

From the Pastor—November 25, 2018

Mass Times Update *[edited and re-printed from last week]* I am going to delay the switch in Mass times on Sunday mornings until January, 2019. Also, it gives me time to survey any who wish to weigh in with their preference. These three options are what the survey would offer, if I were to print it today:

1. 8:00 a.m. at St. Mary's and 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's.
2. 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary's and 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph's.
3. 8:15 a.m. at St. Mary's and 10:45 a.m. at St. Joseph's.

Each choice has been suggested to me by parishioners. Each gives me the 2.5-hour gap which I need for my health and energy on Sundays. Each is keeping the strongly-embedded and foundational ordering of the St. Mary's Mass first and St. Joseph's second on Sunday mornings. And each is an attempt to change times as little as possible. It seems to me that the shift of only 15 or 30 minutes for either parish is a reasonable balance to what I perceive as a change necessary for my health. *** I remember my home parish of St. Joseph's, Beatrice, last making a Sunday Mass change when I was in grade school. Father Danko changed the Saturday night Mass from 7:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (I think the Huskers were playing in several night games, and he didn't want to miss them!). St. Joseph's has maintained that time for decades, along with the Sunday morning times of 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Of course, Beatrice does not have a mission parish, and we do, which drives my concern to be fair to both parishes as separate communities of faith. *** I certainly don't want to upset anybody, and I apologize if talk of Mass times has troubled you. I don't intend to cause unrest in your hearts. Rather, I desire to serve you at Holy Mass, to sing, and pray, and preach, and celebrate the Lord's mysteries well...and then to congregate and socialize with you afterward.

Husker Catholic Live I was blessed to attend Husker Catholic Live on November 9th. It is an annual dinner which supports the ministry of the Newman Center on UN-L's campus. The dinner was held at the Student Union, in the ball room, with probably 800 people in attendance. Father Robert Matya, in his 21st year as pastor, and Father Steve Mills as parochial vicar, welcomed us to the banquet. The student speaker was Lizzy Isaacson from Gretna. I enjoyed her enthusiasm for sharing with all of us the typical day she spends as a Newman Center student, with study, prayer, and social all making her life one which is fully lived. The alumni testimonial was by Olympian, Curt Tomasevicz. You may remember this Shelby native as having played for the Husker football team in the early 2000's. He then tried out for, and made, the Olympic bobsled team, where he won a gold medal in 2010 and a bronze in 2014. Curt's testimony and the way his faith played a role was very edifying. After the 2014 Sochi Olympics, he returned to UN-L and earned a Ph.D. in Biological Systems Engineering. He teaches in UN-L's College of Engineering while doing sports science research for the University's Athletic Department. Curt's mother, Amy, taught Art at Aquinas Catholic Schools in David City while I taught there. I remember well her excitement to attend the Olympics to see her son compete, something that very few parents ever get to experience. *** The Newman Center

remains close to my heart over the years, for how it helped me grow closer to Jesus as a student and for the opportunity I had to serve the Lord there as a priest and deacon.

State Football Championship Congratulations to the Aurora Husky football team! This was a fun, skilled group of players to watch all season long. I was blessed to attend the championship game versus Ord (I was a little late). I know our parish has a number of members who play, coach, cheer, or are otherwise involved. It was a wonderful atmosphere at Memorial Stadium. One of my favorite parts was the cheer competition, as the Aurora student section shouted the familiar chant, "We've got spirit, yes we do, we've got spirit, how 'bout YOU??!!" And clear across the spacious Tom Osborne Field, the Ord High student section hollered back the same cheer. It was pretty cool, as this cheer from my experience is usually done in a gym during basketball or volleyball games. To hear it done in beautiful and ginormous Memorial Stadium was just fantastic!

Birthday Party My birthday came and went, and somehow I ended up 50! It was a great weekend to be with all of you for Holy Mass, with my birthday landing on a Sunday. The party on Sunday afternoon was attended by my brother and sister, and by my nephew. A great surprise was that a parishioner found a bakery in Lincoln which caters to people with dietary restrictions like mine. It was great to eat cake that really tasted like cake! The kindness of all of you was so wonderful and very appreciated. My parents would have liked to attend, but travelling this far is hard for them. And that morning, Mom and Dad were not able to attend Mass because of the snowfall that came in Gage County. We had snow here, too, and someone commented to me that it must be nice to have a November birthday which was white. I suppose that has happened before, but I am not sure.

Church Calendars for 2019 Please pick up our church calendars for 2019. Last year, a few people missed out on the calendar, so I believe we ordered more copies this year.

Upcoming Spirit Radio Appearances I will be on Spirit Catholic Radio this week, live, for an interview on Monday, November 26, at 8:40 a.m. The on-air personalities will talk with me about the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, which Bishop Conley is encouraging our Diocese to do. I will also be providing the pre-recorded Morning Prayer segments, which air at approximately 7:10, 8:10, and 10:15 each day, Monday-Friday.

Bishop's Appeal for Vocations *[re-printed from last week]* Both parishes exceeded the given goal for the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations. This is extraordinary! I as pastor am very proud of your generosity. Please note that you may make a pledge any time on-line before January 31, 2019, at lincolndiocese.org. *** Thank you to you who were pledge takers, for being the "face" of this year's campaign. *** Our future priests appreciate you all!

God Bless You!

Father Grell

Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is Good!!!