

**THE HOLY FAMILY
DECEMBER 27, 2009**

PASTOR'S CORNER - RETURN OF THE SUNDAY EVENING MASS

After we cancelled the 5 PM Mass on Sunday, there were a significant number of complaints. A group of concerned parish leaders promoted a series of efforts to have the Mass reinstated. Those efforts included an e-mail campaign, a petition signing, and an organized presentation at a Prayer and Worship Committee meeting. A small group also addressed Parish Council. The campaign resulted in some anger and hurt feelings. I was personally caught between two camps—one group who sincerely felt it was in the best interest of our parish not to have the Mass and another who with equal sincerity wanted a Sunday evening Mass. At our last Parish Council meeting the matter was again taken up, and we decided to reverse our decision. So now we will again have a 5 PM Sunday evening Mass.

Since the liturgical ministers have been scheduled through February and it would be very difficult to reassign everyone, the 5 PM Mass on Sunday will return on March 7. I have also chosen to accept the recommendation of those seeking its return that the Mass only be held during the school year, and so there will be no Sunday evening Mass for the 13 Sundays from June 13 through September 5. The Parish Council also advised me to again seek out a help-out priest. I have asked Fr. George Rebatzki for his assistance, and he has accepted the offer with the limitation that he has another commitment that will not allow him to preside at our 11 AM Mass.

I truly regret that this has caused a rift in the parish. Some seem to feel that I was ill intentioned in all of this, and that saddens me because as pastor, the last thing I would ever intentionally try to do would be to cause division. Of course at times I will have to make decisions that are not to everyone's liking, but I assure you that I will always work with existing leadership in the parish in a consultative manner before making a decision.

I do hope we can all move on from here because a parish needs to express a unified mission and that means working together. I apologize to anyone whom I may have hurt during some very heated discussions about this matter, and I hope that in time we can again work together for the common good.

Blessings to all,

Fr. Ken Knippel