



## THE PARISHES OF

### **St. Anthony of Padua**

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### **St. Joseph Church**

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Dear friends,

It's hard to believe I've been here for two months already! I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know many of you, and look forward to meeting even more of you and serving you as your pastor. As you know, we will be bringing the two separate Faith Formation Programs from St. Anthony and St. Joseph together this fall for the first time. It has been an idea in the works for a few years, and with a combination of different factors, this September was the most opportune time to make that happen. We are very excited about the opportunities such a joint program will provide, not least of them being the chance for the children of our parishes to grow in faith and friendship with Christ and each other.

One of our primary concerns in this process has been to ensure that children and families in Faith Formation are able to attend Sunday Mass at their respective parishes. We will need to alter our current Mass schedule to achieve that. I know this is disruptive, and we want to minimize that disruption as much as possible. As such, the following Mass time changes will be going into effect on **Sunday, September 22:**

**Saturday Mass times will remain the same at both St. Anthony and St. Joseph**

**Sunday Mass at St. Anthony will be at 8:30 AM**

**Sunday Mass at St. Joseph will be at 11 AM**

This will enable us to hold Faith Formation classes from 9:45-10:45, with a 15-minute window on either side for families to get to Faith Formation from St. Anthony's, or to go from Faith Formation to St. Joseph's. That space in between Masses will also permit me to be present during Faith Formation classes, and also makes it easier for myself and our deacons to go between the parishes, and to minister to each parish in more specific ways on Sunday.

I recognize that I am asking you to change your routines, and making such a request while I'm still very new to you. Please be assured that I have not come to this decision lightly, but only because it provides us the best structure for ensuring a high quality Faith Formation experience for our children moving forward. I rely on your continued patience and prayers. Please feel free to come to me with your concerns and difficulties. Thank you so much for all you do to make St. Anthony and St. Joseph the wonderful, welcoming, joyful, and faith-filled parishes they are.

In Christ,

Fr. Ken Kirkman