

Parishioner Response Form October 30, 2017

What does the transitional pastoral council need to know about how you are experiencing the changes underway in the Elmira Catholic Community - positives, concerns, questions:

My husband son & I don't feel at home in any church now. We are still trying to find our place. 4pm Mass @ St. Mary's is way too crowded now for us. There are significant problems with parking & handicapped accessibility at that location. There is too much variability in how things are done between churches right now - very little continuity and consistency; every priest & deacon & church does things differently; we rarely know what to expect when we go to Mass, even in the same church building.

Feel like the later Sunday Mass @ St. Mary's (11:30) is keeping young families from attending the Mass at all. It is near lunch and many families with younger children don't come because it is difficult for the kids' families. (from St. Mary's parish member)

We still need to reduce staff & sell property.

I am involved with a choir & would like to have consistency in knowing where we are singing - a calendar.

Pretty positive overall - it is just difficult to get used to the new Mass changes. Got to consult the bulletin weekly.

Would like to have 4pm Sat at St. Peter & Paul. St. Mary's too crowded, 5:30 St Pete too late & dark.

I think things are moving along well. I have made it my aim to go to all the churches. I feel comfortable in them all.

Need to post parish council minutes online to follow up on changes. Announcements at Mass.

Good meeting! Please have 4pm Sat at BOTH St. Mary's & Sts. Peter & Paul.

Concern - non-Catholic atmosphere. I'm going to some churches that I have not gone to before the change and not being treated as a member of the community. They look at me as a stranger.

The 4pm should be at Sts. Peter & Paul's Church, and St. Casimir's should be a 10:30 Mass as children are at FFC & can go across driveway to attend.

So far it is working for us. Will continue to wait and see.

There needs to be trainings for the various lay ministries (Eucharistic ministers, lectors, etc.) in order to be consistent in all churches of the ECC. Trainings have been talked about but not scheduled.

I am unhappy with the 5:30 Mass numbers are declining. Some previous 4pm members are watching the Mass on TV (it is cheaper for them (can't read next words)). Also, parking is difficult for the elderly. 5:30 Mass is too late in the winter.

Change Sat Masses: 4pm Sts. Peter & Paul; 5:30 at St. Mary's. The elderly in the high rises at Sts. P&P will have increasing difficulty with the weather (walking) and days getting shorter. Mass change for 10 to 10:30 needed.

Can confession be temporarily moved from Sat at St. Mary's to another location, to avoid conflicts w/weddings & funerals? Timing yourself to avoid the photographer is challenging and bothersome. I do 1st Saturday devotions so Saturday confession is extremely important.

It's been very difficult as you well know. I really miss the 4:30pm Mass at Lady of Lourdes Saturday nights & have not yet gotten used to Sunday am Mass usually 9am at L of L & yet I belong to Blessed Sacrament. We go where we can.

It seems people are accepting and becoming comfortable with attending Mass at various church locations.

Would love to see shorter, more to the point sermons - like at daily Mass - so much more meaningful, especially with kids & younger adults.

Don't like 5:30 pm Mass at Sts. P&P. Too late.

Enjoy & experience love & community, esp. @ 11:30 am Mass @ St. Mary's.

Not having a feeling of being welcome at other churches.

I've noticed an abundance of people at some Masses (hard to get a seat) and many fewer at other Masses. I've heard many unhappy parishioners grumbling. My children and their families are unhappy with the Sun am schedule re: having their children attend Rel. Ed. and try to get to a Mass together. The music groups schedule changes are confusing, a bit disruptive, and have led to inconsistency at best. With busy schedules it is much easier to carve out 1 regular time to sing and practice, and not very easy to change week to week. I will continue to go with the flow, attend Mass and sing. My faith is important! I'll do my best to cooperate and try to be helpful!!

What ideas do you have to continue to build our community and strengthen our ministries?

I agree with Guy's comment that young people/adults are motivated to come to Mass out of conviction, more than for comfort or cultural factors.

Involve younger children in any of the Masses to give them a sense of participation & pride in their church. (from St. Mary's parish member)

St. Mary's always had a children's Mass. Why can't we go to an 11:00 am Mass so the religious ed class has time to get to St. Mary's?

More social activities for all ages:

1. Sundae Sunday
2. Love the Welcome Package idea
3. Dances
4. Bake sales/candy sales
5. Cards for military veterans - at Nov. 11 and Christmas.

Continue to progress toward 1 parish.

Process for requesting Mass for deceased. Post financial yearly records - salaries/cost/expenditures/income

It's almost impossible - some people just want to go to church for 1 hour or less - nothing else!

If changing St. Pat's to 10:30, how about Lourdes at 9:30 and putting back an 8am Mass somewhere, probably Sts. Peter & Paul's.

Respect, trust and complete openness to all.

We need to have more parish get-togethers. We need to get to know each other.

Our priests need to invite the Bishop to spend a weekend and visit and speak to parishioners at each Mass.

Like the emphasis on volunteers.

Lay minister schedules need to be delivered in a more timely manner, not the end of the month for the following month.

Have a more consistent priest at a particular Mass instead of it always changing.

Would like to see greater opportunities for our children & youth (addressed during this meeting - thank you)

Change festival location to Faith Formation Center. Encompass ideas from various festivals: shrimp & clams, chicken barbecue, etc.

