

New Weekend Mass Schedule St. Colette Parish

**Saturdays at 4:00pm
Sundays at 8:00am, 10:00am & 12 Noon**

**The new schedule begins the weekend of June 2 & 3, 2018
(The weekend after Memorial Day)**

Since March of 2017 the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, Worship Commission and Core Team of the Parish Staff have seriously discussed and studied the current demographic changes in our community and decided it was time to adjust our weekend Mass schedule. Considering we are one of a the few parishes of our size (about 1,800 households) that still has six weekend Masses it is time to lower the number of Masses to four per weekend. For several years the parish has tried to recruit additional liturgical ministers with little success. We no longer have enough liturgical ministers to serve at six Masses per weekend. Increasing the time between Sunday Masses (from 30 minutes to one hour) creates more time for preparation, socializing and community building as well as additional time for a turnover in the parking lot between Masses, especially at Christmas and Easter. Fewer Masses will offer a better utilization of our facilities and lower energy costs.

In November and December 2017, everyone who worships here at St. Colette Church was asked to participate in a survey which included data pertaining to average Mass counts for each weekend Mass over the past five years and Mass schedules for neighboring parishes. Two proposed Mass times were offered for Saturdays: 4:00 or 4:30pm. For Sundays three proposed schedules were offered: 8:00am, 10:00am & 12 Noon or 8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm, or 8:00am, 10:30am, & 12:30pm. Participants were asked to state their preference of proposed schedules that will meet their own personal needs, the needs of our parishioners and those who do not belong to the parish but worship here on weekends.

In January, 2018 the members of the three consultative groups (Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and the Worship Commission) studied the results of the surveys and discussed factors such as availability of seating, which new Mass times will have greatest impact on parishioners, financial affects, etc. Each group, by consensus, made their recommendation for a new weekend Mass schedule. Their recommendations were taken to the February 6th Core Team meeting where the recommendations were discussed at length. After discussing all the factors it was not an easy decision to make. However the Core Team then decided, again by consensus, the new weekend Mass schedule should be Saturday at 4:00pm and Sunday at 8:00am, 10:00am and 12 Noon beginning the first weekend of June, 2018.

As the Core Team, whose responsibility is to provide the parish leadership, future planning and to make decisions such as changing a weekend Mass schedule, we realize the implementation of this new schedule will not be an easy one. After twenty years of the same Mass times it will be difficult for many people to make a change to their weekend schedules. At some Masses, especially the 4:00pm and 10:00am, the church will be more crowded than we are accustomed to (except on Christmas and Easter). We all need to be patient and cooperate to the best of our ability working together through this time of transition and change.

If we can be of any assistance to you please do not hesitate to ask us. We are more than willing to discuss your concerns and to answer any questions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

St. Colette Core Team Members:
Greg Boyer, Alex Colton, Susan Garr, Sera Lewan,
Theresa Lisiecki, Rev. Gary Michalik, Nancy Ohman, Mary Jo Parnell