

RECTOR'S LETTER

June 27, 2021

Mass: Scheduling and Singing!

Dear Friends in Christ:

Anh chị em thân mến trong Chúa Kitô:

Estimados Amigos y Amigas en Cristo:

It is hard to believe that with this letter, I have completed my first full circuit as Rector at the Co-Cathedral since starting here at the beginning of July 2020. It has been an interesting year to say the least as not only has time flown by, but in many ways I feel like I am just getting started as I am beginning to meet many of you for the first time and we are preparing for the resuming of many activities that have either not taken place at all or at least not in person since I have been present here.

Therefore, it seems only appropriate that this week's bulletin would deal with some "meat and potatoes" kind of content: Mass—when we do it and how!

First of all, I want to share with all of you a change in our schedule that takes effect on July 1. This is not a change to the weekend Mass schedule, as those changes went into effect on January 1, but these changes affect the weekday schedule. Beginning on July 1, we will no longer celebrate Mass at 7 AM on Mondays or Fridays. We will continue to have the 7 AM Mass (and confessions beforehand) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. While the crowd that attends the early Mass is smaller than the noon-time group, it is a very consistent and dedicated group. This change is not meant to show a lack of concern for this crowd at all, as I realize it is a blessing for many to be able to attend Mass on their way to work. I also want to emphatically state that this is not a way of "phasing out" this Mass. I am committed to maintaining the early Mass in the middle of the week.

Nevertheless, there are a couple of reasons for this change. The first reason is one pertaining to personnel. As your parish priests, Fr. Loc and I have no issue celebrating Mass with you early in the morning as it is a help to some people. However, I find that it can be quite a challenge to find substitute priests who are willing to travel to say Mass at this time. Therefore, Tuesdays through Thursdays are not an issue because one or both priests and here in the middle of the week. However, when one of us is out of town for the week and the other is on his day off,

it can be quite challenging to find help. The second reason relates to scheduling at the parish. Given our downtown location and the rise in crime rates, our security is of great importance (thank Jose the next time you see him!). However, it is also one of our sources of great expense. As we look to open up and resume our activities, our costs are about to significantly increase while we have not yet received sufficient bounce-back on our collection revenues. Therefore, we are looking to balance the need to have the church accessible during daytime hours with the ability to prudently program church hours and those of activities in order to be good stewards.

Therefore, beginning in July, the church hours will look this:

- Monday: 9:00 AM—2:00 PM
- Tuesday: 6:30 AM—2:00 PM
- Wednesday: 6:30 AM—6:00 PM
- Thursday: 6:30 AM—6:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM—6:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM—6:30 PM
- Sunday: 6:30 AM—7:00 PM

Also relating to Mass, you may notice that the hymnals are back in the pews! At this point, we have lifted all restrictions on congregational singing and want to get back to having a singing parish. The engaging of our voices is not an extra when it comes to our worship of God but has always been an integral part of Christian worship. You will notice that we will resume the use of a cantor in the sanctuary to help engage and lead the congregation. While we have hymnals in the pews and a basic worship aid in the bulletin (please make sure you are picking one up on the way IN to Mass), also keep in mind that the more extensive Mass toolkit is still available online for your use.

In any case, please help enrich our worship of God by participating fully with the use of your voice—whatever voice God gave you—SHARE IT BACK!

*O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place all our trust in You.
Amen.*

Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Jeffrey L. Bame

Very Reverend Jeffrey L. Bame
Rector & Parish Administrator

