

Dear Parishioners of NW8 Family of Parishes,

Growing up in a family of nine children has been a blessing, but not without its share of challenges. Learning to share, being flexible and giving in at times have been valuable lessons, as well as working through the differences. I am looking forward to our journey together as a family of faith and put my trust in the admonition of St. Paul from Ephesians 4:1-6: *I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

A planning committee with staff and parishioner representatives from all the NW8 family of parishes has met several times and with input from the preference survey conducted last weekend at Holy Redeemer, St. Augustine and St. Joseph, have determined the Mass schedule for the weekend and weekday Masses in the NW8 family of parishes. The planning committee's task was to consider the preferences of each parish, the changes and affects the new Mass schedule would have upon each of the parishes and where each parish could make adjustments for the best possible Mass schedule option for all the parishes of NW8. In the end, each parish made accommodations for the benefit of all. The new Mass schedule will be reviewed this Fall as the full planning process continues.

There are several guidelines the Mass schedule follows. Initially, each priest is asked to preside at no more than three weekend Masses. Secondly, there is at least an hour between Masses a priest will have on Sunday so there is time to prayerfully prepare before, greet parishioners after and have time to safely travel to a second Mass. A third guideline assessed the utilization of each parish church to determine how the Mass schedule could be reduced, while still accommodating the parishioners and not over extending the clergy. The hope is to have at least one Sunday Mass at each of the churches in NW8 until capacity issues or shortage of priests cause adjustments to accommodate all the faithful in our family of parishes.

Following is the new NW8 Family of Parishes Mass schedule that will be effective July 1, 2022. Realizing that people have different ways of processing information, it is the same Mass schedule presented in two different formats.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES

4:30 pm Holy Redeemer; 5:00 pm St. John; 5:00 pm St. Augustine; 7:30 pm Nativity*

SUNDAY MASSES

8:00 am St. Joseph; 8:30 am St. Sebastian*; 9:00 am Precious Blood; 9:00 am St. Augustine; 10:00 am Holy Redeemer; 10:30 am St. John; 11:00 am St. Augustine; 11:00 am St. Rose*

*Mass schedule rotates every six months

WEEKDAYS

Monday: 5:30 pm St. Sebastian; 7:00 pm Holy Redeemer

Tuesday: 7:15 am St. Rose; 7:30 am Holy Redeemer

Wednesday: 7:15 am Precious Blood; 8:00 am St. Augustine; 12:05 pm Holy Redeemer

Thursday: 7:15 am Nativity; 8:00 am St. Joseph; 12:00 pm St. Augustine

Friday: 7:15 am St. John; 8:00 am St. Augustine

NW8 Mass Schedule	Nativity Marion	St. John Marion	Precious Blood Marion	St. Rose Marion	St. Sebastian Marion	St. Augustine Minster	St. Joseph Minster	Holy Redeemer New Bremen
Saturday	7:30 PM*	5:00 PM				5:00 PM		4:30 PM
Sunday		10:30 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM*	8:30 AM*	9:00 AM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Sunday						11:00 AM		
Monday					5:30 PM			7:00 PM
Tuesday				7:15 AM				7:30 AM
Wednesday			7:15 AM			8:00 AM		12:05 PM
Thursday	7:15 AM					12:00 PM	8:00 AM	
Friday		7:15 AM				8:00 AM		

*Mass schedule rotates every six months

We have received final confirmation of the clergy who will be serving the NW8 Family of Parishes. I, Fr. Ken Schnipke, C.P.P.S., will be serving as Pastor. Fr. Ken Alt, C.P.P.S., Fr. Mark Hoying, C.P.P.S. and Fr. Matt Jozefiak, C.P.P.S. will be serving as Parochial Vicars beginning July 1st. We all look forward to the journey of faith with you.

While my term as pastor also begins July 1, 2022, I have requested to have the month of July off from ministry and administration for rest and renewal, vacation and to physically move. I have been pastoring the three parishes of the Celina Cluster for the last year with Mass help, but doing most of the other sacraments and administration alone. I have been involved in the initial planning stages for both the NW8 family of parishes and in the NW2 family of parishes where I am currently serving. While fruitful, this has also been taxing. The untimely death on my brother Fr. Gene has been difficult and consuming for all my family as well as the recent death of my 30-year old niece Dana. I had scheduled time for vacation and retreat earlier in the year, but both were sacrificed for other responsibilities that came up. I know that I am tired and worn and will be much better equipped to serve the NW8 family of parishes after some time away. Our CPPS leadership has arranged for Mass coverage in my absence, so the sacramental and ministerial needs and responsibilities of NW8 will be fulfilled. I humbly thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

Here are a few updates on other aspects of the NW8 planning process that are underway:

- ❖ The staff of NW8 gathered Wednesday, April 20th for a day of prayer, sharing and discussion. Using Acts 2:43-47 for our reflection, all concurred that like the early disciples, we too are “devoted to meeting together and to breaking bread...with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God.” We are trusting that as with the early disciples, “many wonders and signs will be done and every day the Lord will add to those being saved.”
- ❖ The finance personnel from each of the parishes in NW8 have met multiple times. Funds will remain in each parish as they have, but finance personnel are working on an expense sharing agreement, primarily for clergy salary, but also for other shared expenses that may arise.
- ❖ Staff involved in marriage preparation have also met several times, coordinating a common calendar and marriage preparation so that all the wedding couples will be prepared and their special days honored.
- ❖ Other staff are also beginning to share ideas and planning around religious education, youth ministry, liturgy/music, outreach and other areas of parish life.

Aspects of pastoral planning behind the scenes will be occurring over the summer with the visibility and pace of the planning to increase late summer and early Fall. This is a work in progress that will take sharing, flexibility and mutual respect, but also trusting that God has given us all the gifts necessary and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Blessings and prayers, Fr. Ken Schnipke, C.P.P.S.