



*I, Fr. Luisi, presented the following Rationale for Change of the Mass Schedule to the Pastoral Councils of North American Martyrs and St. Michael Parishes on the evening of February 2, 2010. Following my Rationale for Change I will give a summary of the meeting and the next steps.*

### **Rationale for Change of the Mass Schedule of North American Martyrs and St. Michael Parishes**

- There is no perfect Mass schedule. Even Jesus Christ couldn't please everyone. Please pray about the Mass schedule options as there will be a vote to determine which proposal best serves the needs of both parishes.
- Since North American Martyrs (NAM) Church can accommodate 1000 people (with approximately 300 parking lot spaces) and St. Michael Church can accommodate 400 people (with approximately 50 parking lot spaces along with on-street parking), the Envisioning Ministry Team recommended that there be one 4:00 PM Mass at the NAM Church and to discontinue the 4:00 PM Mass at St. Michael. Noting that the highest single Mass attendance total in the 2009 October Count was 425 persons at the 4:00 PM Mass at NAM and noting that the highest 2009 October Count was 155 persons at the 4:00 PM Mass at St. Michael, North American Martyrs Church can easily handle the combined total of 580. This also takes into account the Diocesan Guideline that there should not be duplicate Masses at the same time and that each Mass should at least fill 50% of the seating capacity of that church.
- It was the recommendation of the Envisioning Ministry Team to offer the parishes of North American Martyrs and St. Michael a combined total of **four** Masses per weekend, i.e. one on Saturday at 4:00 PM and three Masses on Sunday morning. Note that this Mass schedule allows four weekend Masses instead of three current weekend Masses (North American Martyrs) or two weekend Masses (St. Michael). Due to the strong possibility of a merger of the two parishes, we need to think collectively of **our** Mass choices which include both church sites instead of North American Martyrs Church versus St. Michael Church.
- Since the proposal is for St. Michael Church to discontinue their 4:00 Mass, it is important to retain at least one Sunday morning Mass. I think it is reasonable and just to consider "A Margin of Mass Displacement" as the new Mass time being no more than one hour before or after the currently scheduled Mass time. In other words, a 10:00 AM Mass-goer at St. Michael might consider going to a 9:00 AM Mass or an 11:00 AM Mass but not a 7:30 AM Mass since that is more than one hour margin of Mass displacement. Following this reasoning, the middle Mass on Sunday morning should be at St. Michael Church.
- Following Diocesan Guidelines, it is important to allow at least 90 minutes between Masses to account for the unforeseen time when the visiting priest may have a car accident, encounter icy road conditions or illness causing a delay or forfeiture of Sunday Mass, requiring the pastor himself to celebrate all three Masses on Sunday morning. In addition, replacement priests may not always be available in the future. This holds true for Fr. Seeger who resides in Pitcairn, retired priests and Benedictines from Latrobe.
- Since many children (whether they be Catholic or public school children) have sports competitions on Sundays as early as Noon, it is important that the last Mass (at NAM) begin no later than 10:30 for the convenience of these families.
- **I thereby propose the following schedule: Saturday 4:00 NAM, Sunday 7:30 NAM, 9:00 St. Michael and 10:30 NAM as the least disruptive schedule for both parishes considering that I am the only priest assigned to both parishes.**
- Under normal circumstances, I will switch with a visiting priest on alternating weeks for the 7:30 Mass at NAM and the 9:00 Mass at St. Michael. This would mean no more than a one hour "Margin of Mass Displacement" for the current 8:30 Mass-goers at NAM and the current 10:00 Mass-goers at St. Michael. It would also allow for me to celebrate the NAM choir Mass at 10:30 each week at which baptisms, scrutinies for the RCIA, and commissioning of liturgical and catechetical ministers can occur.

