

From the Pastor—November 11, 2018

Mass Times Update I felt impelled to write the bulletin note last weekend and make the pulpit announcement about Mass times. I stated a specific change of Masses. Giving this actual possibility has proven to be fruitful based upon the good feedback I have received. The feedback has truly moved me and changed me to see things more clearly. *** Here is my thought process at this point. My Sunday mornings trouble me with the schedule as is. I figured that my publishing of a plan, and a time frame, would help us all rely upon the Holy Spirit of God for discernment of a solution. Knowing that I can be indecisive, I came across in my note and announcement a little more direct than I usually am. The feedback I have received and your prayers and mine have led to these top two goals: 1. Creating a 2.5-hour gap between Masses. 2. Being on time and not hurried to be in the St. Mary's and St. Joseph's confessionals at 45 minutes prior to Holy Mass. A third goal, which I am putting on hold at this point, is to reverse the order of Sunday morning Masses. In regard to goal #3, a number of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's folks have spoken to wanting the order of Sunday morning remaining as it is. And no one has been enthusiastically supportive of reversing the order, although some have been willing to change. *** In regard to goal #1, a brother priest has advised me that I am within reason to say simply that a 2.5-hour gap needs to be scheduled. Then, the question becomes how to do it. *** In regard to goal #2, I would add that in some cases, being on time for Confessions includes traversing roads during inclement weather. A number of times, a weather system has moved through here on Sunday mornings and I have seen the State (or hoped that the State) would be out to ease my driving safety on the way to Giltner. The 2.5-hour gap would help with Confessions and help with my commute. I also have an idea (not affecting Mass times) to add an extra time of Confessions for people to have a pure state of soul as they prepare for Sunday Mass (watch for more details on this). *** So, I will be with you this weekend and report what I have heard people tell me. I will listen as best I can after Masses. I have responded almost right away to every e-mail, text, and phone call I have received this week. I will try to be as cheerful with you and respond kindly as we continue to discuss this. I still have the hope of a change happening on the first weekend of Advent, December 1-2. Stay tuned, and keep praying!

New Books Our new books for the readings, prayers, and all hymns for Holy Mass will debut on December 1-2. It is called Breaking Bread, published by Oregon Catholic Press. It is a one-volume book. It has a hard plastic book cover, so as to protect it from the constant use throughout the year. *** I had a great response of generous people willing to place the Breaking Bread inside of the plastic covers. One notation is important for all to know: I am not planning to put the back cover of the Breaking Bread inside of the plastic sleeve of the cover. This is for two reasons: 1. The St. Michael Prayer on the back cover of the Breaking Bread would be covered over; and 2. It is proving difficult to place the back cover in place along with the front. The newness and rigidity of the covers probably adds to this problem. I

recently visited another parish (I forget which one) and they also did not have the plastic sleeve covering over the back flap of the Breaking Bread. So, at this time we will not put the back flap in its place.

Wednesday Night Lights Our parishes continue to have active, beautiful evenings of learning and loving Jesus on Wednesday evenings! I am pleased with the sacrifices of all to bring about this coming together in fellowship with each other in love of Jesus. This past Wednesday, our senior class of Godteens introduced to the younger grades this year's rendition of what our Christmas program will be. Please keep December 16 free on your schedule to see our program.

RCIA I have been pleased with the progress of our RCIA/Catholic Instruction class thus far. I have also in recent weeks had several people step forward who are already fully initiated as Catholics to sit in and share the communion and fellowship that I hope to grow in the class. All are welcome to drop by for a class on Thursday nights. I will try to do a better job of stating the class topic for people's planning and interests.

Red Burns Brighter...Than Penn State Friday a week ago, I was blessed to attend the volleyball match between Nebraska and Penn State. It was the first time I had seen the NU women play in the refurbished Devaney Sports Center. I saw the Husker volleyballers play often in the old NU Coliseum, down the street to the east of Memorial Stadium. I, like many, was concerned if the unique homecourt advantage of the Huskers at the Coliseum would endure when moving across campus to Devaney. But after attending last Friday's match, I have the same conclusion as most, that Devaney is even better. I attended Husker basketball games at Devaney in high school. The place looks totally transformed. *** About the game itself...it was awesome. For non-volleyball fans, you ought to know that Penn State has been a consistent rival of the Husker VB team from even before we entered the Big 10. NU-PSU have experienced many a classic match-up of evenly-matched teams through the years and decades. I was blessed to see a real humdinger of a match last Friday. It went five sets, with the Huskers' mighty defense prevailing and saving the victory. *** I had a seat four rows up from the court. Father Matya, who is pastor of the Newman Center on campus, secured the ticket for me. I didn't ask whose it was...I figured the less I knew, the better☺. When I walked to my seat, I was just amazed. I had so much fun, probably cheering louder and more exuberantly and having more fun than a grown man deserves to have. I felt more like I was seated in the student section. Several of you saw me on the Big 10 Network (BTN) as the camera spanned the crowd. *** It was cool to hear the Husker fight song, to see the red, to be with fellow Nebraskans. It brought back great memories of my college days and of attending football games. I was also blessed to have a couple of our recent high school graduates from here spot me prior to the game and come up to talk to me.

Our Office Staffing We are re-posting the need for an office secretary for our parishes. Invite any to apply if you know someone who might excel in this position.

Pray for U.S. Bishops Please pray for our bishops during their upcoming General Assembly, this

week.

God Bless You!

Father Grell