

From: Fr. Tony Hesse

As I write this on Thursday, I am anticipating that it will be a difficult weekend for many of our parishioners in our AFC (Area Faith Community). With Our Lady of Victory having their Last Weekend Mass (merging into St. Anne's but still having weekday Masses, weddings, and funerals) and St. Mary and St. Mathias having their Closing Masses (no longer having any Masses or sacraments), many of our parishioners will be feeling a whole bunch of emotions like sadness, anger, hurt, abandonment, etc. As I have said before, and for what it is worth, you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I also encourage the rest of our parishes, St. Anne and St. Catherine, to continue to be welcoming, understanding, supportive and prayerful of them as we continue these next weeks, months, and even years. May God bring hope and a sense of His Divine Presence to all who are grieving and suffering during this difficult time.

Speaking of presence, in a letter I received from our current Vocations Director, Fr. Matt Wiering, he informed me of the expectation that our AFC and I have placed on us as we are blessed to have Nathan Hansen (a Third Year Theology Seminarian) stay with us this summer. We look forward to being ministered by him and to be a blessing and offer a good teaching experience for him. In the letter, Fr. Matt wrote, "It's important that we assist our seminarians in finding meaningful ways to spend their time, *especially in spending time with parishioners, at their homes when possible, so as to develop relationships and practice the pastoral skill of "being present" with others and being able to listen to their experiences of life and faith. In turn, the seminarian may have the opportunity to share his own faith and love for the Lord in these informal settings.*" In other words, if you would like to help Nathan's formation, feel free to invite him over whenever you want for a meal, coffee, or just a visit. Just let him know. By the way, don't feel obligated to invite me. If you want to just invite him, that is fine too.

Speaking of inviting, I invite you to look at the Mass schedule in the bulletin for the weekend of June 27-28. This will be the new Mass schedule for the next three months. We will give it a try and see how it works. Keep in mind, there is no perfect times that will please everyone, but hopefully, we can see it as an opportunity to celebrate what is important – the sacrifice of the Mass. Just a heads up, there might be few of the 4pm Masses that will start late because of weddings that were scheduled before the Mass times were changed.

Secondly, I invite you to come to the sacrament of reconciliation. We will be offering them a half hour before all weekday Masses and before the 4pm Saturday Mass and 8am Sunday Mass. Because it is hard to celebrate confessions between Masses on Saturday and Sunday at St. Anne's, we will celebrate reconciliation Saturday mornings from 8:30-9:30am (during their Holy Hour for vocations). In other words, after June 27th there will be no confessions on Saturday mornings at St. Catherine, but we will have them Saturday night before Mass and Sunday before Mass. Until we hear different, because of ventilation, we will celebrate reconciliation not in the confessionals but in designated areas. For Our Lady of Victory, it will be celebrated in the corridor between the church and school. For St. Anne, it will be celebrated in the foyer off in the kitchenette area. For St. Catherine, it will be celebrated in the hallway near the classroom #10.

Finally, as we celebrate our fathers and all who love us in fatherly ways this Father's Day, may the God the Father bless these men to be good fathers and strong men of faith. May God the Father be with you all as we grow in His mercy and love and suffer, rejoice, and learn together.