### ***SUMMARY OF THE PASTORAL COUNCILS MEETING AND NEXT STEPS***

After beginning with a prayer service, I handed to each member of both councils a folder with pertinent information, statistics and Diocesan Guidelines regarding changing the weekend Mass schedule. After reviewing the information in each folder to make sure that we all understood the information contained therein, I presented to the councils the Rationale for Change of the Mass Schedule with bullet points justifying my proposal of the Saturday 4:00 PM Mass (NAM), the Sunday 7:30 AM Mass (NAM), 9:00 AM Mass (St. Michael) and the 10:30 AM Mass (NAM). A lively discussion followed with members of each parish making solid points. I had shared with both councils that I was prepared to present **two different Mass proposals** to the councils but that my five-member staff, which includes Pat Cepec of St. Michael Parish, recommended that I present the strongest Mass schedule, namely, the one mentioned above: Sat. 4:00 (NAM), Sun. 7:30 (NAM), 9:00 (St. Michael) and 10:30 (NAM). I explained to the pastoral councils that I would also consider a second proposal, namely, Sat. 4:00 (NAM), Sun. 8:00 (NAM), 9:30 (St. Michael) and 11:00 (NAM). While I preferred the first Mass Schedule, (Schedule A), I could accept the second Mass Schedule, (Schedule B). A passionate discussion

followed with council members giving the pros and cons of Schedule A and Schedule B. In the end when I asked for a vote, the vote was split 8 to 8 mostly along parish lines with few exceptions.

Fear was an evident emotion in the decision-making of both sides. Many North American Martyrs council members were afraid that if Schedule B were accepted with the last Sunday morning Mass being 11:00 that it would be too late for parents with school children competing in sports contests beginning at noon. These council members feared a backlash by these families to the point where they may leave the parish to go to other parishes with a more convenient Mass.

Many St. Michael council members were afraid that since the proposal was to eliminate the Saturday 4:00 Mass at St. Michael, that it was important to have a 9:30 Mass on Sunday instead of 9:00 since they feared a backlash by parishioners to the point where they may leave the parish to go to other parishes with a more convenient Mass. Even though a 9:00 Mass is within one hour of the current Mass time of 10:00, these members felt that a 9:30 Mass was critical to retaining their parishioners.

After many persuasive appeals by certain members of both councils to unify and accept one Mass schedule there was no agreement on which Mass schedule to accept. Even after giving the council members the option of praying about it and meeting again in one week, they all thought it best to put the two proposals to a vote, to which I agreed.

On the weekend of February 20/21, after the Prayers of the Faithful at all Masses at both churches on that weekend, the priest will instruct the persons at the end of the pew to pass down the survey sheets and golf pencils to those eligible to vote. This includes anyone who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation since that person is fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Voting is limited to those who are registered at North American Martyrs Church or St. Michael Church only. There will be only one vote per person and he/she must sign their name on their survey form and write down their envelope number (confirmed children will write their parents' envelope number). The survey forms will be collected by the ushers before the Offertory Collection. Absentee ballots will be printed in the bulletin of both parishes beginning the weekend of February 13/14. I am asking the members of the Envisioning Ministry Team to count the votes. I plan to accept the Mass Schedule that has a **simple majority of votes** (not a two-thirds majority). Note that the members of both Pastoral Councils agreed both upon voter eligibility, the required signature, the absentee ballot and that the simple majority of votes will be all that is required for that particular Mass schedule to be accepted. After the votes are tabulated, I will post the results in the bulletin for a two week period (February 28-March 13) after which both Pastoral Councils will reconvene with me on March 14 at 2:00 in the NAM school library to discuss the survey results/comments from parishioners of both parishes.

Let's pray that there will be acceptance from those in both parishes whose Mass Schedule preference is not selected by the majority of voters. As I mentioned before, I can accept either Mass Schedule A or B. I hope and pray for unity between and among our parishioners so that we can move forward together as a faith community with one endorsed Mass schedule for our parishes.

*Fr. Joe*

*If you wish to respond, all comments must be in writing so that I may share them with the members of both Pastoral Councils. Please send to: Attn. Mass Schedule, 2526 Haymaker Road, Monroeville, PA 15146.*

### ***ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY***



The second collection taken up at all Masses this weekend is for the parish St Vincent de Paul Society. This collection is the major source of funding for our society's works of charity which include help with utility bills, rent, and providing beds and furniture to needy neighbors in our community. We appreciate the continued support of our parishioners and are thankful for the generous giving spirit at North American Martyrs.

### ***TAX STATEMENTS***

If you would like a 2009 tax statement, please let us know by sending a **self-addressed, stamped envelope** to the Rectory/Office or place it in the collection basket. **Please place your parishioner number on the outside of your envelope in the lower left-hand corner.**

### ***MEETINGS***

**THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** will meet Wednesday, **February 24** at 7:00 PM in the Rectory/Office Conference Room.

**ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE** is held every Thursday at 7:30 PM in the Music Room.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE** is held on the first and last Sundays of the month at 9:30 AM in the Music Room.

