

Principles and Practical Considerations Guiding Selection of a new Weekend Mass Schedule for the Auburn-N. Cayuga Parishes

The Auburn-N. Cayuga Planning Team agreed to the following principles and practical considerations at their February 15, 2018 meeting. These will need to be weighed and balanced against each other as various possible Mass schedules are considered, since no Mass schedule will equally honor all.

- Enhance the participation of the faithful.
- Minimize the disruption to parishioners in their current Mass attendance patterns as much as possible given the challenge of fewer Masses.
- Pay attention to liturgical ministries, especially the existence of strong choirs or music groups. Where possible, choose vibrant music over weaker options.
- Allow the largest number of parishioners to attend Mass at more convenient, popular Mass times.
- Allow sufficient time for the priest to travel between sites for Masses, including in winter weather.
- Allow sufficient time for the priest to prepare for Mass and to interact with parishioners afterward.
- The Mass schedule may affect the times for Sunday morning faith formation sessions, but families will be able to participate in both Mass and religious education.
- Pay attention to the potential impact on the Offertory. Anticipate that Mass attendance may decline – at least initially. Consider how that will affect the Offertory.