

Cluster 28 Transition Committee

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, ST. PATRICK PARISH, ST. PIUS X PARISH, ST. BRIGID SCHOOL

The Cluster 28 Transition Committee hopes that all our families had a safe and peace-filled holiday. In this and our other regular reports, we seek to moderate fears that the members of our community must inevitably have about the changes ahead of us and to underline our desire to move forward with clear-sightedness and transparency. Today's report is a review of some important things that are coming up this month.

First, a reminder of our cluster-wide town hall meeting at St Pius X Church at 2pm on Sunday, January 24. The main purpose of this meeting will be to discuss together the need for adjustments to the Mass schedules to compensate for the fact that we will have fewer priests to serve our community. Previously, we had suggested these questions to help guide you in your prayer and reflection in preparation for this meeting: 1) What creative ways do you see that we can reduce the number of Masses and still serve our cluster's needs?, 2) What Masses do you attend regularly and how would the elimination of one or the other of them affect your ability to practice your faith?, 3) Are there particular Masses you think it would be more important to preserve than others, why?, 4) Would you be open to traveling to one of the other cluster churches for Mass at least occasionally?, 5) Are there particular characteristics of a certain liturgy (such as music) that should be preserved, even if the times of the Masses were changed?, 6) Experience suggests that the elimination of a Mass can affect the financial support of the parish – how can we avoid having this happen? The meeting will provide opportunity to ask questions and for an open discussion of this important issue for our community. After the meeting, we will go to the parish hall for some refreshments and socializing.

Second, this month Cluster Transition Committee members will be attending the meetings of the St. Brigid School Board and the Parish Pastoral Councils to report on progress and speak with board/council members about their questions and concerns. You should feel free to speak with your respective representatives about these meetings. The meetings are as follows: St. Pius X Pastoral Council – Thursday, January 7; St. Brigid School Board – Tuesday, January 12; St. Patrick Pastoral Council – Wednesday, January 13; and St. Joseph Pastoral Council – Tuesday, January 26.

Third, we are making good progress on planning the common Cluster office which we plan to begin operating at the beginning of the new fiscal year in July. To this date, we have agreed that the office will be administered by a team, including the pastor, with all team members having both pastoral and business responsibilities. This approach will insure that the pastoral needs of our community stay at the forefront of our planning. While the Cluster office will be centralized at one location, we are committed to preserving a regular office presence at all sites so that families can continue their habits of visiting a local office to arrange for Masses as well as seek other information and assistance. Our hope is to have a specific plan in this regard for your consideration by early in March.

As always, the members of the transition committee pledge to communicate with you in a regular and transparent manner about our planning. We will utilize the bulletin, school news notes/letter, and websites as the first means of this communication. If at any time you have input you wish to share, please feel free to speak with one of the committee members – you can call your parish or school office for contact information. Please continue to keep us and this process in your prayers.