### ***CAPITAL CAMPAIGN as of 1/25/10***

***Pledges Received: \$764,769 (61 % of goal)***  
***Total Responses Received: 600 Paid to Date: \$383,687.***  
***We need your Pledge and participation.***

**STITCHING ANGELS AT  
NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS**



The Stitching Angels will hold their next meeting on Saturday, **February 20** at 1:00 PM in DeLuca Hall. Completed fashion scarves for the Veterans Hospital can be dropped off at the rectory prior to this date. In addition, items for Father Beiting's Mission, which includes hats, mittens and scarves for school aged children, can be dropped off at the rectory or brought to the meeting. Please bring any ongoing projects as well. For more information, please call 412-372-3181. New members are always welcome.

**PARKING LOT RULES**



We find it necessary to remind parishioners and visitors alike that we have received numerous complaints about drivers creating their own parking spaces, blocking others in, parking next to "No Parking" signs, and parking in fire lanes. This practice shows lack of consideration for other parishioners, and in the case of the fire lanes and blocking in other cars, is dangerous. During a medical emergency when every second counts, an ambulance must have an unobstructed path to the Church entrance from the hospital. This is the law and violation is subject to stiff fines.

Parking is NOT permitted anywhere except designated spaces between painted white lines. There is more than adequate parking available for every Mass except perhaps for Christmas.



*This week's sanctuary candle burns in memory of **Ralph L. Jenko**, requested by **Marge Jenko Family**.*



**SCHOOL NEWS**

**THERE IS NO SCHOOL** on Monday, **February 15** in honor of our presidents. Have a great week! God bless you always.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

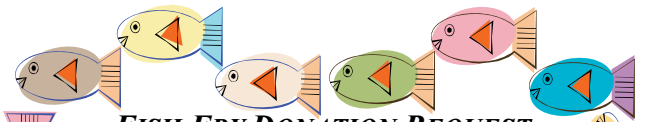
**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** is held Sundays during the 10:30 AM Mass for children in Grades 1-6.

**FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY**

*Call 412-349-0942 to register for any session*

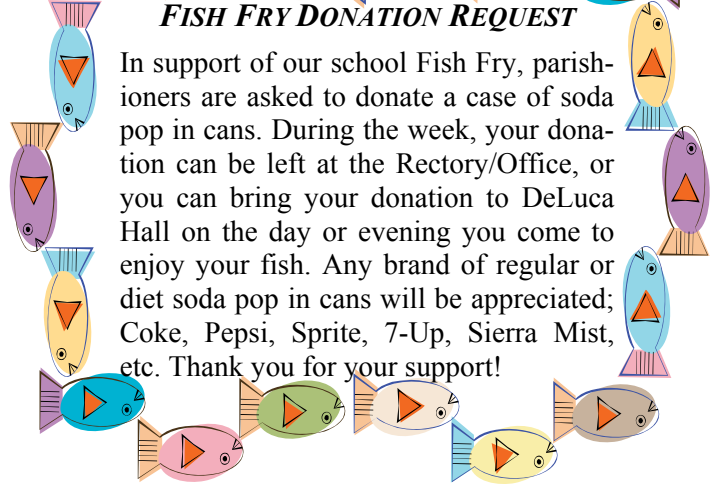
**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION** sessions are held the first Thursday of each month.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** sessions are held twice yearly, in the fall and spring.



**FISH FRY DONATION REQUEST**

In support of our school Fish Fry, parishioners are asked to donate a case of soda pop in cans. During the week, your donation can be left at the Rectory/Office, or you can bring your donation to DeLuca Hall on the day or evening you come to enjoy your fish. Any brand of regular or diet soda pop in cans will be appreciated; Coke, Pepsi, Sprite, 7-Up, Sierra Mist, etc. Thank you for your support!



**THE SANCTUARY LAMP**

The large candle that burns by the tabernacle, the Sanctuary Lamp, honors God and serves as a reminder of His presence. Due to the decreased number of Masses available, we will begin a program of accepting a weekly offering for the Sanctuary Lamp. If you would like to offer a monetary gift of \$30, your intention will be memorialized for the entire week and announced in our bulletin so that friends and family may offer their prayers. You may bring or mail your request to the Rectory/Office, or place it in the collection basket any Sunday. Please include the following information (please print) in an envelope marked, "Sanctuary Candle."

