

August 2017

Dear Parishioners:

This has been an exciting year at St. Peter's Parish. In addition to the physical renovations that are revitalizing the interior beauty of our church building, parish staff and leadership has been active in prayer and discussion, discerning how the Lord wants to revitalize our interior life of faith and community.

The mission of the Church is always the same: to bring people into a transforming encounter with the love of God through the saving actions of Jesus Christ. While the mission does not change, it is however, the duty of an individual Christian community (like St. Peter's) to assess how to best present this eternal message of hope and new life to the particular people it is called to serve. In our age, this has given rise to what is commonly referred to as the "New Evangelization." Part of the New Evangelization is a conviction that every parish must be a center of evangelization: a place where an individual can grow in strength and knowledge of the faith; a place where the grace of the sacraments is made abundant; a place where people experience the joy of becoming intentional disciples of Jesus Christ; a place where each parishioner takes up the mission of evangelization that was given to them at Baptism.

Focused attention to our mission has led us to evaluate our experience at St. Peter's. What do we offer? When do we offer it? How can we better actualize the New Evangelization here and now? After discussion and prayer, it became apparent that some changes ought to be made in our approach to parish life.

Given that Sunday is when most people experience the Catholic Church, our efforts will be focused on Sunday. Every *Lord's Day* ought to be an opportunity for a transformative encounter with the love of God. We must make the full experience of Sunday the best it can be! Therefore, I present the following:

As of October 8, the Sunday Mass schedule will be:

Saturday evening Mass:	5:00pm vigil
Sunday morning Masses:	8:00am, 11:00am
Sunday evening Mass:	6:00pm

The reasoning for a change in Mass schedule is twofold.

First, two morning Masses (instead of three) better reflects, a) the number of parishioner-volunteers that are available to serve the liturgy well; b) the number of people who attend Mass with respect to our large church space.

Additionally, and primarily, the larger gap between Masses presents a great opportunity for more ways to serve you at a time when you are already making the effort to come to the church (rather than a weekday evening). These opportunities seek to develop further our ability to live our mission. They will be available for anyone, whenever they are able to participate.

Each Sunday we plan to offer:

- Hospitality and Fellowship (coffee, light breakfast) in the parish hall after 8am Mass
- Scripture Study/Reflection in parish hall (small group discussion, ongoing, great opportunity to invite others who are searching) (9:30-10:30am)

Other possibilities, depending on your expressed interest, are:

- Communal Prayer (Rosary, Novena, Liturgy of the Hours, etc.) in the church following the 8am Mass (9:00-9:30) and/or preceding the 11am Mass (10:30-10:50)
- Thematic Teaching Series (on the Mass, Mary, Prayer, Saints, God's Plan etc.)
- Eucharistic Adoration in the church (9:00am-10:50am)
- Parish Office Open for Mass cards, registration, etc.

The following is our initial schedule for October:

October 1: The 7, 9 and 11am Masses will still be in the Parish Hall.

October 8: New Sunday Mass schedule – 8am, 11am and 6pm

9am – Hospitality and Fellowship in the Parish Hall

9:30-10:30am – Open Forum Discussion of renovation work and parish life, Q&A with Fr. Tom.

Sign-Up for new Sunday morning activities as well existing programs, such as liturgical ministry, choir, St. Vincent de Paul Society.

October 15: 9:10-10:45am – Our Lady of Fatima Movie, in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of these Marian apparitions, large screen presentation in the Parish Hall


October 22: Beginning of a regular schedule of Scripture Study groups in Parish Hall and Communal Prayer in church

Families and individuals involved with Sacramental Preparation and RCIA will receive additional information, as time and location is affected.

We understand that this change in schedule may affect long-held scheduling patterns for some of our parishioners. Know that these decisions were not made lightly, or without care to some difficulties that may arise. I ask that everyone try to see this change within the bigger picture of what St. Peter's seeks to do and become. Even more, I hope that you may share in the excitement of a new phase in our Parish life. These changes have great potential to aid you in your relationship with God, your call to intentional discipleship, and your Sunday experience of worship. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us as we seek to bring Christ's Church alive in this time and place!

God bless you!

With my prayers and pastoral solicitude,



Rev. Thomas Odorizzi, Pastor