



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF NEW BEDFORD NORTH

St. Mary's and St. Joseph-St. Therese Mass Changes

Dear Friends:

On the weekend of April 27/28 Bishop da Cunha wrote a letter to the Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. Joseph-St. Therese and Our Lady of Fatima informing them that he needed to assign Fr. Hamel to a Collaborative assignment in Somerset/Swansea and appointed me the next Pastor of St. Joseph-St. Therese while remaining Pastor of St. Mary's. St. Mary's and St. Joseph-St. Therese would share one pastor as a linked model within the Collaborative.

As the Tri-Parish Task Force continues to discern the strategic plan for the entire collaborative and plan for the July 11th presentation to the Bishop, we must initially plan for June 26th when I assume the Pastorate of St. Joseph's while remaining Pastor of St. Mary's. It is physically impossible to maintain both parishes as they have been. I am grateful to Msgr. Oliveira who is willing to assist as his health allows.

To that end, the following Liturgical schedule will take place beginning Wednesday, June 26th. Daily Masses will be at 8AM Monday-Tuesday at St. Joseph-St. Therese and Thursday-Friday at St. Mary's. Weekend Masses at St. Joseph-St. Therese will be Saturday 4PM and Sunday 10:30AM & 7PM and St. Mary's weekend schedule will be Saturday 4PM, Sunday 8:30AM and 10:30AM. The 6:30AM Sunday Mass at SJST is being suppressed, as St. Anthony's, New Bedford has a 6:30AM Mass and can accommodate the needs of those who wish an earlier Mass. Since St. Mary's has the only Mass within the New Bedford Deanery after 12noon, we realize the importance of maintaining this evening Sunday Mass as pastorally sensitive and important. Hence, transferring the 7PM from St. Mary's to St. Joseph-St. Therese permits two daily masses in each parish and three weekend masses in each parish. St. Mary's and St. Joseph-St. Therese are canonically designated as parishes, they both must be ministered to equally and in parity. Envelopes from parishioners will be deposited in the parish accounts of their registration. So, if a parishioner of SJST attends the 8:30AM Mass at St. Mary's, their donation is deposited in the SJST bank account.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be celebrated for parishioners at both Parishes in their Parish Church.

Beginning July 6/7 weekend, there will be one Bulletin for the St. Mary's and St. Joseph-St. Therese. Our next steps will be to create a unified and redefined parish staff with one administrative location/office and one integrated Faith Formation program. Both parishes will be called to make adjustments, but in the long run, hopefully we can strengthen our Communities of Faith together as partners.

Fr. Dan