

Auburn-N. Cayuga Parishioner Meetings

April 9, 2018

Compiled Parishioner Responses

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

- Like St. John's church.
- Great disadvantage to St. John's in Port Byron for the planning committee has no mass planned there. Please keep a Mass at St. John's.
- For Option B in Cluster 1 on Saturday 4:00/4:30/5:30 offers variety instead of having two 4:00 pm Masses.
- Option A is the closest to what people are accustomed to. The Masses at St. Mary's (5:30 Sat., 7/10/12 Sun.) should not be disrupted. Hopefully the Cato Mass will bring the Port Byron evening crowd to Cato and give the Cato folks Mass in their town.
- Prefers Cluster 1 Option A and Cluster 2 Option 1.
- Many work 12 hour shifts on weekend—need 6 am church mass for those people.
- Disadvantage—no masses for working people who work 10 hour and 12 hour shifts including weekend days. 6 am weekdays was always helpful. Holy Days no Mass to accommodate.
- None—it's aok.
- I understand that because of time for priests to get from one place to another BUT 6:00 pm at Holy Family seems to be a very poor time for a Mass.
- 6:00 pm Mass at Holy Family too late especially in the winter. Many senior citizens walk from the senior complexes surrounding church.
- I feel that Holy Family is bearing the bulk of the changes. Why is 6 pm Sunday [Saturday?] the only option? It is largely a Senior Citizen mass and 6 pm is dark in winter.
- None for me but 6:00 at Holy Family should be re-looked at.
- Disadvantage—6 pm Mass [at Holy Family] not acceptable by parishioners.
- Only a very few churches lose a Mass (3?). Some churches have a minimal change, e.g. 15 minutes change to a Mass—question the fairness in some cases.
- For cluster 1, option B, with an earlier mass at St. Joe's 9:30, I believe more people from St. John's would attend.
- If Holy Family ends up with a 6:00 Saturday mass there will be no music. I am the organist/music director. I have a job where I have to be at work by 6:00. Can Holy Family have an earlier mass time?
- My only concern is giving Communion to nursing homes. 10:15 or 10:30 is too late.
- Seasonal Masses at St. Ann's makes the assignment much more appealing for priests.
- Disadvantage—too many Saturday evening masses especially in Auburn—two at 4 pm. Can't it be consolidated to conserve our remaining priests' energy?
- I do not see any at this time. You and your efforts will be in my prayers especially regarding decision about our masses.
- I am concerned with Holy Family's Saturday mass being moved from 4:30 to 6:00.
- I attend mass regularly at St. Patrick's in Cato. We were well attended with previous priests. Once we stopped doing religious education on-site, attendance plummeted.
- Lack of young people attending mass regularly—not because of this schedule, just in general.
- St. John's has a working air conditioning unit. Would it not be wise to have a Memorial Day to Labor Day mass for Sundays and evangelize more at Hejamada campground?
- I would love to see 2 masses at St. Joseph (Saturday evening and Sunday morning). It is the central location of the 3 churches. 10:30 mass at St. Joseph's is a late time. 9:00 or 9:30 Sunday would be better. A Saturday Mass in Weedsport would be well attended. A great number of

people that attend Saturday Mass at St. John's are St. Joseph's parishioners and would attend at St. Joe's if a better mass time.

