

MASS SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

August 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Summer greetings!

I write to update the OSJ community on two changes to our current Mass schedule. After conversation with the parish staff and the parish council I have decided that due to the departure of Father Holland at the end of August we need to adjust our present Mass offerings. These changes are necessary because there will be one full-time priest in residence at OSJ going forward.

First, we will need to discontinue offering the 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass at the end of the summer. You may recall that we brought the 5:30pm Mass back on a trial basis as we came out of the Covid pandemic. Unfortunately, the attendance at this Mass has remained consistently low for some time. With Father Holland's upcoming departure from the parish and after consultation I have reached the decision that the parish will be unable to sustain this Mass going forward.

We will continue to offer the Saturday 5:30pm Mass through the month of August and it will conclude in our schedule on Saturday, August 26th. In the coming weeks I will personally be present at the 5:30pm Mass to speak about this change with those who regularly attend this liturgy. Our present Sunday morning Mass schedule (7:30, 9:30, 11:30) will continue as usual.

Second, during the summer months we have reduced the 12:05pm daily Mass to Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays only. Following consultation with the parish council and the parish staff, I have also decided to continue with this schedule on a permanent basis. This adjustment will enable OSJ to remain committed to offering daily Mass during the week but at a more manageable level.

While I know that these changes may be difficult for some of you, please know that these decisions have been made carefully to position our parish for the future. In the years ahead we will inevitably see a reduced Jesuit priest presence at OSJ and we need to prepare for this now. Fortunately, Jesuits from the Arrupe Hall Jesuit Community at SJU will continue to assist our community by presiding at Sunday Masses as they have in recent years.

Thank you for your presence and devotion to the OSJ parish community.

Prayers and good wishes,

Francis T. Hannafey, S.J.
Pastor

