

REPORT ON THE MASS TIMES SURVEY

It has taken a while, not only to compile the results of the survey, but to read, reflect, and pray about all the ideas and comments offered by the parishioners. I am grateful for all the responses and the honesty of everyone who took part.

The good news is that we had such a wonderful level of participation from all three parishes. A total of **675** survey responses were received: **160** from St. Michael, **355** from St. Joseph, and **151** from Sacred Heart; **9** more did not indicate their parish. I believe and trust that I now have a better understanding of the thoughts and feelings of parishioners from across our cluster.

At the same time, I am truly moved and concerned about the **HURT** expressed by some individuals! Persons from each of our three parishes shared comments about feeling *ignored and frustrated* by how things were handled in the past. Because comments like this come from all three parishes, this tells me that unhappiness is shared equally across the cluster. It also tells me that sacrifices have been made by all three parishes and that no one parish has been favored over any other. *I wholeheartedly pray for those feeling such pain, and hope God can help them heal and experience a re-connection with their fellow parishioners both in their own and neighboring parishes.*

Because I have only been here two years, I cannot explain “broken promises” or the ways in which decisions were made in the past. I can only say that I believe in full, or at least representative, consultation before making decisions, and that I do *my best* not to show favoritism. I try to make reasonable and appropriate decisions even if those decisions are painful and displeasing to some. Sacrifice, (and its companion pain), are inevitable when sharing limited resources, especially priest personnel, such as we must do in the context of our cluster.

I am most grateful to all those who expressed their support for my administrative efforts in trying to serve the diverse needs of so many. It is good to know that many of you trust my leadership and decision making. I pray that what comes out of this survey will be the best decisions we can make at the present moment, and that we will all prayerfully support our future together as the local Church.

Now, for those results

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

The first question: ***Are you satisfied with the weekend schedule as is?***

Satisfied with weekend schedule?	St. Michael (160)			St. Joseph (355)			Sacred Heart (151)			Not indicated (9)		
	Yes	No	un-marked	Yes	No	un-marked	Yes	No	un-marked	Yes	No	un-marked
number of responses	147	6	7	232	118	5	134	14	0	8	0	1
% of parish	91.9%	3.7%	4.4%	65.4%	33.2%	1.4%	90.7%	9.3%		88.9%		11.1%
% of Grand Total	21.8%	0.9%	1%	34.4%	17.5%	0.7%	20.3%	2.1%		1.2%		0.1%

We quickly see that the vast majority of St. Michael and Sacred Heart parishioners are satisfied with the current weekend schedule. Even two-thirds of St. Joseph parishioners are satisfied. Though the fact that 33% of St. Joseph parishioners are not happy must be addressed.

Of the 118 “dissatisfied” responses, a full 70 shared the opinion that the Saturday 7 pm Vigil Mass needs to be earlier. (5 did not indicate a specific time; 18 want St. Joseph to have the 4 pm Mass; 12 would be happy with a 5:00 or 5:30 pm Vigil; and a full 35 requested the Vigil be moved to 6 pm.) There are even comments from St. Michael and Sacred Heart parishioners (approximately 8) supporting an earlier Saturday Vigil for St. Joseph.

I must note that 11 surveys stated that they need the 7 pm Vigil Mass because of their shift work schedule.

Other St. Joseph suggestions for weekend Mass changes: 12 want a 10:00 or 10:30 am Sunday Mass instead of 11:00 am. Four (4) asked for St. Joseph to have the 9 am Sunday Mass.

The “dissatisfied” from St. Michael and Sacred Heart also wanted different Mass times. Two (2) from St. Michael want a 7:00 am Sunday Mass; one (1) wants a 10:00 am Mass. Six (6) from Sacred Heart want a 10:00 am Mass. Six (6) from Sacred Heart suggested that the Saturday and Sunday afternoon Masses should be an hour later during the summer.

Questions about “rotation.”

