

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In around 6 weeks, the faith communities of Holy Name of Mary, St. John de LaSalle and Sts. Peter & Paul will come together to form a new united parish. Our mission is clear: Build Community, Inspire Witness and Make Disciples. I'm excited about our future together.

Essential to our new community and the related ministries is our worship and sacramental life. We have lived through a global pandemic and experienced changes in the way we worship. We will experience more changes in our worship as we come together.

Our unification is about more than structure and operations. If we are to be a new united parish, we must be together. As St. Paul wrote, "You are strangers and aliens no longer. No, you are fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God. You form a building which rises on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is fitted together and takes shape as a holy temple in the Lord; in him you are being built into this temple, to become a dwelling place for God in the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22).

I wanted to share the Mass schedule that will go into effect on July 1, 2022. The decisions outlined have been discerned in prayer after receiving input from the pastors and parish leadership. The rationale behind when this is occurring (I am sure some feel we are moving too quickly) is both pastoral and practical. The feast day of Saint Peter and Paul is June 29th; Sunday, June 26th will provide the parishioners and friends the opportunity to celebrate not only the feast day but also the wonderful history of the parish as it embarks on its new journey. The pastor of St. John De LaSalle is embarking on his new ministry as a hospital chaplain July 1st, Sunday, 26th of June would be the appropriate day to celebrate not only his time as pastor but also the wonderful history of the parish as it embarks on its new journey.

From a practical standpoint the thought was if we are truly combining to become a new reality then I, as pastor, need to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with all of you together. Also, to have masses going on at two or three sites simultaneously is not practical for a parish that will have two full time priests on staff.

I share this information knowing that change is difficult, but change is necessary to maintain a vibrant Catholic presence on the Far Southside of Chicago.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Bob Gilbert

Pastor

Holy Name of Mary, St John de LaSalle and Sts. Peter and Paul

Phases of Unification into One Worship Site

Sunday Worship at St. John de LaSalle, Sts. Peter & Paul, and Holy Name of Mary ceases after services on Sunday, June 26, 2022.

First Mass at the new, unified parish takes place at the Holy Name of Mary Church site on July 3rd at 10am.

Regular Mass schedule is as follows:

Weekday Mass:

9:00am on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at Holy Name of Mary site. **

Weekend masses:

4:00pm on Saturday (beginning July 9th)

10:00am on Sunday (beginning July 3rd) at Holy Name of Mary Church site.

Special celebrations (not Sunday masses) including funerals, baptisms and weddings may continue at St. John De LaSalle and Sts. Peter and Paul church sites until the Christ the King weekend 2022.

All sacramental celebrations will be celebrated at the Holy Name of Mary Church Site effective the 1st Sunday of Advent 2022.

**Tuesday daily Mass to move to St. John de LaSalle Church site during the School year to coincide with School Mass