

**SAINTE ANTOINE**  
**BESSETTE PARISH**

*Sacred Heart of Jesus Church ~ Saint Ignatius of Loyola Church ~ Saint Vincent de Paul Church*  
Parish Office  
P.O. Box 109  
Troy, VT 05868  
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18 North Pleasant Street  
North Troy, Vermont 05859  
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September 5, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

I wish to send you this note firstly to let you know that I have my received an assistant priest who is assigned to all my churches with me, and that I am working to rebuild more prayers and activities in the parishes. We are using the name of St. Andre Bessette Parish to designate all our churches - St. Vincent's, Sacred Heart, and St. Ignatius - although an exact date for me to be "installed" as pastor under the new name is yet to be chosen. I also remain pastor of Trinity Parish in Barton.

My assistant priest is Fr. Sahaya Paul (Fr. Paul for short), who has come from a Catholic diocese in India, and is enjoying his acclimation to the United States. (Acclimation to Vermont winters yet to come). It is a joy to have him here, and many people have met him.

Firstly, in the matters of parish life, I give you an immediate update to the schedule of available Masses. The bishop had suggested the exact Mass schedule that had been offered the past eight months might become the permanent schedule. However, I asked directly to add a Sunday Mass, in keeping with my past stated wishes to use our churches so long as they are open, and hoping that using the expanded potential to two parish priests some more people would rediscover the essence of the Sunday Eucharist.

**Having now received permission from the bishop to add another Sunday Mass, with the assistance of Fr. Paul, and having discussed some timing and location options with the parish council, I have decided to offer a 7:30 AM Mass on Sundays, moving the current 8:30 AM Mass to 9:00 AM at Sacred Heart Church. Through the months of September and October I will offer the 7:30 AM Mass in St. Ignatius Church, Lowell, and then from November through April I will offer the 7:30 AM Mass in St. Vincent's Church, North Troy.** (Fr. Paul will substitute for this schedule when I need to be in Trinity Parish). This will begin immediately on September 9th, and it will be the test of a seasonally alternating schedule.

Please note a number of things with this announcement.

- The 8:30 AM Mass has started to be very well attended, and it has served people well from many of our towns, and surrounding towns, and Newport folks too. This is a hopeful sign that adding a Mass, without any major movement of current Mass times and locations, can be a building block for great success in St. Andre Bessette Parish as a whole.
- Therefore, the current Sunday Mass in Sacred Heart Church being moved to 9:00 AM, I hope that it becomes the primary parish Mass for the weekend, and that many people will choose intentionally to participate in this Mass as their Sunday worship in keeping with the third commandment.
- Both factors of summer populations, and winter travel, along with many other factors to coordinate priest schedules in our joint parish cooperative, make the seasonal strategy

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somewhat advantageous, though of course it cannot offer the same conveniences of “options” to every parishioner.

- Both St. Ignatius and St. Vincent churches will have added at least one recurring monthly Mass (probably Thursdays), at which I intend to add a time of adoration and prayer for priestly vocations, and for the holiness of all priests. This will fulfill the Church’s requirements for all our churches to reserve continually the Blessed Eucharist in the tabernacles, even though not all three will be used in the same season for Sunday Masses. Thus all three are still available for baptisms, weddings, and funerals as well.
- Additionally, I believe it is important to promote and emphasize the practice of using donation envelopes for the support of all our parish churches and activities. Parishioners who wish to see the development and use of St. Ignatius Church and St. Vincent Church have my continued encouragement to use the envelopes (with assigned numbers, or those available anonymously for cash) in such a way that patrons of all three of our churches are supporting the parish (and me to a certain extent). I myself make donations to the special funds of all three of our parish churches.
- No changes or additions are being made to Saturday Mass schedules in Trinity Parish or St. Andre Bessette Parish.
- I wish to offer the 7:30 AM Mass to fulfill my weekly obligation of a Mass for all the people in my parishes, encouraging at the same time that many Mass intentions may be requested at the 9:00 AM through the year.

Second to last, a note about donations and offertory: as of this month St. Andre Bessette Parish as a whole is responsible for covering my entire salary, not splitting it with Trinity Parish. If our donations return to about the same levels that were typical a year ago, this should be no problem to handle in our budget. Fr. Paul has been added to the payroll for Trinity Parish. All our area priests and parishes will pass on envelopes for any church for which you choose to use envelopes (even the anonymous cash envelopes). God bless you for whatever financial contributions you make.

Lastly, let us keep in mind that the opportunity to attend Mass and receive the sacraments is quite readily available to us all, despite the diminishment of the Catholic Church’s presence in our area, a diminishment we often lament. Nonetheless, if more people do not seek out the presence of the Lord Jesus in the Masses and sacraments that are now being offered, then the Church’s presence and the availability of priests will continue to diminish.

I invoke the graces of our Good Lord through the prayers of our patrons, St. Vincent De Paul, St. Margaret Mary, St. Ignatius Loyola, and now St. Andre Bessette to build up the faith and draw many more souls to Christ. May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Sincerely,

In Christ, with Mary,



Fr. Timothy Naples, Pastor