

Mass Time Change in the Spring

Dear Parishioners:

Most of you are aware by now that since July, I have served as the pastor of Sacred Heart in Oxford Junction, in addition to St. John and St. Isidore. Because Sacred Heart's Mass time was 10am on Sunday, it was arranged that it should be moved to 11am due to navigation adjustments I needed to make at the start of the assignment.

After six months, in a spirit of fraternal love and Christian solidarity with our sister parishes, the Pastoral Council has consented to 8:00am Sunday Mass at St. John. This would enable Sacred Heart to move toward an earlier Mass schedule, closer to its original time. Please also note that St. Isidore's schedule will remain the same.

While the Pastoral Council decided that the start date for these changes would be January 1, 2022, after learning about the conditions of the county roads to Oxford Junction in winter, **we have decided to move the start date to early April**. Please be aware that I communicated the Mass time change in this week's bulletin before learning about the winter driving situation that informed the decision to wait until spring. Hence, this formal notice cancels the January 1 start date in the bulletin.

As your pastor, I understand the reality that coming to Mass 30 minutes earlier can be challenging. And while I gravitate toward the interest of each parish, I also understand that I cannot meet them squarely. So, I appeal to and urge you to accept the challenge as we embody what we all hold dear—our faith in Jesus. To that end, St. Paul reminds us of how we share “one body and one Spirit ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all,” (Ephesians 4:5).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

In Christ,



Fr. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah, Pastor