

ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

A PARISH OF THE HOLY SAINTS AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



June 14, 2020

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
in tempore universalis contagii

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary Help of Christians,

As the transition to a new Mass Schedule for this Area Catholic Community draws closer, I want to inform you about some of the changes to anticipate, come July.

The Weekend Schedule

On Saturdays, the following Masses will be routinely celebrated in the Holy Saints Area Catholic Community: 4 PM at The Church of the Holy Cross; 5 PM at St. Anne's; 6:30 PM at St. Mary Help of Christians.

On Sundays, the following Masses will be routinely celebrated in the Holy Saints Area Catholic Community: 8 AM at St. Mary Help of Christians; 9 AM at St. Nicholas; 10:30 AM at St. Wendelin's.

As a general rule, all liturgical celebrations are open to all Catholics. Nevertheless, in this time of pandemic, particular churches can only accommodate a particular number based on their seating arrangement and other factors. Please study up and ask questions before attending Holy Mass anywhere in the Holy Saints ACC. Remember, too, that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass remains in place.

The Weekday Schedule

Each day of the week, Holy Mass will be available in at least one of the churches of the Holy Saints ACC.

On Monday, Holy Mass will be celebrated at 8 AM at St. Anne's.

On Tuesday, Holy Mass will be celebrated at 8 AM at St. Nicholas, and 6 PM at St. Mary Help of Christians.

On Wednesday, Holy Mass will be celebrated at 7:45 AM at St. Wendelin, and 8 AM at St. Anne.

On Thursday, Holy Mass will be celebrated at 7:45 AM at St. Wendelin, and 8 AM at St. Mary Help of Christians.

On Friday, Holy Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM at Holy Cross.

Mass Stipends

The venerable tradition of making an offering (a stipend) to the priest in order that he celebrate Holy Mass for a particular intention has always been retained by the Church. However, mindful that it doesn't look good for priests to get rich off Mass stipends, Holy Mother Church has established some rules. Except for some extraordinary cases which require coordination with Diocesan authorities and, sometimes, the Holy See, a priest may only celebrate Holy Mass for one intention that has a stipend attached; if he has two intentions with stipends, he must celebrate two separate Masses. Every pastor is obliged to celebrate one Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation for the parishioners of all the parishes he serves as pastor. He cannot accept an additional intention at that Mass if the intention has a stipend attached. If he does not celebrate this Mass for his parishioners on a given Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation, he has to celebrate it on a subsequent day as soon as possible. If the priest celebrates two or more Masses in a day, each with an intention with a stipend attached, he can only keep the stipend from one of those Masses, except on Christmas. The stipends he cannot keep must be sent to a diocesan fund.

The parishes of the Holy Saints ACC have a rich custom of keeping the tradition of offering Mass stipends. Tentatively, starting in July, we will keep the scheduling of those intentions with the day and place the person offering the stipend wants the intention prayed. For instance, if someone from St. Mary Help of Christians wants a Mass read in the Holy Saints ACC for his parents on, May 19, 2021, a Wednesday, as well as his parents' 42nd Wedding Anniversary, he can call either St. Wendelin or St. Anne and see if the date is available.

Because of the complexity of this new Mass Schedule across five locations, once an intention has been set, it cannot be moved unless, due to good reasons, that Mass is entirely canceled. For instance, as has been my practice here and in other assignments, when a funeral Mass takes place, the regularly scheduled daily Mass is not celebrated. However, I do still offer that stipended intention at the funeral Mass. If I was sick, or on retreat, or on vacation, or otherwise impeded from celebrating Mass in the ACC at all, and no substitute priest available, only then would the Mass intention be rescheduled.

I realize this is in some respects a change from past practices, but the efficacy of the Holy Mass never changes. Wherever Holy Mass is offered, on any altar in the world, by any Catholic priest, it is for the salvation of the Church and the World, as it is a recapitulation of Jesus's sacrifice on the Holy Cross, a sacrifice made out of love for all human beings in every time and place.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Matthew Crane
Pastor