Intercession & bringing Jesus' wisdom and love as much as possible.

Make sure ALL the churches are treated the same. Some have 2 weekend Masses, others have 1.

Build community: More outreach (such as those you've suggested) plus, add outreach to newly married, not just baptisms and funerals. **Strengthen**: Allow music decisions to be made at the operating level - accompanists, directors/conductors - not totally from above. Some types of music are better for certain groups - not all music fits all groups.

Are there particular ways in which you want to be involved? (If so, please describe them and include your name and contact information.)

Music ministry, parish life activities.

I was a lector but accidentally got left off the schedule! I want back on.

We are very involved in choir and Thurs 5:30 & Fri 9am & 1st Saturday. Please consider St. Charles for Sat or Sunday Mass - great lighting, easy access on south door, etc!

Wish to look at all opportunities.

When you need me.

Not at this time. I have been very active in the past.

There is a proposal to modify the weekend Mass Schedule slightly: change the time of the 10:00 am Mass at St. Patrick's to 10:30 am to accommodate the families whose children attend faith formation Sunday mornings and at the same time address the need for a family Mass with the focus more child friendly. We will evaluate the entire Mass schedule after it has been in operation for one year.

I thought you were supposed to evaluate at 6 mos!!!

Question - will this be the only family/child friendly Mass?

Can you envision any way this change would negatively impact any of our other weekend Masses?

Resentment from people in churches that used to have 10:30 am Masses and no longer have 10:30 Masses. Now St. Patrick's gets that 10:30 Mass back but the other churches don't.

St. Mary's has always had their 10:30 Mass be a family Mass which, since the Mass time has changed, our "community" has diminished. I would advocate for either changing the 11:30 Mass to 11:00 and/or back to the 10:30 Mass time we originally had. (from St. Mary's parish member)

Any way we can help families get their children to Mass is always a plus.

Agree there should be a complimentary Mass for faith formation students. Excused time 10:15am, I question safety of picking up child/children, rush to SP, find a place to park, etc. Why not flip churches? 10:30 at St. Casimir's - children walk across lot to meet family. Beneficial if gathering of children & families for a specific meeting - more convenient. 7:30 at St. P. Let's look at 5:30 pm Sat Mass at SPP - get out at 6:35-6:45. Late/dark, not eating dinner til 7 or later. Have 1 hour time between 9 & 10 (Sun). Regional Mass 5 pm. Why can't SPP be at 5 pm, especially when >75% of the population is >55 years old. Let's look at their needs.

This is the way it should have been from the beginning. Making it more difficult for families with children to get to Mass and Religious Ed is not conducive for building the church.

No - it will be good for families with children - and we need children for overall stability & growth.

No. Why don't you have the 10:30 at St. Casimir's and move the 7:30 am to St. Pat's? Would make logistical sense. Also 7:30 needs to be at a larger church to accommodate the number of people attending.

As long as the CCD is at Faith Formation, I feel the 10:30 am should be at St. Casimir's because of safety. I feel 4:00 pm should be put back to Sts. Peter & Paul's, especially in the winter. I don't drive at night so it is difficult to get to Sts. P&P at 5:30pm.

10:30 Mass should be @ St. Casimir's.

Makes good sense for families' convenience!

Would like to see Sat nite Mass changed from 5:30 to 4:30 or 5 - St. Mary's is so crowded, wonder about the safety. Also with winter approaching 5:30 so late!

Yes - now several families attend 11:30 Mass. If they move to the 10:30 Mass, many fewer will attend 11:30, which is already a low attendance Mass.

Are you in favor of this change? 40 yes 4 no 12 (other/no answer)

I only support this to address the scheduling problem with Sunday am faith formation this academic year. I believe the faith formation time on Sunday morning should be evaluated. Also, if there is a Mass near the end of faith formation time, I believe the location should be St. Casimir - no driving required.

I propose that the 10:30 Mass be held @ St. Mary's & the 11:30 @ St. Pat's. This is due to the fact that Holy Family School is co-located w/St. Mary's. The children identify this church as their church & the family Mass at St. Mary's makes more sense. 11:30 is too late for family/children's Mass due to conflicts w/sports schedules. Also, families attending Holy Family mixed with families not attending w/recruiting potential for H.F.

Needs to be at St. Casimir's at 10:30 am.

Maybe - but does 10:30 have to be at St. Pat's?

Any comments or other feedback?

Have a children's faith formation at each church.

The process of merging overall seems to be going well. Tweaks are sure to continue.

Please post priests' Mass schedule.

One of the things at Sts. Peter & Paul's is the lighting's so much better than St. Mary's. The lighting at St. Mary's is not good after dark.

Another idea is to move the 11:30 am Mass at St. Mary's back to 11 & make it the children's/family Mass.

We should be aware of everything going on in this process via the bulletin, email & website. Do not hide anything. (BE OPEN)

What of OLL convent?

Volunteer opportunities posted in bulletin/on Facebook. Facebook is an excellent communication tool - keep the Facebook page current.

I think 7:30 am is a little early. I would like to see 8:00 am at St. Casimir's. We still need to cultivate the children.

Don't you think 5:30pm Mass at St. Pete's on Saturday night is way too late for the winter months?? Why not 4:30?

Disappointed that we don't move over to let others sit in the pew. (Very selfish!)