

Dear Parishioners,

I want to thank everyone for your feedback regarding the new Mass schedule. It is clear that people at all three parishes are passionate about their support for their community, and I'm hoping that we can bring that same passion to our new collaboration.

During this period after the weekend Mass schedule was announced, it's become clear to me that I haven't articulated very well what this collaboration means. Our goal is to consider ourselves to be **one community between the three parishes**. We will have one unified staff that helps care for everyone, regardless of parish or language; events and celebrations at one parish will be considered occasions for the entire community to join; parishioners will be encouraged to serve and use their gifts at all of the parishes, regardless of membership.

All while retaining your original parish affiliation. I didn't intend for anyone to feel that they are being forced to join another parish if they don't attend Mass where they currently do. Parishioners who attend Mass at a different parish would still be parishioners of their parish, their envelopes would still go to their parish, they would still be on the roster at their parish, they could still have baptisms, weddings, and funerals at their parish, they would still benefit from the intercession of the patron saint of their parish. **Two priests for three parishes necessitates fewer Masses, but it's not meant to make people join another parish.**

With the weekend schedule, I did my best to treat the three parishes as **equal partners at the table** and create a balance between the three. I am doing the same for the weekday Masses.

As I mentioned with the last announcement, we will have two daily Masses, Monday-Saturday, one for each priest. (Canon law says "daily celebration is recommended earnestly" for priests, so even if only one was scheduled, the other priest would find a time to celebrate Mass. So we might as well schedule two!) All three parishes are used to 8 a.m. Mass, so that seems like a good time for the morning Mass.

And 5:30 p.m. is generally after the work day and before supper, so that seems like a good time for the evening Mass, Monday-Friday. Noon on Saturday would leave space for funerals, baptisms, first communions, weddings, etc.

For the sake of being easiest to remember and causing the least confusion, I decided it was best for each parish to have two days: Monday/Saturday at St. Peter, Tuesday/Thursday at St. Richard, Wednesday/Friday at Assumption. So the daily Mass schedule will be:



Fr. Jim Liekhus

Monday	St. Peter	8 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday	St. Richard	8 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Assumption	8 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Thursday	St. Richard	8 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Friday	Assumption	8 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	St. Peter	8 a.m. & noon

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Confessions will be scheduled 30 minutes before Mass, Monday-Friday, so 7:30 a.m. & 5 p.m. Saturdays tend to be busier for confessions, so they will be from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m., and both priests will typically be present.

My hope is that this schedule will **allow us to anchor our daily parish life around the Eucharist**. I would love for this to be the standard weekday at the parish:

7:30 a.m.	Confessions
8 a.m.	Mass
8:30 a.m.	Coffee Klatch
9-11 a.m.	Ministry (small groups, bible studies, card clubs, funerals, et al.)
11 a.m.-noon	Adoration Holy Hour
Noon-5 p.m.	Parish work
5 p.m.	Confessions
5:30 p.m.	Mass
6 p.m.	Light meal
6:30-8 p.m.	Ministry, Committee & Council meetings

There will be some flexibility in this, of course, because life happens. In general, though, this schedule would help us anchor our parish life around the Eucharist. Are you a part of a bible study in the morning? It starts with us worshipping together at Mass at 8 a.m. Finance Council meeting in the evening? It starts with us worshipping together at Mass at 5:30 p.m. **Parish ministries that are anchored on the Eucharist can't help but be fruitful in growing disciples.**

The people of St. Peter will have the biggest change here, since they are used to having Mass every morning, and have reached out to me spontaneously to express their hope that that can continue. It has been good to see the people of St. Richard and Assumption attending morning Mass together during the week, and I am hopeful that the people of St. Peter will add their presence and their prayers at our other locations.

As always, please continue to keep our people and our parishes in your prayers, as we go through this time of transition. May God bless us as we work together to make disciples of Christ.

Fr. Liekhus



To share your feedback or ask questions:

Call: 612-440-7573 or

Email: info@richfieldareacatholics.org

A member of parish leadership will follow up with you personally.