

**Pastoral Council
Availability Weekend
Summary of Comments**

(New comments are in italics and responses/actions taken are in blue)

March 2018

Saturday Mass

None

7 a.m. Mass

A parishioner simply asked if we could remember to say a prayer for the recent loss of local policemen as well as for national tragedies, like what happened at the Florida High School. Maybe during the Mass petitions or at the end of Mass. W

8:45 a.m. Mass

Provide a shuttle for people who don't drive anymore to get to and from Mass and other function. A

10:30 a.m. Mass

The mission was exceptional. Thank you.

Fr. Mau gave a great reminder for people to register. (9 people)

12:30 p.m. Mass

None

February 2018

Saturday Mass

A parishioner recommended having a Eucharistic Minister(s) serve the cry room so that the Communion line on that side of the church won't be as long. W

7 a.m. Mass

Add in bulletin how to have Masses said for people. List all of the different ways. A

8:45 a.m. Mass

Reflectors on the driveway entering church. A

More Confession dates/times. W *Addressed in April 2016 Q & A as follows: With only two priests to serve this busy parish, it is not possible to schedule additional, consistent times for reconciliation. Anyone may contact the office to set up a time for personal reconciliation with either priest. We also offer Penance Services with multiple priests during Lent and Advent. We will consider adding times as schedules allow.*

10:30 a.m. Mass

Request for new parishioner registration.

12:30 p.m. Mass

None

January 2018

Saturday Mass

A parishioner recommended using the screens for displaying the words of the songs being sung during Mass. She said she has seen this done at other parishes, and it helps people sing along without a book. W

A parishioner who has been coming to St. Michael's for 40 years recommended name tags to help people know the names of other parishioners. W *Fr. Terry recommended that we encourage introducing yourself. It is a lot more personal. Nametags would not be practical.*

7 a.m. Mass

None

8:45 a.m. Mass

The visiting priest has us sing all the verses to both the opening and closing hymns. A parishioner said how much he/she enjoyed that. **W** [Fr. Terry said that if he did that he would likely mow people over as the assembly does not stay for even the two verses that we do. It would be nice if more people thought that way, but the truth is that they just want Mass to be over as quickly as possible.](#)

10:30 a.m. Mass

Could we have several, or at least 2, names at 10:30 Mass as dedications instead of just one. It takes too long to get a Mass said for someone. It can take six months to get a Mass dedication scheduled at the 8:45 or 10:30 Masses. **W** [Canon law dictates that, if there are more than one, each party has to agree to share and it would require changing the wording at Mass.](#)

12:30 p.m. Mass

Could we get some kind of card or something else more formal when we have a Mass offered for someone? **W** [We always provide a card. There are several from which to choose when arranging to have a Mass said.](#)

The AEDs need to be checked/updated. **A**

December 2017

Saturday Mass

The Pastoral Council is doing a good job.

A woman heard St. Michael's was not going to have the Nativity set up on the altar. She said she heard it was because of the Pastoral Council. **W** [The Nativity will be in an alcove in the Gathering Space. The reasoning was provided in the December 3/4, 2017 bulletin. Specifically, in the Pastor's Corner.](#)

7 a.m. Mass

None

8:45 a.m. Mass

Nice Mass

Great Mass

Thank you for a wonderful Mass

Do we always have to sing "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel" every week during Advent? **W**

Please don't have craft fair tables in the hallway. It poses a fire/safety hazard. **A**

10:30 a.m. Mass

There's a choir member wearing a football jersey. Looks way too casual. Should there be a dress code? Especially during Advent/Lent? **W**

Let people know about our security plans. **A**

Want more handicapped spaces please when you remodel. **A**

12:30 p.m. Mass

Parishioner asked about stopping mailing of offering envelopes (leaving the country for 3 years). **A** [Parishioner was directed to contact the parish office.](#)

Parishioner asked what to do with cremated remains. **W** [Parishioner was directed to contact the parish office](#)

November 2017

Saturday Mass

A couple "everything is good" comments.

