

## *St. George Catholic Church*

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January 5, 2022

Dear Parishioners of St. George & St. Mary Partnership,

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas season. We now transition to Ordinary Time in the church calendar. Today I am writing to you about two important topics, one that I know many of you have been eagerly awaiting to hear and another that has come about rather quickly for me. It is a time of transition for our parishes, which we all know can be challenging.

First of all, I wish to report the results of the joint meeting of the Pastoral Councils back on December 8 regarding the change of the Mass schedule for our partnership. Since Father Rascher has retired, but agreed to continue as sacramental minister as he is able, we need to have a Mass schedule so that one priest is able to offer all the Masses at the partnership on a weekend, as well as one that also accommodates the Parish School of Religion for both parishes, keeping in mind that the Confirmation preparation program is done jointly. During the meeting we discussed several possibilities and also referenced the prior Partnership Pastoral Plan which was prepared for and presented to the diocese. Since both parishes favored an earlier Mass on Sundays, but also did not want a schedule that would be confusing as to the location of Mass on a given weekend, it was decided to keep the same schedule for a year at a time and the change would take place each year on the weekend after Labor Day in conjunction with the start of the Parish School of Religion classes. Therefore, the new Mass schedule beginning the weekend of **February 5 & 6, 2022** and continuing through Labor Day weekend will be:

**Saturday 4 pm at St. George, New Baden**, preceded by reconciliation from 3:15 to 3:45 pm

**Sunday, 8 am at St. Mary, Trenton**

**Sunday, 10:30 am at St. George, New Baden**

On occasion Fr. Rascher and I will trade places so that I am also able to be present on weekends at St. Mary. I also hope to begin having a couple weekday Masses at St. Mary.

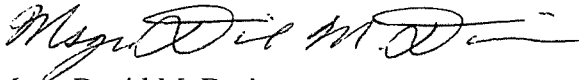
Part of the reason for the delay in announcing this was that initially at the meeting we agreed to begin the new schedule in mid-January, but after consulting Fr. Rascher, he preferred to begin in February. The other reason for the delay is the second issue I have been dealing with in my life since late September. As many of you are aware, on September 21 my mother suffered a light stroke. After her hospital stay, she was at Centralia Manor for rehab, but is now returning home. Since she is still working on her

mobility and is rather unsteady on her feet and will continue to receive occupational and physical therapy at home, she needs someone with her around the clock. With no brothers or sisters or other family in the near area and as her power of attorney, many responsibilities have fallen on me.

My hope is that she can continue to improve and possibly stay at the rectory with me, but for now this would not work given the number of stairs to get in the rectory and my need to also be present in the parishes. These last three months have been very challenging trying to continue to settle in, tend to the needs of my mother as well as her home and take care of all my responsibilities as a pastor. I have requested and been granted a temporary leave of absence as pastor in order to tend to the needs of my mother by Bishop McGovern. I hope to evaluate during that time the next plan of action for my mother and make appropriate arrangements. Fr. Neff has agreed to take care of the sacramental needs of the parishes as needed.

I do feel bad that I am announcing this the weekend that I am being installed as pastor at St. Mary, but the timing of all this has been beyond my control. I ask your prayers during this time for my mother and myself that I may be able to take the best actions for everyone involved. I, too, will pray for all of you and I thank everyone for their warm welcome and their prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Msgr. David M. Darin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Msgr. David M. Darin  
Pastor, St. George and St. Mary