

The Ashtabula region of the Diocese has until July 2020 to formulate a plan to serve our region with just 5 active priests and a total of 15 Masses in the region for Saturday evening and Sunday. The pastors of the parishes met on August 16 in order to begin work on the plan. Because the pastors want to include all the faithful in this process, all of the pastors agreed to share the results of our discussions with all of our parishes. – fr. John E.

Priest Deanery Meeting  
August 16, 2019

The Deanery meeting was held to discuss implementation of the Diocesan plan for serving the local parishes as part of a Pastoral Region.

In our discussion about serving Ashtabula Deanery as a Region with five priests we decided that after a draft for implementation has been created by the deanery priest each parish will have a Parish Council member be a part of the ongoing discussion. Sacramental needs such as the availability of Masses throughout the County would be a priority for discussion and then followed by further discussion on ministry efforts such as Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Evangelization, etc.

We discussed the challenge of reducing 21 Masses down to 15 Masses to be available throughout the Ashtabula Deanery with one of the Masses being in Spanish. This will allow each priest being available for 1 Vigil Mass and 2 Sunday Morning Masses. This does not include the 6pm Mass currently being offered in Ashtabula with plans for this Mass to continue.

Without discussing the times of the 15 Masses, a draft of the breakdown for the Deanery would be as follows:

Ashtabula and Geneva will offer 6 Masses:

Summer Season:

3 Masses in Ashtabula

3 Masses in Geneva

Winter Season:

4 Masses in Ashtabula

2 Masses in Geneva

The Remaining Masses throughout the year:

2 Masses in Conneaut

1 Mass in Jefferson

1 Mass in Sheffield

2 Masses in Andover

1 Mass in Kinsmen

1 Mass in Orwell

1 Mass in Rock Creek

The 6pm Sunday Evening Mass, being outside the Vigil and Sunday Morning Masses, will continue with rotation of priests from the Deanery.

To be further discussed is the times of these Masses and how the movement of the 5 priests to each of the locations for the Masses will take place.

The next meeting with a member from each Parish Council will be 6:30pm Thursday, October 10 at St. Joseph Calasanctius, Jefferson in the downstairs of the church.