

Announcement about Change of Mass Times at St. Thomas More Parish

In December, as co-chair of the Pastoral Council, Karen Austin gave a state of the Parish address for our Parish Leadership Team, where she focused on changes that we as a community were facing. She mentioned how change is hard and that Jesus has challenged us to change ourselves. At that time, she had no idea how many changes we would be dealing with. For those of you who may have missed it, Father Thumbi, announced his departure because of changes in priest assignments that will be effective on the first of July.

Last weekend, Karen announced about pending Mass Time Changes, which will reduce the number of Masses offered at St. Thomas More Parish, also slated to start the first weekend in July. The exact times for a new schedule have not yet been determined. Mass reductions are part of several considerations, some of which Karen reviewed with us.

On the back side of this Announcement is a letter from Archbishop Sartain who speaks of meeting the needs of the changing demographics within our larger church. This letter is a summary of a “White Paper” that covers the Strategic Planning for the Archdiocese.

Another consideration is that our church is not being used to capacity. The distance between parishioners in attendance at Mass is noticeable. Additionally, Canonical Law limits the number of Masses that are to be celebrated by priests on weekends... and that number is Lower than 5.

Most importantly, with the consolidation of Mass Times, we will be able to get to know other members of our community as we share our Eucharistic table. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we will have an opportunity to get to know our family better.

Being Pentecost Kareb pointed out, “Today we celebrate how the Holy Spirit can guide us and help to unify us. When we remain open to the Love that God, Our Father, so freely gives us, we will continue to find Peace and Mercy despite any fears that change announcements bring.”

If you would like to comment or have questions about these changes you can approach Pastoral Council Members. Also some copies of the White Paper will be available for your perusal as well.

Thank you for your consideration