

The Elmira Catholic Parishes Blessed Sacrament, Christ the Redeemer, St. Mary's

Creating a New Weekend Mass Schedule

March 18-19, 2017

The weekend Mass schedule will change in July when we have two full-time priests (plus our senior priests) serving the Catholics of Elmira. Please read through the information below and plan to attend one of the parishioner church hall meetings on Monday, March 27: 2:00-4:00 pm or 6:30-8:30 pm in the St. Charles Borromeo Church Hall.

Who makes the decision and when?

The planning team, after input from parishioners, at their April 5th meeting. The new Mass schedule will be communicated to parishioners the weekend of April 8-9 and will go into effect at the beginning of July.

How will they decide?

Analysis of data and prayerful discernment of what schedule best serves the needs of all Elmira area Catholics will be important. The following principles will guide decision making:

- Maximize Mass attendance and participation in Mass by offering a variety of times and family Masses.
- Minimize the disruption to parishioners in their current Mass attendance patterns as much as possible given the challenge of fewer Masses.
- Mass times and locations will displace as few people as possible.
- Consider the financial impact of whatever decisions we make.
- Allow enough time between Masses so that the priests can spend some time with parishioners after a Mass, occasionally visit faith formation classes, and then, if necessary, travel to another church.
- Acknowledge that some families need to be able to attend Mass and have their children participate in faith formation classes on Sunday mornings, while recognizing that other faith formation options are available.
- Mass times and locations that help unify the parishioners of the Elmira Catholic Community.
- Maintain the Sunday evening regional Mass.

What options are being considered?

The planning team agreed to present the following options to parishioners for feedback. The final Mass schedule may be one of these or something somewhat different, depending on the input received. You will notice that none of these options anticipates having a weekend Mass at St. Charles Borromeo. **All options keep the Sunday 5:00 pm regional Mass at St. Patrick's.**

Option A

Saturday: 4:00 pm Ss. Peter and Paul, 4:00 pm St. Mary's

Sunday: 8:00 am St. Casimir, 9:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes, 10:00 am St. Mary's, 11:00 am St. Patrick

Option B1

Saturday: 4:00 pm St. Mary's, 4:30 pm Ss. Peter and Paul

Sunday: 8:00 am St. Patrick, 9:30 am Our Lady of Lourdes, 11:00 am St. Mary's, 7:30 pm St. Casimir

Option B2

Saturday: 4:00 pm St. Mary's, 4:30 pm Ss. Peter and Paul

Sunday: 8:00 am St. Casimir, 9:30 am Our Lady of Lourdes, 11:00 am St. Mary's, 7:30 pm St. Patrick

How can I give my input?

You can share your views at the 3/27 parishioner church hall meetings or by speaking with any planning team member. The planning team members have compiled their own opinions regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each of the Mass schedule options. These will be summarized in the presentation on 3/27 and the complete list is included on the Elmira Catholic Parishes website:

<http://www.elmiracatholic.org/home.html>.

The input the planning team is seeking includes responses to the following questions:

1. What additional advantages and/or disadvantages do you see regarding the Mass schedule options presented by the planning team?
2. What has the planning team missed or overlooked in their work to create a healthy weekend Mass schedule which serves the needs of all as best as is possible?
3. Do you have specific ideas for ways to improve any of the Mass schedule options that have been presented?

Here is some information about our current Masses that you might find helpful. More is available on the website.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>% Occ.</u>
SM	SM	Sat	4:00 PM	255	245	212	214	210	567	37%
SM	SM	Sun	8:00 AM	177	186	158	195	168	567	30%
SM	SM	Sun	10:30 AM	251	252	192	195	203	567	36%
BS	SP&P	Sat	4:00 PM	370	353	358	326	269	447	60%
BS	SP&P	Sun	8:00 AM	181	181	187	163	193	447	43%
BS	SP	Sun	10:30 AM	345	357	348	328	293	547	54%
Region	SP	Sun	5:00 PM	265	305	292*	279	247	547	45%
CTR	OLL	Sat	4:30 PM	192	167	176	150	140	414	34%
CTR	SCB	Sun	7:30 AM	136	140	139	132	126	536	24%
CTR	SCas	Sun	10:30 AM	232	204	150	190	170	417	41%
				2,404	2,390	2,212	2,172	2,019		

** This number is an estimate because there was no number entered for the 5:00 Mass in 2014.*

Thank you for your participation in this important work. Please pray for our parishes and ask for God's guidance as we work together to choose a weekend Mass schedule that will be most beneficial to all our parishioners.

The Elmira Planning Team