- Disadvantage—northern elderly.
- 4:30, St. Pat's.
- St. Patrick's 4:30 PM, St. Joseph's 9:30 am.
- In regards to moving any of the Sunday Masses to an earlier time—doing so would make it infinitely more difficult for those with mobility issues, caregivers, and those with larger families to coordinate and get to Mass on time. Traveling to another Mass at a later time on Sunday or to a Saturday Mass might not be an option for these families.
- Advantage—cluster 1/option 2—4 pm Mass at Cato gets people home before dark in the winter.
- Disadvantages—disrupts 2/3 of our community. AC in Port Byron underused or not used. Why not Sunday mass at Cato—folks in Port Byron (St. John's) are used to evening Mass and St. Joe's is closer. We have space for religious education.
- I like option B mass schedule for cluster 1.
- Holy Family Saturday evening Mass—only option in all 3 options is 6 pm. Difficult for times of year when pot luck suppers occur! Difficult when dark early! Is this a mass that could simply be dropped?
- I would prefer the 9:30 mass at St. Joseph's in Weedsport. We used to have a 9:30 mass and our family liked it better than at 10:30. 10:30 leaves less time in the day after mass for other activities.
- Religious ed. – decline of availability has decreased numbers in Port Byron so now is more of a senior community church. Concern with seniors driving/getting to mass. Any mass would be better than no mass.
- There are too many Masses in Auburn with all the churches in close proximity. We understand scheduling is affected by attendance. However St. Patrick's, Cato had a much larger attendance prior to no religious ed. At our church—so we have no young families. They all left and went to other parishes. The very few children have to be transported to Weedsport or Auburn for religious ed. Not acceptable!! A priest could easily come to St. John's from Auburn—also they have air conditioning for summer.
- Weekday and Holy Days Mass.
- Disadvantage—Saturday Masses won't be attended as well as Sunday because of work schedules and family obligations.
- People often have to work on Saturday. School programs will be in direct competition with masses.
- I would prefer Option B where the mass at St. Joseph's is at 9:30. Over the years people have complained that the 10:30 is too late especially in the summer. Without A/C the later the mass the hotter the church gets.

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?

- Need to better consider the needs of country parishes. People cannot travel to Auburn.
- For Option B in Cluster 1 on Sunday better for Ss. Mary and Martha to have 8:30 am and St. Joseph in Weedsport have 10:00 am. Same priest can do both.
- Possibly the human element—a lot for two priests. Deacon to help with Mass? Sisters to help in any way?
- A Sunday not Saturday Mass [in Cato?].
- Sudden use of incense. Many are highly allergic. Has a great bearing on attendance. Some try to find churches where it is not used. Others don't go at all. Since we went for decades without it, why now?
- Late masses especially in winter months are hard for folks with bad eye vision or cataracts.

- Nothing.
- None.
- Parking in cluster 1. People who like mid morning 11:15 Mass at Holy Family or Sts. Mary and Martha 10:00?
- I believe your survey was good but I am concerned about the Mass schedule options. Why wasn't this a part of the survey?
- Did a good job. Saturday night masses are great for a lot of people. Sunday masses are better at a later time.
- The fact remains we need more priests.
- They missed: Holy Family serves 2 housing developments, Swartz towers and Genesee Gardens. 6 pm on Saturday is not conducive to attendance to elderly or housing developments. What is popular about 6 pm? Also, Holy Family shouldn't have two negative changes.
- Please keep to our tradition of a Polish hymn at Christmas. We had the Polish carols before Mass started. This year none. When we clustered we had meetings and were told traditions would be kept.
- Cluster 1 plan A – ok.
- With Holy Family being within walking distance of St. Mary's, maybe the Sunday 11-11:15 Mass at Holy Family could be eliminated and given that time to someone else.
- Musicians' schedules. Many of us have other jobs and may not be able to provide music at new mass times.
- Leaving St. John's out of the picture purposely. Too far a distance [to Cato] from where I live. Why is Cato still having mass with low attendance?
- Inclusion.
- Priests' vacation/health/sick in saying weekend Mass? What about other sacraments? Penance?
- I think you have done an outstanding job in this initial planning.
- Research on attendance at a 6:00 mass.
- Nice try trying to appease everyone. No way to make everyone happy.
- Snow is always an issue. Cato would best be travelled in full daylight—Sunday morning.
- A mass at St. John's.
- Serving the needs of all—7 masses in Auburn vs. 2 in OLOTS.
- Nothing that I can see!
- Four masses at St. Mary's. How come no change there? What's so special about St. Mary's?
- What about the sanity of the priests! Heaven help y'all!
- I was surprised to hear that it may be possible that the 2 priests that would serve cluster 1 may rotate every week or 2 weeks on a regular basis. I think that this would weaken a parish sense and connection. I wonder if this would encourage a decrease in attendance by not having that personal connection.
- Needs of Port Byron/St. John's seniors.

