

Discussion on Mass Schedule - June 15, 2010

First we defined three categories in which we would place the criteria that we determined to be a part of our decision.

1. Critical – What issues do we feel are vital to the decision that we make. These could be areas such as personnel, weather, persons affected, impact of issues, etc.
2. Essential - These issues will be a part of our decision, but they will not have the same impact as the critical issues. They may affect some people that will have to live with the decision, but not all.
3. Important – This information is nice to consider, but it may not have any impact on our final decision.

Below is a list of issues that were identified through this process:

Critical Data for Mass Schedule

1. No supply priest on a regular basis (at least four years)
2. Decision cannot depend on a supply priest being available long term
3. Ultimate decision is permanent
4. We are two separate parishes
5. Schedule needs to allow for growth in both parishes
6. One Mass must be Spanish
7. Mass schedule for all of the tri-community (3 ethnic groups)
8. Central location to serve the greatest amount of people
9. How to offer Sunday Mass to the largest amount of parishioners
10. Financial – More Masses = higher cost
11. Recovery Time – Fr. needs sufficient time between Masses
12. Service to the parish showing the most growth
13. Least amount of movement (by Fr.) between locations

Essential Data for Mass Schedule

1. Logistics need to be considered (weather, time travel, road conditions, ski season, etc.)
2. Use of outdoor sanctuary (OLS)
3. Availability of ministers to serve
4. Age groups/Ethnicity – Families: activities - Saturday, too early on Sunday
Elderly: Daylight (driving), movement in icy conditions
Ethnic: Ethnic celebrations
5. Celebrating Sacraments/Rites

Important Data for Mass Schedule

1. Fellowship
2. Parking/weather
3. Sunday School, Liturgy of the Word & Youth Groups
4. Cost factor of utilities
5. Travelling is a part of everyday life

Some of the areas that were discussed included:

Financial aspect: We need to be mindful that a less popular Mass Time could result in fewer parishioners attending and a decrease in the collections, especially with young families, the elderly and parishioners at OLS. Also with having more Masses at BJS there is a higher electric bill to heat and cool the facility.

Serving the communities: We discussed that this area is a tri-community and we need to service all surrounding areas including, Llano, El Mirage, parts of Victorville and Hesperia, in addition to Wrightwood, Pinon Hills and Phelan. The largest population is located at Bl. Serra, with the Hispanic community being the largest and fastest growing

community. We are two separate parishes, and will remain so. The schedule that we approve needs to service the largest amount of people with a Sunday Mass (meaning a weekend Mass meeting the Sunday obligation).

Permanent decision: This decision will be a final schedule for the parishes for as long as Fr. Frank is assigned as Pastor to our parishes and possibly beyond that.

Coverage of Priest: There is absolutely no priest available for on-going coverage of Masses at our parishes. We cannot in any way depend on a priest to come to one of our parishes to say Mass every Sunday or even once a month. The schedule that we select must be suitable for one priest to cover. The Diocese requires every parish to have a Spanish Mass on the weekend.

Growth: The potential for growth in the communities must be taken into consideration, making allowances for the seating of people at Masses in the future, as we grow. We identified the Hispanic Community at Bl. Serra as being the largest growing community and possibly allowing for a Bi-Lingual Mass to be celebrated periodically at one of the Masses on the new schedule. This could help reduce the number attending the Spanish Mass on Sunday.

Hispanic Community: The current Mass on Sundays for the Spanish Community is extremely crowded. The survey results indicated that a majority of the Hispanics who responded noted that they would attend a Bi-Lingual Mass if it was offered. Some of the areas we discussed in serving this growing community were: the large number of students enrolled in our Religious Education program, including the majority of the students receiving Sacraments. We talked about being empathetic to this community in regards to the time of their Mass and not continually pushing back their time to make them feel like they are the last to be considered.

Movement of Priest: It is important to consider the travelling of Fr. Frank from one Church to another. We discussed keeping this to a minimum and to keep two Masses at Bl. Serra back to back. The difficulty of Fr. travelling to Wrightwood in the winter was discussed. We also took into consideration the amount of time between Masses, due to Fr.'s travelling to Wrightwood and many Sacramental Rites, Ethnic Celebrations, Baptisms, Anointing of the Sick and Sunday Liturgies such as; Palm Sunday, the Lenten Scrutinies, etc. that require extra time.

Logistics: Many topics came up regarding; icy conditions, elderly driving during daylight hours, families with sports/activities on Saturday, families having a difficult time getting up for an early Mass, parking at Bl. Serra when the Masses are too close together, number of ministers needed to serve at Liturgy, etc.

Reviewing the options:

The suggestions of an 8:00 a.m. Mass at OLS was raised and following reasons were considered in determining that this was not an option: using the sound system for outdoor Mass and it's affect on the neighborhood, the availability of ministers arriving at 7 a.m. to set up for outdoor Mass and to clear the snow/ice in the winter months, the difficulty for parishioners to get out of their driveways and clear snow during the winter (especially the elderly) and driving conditions for Fr. Frank at that time in the morning.

It was agreed by the council that OLS overwhelmingly did not want the Saturday evening Mass. So we then designated that for BJS, moving it to 5:00 instead of 5:30 to allow for more daylight (for the elderly driving). We then moved to review our Sunday options, and agreed that the two Masses at BJS need to be back to back, which allowed OLS to have an early Mass or a 12:30 Mass. This is where we decided that due to the reason stated previously, the 8:00 Mass would not work in Wrightwood, and so we reached a compromise to move the BJS Masses ½ hour earlier to provide OLS with an earlier time than stated on the survey. The following is the Mass schedule that has been agreed to for at least the next four years:

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. Blessed Serra (English)

Sunday – 8:30 a.m. Blessed Serra (English)

10:15 a.m. Blessed Serra (Spanish)

12:00 Noon – Our Lady of the Snows