

New Mass Schedule has been Finalized!

(This will be effective in June when our new Priest arrives)

As mentioned in last week's bulletin, per Bishop Conlon's request, a committee was formed with 3 parishioners from each of our 3 parishes to develop a recommended Mass schedule for Fr. Dong van Bui to review. The committee initially met separately to come up with various options, and then they met jointly to come up with a final recommendation.

The goals the committee wanted to meet were:

- 1.) Minimize disruption, where possible, and offer Mass near the times with the highest attendance.
- 2.) Minimize driving times for Father between towns where possible.
- 3.) Minimize impact on the choirs, if possible, since music is an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.

The committee also had the following restrictions, per Bishop Conlon, based on Canon Law:

- 1.) A priest can only say 1 Mass per day with limited exceptions, such as Holy days.
- 2.) A priest can only say up to 3 Masses on a Sunday.

Based on the above, the committee developed the following schedule:

New Mass Schedule			
	Loda	Paxton	Gibson City
Sunday	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Monday			8:00 AM
Tuesday	5:30 PM		
Wednesday		7:00 PM	
Thursday			5:30 PM
Friday		8:00 AM	
Saturday			5:00 PM

Saturday – 5 pm Gibson City

- Unfortunately, Paxton will lose this service; however, we will still maintain the option of a 5 pm Mass at Gibson City which is only 15 – 20 minutes away.

Sunday:

- 8:00 am Loda – no change
 - Mass 8 – 9 am and then a 5-minute drive for Father to Paxton
 - Current Gibson City parishioners who used to attend Robert's Immaculate Conception 8 am Mass will be able to attend
 - Paxton parishioners who want/need to start Sunday early can still attend
- 9:30 Paxton – 1 hour earlier than current schedule
 - Mass 9:30 – 10:30 am and then a 20-minute drive for Father to Gibson City
 - Faith Formation for 6 – 12 may be moved to 10:30 – 11:30 am after Mass which may be better for student attendance, and this will allow Father approximately 20 – 30 minutes to visit Faith Formation. The Faith Formation schedule will be discussed and finalized prior to the next school year.

- 11:30 Gibson City – 1 hour later than current schedule
 - Mass 11:30 – 12:30
 - Faith Formation K – 12 may be moved to 10:15 – 11:15 am before Mass. This time also allows Father to visit, realizing he would need to leave immediately following the Mass at St. Mary. The Faith Formation schedule will be discussed and finalized prior to the next school year.

We hope all parishioners understand that much thought, discussion, and prayer went into developing this schedule to ensure we did what was best for all three of our parishes. We ask everyone to pray as we continue to work through the changes of sharing a priest with our friends at Our Lady of Lourdes in Gibson City. Father Dong van Bui said he will try his best to respond to our spiritual needs and has asked that we pray for him during this period of transition.

Sincerely,

Sheila Pickens – St. Mary Council Member, Chairman
Tammy Ross – St. Joseph Council Member, Secretary
Mike Brehm – St. Joseph Council Member
Rosemarie Foley – St. Joseph Council Member
Ryan Busby – St. Mary Council Member
Karla Watson – St. Mary Council Member
Dan Schneider – Education & Finance Commission Chairman
Nancy Flessner – Worship Commission Chairman
Sue Martensen – Service Commission Chairman