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Week requested (Sat-Sat) \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by \_\_\_\_\_ Your phone number \_\_\_\_\_

AROUND THE DIOCESE

MARRIED COUPLES looking for a New Year's Resolution are invited to make a commitment to do something to improve their marriage. Come to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on February 19-21 at the Toffress Restort, State College, PA. For more information or to register, contact 412-635-7775 or check us out on the web at www.wvme-pittsburgh.org.

ST. GERARD MAJELLA PARISH will welcome Rev. Donald Ware, C.P., Assistant Superior, St. Paul's Monastery, to speak and lead prayer on "Forgiveness" on Saturday, February 20 at 10:00 AM in the Social Hall. The program is free of charge and all are welcome. There will be a light lunch following. Lent is a time for reflection and this is an opportunity for all of us to build our faith. Please call 412-793-3333 to register.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD, a weekend retreat designed to heal the emotional and spiritual wounds of abortion, will be held Friday-Sunday, February 26-28 at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. In a confidential and supportive atmosphere, Rachel's vineyard demonstrates God's love, forgiveness and compassion to women and men struggling with abortion's aftermath. Financial aid is available. The retreat is sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Pittsburgh. To register or for more information, call 412-352-5348 or go online to www.ccpgh.org and click on Rachel's vineyard. The registration deadline is Friday, February 19.

A COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT TRAINING SEMINAR will be held Saturday, February 20 at 9:30 AM-3:30 PM at the Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church in East Liberty. The seminar is sponsored by Gateway Hospice and is free and open to the public. Call 412-536-2020 to register. Registration is required. A light lunch and beverages will be provided.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Sunday, February 14 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM Chester Rogalski-Mary Ann & Carl Stillitano
10:30 AM Joseph & Rose Adamo & Sue Adamo-Joyce & Jerry Kennedy
Monday, February 15
8:00 AM M/M John Quinlisk-Tom & Eileen Hanlon
Tuesday, February 16
8:00 AM Mass is at St. Michael
Wednesday, February 17 Ash Wednesday
9:00 AM Pauline Elko-Son Tom & Family
12:15 PM Distribution of Ashes
7:00 PM People of Parish
Thursday, February 18
8:00 AM Mass is at St. Michael
Friday, February 12
9:00 AM Mildred Vernon-Family
2:00 PM Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
Saturday, February 19
12:00 PM Confessions here
4:00 PM Mary Deletes-Carmel, Roberta & Laura
Sunday, February 20 First Sunday of Lent
8:30 AM People of the Parish
10:30 AM Alfredo Colaianna-Walt & Clara Jo Sakaluk

We reserve the right to make unavoidable changes in the Mass schedule.

Articles for the February 28th bulletin must be submitted to the Rectory Office by this Tuesday, February 16. You may submit to namchar@nauticom.net

Parish Stewardship: \$1,725. Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE OR TAPE YOUR ENVELOPES CLOSED.

If you know someone who is ill and who would like their name read during the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass on Saturday & Sunday, please have them contact Linda Freytag at 412-856-7321 or at jimlyn2@verizon.net no later than Wednesday evening.

WELCOME TO NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS CHURCH

In order that we may serve your needs better, please fill out this form, check any items which may apply to your situation, and drop it in the collection basket, mail or bring to the Rectory/Office. Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ New Parishioner \_\_\_ New Address or Phone
\_\_\_ Moving out of Parish \_\_\_ School information
\_\_\_ Returning to Parish \_\_\_ Interest in Catholicism/RCIA
\_\_\_ Entering Hospital \_\_\_ Shut in
\_\_\_ Returning Catholic \_\_\_ Interest in Women's Guild
\_\_\_ Interest in Parish Health Ministry \_\_\_ Interest in St. Vincent dePaul
\_\_\_ Interest in Holy Name Soc. \_\_\_ Interest in Ladies of Charity
\_\_\_ Interest in Altar Rosary Soc. \_\_\_ Interest in Stitching Angels
\_\_\_ Interest in Jr High Youth Grp \_\_\_ Interest in HS Youth Group
\_\_\_ Interest in Respect Life \_\_\_ Interest in Choir

EMERGENCY FOOD, CLOTHING & MORE
IN MONROEVILLE, TURTLE CREEK & PITCAIRN
ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY CAN HELP
CALL 412-372-8149

If you or someone you know would benefit from receiving a Prayer Shawl, please submit their name for consideration to Mary Harrill at 412-372-3181 or at meh227@aol.com.