



SAINT
KATHARINE DREXEL
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARTELL, AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

11361 Prospect Drive, Jackson, CA 95642 • PARISH CENTER OFFICE (209) 223-2970 • FAX (209) 223-1147 • RECTORY (209) 223-4463
EMAIL office@stkatharinedrexel.com • WEBSITE stkatharinedrexel.com

— *A Note from Father Larry* —
April 23, 2017

Bishop Soto Approved New Sunday Mass Schedule

On April 5, I received Bishop Soto's decision in response to my proposal for a new parish weekend Mass schedule. As you may recall, an ad-hoc committee met throughout the fall of 2016 to gather and study relevant parish data, solicit parishioner input and develop recommended Mass schedules for my and the Parish Council's deliberation.

After the Council's review and input, on March 10, I submitted two schedules to the Bishop, along with rationale for each (revised two weeks later), parish process summary, and a geographic and statistical overview of the parish (see page 3).

Bishop Soto has decided we will proceed July 1, 2017 with the following weekend Mass schedule that can be managed by one priest:

SATURDAY VIGIL

5:00 PM St. Katharine Drexel, Martell

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Sacred Heart, Ione
9:30 AM St. Katharine Drexel, Martell
11:30 AM Our Lady of the Pines, Pioneer
2:00 PM St. Katharine Drexel, Martell (Spanish)

Note: Religious Formation classes follow Sunday Masses at Sacred Heart, St. Katharine Drexel, and Our Lady of the Pines. Classes precede Spanish Mass.

Schedule Rationale:

1. Provides transition time for the priest and community to adapt to one-priest parish and determine long-term schedule in compliance with Diocesan Statute No. 92 (which limits a priest to three Masses a Sunday).
2. Provides continued opportunity to serve the marginalized Spanish-speaking community with a dedicated Mass and religious formation program.

(cont'd)

3. Provides regular Sunday Mass and religious formation for growing lone community.
4. Retains religious formation program at current three sites, English and Spanish.
5. Increased opportunity for seniors and those with disabilities to benefit from the Parish Center's level parking, with easy church, hall, and restroom access.
6. Allows churches with largest attendance to be used most frequently.
7. Strives to distribute Masses throughout the county.

While beyond the scope of the Bishop's August directive, in my March proposal I requested an exemption from his requirement that St. Katharine Drexel Church has a Mass every weekday. He has granted my request, which enables us to provide weekday Masses at "outlying churches that do not have Sunday Mass."

Therefore, I am establishing a trial weekday Mass schedule effective the week of July 2 as follows:

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

8:00 am St. Katharine Drexel, Martell
Eucharistic Adoration follows Friday Mass

WEDNESDAY (1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays)

9:00 AM St. Bernard, Volcano, *followed by Eucharistic Adoration*

WEDNESDAY (2ND and 4TH Wednesdays)

9:00 AM St. Mary of the Mountains, Plymouth

Note: This is a tentative schedule pending future input from parishioners, their support, and clergy. The weekday Masses at Sacred Heart can continue as they are.

Transition Committee Reaches Out to Liturgical Ministers

As mentioned in prior bulletins, the parish Liturgy Committee is forming an ad-hoc committee to plan and implement the many necessary steps and practical elements required as we transition by July 1 to a one-priest parish. Of immediate concern, I wish to invite all liturgical ministers at churches without a Sunday Mass to continue their service at another church should they wish to do so. We welcome and need you! Please call Francine Pogue at 256-6216 for more information or by email at fcpogue@comcast.net.

We need representation on this important committee, especially from those churches that will not have Sunday Mass. We want to do our best to honor the requests for the annual opportunities for Masses and events expressed to us last fall. Please contact Francine if you can serve for a couple of months in this capacity.

(cont'd)

Dying and Rising in Christ

Brothers and Sisters, we have just celebrated the Sacred Triduum, the three holy days of our dying and rising in Christ. The Bishop's schedule will cause many in our parish to experience profound loss and sadness. Any time bells are silenced in a church all Christians mourn. In Christ, we are to bear our brothers' and sisters' losses just as we are to share their joys.

Be assured I will share more reflections that might provide assistance on the spiritual journey we are undertaking.

Let us hold and uplift one another to our Lord in our prayers in this Season of Resurrection.

Fr. Larry

