. The first service in the new church was Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, 1952; the laying of the cornerstone and the dedication took place in June of 1953 with Bishop James Kearney officiating. Fr. Harold Rogers was the founding pastor who retired in 1981, when he was succeeded by Fr. Walter Wainwright. In 1990, drastic change came to the parishes in Corning and Painted Post: a cluster was formed under the pastorate of Fr. Bill Spilly thus beginning the official process of consolidation. Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Patrick, St. Vincent and St. Mary parishes were formally suppressed on July 1, 2001. Together they became All Saints parish. After September 7, 2019, the only remaining worship site will be St. Mary's Church of All Saints Parish.

We were blessed with the presence of Fr. Robert MacNamara at the closing ceremony of St. Vincent last year. His blessing with that decision was of great importance to me. Regrettably, Fr. Wainwright is unable to attend the final Mass at Immaculate Heart. However, he has composed a letter which will be included on the memorabilia boards to be displayed at St. Mary's Church throughout the month of September. Both he and Fr. Mac spoke often and glowingly about their time in Corning and Painted Post. Here I am having made the difficult and painful decisions to close the worship sites that meant so much to them. Their priestly example and witness even through times of loss has helped me make and accept these decisions.

God bless,  
Fr. Jones

