

Letter From Our New Incoming Priest

Dear People of God,

I hope and pray that all is well with you and your loved ones as we enjoy the blessings of Summer!

It is hard to believe that back to school preparations are well underway. Students of all ages are beginning to think about the transition that September brings to their lives. They know that change brings growth, and always entails sacrificing their own desires for the goal of new life.

This year our parish (and St. Polycarp parish too!) will be immersed into the Paschal Mystery more fully. We, like all students, face the changing of schedules and routines. In a very real way, we must die to our personal wishes so that God's plan can unfold and the glory of new life can abound.

Certainly, there is nothing more sacred in our lives of faith than the weekend Mass schedule. We build our calendar around our favorite preference for Eucharist. Yet, with my appointment as Pastor of two parishes, change necessarily comes for both communities.

As we begin to think about this necessary revision, I offer the information that you need to consider in your discernment. On an average weekend at 3 Masses here, there are about 236 folks. Our Church holds 300 people comfortably. These statistics are from the Annual Count by the Diocese in October. Only the allocation at each Mass varies slightly from week to week. Based on these numbers, the question of the need for 3 Weekend Masses must be evaluated.

*To help the Holy Spirit guide us in our transition, I need your input. **There will be a special Town Hall Meeting on Friday 11 August 2017 at 6:30 pm to discuss the situation here more fully.** Please pray about and come to help discern how we can meet the challenge of one Priest serving two Parishes. An essential piece of this challenge is to minimize the time that I will need to spend traveling between my two parishes.*

Certainly, this is not the type of first encounter that a new Pastor wants to have with his new flock, (Likewise, it is not your normal experience of transition.) None the less, we both must be open to the Holy Spirit re-creating the Church. As the paradigm of ministry transitions to a new model, God will be present! The people of St. Dennis have responded wonderfully to growth and empowerment throughout their rich history.

May God give us the grace to be open to the process of entering more fully into the Paschal Mystery!

Fraternally,



Rev. James D. Hreha

**TOWN HALL MEETING AUG. 11, 2017 @ 6:30PM
IN OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HALL
ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!**

