

*The Catholic Community of New Bedford North
St. Joseph-St. Therese, St. Mary, Our Lady of Fatima*



To: Parishioners
From: Fr. Raposo and Fr. Lacroix

PROPOSED NEW MASS SCHEDULE
Effective July 6 and 7, 2019

We are grateful to our planners from Worship and Sacraments together with representatives from our Administration planning teams, who met with us on June 24th to create a new mass schedule for our tri-parish community, that takes into account a few key realities:

1. We need to create a Mass schedule that best serves the needs of the people within the collaborative.
2. We need to create a Mass schedule that is poised to welcome new and different groups of people to participate in the life of the Church.
3. We need to create a Mass schedule that can be accomplished by the two priests assigned to the collaborative. We will not always have such a large pool of retired priests available for ministry.
4. This schedule eliminates the many Masses that were previously scheduled at the same time. This schedule will take the weekend Mass commitment for our priests from 10 Masses down to 5; and weekday commitments from 11 Masses to 5. In addition to the scheduled masses, based on the number of funerals over the last 12 months, we are anticipating an average of 100 funeral masses each year, that we will share. NOTE: Under Canon Law priests are only permitted to say 2 Masses a day, 3 on Sundays.
5. This schedule creates greater variety of options for Mass times throughout the week and on weekends.
6. The movement of two Masses to the weekday Noon (St. Joseph – St. Therese) will become more attractive options for a greater variety of people.
7. We'll be working with our planners through the summer to reimagine the 7pm Sunday evening Mass at St. Mary to continue to be opened to all but focused on attracting youth and young adults into greater participation in the church.
8. ENVELOPES: Members of the collaborative can place their envelopes in ANY collection in ANY church of the collaborative. Envelopes will be returned to the appropriate church each week so that your contribution will continue to support your home church.

The Planning continues...We will create an "implementation team" of sorts ~ to invite and involve parishioners from across our three parishes to become oriented to this new mass schedule. We will fill our pews and celebrate Mass with great joy and a feeling of abundance, no longer in silos and empty churches but instead, united as a family of faith! Over the next year, we will monitor mass attendance closely and continue to meet and make adjustments along the way, until together, we figure out what mass schedule will be best for everyone. We ask for your patience and prayers. Please, stay the course as we journey together. God Bless you.