

This weekend's readings highlight two very important aspects of our faith. The first is that our relationship with God is tied to the way we live with others. One cannot fall in love with God and not love humanity like He does. Granted our love is imperfect, but we are required to continually erase the borders we have drawn around what love is and keep expanding them every day. Faith is not an intellectual pursuit alone, it involves every aspect of who we are, including how we treat others.

The second lesson is sacrifice is not punishment, but purifying, it helps us learn dependence on God and is a requirement for discipleship. Please forgive me, but I think this is a great place to talk about Beacons of Light.

In the next three years we will be losing a large percentage of our active priests to retirement, roughly twenty-five percent. In the same time period, we will be ordaining about half as many priests. This coupled with a missing generation of priests, those between 55 and 70, means that we are in for some lean years of priestly availability. One of the archbishops guiding principles for Masses on the weekend is that every Mass has to be at consistently fifty percent full. These two realities mean that Masses will become fewer and fuller.

I know that we as human beings do not like change, it is here and I want you to prayerfully consider that while Mass times starting next calendar year may be less convenient, all the parishes in this family will have them. It is a good question to prepare yourself for, am I more tied to my particular parish in the family of the time Mass is offered. Sacrifice is always a little less bitter if we can see that it is for a purpose, I hope this information helps you see why change is necessary. Please continue to enter into prayer with me about this process and the role sacrifice will play in it.

May the Love, Peace and Grace of God be with you,

Fr. Adam