

Transition Update

February 2024

Below are this month's updates on some of the key transition topics.

1. **Mass Times.** The adjustment to the Sunday morning Mass schedule has gone smoothly. It was a joy to see many St. Bart's parishioners in attendance at the 8 AM Mass at St. Joseph Church, and to see familiar faces serving as the ushers.
2. **Integrating Service Ministries.** Those who serve as ushers, lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew Parish are encouraged to continue their service at St. Joseph's. As mentioned, ushers from St. Bart's are now serving at the 8 AM Mass at St. Joe's. St. Bart's lectors will be participating during Holy Week liturgies held at St. Joe's. The coordinators of both lectors and Extraordinary Ministers have the names of all St. Bart's participants and will be working them into the schedule over the coming months.
3. **Sale of St. Bart's property.** The Memorandum of Understanding from the parish was finalized and shared with the Archdiocese as input to the discussions with St. Sebastian's. It includes items such as access to St. Bart's Church for funerals, the right to relocate objects such as the Last Supper carving under the altar, and continued access to classroom and other facilities.
4. **Closing Mass and Reception.** As Fr. Bryan explained in the Feb. 25th bulletin and in consultation with both Parish Pastoral Councils, Sunday June 23, 2024 at 11:30 am has been chosen for a Closing Mass at Saint Bartholomew Parish, with reception to follow. The official closing of the parish is still July 1st, but the earlier closing Mass should give more flexibility to those who go away for the summer.
5. **Coffee and Conversation with the Pastor.** On Sunday, January 28, Father Bryan hosted a coffee hour in Ward Hall for questions and conversation with parishioners. Attendance was good and the discussion informative, providing a good first-hand perspective on what's on the minds of the faithful. Topics covered included the music programs as well as traditions to maintain such as Community Sundays. Future get-togethers are planned.
6. **Finance and Administration.** The business managers of both parishes have begun meeting regularly to work on the changes necessary to ensure an orderly transition of financial and administrative duties. This includes reviews of accounts, contracts, employees, and technology systems, with the assistance of the Archdiocese.
7. **Parking.** A map is being created to show available parking spots around St. Joseph Church. We will make this available shortly. Continuing improvements are planned for the rear church lot.
8. **Faith Formation Upper Grades.** A new full-time position has been created to oversee combining the two parish upper grade programs. This role will implement the Diocesan decision to transition Confirmation age from high school to 8th grade. Applicants being accepted now.

This update was prepared by the Transition Team members Nadine Kocho, Kathy Reilly, Jill Meyers, John Wallace, and Deacon Bob Horne, with the approval of Fr. Bryan Parrish.