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

- Add St. John's back a Mass.
- Maybe a one time per month at St. John's, Port Byron until it eventually closes.
- ½ year at St. John's (summer—air conditioner) and ½ year at Cato.
- Earlier Sat. Mass at Holy Family.
- Later Sun. Mass at Holy Family.
- Later Sun. Mass at Sts. Mary and Martha.
- Bringing more priests if possible to our community.

- 4:00 pm St. Alphonsus, 4:30 to 4:00 pm at Sacred Heart. Could 6 pm be changed to 5:00 or 5:30 pm at Holy Family?
- 5:00 pm Sat. mass at Holy Family makes more sense.
- Why not the 5:30 pm Saturday option for Holy Family or keep the 4:30 pm? There are senior citizens coming from complexes to mass and even 5:00 pm in the winter is late for walkers.
- I think it's good to have mass at St. Francis at 9:30/10:00.
- No. Would like to see earlier Easter vigil like before due to traveling and company coming in.
- 6 AM or 7 AM Mass and Sat., 3:00 or 3:45 Mass if that might work.
- Change 9 am [Holy Family] Mass on Sunday to 10 am.
- Changing time for Saturday Mass at Holy Family will not be feasible due to later time.
- Conduct a survey among all parishioners requesting where they currently attend and what their 2nd, 3rd, 4th selections would be. Compile results in a spreadsheet.
- Holy Family—keep 4:30 Mass.
- Keep St. Hyacinth Masses and parishioners at St. Hyacinth and St. Francis parishioners at St. Francis. Don't combine.
- Eliminate one Sunday Mass at St. Mary's. Change 12:00 to 11:00 and change 10:00 to 11:00.
- Diocese needs to get to work on trying to get more priests to help Auburn with their shortage. Going down to 4 priests is never going to work out.
- Include St. John's.
- Sat. PM mass at St. John's and give St. Pat 8:30 Mass on Sunday. Do away with one of the three at St. Mary's Sunday AM.
- There are no other 6:00 Saturday night masses in the diocese. I think the 6:00 time slot is a "tweener" and wouldn't expect high turnout especially [for] families. I would propose 5:30 pm mass instead of 6:00 at Holy Family.
- Holy Family mass at either 4:00 or 5:30.
- Would providing transportation from the Port Byron area to Weedsport ease the pain and burden of not having the weekend mass at St. John's?
- Commuting to Cato is already a distance for our family, Auburn is too far.
- I think that the 7:00 AM time slot needs to be shared with another parish. It is very well attended at St. Mary's, but as I look around I see parishioners from many other parishes.
- At Cato: a 4:00 or 4:30 mass makes travel problems possible during winter months as it gets dark early. A Sunday mass at a later hour, 10:00 or 10:30, would allow time for the roads to be clear and daytime travel would be better.
- I prefer option #2 for personal reasons. I believe it gives me more opportunities to enjoy Sunday activities.
- No—although...tell us whether we will have an office at OLOS in Weedsport. Important for communication and maintenance of community.
- Please include a mass at St. John's church.
- Use of deacons—even though the bishop does not [ends there]
- I think we are insane to keep all churches open at this stage. It does not make financial sense. So many buildings so close to each other. We must find a way to be less attached to a building for the sake of the availability of the Eucharist.
- I liked the suggestion that the regional mass could take place at St. John's. The age and ability to travel to other sites would support maintaining a mass at that site. **Based on comments heard this evening it sounds like Our Lady of the Snow may be considered as a "mission" church of Auburn vs. being a unit in itself.
- Could St. Mary's reduce by one Mass so St. John's can have a mass?
- Less Masses in Auburn. Less weekday Masses—especially in rural areas.