Because I have been told by some that when St. Joseph and Sacred Heart parishes were joined (now at least 14 years ago) there had been a promise made to rotate the Mass schedule, two questions were included about rotation: one about rotating Masses between St. Joseph and Sacred Heart (partial rotation); and one about rotating Masses between all three parishes (total rotation). That promise of 14 years ago was made by someone other than myself and under very different circumstances, so I want to address the desires of the parishioners **now**. These questions sought to surface *current* opinions.

What do you think about a Partial Rotation Mass schedule?

(4:00 and 7:00 pm Vigils, 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses rotated between Sacred Heart and St. Joseph; 4:30 pm Vigil, 7:00 am, 8:30 am, and 5:00 pm Masses stay as is.)

Please note: here, and again for the Easter Triduum questions, the breakdown of “satisfied” and “not satisfied” is related to the first general question, (see above).

Weekend schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
St. Michael	Satisfied (147)	26		29	3	75	14
	% of parish	16.3%		18.1%	1.9%	46.9%	8.8%
	Not Satisfied (6)			1		4	1
	% of parish			0.6%		2.5%	0.6%
	un-marked (7)	1	2	1		2	1
	St. M. Total (160)	27	2	31	3	81	16
	% of Grand Total	4%	0.3%	4.6%	0.4%	12%	2.4%

It should be noted that most of the 26 surveys speaking in favor of the partial rotation expressed the “satisfaction” that it did not affect St. Michael, and that St. Joseph and Sacred Heart can rotate Masses if that is what *they* want. The majority of comments: “leave things alone.”

Weekend schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
St. Joseph	Satisfied (232)	4	5	57	4	151	11
	% of parish	1.1%	1.4%	16.1%	1.1%	42.5%	3.1%
	Not Satisfied (118)	19	23	13	7	46	10
	% of parish	5.4%	6.4%	3.7%	2%	13%	2.8%
	un-marked (5)	1		3			1
	St. J. Total (355)	24	28	73	11	197	22
	% of Grand Total	3.6%	4.1%	10.8%	1.6%	29.2%	3.3%

There is a sizeable number of responses from St. Joseph who do not want the rotation, most saying to leave things as they are. They say their needs are being met, and rotation will confuse things. 25 requested an earlier Saturday Vigil Mass *without* the need to rotate with Sacred Heart. Those who support partial rotation: three (3) see it as keeping the original promise; two (2) because it gets the 4 pm Vigil back to St. Joseph; two (2) more want the 9:00 am Mass back at St. Joseph; and three (3) want the rotation because they want others to know what St. Joseph has had to experience.

Weekend schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Sacred Heart	Satisfied (137)	1		30	7	91	8
	% of parish	0.7%		19.9%	4.6%	60.3%	5.3%
	Not Satisfied (14)			2		11	1
	% of parish			1.3%		7.3%	0.7%
	un-marked (0)						
	S. H. Total (151)	1		32	7	102	9
	% of Grand Total	0.1%		4.7%	1%	15.1%	1.3%

The Sacred Heart responses echo the request to leave the schedule as it is. At least eight (8) in the “doesn’t matter” bracket expressed concern for the lateness of the St. Joseph 7 pm Vigil Mass.

Weekend schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Parish not indicated	Satisfied (8)			1		5	2
	%			11.1%		55.6%	22.2%
	Not Satisfied (0)						
	%						
	un-marked (1)			1			
	No Parish Total (9)			2		5	2
% of Grand Total			0.3%		0.7%	0.3%	

Those who did not indicate their parish also seem to have the same opinion as the majority of the survey responses.

Weekend schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Grand Total	St. M. Total (160)	27	2	31	3	81	16
	St. J. Total (355)	24	28	73	11	197	22
	S. H. Total (151)	1		32	7	102	9
	No Parish Total (9)			2		5	2
	Grand Total (675)	52	30	138	21	385	49
	% of Grand Total	7.7%	4.4%	20.4%	3.1%	57%	7.3%

Over 400 responses (combining “worse” and “don’t want”) – about 60% of all the surveys – are against partial rotation compared to 82 (combining “really want” and “better”) – 12% – responses in favor.

