

Auburn-N. Cayuga Parishioner Meetings
April 25, 2018
Compiled Parishioner Responses

What additional advantages/disadvantages do you see regarding any of the Mass schedule options presented by the planning team?

- Eliminate 1 Mass @ St. Mary's
- For me, it is more convenient to have the Sun. am Mass as is the other times suggested are too early.
- Ss. Mary and Martha Parish is home to me. I love St. Frances as well. I'm sorry we are losing a Mass.
- Very little disadvantages for most.
- Accommodations are still in place for Sun. working people to get to Sun. Mass.
- As parishioners try to continue to attend Mass and find the time that fits their family best – please be understanding and facilitate Mass envelopes being used at different churches and sending it to appropriate church to support healthy finances for keeping churches open. Thank you!
- I'm disappointed in both options for the Ss. Mary and Martha Parish. I would be open to a 9:30 or 10 am Mass as I love to be able to arrive early to do my rosary and prayers. Please consider as late a time as possible for the Sun. Mass. Thank you.
- PLEASE – Reconsider 6 pm Sat. Mass at Holy Family.
- Why are we going from 6 to 4 priests?
- In cluster 2 – all Sat. Masses are the same. 6 pm is not practical for Holy Family. Maybe St. Alphonsus or Sacred Heart should consider that time slot. St. Mary's has 4 Masses – St. John's none. It appears St. Mary's, St. Alphonsus and Sacred Heart aren't making any sacrifices.
- I think the options were well thought out. I hope sensitivity is given to the Ss. Mary and Martha issue.
- For Ss. Mary and Martha, Option A is good or Option B, make the 8:30 am later.
- St. Mary's should give up at least 1 of their Sun. Masses. Prefer Option A for Ss. Mary and Martha Parish.
- Cluster 2 – if St. Ann only has a Mass during the summer, the year-round parish family may feel negated which could have a overall more negative affect.
- As we are being reduced to only one Mass on Sun. (Ss. Mary and Martha), I feel it only right to keep Mass at 10 am – not earlier as suggested.
- Ss. Mary and Martha has gone through so much with clustering already. We should not lose another Mass!!
- Why does St. Mary's have 4 Masses on the weekend? Not giving any change. They would make room for 3 Masses. All should share equally.
- A huge impact on our elderly population of the 6 pm Mass very difficult.
- Change is hard. God bless your people.
- I am one of many senior citizen's belonging to Holy Family. It would be an inconvenience in more ways than one to attend "Mass" at 6 pm.
- I feel blessed to have as many Mass options as we have presently, and I realize how daunting this task of re-arranging times has been for the committee. I will find a Mass each week regardless of what the final schedule is. Thank you.
- The 6 pm Sat. at Holy Family will not wash – too late – are you designing this to close Holy Family??
- At my parish (Sacred Heart) whatever is fine. (St. Ann Option 1)

- It would seem that the approach to this issue would serve us all better if it were more global, not just examining Mass times while we have other large issues: i.e., fiscal responsibility to maintain physical plants, the health and welfare of our priests.
- I thank the entire committee for their hard work.
- In cluster #2 – Option 2 is no good for St. Ann’s. I believe that if it closed in winter, you will lose the regulars that keep it going.
- Disadvantage – Holy Family 6 pm Sat. because of the elderly, too late.
- Personally, I think the proposed Mass schedules for each cluster of churches gives us enough options to attend a Mass on the weekend, whether it be our home parish or not.
- As a Sacred Heart parishioner, I don’t see any disadvantages to the Mass schedules.
- 6 pm Mass at any church is bad for any parish, especially for winter time.
- Leave any early Sat. Mass at Holy Family.
- The schedule gives St. Mary’s 4 Masses and Holy Family and St. Hyacinth lose a Mass.
- 1 less Mass at St. Mary and Martha
- As a parishioner of Holy Family parish– continue with 4:30 Sat. Mass! Let another church have the 6 pm Sat. Mass.
- Disadvantages: 6 pm at Holy Family – There are fund raising dinners after the 4:30 pm Mass at Holy Family. These are great for community building. These would be eliminated if we had 6 pm Mass.
- Making St. Ann’s seasonal would certainly be detrimental to parish. Parishioners currently traveling from Skaneateles would strongly be affected.
- Disadvantage to Holy Family with 6 pm Sat. Mass. The current 4:30 pm is more convenient for the 2 housing centers nearby and Holiday Inn guests – for walking and better lighting. I would guess more people drive to Sacred Heart and may be able to handle 6 pm better.
- Holy Family Mass at 6 pm Sat. from 4:30 pm Sat. is a disadvantage and doesn’t meet the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th guiding principles. It is too late with the elderly, meal times and darkness. Principle #9 will more than likely affect attendance and offertory in a negative way.
- 6 pm Mass at Holy Family is dangerous due to darkness in winter months. Seniors (most of the parishioners) may stay home. Plus they also give up one Mass.
- The 6 pm option works for almost no one! To have Sat. Mass later than 5 or at the very latest 5:30 is not an acceptable plan.