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: 8
- Rotating the Saturday and Sunday Masses between the two churches: 4
- Write in (always having the Saturday Mass at St. Francis and the Sunday Mass at St. Hyacinth)

Comments:

- Sat. at St. Hyacinth -- Weedsport and Port Byron can go easier to St. Hyacinth.
- Saturday 4 pm at St. Hyacinth and Sunday 9 am at St. Francis. There should be stability and as little change as possible. This will keep people coming as before.
- It's too hard to keep track of which is which [with rotation schedule].
- Rotating—I think it's been good at both churches.
- Rotating the Masses is an ideal way to utilize both our churches and it also brings our parishioners closer by having a choice of churches.
- Saturday Mass at St. Hyacinth should be 4:00 pm and the Sunday Mass at St. Francis should be 10 am.
- My family and I only attend there a few times a year. It is difficult to keep track of where mass is!
- I think consistency rather than rotation would be easier.

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

- 4:00 pm: 5
- 4:30 pm: 10

Comments:

- 4 pm has an advantage in bad weather.
- Neither—keep Sunday Mass at St. Pat's. I will be leaving the Rochester Diocese if we lose Sunday Mass in Cato.
- Rather go to St. John's. Signed: Ted Cobb Sr., Ethel Cobb, Ted Cobb Jr., Debbie Cobb, Dr. Tim Cobb, Morgan Cobb, Christian Cobb, Alexia Cobb, Erin and Kyle Mckelhiny, Ava M., Finn C., Conner C., Emelia M.
- 4:30 pm – better variety with staggered times.
- Either is wonderful!
- I prefer to attend mass early on a Sunday. Traveling to Auburn is too long of a commute. I will no longer be attending.
- Neither, prefer Sunday mornings.
- I would prefer a Saturday 4:00 mass at St. Joseph's or a 7:00 AM at St. Joseph's—temperature in the summer (no air). Safer travel at 7:00 AM possibly, especially if priest remains in Hamilton Street residence.
- St. Joseph's 9:30 AM Sunday.
- Sunday. St. Pat's has declined but there are specific reasons that have caused that effect. The only good thing about the evening schedule for OLS—Port Byron has been asking for a 4:00 4:30 for almost 2 years. Connie Colonnese
- 4:30 pm—closer to current 5:00 Sat. mass, less interruption in day, easier to attend.
- Earlier rather than later. Concern with weather during winter. Evening mass in Cato during winter is concerning.
- Either but if it could possibly be done prefer Sunday Mass.
- Prefer Sunday AM as now scheduled for St. Patrick's, Cato.
- 4:30 pm—don't know if this time will work, especially summer. It may need to be 5 pm?

- 4:30 pm—I would prefer a Sunday Mass.
- 4:30 pm—keep Sunday Mass at St. Patrick’s.
- Sunday.
- Sunday.
- Prefer Sunday.
- Sunday morning.
- Sunday mass instead of Saturday at St. Patrick’s.

General Comments

- Instead of regional Mass, have Mass at St. John’s, Port Byron.
- All churches should have a Sunday Mass (at least one).
- Thank you for all your time and effort—I so appreciate and want to acknowledge your ability to keep the parishes open.
- Excellent balancing attendance and mass schedule.
- St. Alphonsus schedule is perfect.
- Great job! This involves a lot of thought and decision making. We are fortunate our bishop supports keeping parishes running and not closing them, also supporting Catholic schools.
- Am very grateful we are able to attend our own churches—understand that the masses have to be addressed but question the fairness in some of the options.
- Pastor should tell the parishioners of changes made in church.
- What about nursing home—residents there? And commitment to the prison? Mass celebrated in these places and commitment to homebound parishioners?
- Not specific or immediate to topic, but should church look at priest requirements for longer term health of the church?
- Check out southern Cayuga parishes clusters.