

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Faith,

Throughout the merger process, three ideas seem to dominate each discussion. First, what will actually change after the merger? Next, what will be the final site for our parish? Finally, when will real changes begin? Each of these points is important to the long-range planning and health of the parish community.

This month, we announce the first significant change following the choice of our new name; **OUR NEW MASS SCHEDULE**. It will begin the weekend of January 5-6, the Feast of Epiphany. Looking at past attendance patterns, time preferences we can clearly see, and considering the good of the whole community, the following will be the new Mother of Perpetual Help Sunday Mass schedule.

- +Saturday @ 4:00 PM at the 116<sup>th</sup> Street site (Immaculate Heart of Mary).**
- +Sunday @ 8:00 AM at the 106<sup>th</sup> Street site (Mary Queen of Heaven).**
- +Sunday @ 9:30 AM at the 116<sup>th</sup> Street site (Immaculate Heart of Mary).**
- +Sunday @ 11:00 AM at the 106<sup>th</sup> Street site (Mary Queen of Heaven).**
- +Sunday Evening @ 7:00 PM at the 92nd Street site (St. Aloysius).**

Several factors have been considered in creating this schedule. 1) All but two of our current eight Mass times at the three sites are rarely over one-half full. 2) The parish will be staffed by one priest in the next two years. 3) A larger community at fewer masses will enable a better rotation in our liturgical ministries. 4) The 3 new Sunday times are only a half hour different from our previous times. 5) Many larger parishes in the Archdiocese do not offer 5 weekend Liturgies. 6) The choice of times also allows more freedom to host programs on Sunday mornings that can begin or end with mass.

This change is a departure point for the new parish. We know that there will be challenges with the new schedule. Moving ahead together as a parish, everyone will need to sacrifice. For many years that burden has been borne by one community, in particular, St. Aloysius. Even now, they are being asked to give up the Sunday morning Mass time at that site. It is time for all of us to bear our share of that burden. Each of our Church sites is less than 2 miles apart. If we are honest, almost all of us will travel greater distances to go shopping or for family, social and work events.

We continue to explore the range of possibilities presented by each of our sites. We remain committed to using our properties for the good of our new parish as we move ahead. Moving forward is not an option, it's a Gospel imperative. This new schedule is also the beginning of our efforts to celebrate and renew all of our Liturgical Ministries. Look for another letter in the weeks ahead with more in-depth information as we enter into the New Year.

May your Advent and Christmas Season be Blessed with an abundance of Peace and Love for you and all those you love.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Fr. Thomas, Fr. Jeff, with the Pastoral Staff and Transition Team of Mother of Perpetual Help.