

FOSTERING A MORE VIBRANT CHURCH

In light of Fr. Ed being assigned the additional pastoral duties for St. Ambrose in Garrettsville & St. Michael in Windham, representatives of the staff and Parish & Finance Councils of St. Joseph, St. Ambrose and St. Michael gathered on August 8th to talk about necessary changes. After thorough discussion and consideration of all aspects including shared sacrifices, PSR schedules, logistics, etc., the following decisions were made and will be implemented beginning September 1st:

✠ St. Joseph will have Weekday Masses at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Weekend Masses will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. We will not switch to a summer schedule as we have in the past.

✠ St. Ambrose will have Weekday Masses at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday and Friday. Weekend Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Likewise, the schedule will not switch in the summer months.

✠ St. Michael, being designated as an oratory, will not have a regular Mass schedule (available for feast day celebrations, weddings, funerals, and other prayer opportunities as determined by local pastor).

✠ Reconciliation times at St. Joseph will be on Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This sacrament will be offered at St. Ambrose on the first Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Rosary will be at 4:15 p.m. on Saturday at St. Joseph and will be scheduled at a later time/date for St. Ambrose. Eucharistic Adoration takes place at St. Joseph on the first Friday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

✠ For holy days: Fr. Ed will celebrate a Vigil Mass at one location and a Holy Day Mass at the other (both at 7:00 p.m.). Christmas, Holy Week and Easter to be discussed. More details to follow as things unfold.

✠ PSR will take place on Sundays --- 9:30-10:30 a.m. for St. Ambrose and 10:00-11:30 a.m. at St. Joseph.

Each parish in our collaborative unit will remain its own entity with staffs, programs, ministries, and organizations remaining the same with Fr. Ed serving as pastor. Contribution envelopes will be forwarded to the appropriate church of registration if included in another parish's collection basket.

Bishop Murry asks everyone to work with our priests and parish leaders to help to achieve the goal to "live and move and have our being" in a vibrant Church. As we move forward, please keep Father Ed, the staffs, and parishioners of these parishes in your prayers during this time of transition.