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?

- [Port Byron] Travel for Port Byron people in order to attend Mass.
- We didn’t talk about the efforts expended by our Priests and Deacons.
- Parking!
- One of principles guiding decision-making: minimize disruption to parishioners etc. (I do not believe this has been addressed to all parishes – some have more disruptions suggested than others and then some parishes have no changes).
- Please do not give Ss. Mary and Martha an 8:30 am Mass.
- We must take into consideration older people attending.
- Not sure anything was overlooked – it looked good to me. I feel our priests should be #1 in all decisions and the people will follow.
- Culture of the parish (respect for the Mass)
- RE: Mass preference questions below – road travel for some, especially in winter.
- This seems to “whitewash” parish identity; if anything, this time in the world we all need stronger, not weaker, connections to God and our faith.

- New consideration for 6 pm Mass at Holy Family?
- A Sun. morning (in each parish) dedicated as a children's Mass with all the kids participating and all parents, grandparents, parishioners being a very happy part of it!!!
- St. Mary's – limited parking, but they are scheduled for 4 Masses.
- Eliminate 9 & 11 at St. Mary's and change it to 11 am.
- Healthy underlined in the statement – children's Mass would be great and maybe bring people back and bring more money into church collection.
- Remains to be seen.
- Omit 1 Mass at St. Mary's.
- Holy Family has activities after the 4:30 Masses.
- The aging population at Holy Family.
- Transportation issues for parishioners at Holy Family.
- The Planning Team deserves our appreciation for a very difficult job.
- At Holy Family, they plan some suppers/events after the 4:30 pm Mass which are fundraisers that not only help Holy Family, but the Auburn community as well (such as "Lunches for Love" which they raise money for and for scholarships). Also, I believe sufficient parking should be considered with clustering.
- Parking should be a big consideration especially if churches are clustered. St. Mary's has too many Masses. Please note the attendance of certain churches will likely change due to Mass schedule changes and parking will certainly be a big consideration to where I'll worship.
- St. Ann has a strong community—to shut that down for over 6 months risks their connection. Also winter driving from rural areas and Skaneateles will be dangerous and longer. Option #1 best.
- While asking everyone sacrifice—St. Mary's and St. Alphonsus lose no liturgies—times adjust but number of liturgies unaffected—not just!!

Do you have specific ideas for ways to improve any of the Mass schedule options that have been presented?

- [Port Byron] Delete one of the Masses at St. Mary's and give Port Byron a Mass. Why should St. Mary's have 4 Masses and Port Byron none? There are other churches people from Auburn can attend without having to travel 8 miles, while the people of Port Byron have no option but to travel at least 3-10 miles. This is unfair to the Port Byron people.
- Thank you for reviewing our comments. GOD BLESS!
- Thank you everyone for all the hard work you have all done. God Bless you all!
- No wish I did – maybe ordain Women?
- I am happy with whatever you decide.
- Reduce length of Mass by less singing, shorter sermons and 1 lector for readings to give priests more travel time. Encourage parishioners to sing as we have aging choir members. The most important part of Mass is the Consecration and receiving the Eucharist.
- Make sure Sat./Sun. Masses at St. Francis and St. Hyacinth should be 6 months Sat. at church A and Sun. at church B. It sounds like 8 am for their Sun. Mass would be preferred, maybe?
- Promote more Auburn community events such as the Thanksgiving Day Mass to develop a more "global" faith community rather than "our parish."
- I support the idea presented tonight to move the early Sun. Mass from St. Mary's to Ss. Mary and Martha, so a Mass is not taken away.
- Keep the 10 am Mass at St. Francis and St. Hyacinth. We don't need more change as we went through the consolidation and made many changes for the people.
- Just a note of thanks to our priests for their gift to Jesus' flock.

- Whatever you decide as a group for the Auburn area is OK and will pray for more priests, your health and safety, above all for an end of abortion which has killed countless future priests. May God Bless and keep you happy and well.
- How about 5 pm Mass at Holy Family?
- Will there be a council for each cluster? Will it replace each Parish Council?
- Leave St. Ann's open year-round.
- It seems if you close St. Ann's for several months, people may not come back.
- I feel sad for Holy Family – 6:00 is not good.
- Adopting a more thorough plan for the “Church of the Auburn Community” is, in my opinion, much more practical ≠ feasible outcomes.
- I will support any decision – whatever is best for the priests.
- Eliminate 1 Mass at St. Mary's for fairness and less stress on priests.
- No. I think it is doable if the priests can cover them all.
- Eliminate 9 & 11 at St. Mary's and change it to 11 am.
- Not at this time.
- I like change, BUT –I believe the Catholic hierarchy and the Bishops have caused all the problems for what has happened in the Catholic church!!!!
- 4:00, 4:30, 5:00 or 5:30 pm Mass at Holy Family, please!
- I think all the Sat. night Masses should be eliminated – add maybe another Sun. Mass in place of it (in some parishes).
- Eliminate one Mass at St. Mary's seeing they have 4 Masses making it easier on the priests.
- Shorten sermons. Only sing 1-2 verses of the Entrance and Recessional songs. Read, not sing, responsorial psalm.
- St. Mary's has too many Masses compared to others.
- Principle #6 and #7- I'm sure the priests will be well prepared before the 1st weekend Mass which carries over to each additional Mass. Also, perhaps priests can greet parishioners before the 1st Sat. Mass and greet after the last Sat. and the same on Sundays. Also, the homily can be shortened by 2-3 minutes and don't sign the responsorial – all of this will allow sufficient travel time and eliminate a “6 pm” Sat. Mass at Holy Family. Maybe we should consider 5 pm or 5:15 at Holy Family or maybe Sacred Heart can take the later time.
- How about having two Masses at 4 PM and another at 5:15 PM, do they really need an hour and a half between Masses? The Auburn Churches really aren't that far apart.
- Re-think entirely! – With four priests, space Masses 2 hours apart for each priest— homogenously spread out with equal number liturgies in each location – no issues of fairness or capacity – on Saturday 4 and 5:30 with second priest covering at 4:45 or 5.

