

## Pastor's Pen: A Few Necessary Changes

The following is the new Weekday Mass Schedule starting June 1st.

Tuesday: 8 AM St. Mary  
12PM St Patrick

Wednesday: 12:15 PM St. Mary  
5:00 PM Sacred Heart

Thursday: 12:15 PM (Summer) 8:00 AM (School Year) Immaculate Conception

Friday: 8:00 AM Immaculate Conception

1st Saturday: (starting July) 9:00 AM followed by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions

Just a reminder confessions are a half hour before all masses

Weekend schedule remains as is.

I am changing the Mass schedule for a few reasons:

First to cut down on my driving. Most months I travel well over a thousand miles back and forth. Some days I can drive over 150 miles. That is costly for the parishes who pay the federal rate of 65.5 cents per mile. It is also hard on my car. I currently have put over 45,000 miles on my car in the less than two years I have been here just on church related driving. Mileage doesn't cover the added monies I spend in gas (over 450 a month), more frequent oil changes, and tire upkeep I must do. By centralizing my calendar to where I am based out of Shelbina on Tuesday and Wednesday and out of Macon on Thursday and Friday, I can cut around 2000 miles or so a year.

This also means all Shelbina meetings, as of July 1, will be on Tuesdays and all Macon meetings will be on Thursdays. Wednesdays will be reserved for youth groups, adult education, and RCIA. Having a centralized calendar also makes it more possible to get in the schools and be more attentive to shut ins and nursing homes. It also gives my parishioners the ability to have some idea of where I can be found instead of playing an ecclesiastical Where's Waldo from day to day.

I have had multiple requests to add a 1st Saturday Mass for those who do this worthy devotion. I am starting in July because I will be at the transitional diaconate ordination on the 1st Saturday of June.

My overall hope is to be more present, cut costs, and provide some added stability.

I am reserving my Fridays for parishioners who wish to have me for dinner or a home visit. It is my hope that by using my time less in my car. I will be a more effective pastor.

I thank you all for your patience and understanding on this.