

Dear Saint Lawrence Family,

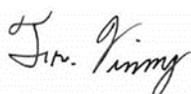
You may recall in the survey a couple months ago, I asked you to select not just your Mass preference but to offer the best solution you could for a Mass schedule, given our context.

After consulting your proposed solutions and after much listening to you all and to God and considering our current situation, I have decided on the following new schedule for Mass, Confession, and religious education. This solution does not solve everything... unless we all rise to the occasion and do all we can to support it. I invite you to please support it with your prayers, with your advocacy, with your Mass attendance, and with your invitations to get others to attend. If you do that, I believe you will find that this new schedule will better empower us to move from maintenance to Mission.

I will not try to answer every question exhaustively but I will give the basic rationale for the changes you see on the other side of this sheet:

1. Our liturgical ministers and other volunteers are strapped trying to cover four Masses every weekend and we are only averaging just over 200 people per Mass and about 140 per English Mass compared with 650 seating capacity, so I cut one English Mass. This will reduce load on our liturgical ministers and better orient all their ministry toward Mission.
2. The current schedule is not sustainable for one priest, especially with the significant increase in demand for Spanish ministry since I have been here. I generally work 50 to 60 hours per week to maintain our status quo and then I offer Sunday Confessions, Masses, and help with religious ed on top of that and it is wearing on my health. I am not asking for sympathy here; I just would like to work smarter instead of working harder where possible so that I can do my part in moving us from maintenance toward Mission.
3. Moving the Spanish Mass to earlier in the day was a request coming from many of our Hispanic Parishioners anyhow. This will allow them to put their kids to bed earlier on Sunday nights before school and help integrate Hispanics with the Parish so we can better celebrate our diversity.
4. Our Saturday evening Mass accommodates the schedules of many parishioners who do not feel safe driving in the dark, so I decided to move that Mass from 5 pm to 4:30 pm from Nov 5, 2023 to March 10, 2024 during the dark months when there is no Daylight Savings Time. If the bill passes to keep Daylight Savings Time permanently throughout the year, we will simply keep the 5 pm Mass time throughout the year.
5. I chose a Sunday morning English Mass time of 10 am in order to compromise between the 9 am and 12 pm English Masses we currently have, encouraging maximum attendance of the new Mass time and maximum unity in that regard too.
6. The 1 pm Spanish Mass will better empower our Spanish speaking parishioners to attend Sunday Mass as well as many Spanish speaking Catholics in our parish boundaries who do not yet attend.
7. If you have any difficulty choosing a new Mass time to attend, remember these three encouragements:
 - a. The Catholic Church asks us to keep the entire day of Sunday as a day of rest, so changing the Mass you attend can help renew that commitment.
 - b. Remember, you can attend Mass in a different language and use our bilingual Missals as often as you'd like or at least to make your schedule work on a given weekend. Or you can do the same with the Saturday evening Mass.
 - c. If you're feeling discouraged about the changes, look to Jesus: through his Cross He brought about the greatest encouragement the world will ever know.

Blessings in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Jimmy".

Current Sunday Mass and Confession Schedule through May 7, 2023	New Sunday Mass and Confession Schedule, effective Saturday May 13, 2023
Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm Confessions	Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm Confessions (3:30 - 4:15 pm when not on Daylight Savings Time)
Saturday 5:00 pm Mass in English*	Saturday 5:00 pm Mass in English* (4:30 pm when not on Daylight Savings Time)
Sunday 8:00 - 8:45 am Confessions	**
Sunday 9:00 am Mass in English	Sunday 9:00 - 9:45 am Confessions
Religious Education 10:15 - 11:45 am	Sunday 10:00 am Mass in English*
Sunday 12:00 pm Mass in English	Family Religious Ed 11:15 am - 12:45 pm
Religious Education 1:15 - 2:45 pm	Sunday 1:00 pm Mass in Spanish*
Sunday 5:00 - 5:45 pm Confessions	Family Religious Ed 2:15 - 3:45 pm
Sunday 6:00 pm Mass in Spanish	

*We will keep the multilingual Masses that we have at special times throughout the year but I will not add any more to our regular Sunday worship schedule, even though many people were open to multilingual Masses and even asking for them. For now, I decided not to go forward with that unless or until the community and leadership are better equipped for it.

**I am open to the future possibility of adding another Sunday morning Mass around 8:00 or 8:30 am. When we get to where we are averaging full attendance for each of the Sunday Masses and when we recruit a big enough team of liturgical ministers, I will gladly add that Mass.

Currently, we are averaging nearly 780 people per weekend compared to 602 for the last fiscal year. The last few months, we have averaged over 820 people. So, we are headed in the right direction but it will take a lot more people to fill our church, so this will take some time.