What do you think about a Total Rotation Mass schedule?

(A six year schedule changing all Masses annually) As chaotic as that schedule looked, it was an effort at *blind justice*, in as much as no parish would receive any hint of favoritism over any other parish.

Weekend schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
St. Michael	Satisfied (147)	2		15	5	121	4
	% of parish	1.3%		9.4%	3.1%	75.6%	2.5%
	Not Satisfied (6)			1		4	1
	% of parish			0.6%		2.5%	0.6%
	un-marked (7)					6	1
	St. M. Total (160)	2		16	5	131	6
	% of Grand Total	0.3%		2.4%	0.7%	19.4%	0.9%

The two (2) St. Michael surveys who marked “really want” actually only want a 7:00 am Sunday Mass at St. Michael because they do not want the six year rotation cycle. Most find this too confusing and unnecessary.

Weekend schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
St. Joseph	Satisfied (232)	2	2	36	3	175	14
	% of parish	0.6%	0.6%	10.1%	0.8%	49.3%	3.9%
	Not Satisfied (118)	2	21	12	6	65	12
	% of parish	0.6%	5.9%	3.4%	1.7%	18.3%	3.4%
	un-marked (5)			2		1	2
	St. J. Total (355)	4	23	50	9	241	28
	% of Grand Total	0.6%	3.4%	7.4%	1.3%	35.7%	4.1%

While the majority spoke against this rotation, (they prefer the current schedule and/or find this too confusing), those in favor were more attracted to its “fairness” and that St. Joseph would have better Mass times.

Weekend schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Sacred Heart	Satisfied (137)			29	2	96	10
	% of parish			19.2%	1.3%	63.6%	6.6%
	Not Satisfied (14)				1	12	1
	% of parish				0.7%	7.9%	0.7%
	un-marked (0)						
	S. H. Total (151)			29	3	108	11
	% of Grand Total			4.3%	0.4%	16%	1.6%

Nine (9) of the Sacred Heart surveys who marked “doesn't matter” expressed their flexibility with

attending Mass, but still did not believe this kind of rotation solved the problem. Those not wanting this change also spoke of it not being necessary.

Weekend schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Parish not indicated	Satisfied (8)			1		5	2
	%			11.1%		55.6%	22.2%
	Not Satisfied (0)						
	%						
	un-marked (1)			1			
	No Parish Total (9)			2		5	2
	% of Grand Total			0.3%		0.7%	0.3%

Again, these few show great similarity with the rest of the surveys.

Weekend schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Grand Total	St. M. Total (160)	2		16	5	131	6
	St. J. Total (355)	4	23	50	9	241	28
	S. H. Total (151)			29	3	108	11
	No Parish Total (9)			2		5	2
	Grand Total (675)	6	23	97	17	485	47
	% of Grand Total	0.9%	3.4%	14.4%	2.5%	71.9%	7%

I believe it is safe to say that a total rotation is unacceptable to the vast majority of parishioners in all three parishes. All the same, the comments about fairness and wanting a **fixed** schedule (no rotation) that is beneficial to all three parishes are understandable and taken very seriously.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

First, to explain the reason to change all Vigil Masses on December 24, to 4:00 pm:

When I arrived here as Pastor, I accepted the Christmas Vigil schedule with a 3:00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart and a 3:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph. I truly understood the logic of these extra-early Masses because of the Bonfire tradition and all the traffic, (remember I grew up across the river, so the tradition is also mine in a way). I simply *presumed* that the Bishop had granted permission for earlier Vigil Masses. Yet I will admit that I felt uneasy about Vigil Masses before 4:00 pm. I know the universal (world-wide) law of the Church states that Vigils cannot begin before 4:00 pm.

