

## Reasons for Interim Mass Schedules

### **WHY WAS THIS SCHEDULE CHOSEN?**

- The number of Masses permitted by the Church has to do with the number of priests who are available in our grouping. Each priest assigned to the grouping is permitted to say three (3) Masses per weekend.
- The whole diocese has been asked to comply with what the Church allows.
- Our goal is to have fuller churches so that the worship at Mass will be enhanced.

### **I DON'T LIKE THIS SCHEDULE. WHAT RECOURSE DO I HAVE?**

- We are asking everyone to give the schedule some time to see how it works out.
- Try to be objective about it. You can always let the priest(s) know what isn't working.
- The schedule is only to get us started. It may have to be adjusted as we go forward.
- Remember this is a way to serve all the parishes in a grouping.

### **WHAT IS THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE SCHEDULE? HOW WAS IT DETERMINED?**

- The priests were given data about the Mass attendance trends at all the parishes in our grouping.
- They asked the outgoing pastors for their suggestions.
- Everything from parking to seating to accessibility had to be figured into the schedule. Geography and travel time between churches is another consideration, as well as times for religious education on Sundays.
- All this was looked at against the number of priests and number of Masses overall.

### **HOW LONG WILL THIS SCHEDULE BE IN PLACE?**

- Father expects feedback from people over the next months.
- He will want some formal way to collect that before any changes are made to the schedule.
- He has to get a sense of what is working and what isn't before any changes happen.
- As the number of priests available for parish ministry continues to change we have to remain realistic about future Mass schedules.

## Reasons for Interim Mass Schedules

### WHY CAN'T THINGS REMAIN AS THEY ARE?

- Because we have 18 priests who are retiring and another 12 next year, we know we cannot provide priestly ministry across the diocese unless we make adjustments.
- The reason for the *On Mission* process was to make the necessary changes to allow priests to minister in every area.

### WHAT ABOUT TRANSPORTATION?

- It is up to each administrator to determine how and if transportation will be organized if there are people unable to attend Mass in their own community because of age, disability, etc.