7 a.m. Mass

None

8:45 a.m. Mass

Reflectors (on metal rods) in parking lot, to show pathway. **A**

Parishioners with too much perfume – we had to leave Mass. **W**

Will there be a preschool craft fair. **F** [It was held the first weekend of December.](#)

Earlier Mass on holidays for families – 7:15 p.m. is too late. Maybe Mass at 6 p.m. **W**

10:30 a.m. Mass

Choir members wearing football jerseys should be encouraged to not wear them – too casual for a dress code. **W**

12:30 p.m. Mass

Someone had a security concern. Wanted to speak to whomever is in charge of security. Was given options of calling the office on Monday or talking to Fr.Terry (who presided at Mass). **A**

October 2017

Saturday Mass

A recommendation to remind families/parents with children to excuse themselves to the cry room if kids get loud. It is very distracting for parishioners. **W**

7 a.m. Mass

None

8:45 a.m. Mass

Add the starting page of the readings to the “music” board up front (where songs are listed for Mass). **W** [Is now listed on top of the board and announced before Mass.](#)

Add a healing Mass at the 6 a.m. Mass instead of just 9 a.m. – not all the time, just sometimes – for the people who work. **W** [Fr. Terry committed to scheduling this.](#)

10:30 a.m. Mass

No comments

12:30 p.m. Mass

Would it be possible to do a collection on All Saints Day for our priests? **W** [Not appropriate](#)

September 2017

Saturday Mass

None

7 a.m. Mass

None

8:45 a.m. Mass

The parking lot is always so crowded. Why don't we get rid of some islands?

Can we make some announcement about chatting during Mass? Including readers and lay Eucharistic ministers talking about non church related events.

10:30 a.m. Mass

Hearing devices do not work well for people with hearing aids.

12:30 p.m. Mass

None

August 2017

Saturday Mass

All is good

A thanks for representing the Pastoral Council at 5 p.m. Mass

Can anything be done about the relative warmth in the church? Ceiling fans have been suggested for some air movement.

7 a.m. Mass

Questions regarding sale of the land

8:45 a.m. Mass

Love Fr. Mauricio

What was the picture on the offertory envelope?

Maintenance guy doing a great job

If we need more space, why don't we use the office in the rectory for prayer or meeting space?

10:30 a.m. Mass

Please announce the name of the celebrant before Mass.

Invite children to come up after Mass for a blessing – even if only once a month.

Question about registering for 1st Communion. Was told to call the office for information.

12:30 p.m. Mass

Question about land sale status

Would it be possible to include military/police/firefighters in Sunday prayer of the faithful more frequently?

June 2017

Saturday Mass

Thumbs up from one couple. They thanked Fr. Terry for not putting the parish in debt for the new addition.

A lady from Fargo, ND asked about votive candles. I read her the response (on the FAQ) re: the Fire Code issue and she understood. However, this was the only parish she has ever been to with no candles.

8:45 a.m. Mass

Outstanding

Can't wait for the picnic!

10:30 a.m. Mass

During the adoration there were times when no one was in the church and the host was left uncovered/exposed. Is there a cover that can be provided so that someone who is leaving can cover it up if there isn't anyone there?

May 2017

Saturday Mass

Great idea for new parish addition without huge costs.

New parishioners (1 year) suggested Sunday R.E. for kids.

(Weekdays are) too difficult for kids and parents/teachers to make it on time and kids are tired.

Sunday would be best for some families.

7 a.m. Mass

Need more hours for confession. [Addressed in the April 2016 bulletin Q & A](#)

8:45 a.m. Mass

Beautiful First Communion!

Out of bulletins today and at Easter. [Answered in August, 2017 Q&A](#)

10:30 a.m. Mass

Comment "no Problems".

April 2017

Saturday Mass

Enjoys the parish and only wishes the youth ministry was this good five years ago?

7 a.m. Mass

No flowers to the sanctuary during Lent. Can a pulpit announcement be made? The Art & Environment Committee spends too much time cleaning them up. Anyone bringing flowers after Lent is asked to put them in a vase.

8:45 a.m. Mass

Post a sign on the door to remind people to turn off their cell phones.

Need more confession time – perhaps Saturday mornings or maybe after the 9 a.m. weekday Masses. [Addressed in an April, 2016 Q & A as follows: With only two priests to serve this busy parish, it is not possible to schedule additional, consistent times for reconciliation. Anyone may contact the office to set up a time for personal reconciliation with either priest. We also offer Penance Services with multiple priests during Lent and Advent. We will consider adding times as schedules allow.](#)

10:30 a.m. Mass – Pulpit announcement was not made at the end of Mass

None

12:30 p.m. Mass

Votive candles...again. Referred to website for more details. [This question was addressed in the July bulletin Q&A as follows: Due to Aurora fire code, we may not have open flames \(such as votive candles\) in our space. While our Sanctuary Light is allowed with precautions, we do not have an area large enough to be renovated for votive candles, to be compliant with fire code. Additional comment: Votive candles will not be included in the new space.](#)

March 2017

Saturday Mass

There are a lot of leftover food items in the sanctuary pews (e.g. doughnuts, sandwiches, cheerios, etc.). It is difficult for the Art & Environment Ministry to clean it all up, especially when food is stuffed down the small pencil holders. Could an announcement be made to remind people that food is not allowed in the worship space? [Fr. Terry will plan a pulpit announcement.](#)

8:45 a.m. Mass

Move the cross in the gathering space to the worship space please. Not many know it is there – it is so beautiful. It would be so reflective in our worship space. [There is a cross in the church and that is all that is supposed to be there.](#)

Parish is great. Thank you.