Last September, I contacted the Chancery in Baton Rouge to request a *letter of permission* from Bishop Muench to continue with our two early Vigil Masses. At that time I was informed that the Bishop **cannot** give permission for these Masses or even dispense from the Church law about Vigils not starting before 4:00 pm. Because the Masses were already scheduled, I was told to do the following: I, as Pastor, had *“to absolve in my heart”* everyone who attended Mass at 3:00 or 3:30 pm because they were missing their obligation to attend a Christmas Mass in keeping with Church law! There truly is *nothing* which can make a 3:00 or 3:30 Mass “count” for the Christmas obligation.

Thus, as your Pastor, not wanting to perpetuate an erroneous notion that the 3:00 and 3:30 pm Masses count for the Christmas obligation, (and also wanting to be true to my own conscience by obeying the laws of the Church), I have decided to schedule the Vigil Masses appropriately. There were several angry comments in the surveys about this change, but I believe this is still the correct decision. Vigil Masses, getting out at 5:00, or even 5:15, still give everyone enough time to get home and off the streets before the serious bonfire traffic begins. I know some will not understand and not be happy with this decision, but I hold myself obliged to be obedient to the rules of our Catholic Church.

The question: ***What do you think about a rotation of Christmas Masses?***

(Fixed 4 pm Vigils at all three churches; 6:00 pm and Midnight rotated between St. Joseph and Sacred Heart; Christmas day Masses rotated between all three churches annually.)

Christmas schedule – Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Grand Total	St. M. Total (160)	16	1	47	3	78	15
	St. J. Total (355)	16	42	119	15	117	46
	S. H. Total (151)	5	6	55	10	58	17
	No Parish Total (9)			2		5	2
	Grand Total (675)	37	49	223	28	258	80
	% of Grand Total	5.5%	3.3%	33%	4.1%	38.2%	11.9%

The comments on the surveys which checked “really want” for the Christmas schedule were actually focusing on having three 4:00 pm Vigil Masses; by-in-large they liked that all three parishes were being treated the same.

Because of the first Vigil moving to 4:00, it is necessary to move the second Vigil to 6:00 pm. Many St. Joseph surveys, (44), and a few Sacred Heart, (5), advised against having the 6:00 pm Vigil at St. Joseph because of the bonfire traffic. About 12 responses, (combining all three parishes), believed 6:00 pm could work at Sacred Heart or even St. Michael.

None of the St. Michael surveys asked for Midnight Mass to be rotated at St. Michael. Three (3) from Sacred Heart and 23 from St. Joseph spoke in favor of rotating Midnight Mass. However, 30 from St. Joseph, plus one each from Sacred Heart and St. Michael, believe that Midnight Mass should remain at St. Joseph. Thus, the count on both sides, rotate or not rotate, are very close.

The surveys which indicated “don't want” seemed to have focused on the Christmas Day Mass rotation. The majority of responses for the Christmas question did not offer extra comments.

EASTER TRIDUUM

Only for the last four or five years the Easter Triduum schedule (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil) has been fixed without rotation. Some want to go back to the rotation, so the survey includes this question: ***Are you satisfied with the Easter Triduum schedule as is?***

Satisfied with Triduum schedule?	St. Michael (160)			St. Joseph (355)			Sacred Heart (151)			Not indicated (9)		
	Yes	No	un-marked	Yes	No	un-marked	Yes	No	un-marked	Yes	No	un-marked
number of responses	137	9	14	222	87	46	112	15	24	7	0	2
% of parish	85.6%	5.6%	8.8%	62.5%	24.5%	13%	74.2%	9.9%	15.9%	77.8%		22.2%
% of Grand Total	20.3%	1.3%	2.1%	32.9%	12.9%	6.8%	16.6%	2.2%	3.6%	1%		0.3%

Most of the surveys from all three parishes offer no comment to this general question. Comments focus on leaving the schedule alone and not confusing things with a rotation. By the numbers, 70.8% of those returning surveys are satisfied with the current schedule. Those who are not satisfied for the most part ask to go back to the rotation.

Questions about “rotation.”

Because some have told me that St. Michael works beautifully for Holy Thursday, and also simply wanting to give more than one option for the Holy Week Triduum, this question was proposed: ***What do you think about a Partial Rotation of the Easter Triduum?***

(Holy Thursday stays at St. Michael; St. Joseph and Sacred Heart rotate Good Friday and Easter Vigil; Sunday Masses are normal schedule, plus extra 9:00 am and no 5:00 pm.)

