

From the Pastor—December 2, 2018

Mass Times Update I intend to do a survey in written form, at Mass, in the near future. These are the three options for the new Mass times:

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.

Church Calendars for 2019 I hope you enjoy our church calendars for 2019. I changed the front wording a little to reflect our Catholic mission here in Hamilton County. While we may have portions of parish boundaries that edge into York and Clay Counties, the vast majority of parishioners are citizens of Hamilton County. Our Hamilton County identity binds our two parishes together as the Catholic presence for all who live here. *** Of note in the calendar is that each Friday of the year is indicated as a day of fasting. This provision is not well known among Catholics. *** Due to copyright laws, the information at the web link below does not allow written or electronic reproduction without written permission from the publisher. It is a document issued on November 18, 1966, by the United States bishops about fasting laws for Catholic Church members in our nation. I encourage you to read it and to be informed on why we fast, and when we are called to fast. I hope to preach on this topic, over time, as a good share of the responsibility for you in the pews to know about fasting rests upon me as your shepherd. *** The Church given us by Jesus Christ works in the world of today for helping us to prepare to spend all of eternity with our Savior. The more we know about how to live in such a way now so as to live with our Savior forever, the better and easier will this life be for us, life on this side of eternal life. *** Bottom line: we cannot do enough to voluntarily fast and make amendment for our sinfulness. Let no one think he or she is not in need of continuous spiritual encouragement and renewal. ***
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/us-bishops-pastoral-statement-on-penance-and-abstinence.cfm>

Our New Books for Mass Our new books for Mass, entitled "Breaking Bread", are finally in the pews! Some observations:

- The inside front flap lists the following prayers all together: "I Confess"; "Glory to God in the highest"; "I believe in one God"; and "Lord, I am not worthy".
- The order of the Mass is contained in the first 30 pages.
- All of the readings for Mass, from today until November 28, 2019, are found up through page 238. The readings do not have the short meditation preceding them as our former missalettes did.
- From page 242 until page 800, the pages are not numbered. This is because the hymns are listed on these pages. Listing only the number of the hymn avoids confusion with any page number.
- A number of the hymns will be very

familiar. Some hymns that were favorites from our former missalettes may not be included. Also, the musical tunes to the Responsorial Psalms from the former missalettes are probably not included.

- After all of the hymns, the daily Mass antiphons for Entrance and Communion are listed, as well as the response line for the Responsorial Psalm. The precise words to all of the stanzas of the psalm are not included. The daily Mass "propers" also include the Scripture citation to find the readings in the Bible, but do not print the reading in its entirety. This is similar for daily Mass as in our former missalettes.
- Beautiful Catholic prayers are on the last pages, 894-896.
- The back flap on the inside contains the prayers and hymns for Benediction.
- The back flap on the outside has other Catholic prayers, including the St. Michael Prayer. Because of these prayers being listed on the back flap, I have decided not to insert the back flap into the plastic sleeve covering.

Will the new books be a good fit for everyone? No. Will it take time to get used to them? Yes. Was this decision made lightly? No, it was made with much consultation of musicians and liturgical ministers from both parishes. *** What about following along with the Mass on your phones or devices? The Church does not forbid this, nor do I. The difficulty is that while you are following the Mass, your screen settings may allow the pop-up of a new text message or e-mail. The paper, hardcopy book in the pews is probably your best bet to enter into the Mass with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. *** Let's all pray well!

Total Consecration Those of you who accepted Bishop Conley's call to consecrate (or re-consecrate) themselves to Jesus through Mary, we reach Consecration Day this Saturday, December 8th. While we will not publicly celebrate our consecration, let's all of us (whether participating or not) pray for those who have discerned to do this consecration. And maybe, this consecration will be something to consider in your spiritual life in the future.

My Spirit Radio Interview If you want to hear my interview from Spirit Catholic Radio from November 26th, it can be found at Soundcloud at this link. I also posted the link to my facebook page. <https://soundcloud.com/user-240811127/11-26-18-fr-loras-grell-consecration-to-jesus-through-mary?in=user-240811127/sets/spirit-mornings-week-of-11-26>

When Weather Comes In situations like last weekend's winter storm, I expect people to make their best decision on whether to head out to Mass. It is a personal decision, prayerfully made, where it is quite possible to discern that you need to stay home. My parents did not go to Mass last weekend, and I think that was the right decision and not sinful on their part. I don't like to cancel Mass; we need the spiritual renewal each week.

God Bless You!

Father Grell