For those who will attend Masses at Ss. Mary and Martha: Which of the following do you prefer?

- Always having the Saturday Mass at St. Hyacinth and the Sunday Mass at St. Francis: 6, NA=3

Comments:

- In rotation now
- It's a closer drive to St. Hyacinth and less traffic. Beautiful singing choir.
- Either one works out well.

- Rotating the Saturday and Sunday Masses between the two churches: 19, NA=3

Comments:

- In rotation now
- For me, it is more convenient to have the Sun. am Mass as is the other times suggested are too early. Also, it's a lot easier for the elderly to have Mass at a later time frame.

- Either option will be difficult to follow for some, but main goal is to be able to have church open and available.
 - (We are basically an elderly parish.)
 - * Option A – Would prefer a later Sun. Mass
 - * Option B – Can we keep the 10 am Mass? If not, 9:30 am would be better than 9 am or 8:30 am.
 - I'm disappointed in both options for the Ss. Mary and Martha Parish. I would be open to a 9:30 or 10 am Mass as I love to be able to arrive early to do my rosary and prayers. Please consider as late a time as possible for the Sun. Mass. Thank you.
 - St. Mary's 7 am attracts people from as far as Clyde who come for the time slot. Possibly noon could go.
 - Its sad people have forgotten St. Mary's gave up the 7:30 pm Sat. Mass years ago.
 - Auburn still has a higher attendance rate than surrounding areas.
 - #1 – either A or B
 - #2 – B, if attendance makes it viable at St. Ann's.
 - For parishioners who prefer their "home grown" church, they will/(may) not have an option to go to "their" church. For example, someone who needs or can only go on Sun. will not be able to go to their church.
 - as it's been
 - not every week, but leave it as is.
 - I think this is extremely fair for both parishes – Thank you. This practice makes for more community and more sharing.
 - Seasonal
 - We rotate now (seasonally). Keep rotation as is.
 - Either one works out well.
- **Write-in:** Always having the Saturday Mass at St. Francis and the Sunday Mass at St. Hyacinth: 3
- You forgot 1 other choice.
 - There is better parking at St. Francis to accommodate larger attendance on Sat.

General Comments

- I personally do not want to lose a Sun. Mass at St. Hyacinths/St. Francis. We should remove a Mass at St. Mary's and keep the 2 Sun. Masses at St. Mary and St. Mary's.
- The suggestion to remove a Mass from St. Mary's schedule to give another Mass to either St. Francis or St. Hyacinth's was, in my opinion, not well thought out due to the number of parishioners at St. Mary's, it's location, well-kept upkeep and community involvement. Also St. Mary's did have to change Mass schedule in past years, so we have made that sacrifice as well.
- I would like to have the 4:30 Mass stay. I'm a senior that it is very convenient for. This is for Holy Family church.
- Prefer 10:00 instead of 9:00 Mass plus a little less travel for the priests
- They should decide – not those who do not go there.
- It was agreed upon that St. Hyacinth's has good air conditioning for the hot summers. St. Francis has good heating for the winters. Rotating worked out well too.

For those who will attend the Saturday Mass at St. Patrick: Which time do you prefer?

- 4:00 pm: no responses
- 4:30 pm: no responses

General Comments

- [Port Byron] These times are not good for the farmers who need to do chores around these times.
- Only St. Patrick's people ought to decide.

Overall General Comments:

- Please do not close any church!
- Our 2 representatives never spoke up during the meeting tonight. Did they speak up for our needs? They never asked people for opinion at St. Hyacinth and St. Francis.
- Thank you to the committee for their efforts. I appreciate that we still have priests to serve our parishes and so far, no church closures in Auburn. I will work with whatever the schedule. Thanks so much. -- Cathy Burns
- I appreciate all the work the Planning Team put into this process. To me, the most important thing is having a Mass to attend.