Triduum schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
St. Michael	Satisfied (137)	26	3	49		54	5
	% of parish	16.3%	1.9%	30.6%		33.8%	3.1%
	Not Satisfied (9)			1		8	
	% of parish			0.6%		5%	
	un-marked (14)		6			2	6
	St. M. Total (160)	26	9	50		64	11
	% of Grand Total	3.9%	1.3%	7.4%		9.5%	1.6%

The 26 surveys who marked “really want,” (and even six of the “better” responses) commented that they liked the partial rotation *only* because it leaves St. Michael alone. They are joined by 10 under the “doesn’t matter” choice. Under “don’t want,” 18 do not want any kind of rotation. Three (3) from the “don’t want” asked that St. Michael be included in the rotation of the Easter Vigil.

Triduum schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
St. Joseph	Satisfied (222)	6	8	100	4	91	13
	% of parish	1.7%	2.3%	28.2%	1.1%	25.6%	3.7%
	Not Satisfied (87)	9	14	10	13	39	2
	% of parish	2.5%	3.9%	2.8%	3.7%	11%	0.6%
	un-marked (46)	1	2	14	1	3	25
	St. J. Total (355)	16	24	124	18	133	40
	% of Grand Total	2.4%	3.6%	18.4%	2.7%	19.7%	5.9%

Even with so many St. Joseph responses (222) claiming to be satisfied with the fixed Triduum schedule, 11 believe partial rotation to be worthwhile because St. Joseph will sometimes have the Easter Vigil. Of those who are not satisfied, 20 would prefer a total rotation rather than partial. For those who checked “doesn’t matter,” 102 of the 124 do not explain their choice; 14 indicate that they would go to the liturgies wherever they are held. Over 41% of the St. Joseph surveys clearly do not want this change to the Triduum schedule.

Triduum schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Sacred Heart	Satisfied (112)	1	5	50	3	46	7
	% of parish	0.7%	3.3%	33.1%	2%	30.5%	4.6%
	Not Satisfied (15)		1	2	2	10	
	% of parish		0.7%	1.3%	1.3%	6.6%	
	un-marked (24)	1	1	7		2	13
	S. H. Total (151)	2	7	59	5	58	20
	% of Grand Total	0.3%	1%	8.7%	0.7%	8.6%	3%

Besides the nine (9) surveys marked “really want” or “better,” 10 of the “doesn’t matter” express flexibility with the rotation schedule. Only three (3) of the “don’t want” express the desire for a full rather than partial rotation of the Triduum. Six (6) specifically ask that the schedule not be touched, while 10 are concerned that this change will confuse people. The rest basically offer no comment.

Triduum schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Parish not indicated	Satisfied (7)	1		1	1	3	1
	%	11.1%		11.1%	11.1%	33.3%	11.1%
	Not Satisfied (0)						
	%						
	un-marked (2)			1			1
	No Parish Total (9)	1		2	1	3	2
	% of Grand Total	0.1%		0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%

These responses are just about evenly distributed across the possible choices.

Triduum schedule with Partial Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Grand Total	St. M. Total (160)	26	9	50		64	11
	St. J. Total (355)	16	24	124	18	133	40
	S. H. Total (151)	2	7	59	5	58	20
	No Parish Total (9)	1		2	1	3	2
	Grand Total (675)	45	40	235	24	258	73
	% of Grand Total	6.7%	5.9%	34.8%	3.6%	38.2%	10.8%

With so many of the “doesn’t matter” responses not explaining themselves, and so many not marking for or against, there does not appear to be a strong enough call for partial rotation. [Remember so many of St. Michael’s affirmatives focused on leaving St. Michael alone.] Even if we compared 85 (combining “really want” and “better”) against the 282 (“worse” combined with “don’t want”), it is clear that this is not a change supported by the parishioners.

