May 2/3, 2015

Dear Parishioners,

As some of you may know from articles in the diocesan newspaper, the Rhode Island Catholic, necessary changes are being implemented around the Diocese of Providence, changes that will affect all of us.

Many of you know that the shortage of priestly vocations has not kept up with the retirement of our senior priests. More and more pastors are asked to shepherd two and even three parishes at a time. One solution to assist our pastors is the restructuring of the parish mass schedules. With one pastor responsible for the spiritual and sacramental life of multiple parishes, it is only logical that masses be responsibly adjusted, allowing for the celebration of weddings, funerals, and baptisms to name a few. Many parishes in our area have already made announcements this past weekend with this in mind. So too, am I, making the same announcement.

As of July 1, 2015 our mass schedule at St. Theresa and St. Christopher will be changed. We will no longer have a 4:00 p.m. mass at St. Theresa or a 5:30 p.m. mass at St. Christopher. A combined mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. at St. Theresa with combined liturgical ministers serving our communities. St. Theresa is the larger church; is outfitted with air conditioning for the summer months; has a level, larger parking lot for the safe parking and walking in the winter. The Sunday Mass schedule will remain the same.

Know that I did not come to this decision lightly, but with encouragement and consultation with the Diocese and our own Parish Council. We are blessed to have Fr. Jack assisting us at both parishes, but this will not always be the case; and our schedule needs to be one that allows an ease at scheduling sacraments such as weddings and baptisms as well as other celebrations.

So our new Mass Schedule will look like this:

- 4:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation……………..St. Theresa Church
- 5:00 p.m. St. Theresa & St. Christopher Mass……..St. Theresa Church
- 8:00 a.m. St. Theresa Mass………………………St. Theresa Church
- 9:30 a.m. St. Christopher Mass……………………St. Christopher Church
- 11:00 a.m. St. Theresa Mass……………………..St. Theresa Church

I thank you all for your support in my first two years as your pastor and I look forward to many years to come.

Sincerely,

Fr. Szymczak