

## The Monroe-Clinton Parishes

**Blessed Sacrament**  
**259 Rutgers St.**  
**Rochester, NY 14607**

**Saint Boniface**  
**330 Gregory St.**  
**Rochester, NY 14620**

**Saint Mary's**  
**15 St. Mary's Place**  
**Rochester, NY 14607**

*Below are responses to questions parishioners have asked about the new Mass schedule:*

### **1. What is the new weekend Mass schedule and when will it begin?**

- The new Mass Schedule is :  
Saturdays: 4:00 pm St. Mary's, 5:00 pm St. Boniface  
Sundays: 9:00 am St. Boniface, 10:00 am Blessed Sacrament, 10:30 am St. Mary's,  
12:15 pm Blessed Sacrament
- The new Mass Schedule begins the weekend of June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### **2. How was the decision on the new Mass schedule made? Did you simply count votes?**

- An Ad Hoc Committee with representatives from all three parishes proposed specific criteria to guide the decision and possible schedules. These criteria were listed in your original letter.
  - Keep all 3 parishes "vibrant, healthy, Catholic communities" with 2 weekend Masses at each of the 3 worship sites. This will result in liturgies that allow all parishioners "full, conscious and active participation."
  - Ensure that the two priests have enough time to travel between churches, to preside at Mass, and to interact with parishioners afterwards.
  - Allow sufficient time for families to participate in both Mass and faith formation/youth ministry.
  - Minimize the disruption to parishioners in their current Mass attendance patterns as much as possible given the challenge of 3 fewer Masses.
- The Monroe- Clinton Strategic Leadership Committee finalized the criteria, reviewed the proposed Mass times, and added some other suggestions. The Mass options were reviewed with parish pastoral councils and staffs.
- On November 8<sup>th</sup> a letter was sent out to each of our registered parishioners asking for their preference regarding 3 options for Mass times and reasons for their choice, which Mass they were likely to attend, and additional comments. These were not votes. Then each parish hosted town meetings to clarify the process and ask for more input.
- On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, the Strategic Leadership Committee analyzed the parishioner input, reviewed the hard data, reviewed the criteria and heeded the pastoral needs expressed by the parishioners. Although no perfect schedule could be agreed upon, the Strategic Leadership Committee came to a consensus on a Mass schedule by making concessions and compromises so that the most important pastoral needs of each parish could be met. This schedule will be evaluated throughout the coming year and needed adjustments will be made the second year.

### **3. How did St. Mary's end up with a 10:30 Mass when that time wasn't even on the survey?**

- See above: Many suggestions by parishioners, pastoral leaders and the Strategic Leadership Committee were made after the initial choices were sent out.

**4. Why are there going to be two Saturday Masses when these Masses are less attended than others?**

- It was the recommendation of the pastoral leaders of St. Boniface and St. Mary’s that the people who attended these Masses had a very strong community and history with the parishes that should not be diminished.

**5. Why won’t there be an early Sunday morning Mass?**

- Although people from all three parishes felt it was very important to have an early Mass somewhere in the tri-parish configuration, we could not come up with a plan that satisfied all our desires. We regret that we were unable to accommodate this preference.

**6. How will the music for each Mass be decided?**

- Each parish is making this decision independently.

**7. When will the evaluation of the new Mass schedule take place and what will be evaluated?**

- The Mass schedule will be re-evaluated throughout this first year and needed adjustments will be made the second year.
- There are many concerns to be addressed in the evaluation, in addition to evaluating our experience according to the original criteria. Some of these are:

(in no particular order of importance) parking, accessibility of the priests after Mass for the purposes of participating in parish life and building relationships, financial implications, faith formation/youth ministry and sacramental preparation schedules, the overall impact the changes have made to each community, and any unforeseen issues that arise. A pastoral approach to problem solving will involve input from parishioners, parish staff, the Strategic Leadership Committee, and others.

**8. What about Mass times for week days and holy days?**

- While we know there will be adjustments to the daily Mass and Holy Day schedules, no decisions can be made until our second priest is assigned.

**9. When will faith formation/youth ministry sessions be held?**

- Times for faith formation classes and youth ministry gatherings will be known by the time registration materials for 2011-2012 are sent to families.

**10. If I have a question, how can I get an answer to it?**

If you have any other questions that you would like us to answer, please use the space below.

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 Fold and tear off; drop in collection basket. Your question will be addressed in a future bulletin insert. Please include your name and phone or e-mail if you want to be contacted by a member of the Monroe-Clinton Strategic Leadership Committee. You may also email Nancy Ashe, co-chair of the Strategic Leadership Committee at nashe8@gmail.com.

**Name (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone or e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My question is:**

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