The second rotation question about the Triduum was to get parishioner responses about the former rotation schedule: ***What do you think about a Total Rotation of the Easter Triduum?*** (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil rotate on a three year cycle between all three churches; Sunday Masses are normal schedule, plus extra 9:00 am and no 5:00 pm.)

Triduum schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
St. Michael	Satisfied (137)	4	3	35	3	82	10
	% of parish	2.5%	1.9%	21.9%	1.9%	51.3%	6.3%
	Not Satisfied (9)	1	2	1	2	3	
	% of parish	0.6%	1.3%	0.6%	1.3%	1.9%	
	un-marked (14)			1		6	7
	St. M. Total (160)	5	5	37	5	91	17
	% of Grand Total	0.7%	0.7%	5.5%	0.7%	13.5%	2.5%

Once more all of the “doesn’t matter” responses were given without explanation, so it is hard to know where they fall, i.e., open or closed to a return to the rotation. Even the majority of the “don’t want,” (59 of 91), have no comments. There are 10 (combining “really want” and “better”) who want the rotation, but 13 others who want to keep Holy Thursday, and 16 who believe the rotation is too confusing.

Triduum schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
St. Joseph	Satisfied (222)	5	5	94	2	104	12
	% of parish	1.4%	1.4%	26.5%	0.6%	29.2%	3.4%
	Not Satisfied (87)	16	29	11	3	25	3
	% of parish	4.5%	8.2%	3.1%	0.8%	7%	0.8%
	un-marked (46)		2	10	2	5	27
	St. J. Total (355)	21	36	115	7	134	42
	% of Grand Total	3.1%	5.3%	17%	1%	19.9%	6.2%

Of the 115 “doesn’t matter,” 101 have no explanation; the other 14 appear open to the total rotation. Of the “don’t want,” 76 out of 134 have no comment; 38 expressly do not want a rotation of any kind; and nine (9) believe the rotation is too confusing. Three (3) want all Triduum services at St. Joseph. Combining “really want” with “better” shows that at least 57 responses want the former rotation back.

Triduum schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Sacred Heart	Satisfied (112)	2	1	40	1	57	11
	% of parish	1.3%	0.7%	26.5%	0.7%	37.7%	7.3%
	Not Satisfied (15)		3	4		8	
	% of parish		2%	2.6%		5.3%	
	un-marked (24)			8		3	13
	S. H. Total (151)	2	4	52	1	68	24
	% of Grand Total	0.3%	0.6%	7.7%	0.1%	10.1%	3.6%

As with the other two parishes, 43 of the 52 “doesn’t matter” responses had no comment. The remaining nine (9) were singular comments, such as “will accept what the majority want,” etc. Of the “don’t want” responses, only one person asked to keep the Easter Vigil at Sacred Heart; six (6) expressly did not want any rotation; but three (3) said they would accept total rotation. Most, again, were blank without comment.

Triduum schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Parish not indicated	Satisfied (7)			1		5	1
	%			11.1%		55.6%	11.1%
	Not Satisfied (0)						
	%						
	un-marked (2)			1			1
	No Parish Total (9)			2		5	2
	% of Grand Total			0.3%		0.7%	0.3%

These did not offer comments about their choices.

Triduum schedule – Total Rotation		Really Want	Better than now	Doesn't Matter	Worse than now	Don't want this change	Nothing marked
Grand Total	St. M. Total (160)	5	5	37	5	91	17
	St. J. Total (355)	21	36	115	7	134	42
	S. H. Total (151)	2	4	52	1	68	24
	No Parish Total (9)			2		5	2
	Grand Total (675)	28	45	206	13	298	85
	% of Grand Total	4.1%	6.7%	30.5%	1.9%	44.1%	12.6%

The grand total shows that 73 surveys are in favor of the full rotation of the Easter Triduum, while 311 are against the rotation. With 291 either not marking any choice or giving no opinion one way or the other, there is no majority of the 675 surveys calling for a change at this time.

