

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you well as we prepare for the next phase of *Partners in the Gospel*. What you have in your hands (or on your screen) is the result of several months of prayer, discussion, and discernment. It is the fruit of consultation and discussion with the priests of our parish family (current and future), our deacons, our key administrative staff (PAAs and principal), and the council chairs at every parish.

You may be wondering – reasonably so! – why changes are necessary at all. I’ve written a long-form explanation about this at my website (www.fathermaurer.com – look for [the post titled ‘Hearth & home’](#)) but the short version is that we’re moving from two pastors to one – across the entirety of the Olympic Peninsula. In order for me to fulfill that responsibility, it is necessary to have a rotation schedule of priests and to have all priests living at a central location. This enables priest coverage to more readily shift according to pastoral needs – in short, if one of us zigs, the other two priests can easily zag.

There’s a lot more to say there, but for that I encourage you to [read the post on my website](#), which dives into that more deeply.

For now, I have a particular need: your thoughtful & prayerful consideration of the Mass and confession schedule changes at hand. While this is ultimately a decision made by the pastor, I would be grateful to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Please carefully read this proposal – perhaps even going through it a few times (it’s not short!) – and take some time to pray over what, if any, feedback you might want me to consider.

To contribute to this process, **please email your feedback no later than Friday, June 7 to feedback@opatholic.org with your council members names in the subject line.** They will collect feedback for each parish and send it to me for prayer & discernment.

Much is being asked of us all – even before we get a chance to meet! Let us be sure to invite Jesus into our deliberations, asking Him to guide us according to His will and grant us His peace throughout all of this. Know of my prayers for you – please pray for me, our two vicars, and all of our fellow Catholics.

Yours in Christ,

Father Jacob Maurer

Council chairs of the Olympic Peninsula

Saint Anne & Saint Thomas

Sue Gibbs (pastoral)
Anita Ferris (finance)

Queen of Angels

Tim Carradine (pastoral)
Maria Rentas (finance)

Saint Joseph

Per Saelid (pastoral)
Glen Juenemann (finance)

St Mary Star of the Sea

Wayne Nagy (pastoral)
Richard Smith (finance)

Proposed weekend Mass schedule

| | West side rotation | | Central rotation | | East side rotation |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | Saint Anne | Saint Thomas | Queen of Angels | Saint Joseph | Saint Mary Star of the Sea |
| Saturday (daily) | | | | 9:30 am | 9:30 am |
| Confessions | 3 pm to 4 pm | | 3 pm to 4 pm | 3 pm to 4 pm | 10 to 11 am |
| Saturday vigil | 5 pm (Spanish) | | 5 pm | 5 pm | |
| Sunday (early) | 8:30 am | | 8:30 am | | 8:30 am (Spanish) |
| Sunday (mid) | | 11 am | | 11 am* | 11 am |

* monthly Spanish Mass on the third Sunday of the month

Proposed daily Mass schedule

| | Saint Anne | Saint Thomas | Queen of Angels | Saint Joseph | Saint Mary Star of the Sea |
|------------------------|------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Monday | | | | | 12:00 pm |
| Tuesday | | | 9:30 am | 9:30 am | |
| Wednesday | 12:00 pm | | | | 12:00 pm |
| Thursday | 12:00 pm | | | 9:30 am | |
| Friday | | | 9:30 am (school) | | |
| Saturday (morn) | | | | 9:30 am | 9:30 am |

Proposed weekday confessions schedule

| | Saint Anne | Saint Thomas | Queen of Angels | Saint Joseph | Saint Mary Star of the Sea |
|------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Monday | | | | | 12:30 – 1:30 pm |
| Tuesday | | | 10 – 11 am | 10 – 11 am | |
| Wednesday | 12:30 – 1:30 pm | | | | |
| Thursday | | | | | |
| Friday | | Reserved for funeral Mass needs (no scheduled daytime confessions) | | | |