When is building collection done?

Deacon Chris wants massages for Deacons.

10:30 a.m. Mass

Why do we not have ushers who lead people to their seats instead of standing in the back? [Greeters offer to find people who are standing a seat but many prefer not to sit in the worship space and prefer to stand in the back or in the gathering space. It would be preferable for all to be in the pews, but cannot force the issue. Fr. Terry reminds us that we never know what is in people's hearts or their reasons for doing certain things.](#)

30 minutes for a homily is too long (comment made by 3 people).

12:30 p.m. Mass

Include uniformed personnel (e.g. police, military, etc.) as a standard part of the Prayers of the Faithful. [We do this fairly regularly and will continue to do so.](#)

Can we get better sound deadening in Syrianey Hall? It's very hard to hear/converse when events are happening.

February 2017

7 a.m. Mass

It would be nice to have a specific place (in the gathering space) for Mass intentions. For instance, a little box with the envelopes and a place to leave it.

When we sing a new song in Mass, could we repeat it again the next couple of weeks so we could learn it? (For example, The "Lead me to the light" song.) [Songs are sung at least two weeks in a row. An exception is when a song that is specific to a reading is used the second week.](#)

We really need to push on-line giving more. Even if people start at \$5 a month. They can always cancel it if they need to.

8:45 a.m. Mass

The entrances to the parking lot need reflectors. Please! [All outside lighting is being evaluated as part of the building project.](#)

Activities not in bulletin! And on line! Contact numbers would help. I look at the list by the office every week but some change. Some people may not know how to find events.

Vigil (votive?) candles please!! [July 2016 Q&A](#)

Install some sort of handrail on steps next to ambo for readers and Eucharistic Ministers.

10:30 a.m. Mass

Please announce at the beginning of Mass that, if your child is crying or loud during Mass, please the child to the overflow space.

Easter Parking plan to ease traffic.

January 2017

7:00 a.m. Mass

- Request to have the choirs or music groups be more open to new volunteers. A 15 year old girl was denied inclusion because she wasn't 18.
- People find it difficult to sing along when the music group changes up the song. Difficult to follow.

8:45 a.m. Mass

- They are still not plowing the west handicapped parking lot.

10:30 a.m. Mass

- Someday, four corner ceiling fans to help stuffiness.
- Remind who clears snow Saturdays and Sundays, to clear snow by the music shed as it gets no sun.
- The 8:45 a.m. choir leaves books, papers, and all sorts of things in the pews. Also, both choirs have all sorts of coats/books, etc. on the front row of seats and on the floor. It looks really sloppy.

February Questions and Answers from the Pastoral Council

February 3/4, 2018

Q & A from the Pastoral Council:

Why do we abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Lenten Fridays and Good Friday?

Historically, meat was associated with celebrations and feasts. Lent is a time of penance to purify us of sinful tendencies. To remind us of Christ's sacrifice and as a discipline and a form of prayer, the church asks us to fast (no in-between meal snacks and only one major meal) and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Lenten Fridays, and Good Friday. Abstaining on Fridays also reminds us that Christ's sacrifice on the Cross is commemorated on Good Friday. Every Friday is considered a small Good Friday, as every Sunday is considered a little Easter.

February 10/11, 2018

Q & A from the Pastoral Council:

Why do we put ashes on our forehead on Ash Wednesday?

On Ash Wednesday blessed ashes are applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross while words such as "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" are said. The ashes and the words remind us of our mortality and our ongoing need for repentance. The ashes also remind us that life is short and our redemption comes through Jesus the Christ.

February 17/18, 2018

Q & A from the Pastoral Council:

What is the value of attending a parish Lenten Mission? (St. Michael's mission is February 24 – March 1)

A mission is an opportunity to reflect on living as a Catholic disciple of Jesus Christ. It provides a time of grace, repentance, and change. The theme of St. Michael's 2018 Lenten Mission is "**If You Knew The Gift of God!**" The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of becoming a renewed person of faith and will be available each evening during the mission.

February 24/25, 2018

Q & A from the Pastoral Council:

Pastoral Council members will be available after the Masses on March 3/4, 2018 to hear your questions or comments about your St. Michael's experience