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Morning Mass time (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday)					
	St. Michael	St. Joseph	Sacred Heart	No Parish	Total
7:00 am	11	33	9	1	54
7:30 am	2	12	3		17
8:00 am	10	30	15		55
8:15 am	33	170	67		270

It is clear that the majority of responses want to keep the morning Mass at 8:15 am. I do note that about 25 surveys from St. Michael requested a weekday Mass, most preferring Tuesday afternoon combined with the current Novena and Benediction.

Afternoon Mass time (Wednesday)					
	St. Michael	St. Joseph	Sacred Heart	No Parish	Total
5:15 pm	36	181	19		236
5:30 pm	9	47	6		62
6:00 pm	5	28	11	1	45

Again, it is clear that the majority want to keep the 5:15 pm Mass on Wednesday.

FIRST SATURDAY MASS AT ST. MICHAEL

Many surveys left this blank. Overall, 66 indicated that they attend or plan to attend the First Saturday Mass at St. Michael. Most indicated that the 8:00 am time was good, or at least it did not matter. A small number suggested either 8:30, or 9:00, or 9:30, or 10:00.

CONCLUSIONS

Once more I thank everyone who took part in the survey. And I thank all those who have waded through this summary of the results. Not all survey comments were included, especially if they were singular ideas which did not speak directly to the questions. (But I want to reassure everyone that I personally read all of the surveys as much as three or four times each, and will stay mindful of all comments, even the individual ones, as I try to serve all of you in our cluster.)

For all the talk I have heard since I arrived about the need to be more fair and rotate the Masses between the parishes, it is clear to me now that the majority of the parishioners in all three parishes are not really in favor of rotation, whether it be for Christmas, the Easter Triduum, or even weekend Masses. I am surprised but accepting of the survey results.

Conclusion 1: Because there is a strong, even if not overwhelming, concern about the 7:00 pm Vigil Mass at St. Joseph, *I propose moving that Saturday Vigil permanently to 6:00 pm.* It will be covered by the priest celebrating the 4:00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart. It bothers me to do this to shift workers who need a late Mass, but they are not as numerous as those requesting a change. Because of the way the priests are scheduled on the weekend, a 6:00 pm Mass at St. Joseph will require the *weekend Confession time to be moved to Sunday morning at 10:00 am, before the 11:00 Mass.* (The priest finishing the Sunday morning Mass at St. Michael will need to hear confessions at St. Joseph.) *No other changes will be made to the weekend schedule at this time.*
This change will take place the first weekend of October 2011, giving us adequate time to advertise and familiarize everyone with the change.

Conclusion 2: In regard to Christmas, we will follow the rules of the Church and make the change to have three (3) Vigil Masses, one at each parish church, beginning at 4:00 pm, (even though St. Michael's Saturday Vigil usually starts at 4:30 pm). There will also be a 6:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass. For the sake of the local population as well as the great number of visitors for the bonfires, it is wise to keep this 6:00 pm Vigil annually at Sacred Heart. The Christmas Midnight Mass will remain annually at St. Joseph. The Christmas morning Masses will not be rotated: 8:30 am at St. Michael; 9:00 am at Sacred Heart; and 10:00 am at St. Joseph. There will not be a 5:00 pm at Sacred Heart on Christmas Day because of the extra Vigil on December 24.

Conclusion 3: I was truly surprised that we did not have a majority asking to return to the rotation of the Sacred Triduum at Easter. This seemed the most likely change to me because it has not been long since the rotation stopped. However, I do not believe I can reverse the fixed schedule for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil when the majority of the surveys did not support this change.

Conclusion 4: I respect the fact that parishioners more distant from Prompt Succor Chapel in Litcher have a difficult time making it to daily Mass. The request for a weekly and/or monthly Mass at St. Michael, I believe, has been addressed as best we can right now by making the First Saturday Mass a permanent part of our Mass schedule. Please be mindful that your priests have many ministerial obligations which impinge daily on their ability to satisfy all the varied requests for extra services.

END OF REPORT

Fr. Vincent J. Dufresne
July 23, 2011