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*The three Catholic parishes in the city of Ashtabula enjoy a truly cooperative relationship. Many of our programs, policies, and Sacramental celebrations are done together, as is our support and dedication to Catholic education through Saints John and Paul School.*

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*Parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio*

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*The Mission of the "Transition Team" is to preserve the integrity, autonomy, and traditions of each of the three Catholic Parishes in Ashtabula, while working to ensure that the faithful of the entire Catholic Community is pastorally well-served.*

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**ASHTABULA TRI-PARISH TRANSITION TEAM**  
**September 19, 2007 – Minutes**

The Ashtabula Tri-Parish Transition team met Wednesday, September 19, 2007, in the meeting room at Mt. Carmel rectory. Father Ruggieri facilitated the meeting. Msgr. Zuraw, Diocesan Representative, was unable to attend. The meeting opened with a prayer led by Maureen Smith.

**I.** CCD schedules were discussed.

A. Mt Carmel and St. Joseph parishes began classes on September 16, 2007, and Mother of Sorrows will begin September 23, a week later due to MOS Feast and chicken dinner.

**II.** It was related that Pete Olsen has been hired by all three parishes as their business manager. Pete will have office space at each parish, and he will maintain the financial autonomy of each parish. Both Father Ruggieri and Father Miller state that having one business manager will be cost effective for our Tri-parish community.

**III.** The implementation of new Mass times was discussed, and all agreed that they seemed to be well received and well attended. The Deacons wanted to thank all the parishioners, especially of Mother of Sorrows and Mt. Carmel, for their warm welcome and acceptance. Deacons will continue their rotation schedules at all three parishes.

A. Holiday Mass schedules were addressed, and after much discussion, the following schedule was derived. (These schedules will be evaluated annually, as needed.)

**Christmas Eve** [as also listed in last weekend's insert - JR]

4:00pm St. Joseph, 4:00pm Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 5:30pm Mother of Sorrows,  
7:30pm Mother of Sorrows Spanish Mass, and 11:00pm St Joseph

**Christmas Midnight Mass** 12 Midnight at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

**Christmas Day** 9:00am Our Lady of Miracles (St. Joseph Mission) and

10:00am Mother of Sorrows (this Mass will rotate from parish to parish each year)

**New Year's Eve** 4:00pm at St Joseph, and 10:30pm Mother of Sorrows

**New Year's Day** 10:00am Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

(the New Year's Day & Eve Masses will rotate each year)

**Ash Wednesday** [as set following this meeting – JR]

St. Joseph: 9:00am Mass, 12noon Mass, and 7:00pm Mass

Mother of Sorrows: 7:00am Mass, 12noon Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes, 5:30pm Mass,  
and 7:30pm Mass in Spanish

Mt. Carmel: 8:30am Mass, 12noon Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes, and 7:00pm Mass

[NOTE: students from Sts. John & Paul will attend both of the morning services at both St. Joseph & Mt. Carmel]

**Palm Sunday**

Regular Mass Schedules

**Holy Thursday** (2 Masses at 7:00pm rotating basis each year)

St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

**Good Friday**

Noon Mother of Sorrows

3:00pm St. Joseph

7:00pm at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

**Easter Vigil**

8:00pm at Mother of Sorrows (this Mass will include the Tri-Parish Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults for all three parishes)

(The Easter Vigil will rotate from parish to parish each year)

**Easter Sunday**

Regular Mass Schedules

- IV.** One of the most widely asked questions (by all three parishes) is “How do we get in touch with a priest when we need one?” After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that a professional answering service be implemented. Parishioners in need will speak to a person, rather than a recording, and the call will be directed accordingly. Pete Olsen, business manager, is researching the cost and availability of such a program, and will implement it shortly.
- V.** Celebrations of other sacraments, such as Baptism and First Communion, were discussed, and we decided that each parish will maintain their own individual traditions with the sacraments celebrated in their home parishes. Discussion did include the possibility of a Tri-Parish First Communion, but this was dismissed due to lack of church space. First Communion will be at each parish’s existing Mass time schedule.
- VI.** Discussions under New Business were Mass schedules for All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Thanksgiving Day, Immaculate Conception, and Ash Wednesday. These times and places are yet to be determined. Hispanic Mass times are also being discussed. Mass scheduling and times for confession were referred back to the subcommittee for further review. *[see last weekend’s bulletin insert – JR]*
- VII.** The use of Mother of Sorrows Parish’s Rectory bears further research as well. This will be revisited after all avenues have been explored.
- VIII.** In regard to the future of the Transition Team’s role, it was advised that the group remain intact to facilitate communication between parishioners and the Tri-Parish Community at least until June 2008.
- IX.** The meeting ended in prayer led by Father Ruggieri.
- X.** The next meeting of the Transition Team will be October 24, 2007, in Mt Carmel Rectory meeting room.

Respectfully submitted by Carla Hague

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Since these minutes were submitted, Fathers Miller and Ruggieri also made the following addition to the Holy Day schedule:

**Immaculate Conception** (Saturday, December 8): [**NOTE:** as per the *United States Conference of Catholics Bishops* regarding the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – “**the obligation to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist is maintained even though this holy day falls on a Saturday.**” Therefore this remains a Holy Day of Obligation.]

Vigil Mass (Friday night): 7:00pm at Mother of Sorrows

Saturday morning for the Holy Day: 9:00am at Mt. Carmel

***Reminder:*** An Advent Retreat/Mission, hosted and sponsored by Mother of Sorrows Parish, will be held the weekend of December 1 & 2 at all Tri-Parish Masses. The Mission continues each night Sunday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm, December 2-5. All Tri-Parish families and friends (regardless of denomination) are invited and encouraged to attend!! Let’s embrace our entire community through inspiration and sharing!