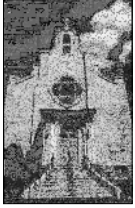


The Torrington Cluster of Roman Catholic Parishes



Sacred Heart Church
Est. 1910



St. Francis Church
Est. 1877

Pope John Paul II Pastoral Center
160 Main Street, Torrington, CT 06790
(860) 482-4433 • (860) 482-5571 • (860) 482-8246
Fax: (860) 489-4070
E-mail: torringtoncatholicparishes@yahoo.com



St. Peter Church
Est. 1907



St. Mary Church
Est. 1919

August 21, 2009

Dear Friends,

I appreciate and value the many comments and observations that people made concerning the proposed Mass schedule; your responses show a true devotion for your parishes and the Universal Church.

The comments came in many different forms. Some parishioners tried to come up with complete alternative Mass schedules. Others raised points concerning handicapped access, darkness issues and of course parking issues. (We may revisit the darkness issue with a winter schedule.) Some took the tack that fairness dictates an arrangement with each parish church having the same number of Masses. Still others were clear that they did not want their own Mass time and place adjusted. Many of our parishioners were very positive about the proposed Mass schedule.

Fairness is a difficult issue that was raised in some of the comments. We have a situation in Torrington where we have four separate entities of vastly different sizes. St. Peter has more than 2000 families, St. Francis has more than 1800 families, Sacred Heart has more than 300 families and St. Mary has more than 200 families. Normally this is only an issue in few cases. Certainly in finances, the two larger parishes bear 80 % of the costs of the cluster. The other area is Mass scheduling. The fact of the matter is that there are more people coming to St. Peter and St. Francis, hence the need for more Masses. All of my parishioners are near and dear to me; that is why I was troubled when I was accused of ethnic bias in creating this Mass schedule. If I have ever given any indication of any bias, I am sorry. I truly cherish the history, tradition and families of all of my parishes.

Others claimed that this Mass change is the first step in wider plans concerning our future. Nothing could be further from the truth. We changed the Mass schedule because the number of priests assigned to the cluster has been reduced. I hope that those who are affected by the Mass schedule in any way approach it with understanding and openness. I know from some of the comments that people felt personally maligned by the changes; there was no intention on any of our parts to hurt or malign.

Beginning the weekend of **September 19 & 20, 2009** the Torrington Cluster's Mass schedule is as follows:

St. Francis	St. Peter	Sacred Heart
5:00 p.m (Saturday)	4:00 p.m. (Saturday)	9:00 a.m.
7:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	
10:15 a.m	10: 30 a.m.	St. Mary
	1:15 p.m. (Spanish)	11:45 a.m.

Our weekday Mass schedule will not change. Confessions will be heard each weekend at 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at St. Francis Church.

For those of you with Mass intentions at a Mass time and place that is not on the list, you will have the opportunity of moving the Mass either to the same weekend at the same church or at the same time at a different church. Please contact the office for more information.

I thank you for your patience and forbearance during this process. Thank you for all you do for our parishes.

Father Tiano
Pastor