

Sunday, August 10, 2025
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come to pray to me and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile." (Jeremiah 29:11-14)

Dear St. Titus Parish family,

Greetings in Christ the LORD! I pray that you can all be reminded today and throughout these days and weeks ahead how much God loves you! Not only does God love you, but He is in love with you and sees each of you as His most precious and beloved sons and daughters. I chose this passage from the Prophet Jeremiah to begin my letter because it speaks the truth that our LORD and our God truly desires our peace, freedom, and joy not just some of the time, but *all* the time! Even during these days of transition, uncertainty, confusion, even maybe sadness, hurt, and anger, God has a plan for you, for me, and for all of us. That plan is good, holy, and beautiful! Let's all keep praying for the grace to trust that, receive it, and live it out.

I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your loving prayers, support, and encouragement for me through this transition and additional assignment of being named also the pastor of St. Joseph's in Oil City. I have definitely felt them and am very humbled and blessed by them. Thank you for all the kind words, notes, cards, and even just understanding smiles. I love you all so much! You are such a gift.

This is the first week the new assignment takes effect. With this in mind, I would like to address a few logistical items that I'm sure are on your mind as we move forward together.

1. Mass schedules

- For daily Mass the new schedule, effective this Tue., August 12th is as follows:
 - Mondays: 8:30am (St. Titus) and 12:10pm (St. Joseph)
 - Tuesdays: 6:30pm (St. Titus)
 - Wednesdays: 8:30am (St. Joseph)
 - Thursdays: 8:30am (St. Titus)
 - Fridays: 8:30am (*Frist Friday only*); 12:10pm (St. Joseph)
- For the weekend (Sat. evening and Sunday) and Holy Day of Obligation Mass schedules, all the Masses will remain the same until late November/early December (Advent) at which time the schedule will reflect the hard reality that there is only one priest to cover Masses at both church locations. In the meantime, we will have guest

priests to help with the Masses. The two main guest priests we will have are Fr. Chris Singer, the Chancellor of the Diocese, and Fr. Joe Petrone, the Assistant Chancellor of the Diocese. So, for example, one weekend I will have all the Masses at St. Titus, and the guest priest will have all the Masses at St. Joseph and then the next weekend it will be the opposite, I will have all the Masses at St. Joseph and the guest priest will have all the Masses here at St. Titus. I am excited for you to get to know these two very good and holy priests.

- *Please note: This week there is a Holy Day of Obligation ... The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Mass schedule is:*

- *Thur., August 14th (Vigil Mass): 4pm (St. Joseph)*
- *Thur., August 14th (Vigil Mass): 4:30pm (St. Titus)*
- *Fri., August 15th: 8:30am (St. Titus)*
- *Fri., August 15th: 12:10pm (St. Joseph)*

2. Office hours and rectory living

- Monday will still be my day off. After the 12:10pm Mass at St. Joseph I will be away until the 6:30pm Tuesday evening Mass at St. Titus.
- Wednesday morning, I will be at St. Joseph in Oil City
- Thursday morning, I will be at St. Titus
- Fridays will be a flex day, and I will float between the two parishes.
- I am maintaining my residence here in our beautiful parish house (rectory) here at St. Titus.

3. Staffing

- There will be no change in the parish staff here at St. Titus. By the way, our new administrative assistant, Marianna Dennis (Mari) is doing a great job. Please make sure you introduce yourself to her and encourage her if you haven't yet done so.
- There will be many changes in staff at St. Joseph due to retirements. I will keep you all informed of those positions as they are filled.
- Finally, one of those retirements is the Religious Ed. Director at St. Joseph. I am very grateful that our Religious Ed. Director, Kathleen Puleo, has accepted the position of being the director of both our program here and the program at St. Joseph! This will be a significant change and added number of responsibilities for her too. Please make sure you thank her and encourage her when you see her. Thank you, Kathleen! More details about collaboration between our two programs will be forthcoming.

That is a lot of information I know! Please take your time to review this and process this. Some things to look forward to on the horizon are beginning our liturgical minister training and re/training and now since I have officially been named pastor (praise God!) we can now reform again our parish's pastoral council. There will be details coming very soon about the nomination and election process with the hope that we will have a new pastoral council in place by this upcoming Advent. Because of all the assignments, I apologize that our parish picnic got postponed this year. I am hoping to plan some parish fellowship in the fall and a parish mission during the

Lenten/Easter season next year. As always, please know you can reach out to me at any time with any questions, concerns, ideas, suggestions, etc ... Thank you again and once again please know how much I love you!

Peace of Christ always!

Fr. Daniel Hoffman
Parish Priest *and* Pastor