

Schedule Changes

By now you've all heard the news of Fr Dominic's transfer to St Rose of Lima parish. We wish Fr Dominic well and ask the Lord to continue to bless his efforts and priestly ministry as he serves as *Administrator* of the parish next door in Eddystone.

Unfortunately, as you also know, Fr Dominic has not been replaced. However, this is not at all unexpected. The fact of the matter is, there's a severe shortage of priests, a shortage that will only worsen and will become very pronounced in the very near future in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

This reality will ask us to accept changes and to adjust our expectations as we will have to figure out how to be parish communities perhaps following new models of parish life.

However, Fr Dominic's not being replaced, necessitates the following changes to our Mass schedule at this time. ***We will begin to follow this new schedule the week of November 22nd.***

- Mass will be offered on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8:30 AM at OLP Church.
- On Thursdays Mass will be offered at 8:30 AM at ND Church. This will allow ND School to attend Mass during the school year.
- A Deacon led *Liturgy of the Word With the Distribution of Holy Communion* will be held on Fridays at 8:30 AM at OLP Church allowing me to have a weekly day off.

Since the parish has approximately 60 Funerals a year, and Saturday quite often being a preferred day when feasible, there will not be a morning Mass or Liturgy of the Word scheduled on Saturday mornings.

In addition to Funerals, there's the occasional Saturday Wedding and then, of course, the weekly confessions and Vigil Mass scheduled every Saturday. And so, I think this is one day we can cut back on the weekly schedule. I ask for your understanding and apologize if this news is upsetting to you. However, for your information, OLPH parish in nearby Morton (1.9 miles) has two priests and a Saturday morning Mass at 8:00 AM for those who want to attend Mass on Saturday mornings.

As far as the Sunday Mass schedule is concerned, I'm of the mind to not make any changes at this time other than discontinuing the partnership with St. Madeline's for the 5:00 PM Sunday Evening Mass.

However, I feel it necessary to clearly state, once we get beyond the pandemic (when a vaccine becomes widely available), if the number of participants does not increase to what it was before the March shutdown (700 a weekend, on average), I will reconsider the pastoral need of having three Masses on Sunday mornings.

Father Devlin

