

**Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel**

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My dear parishioners:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Since September, we have been relying on the kindness of already busy priests to provide a Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy at the Chapel. We are especially indebted to Father Hrihoriy Lozinsky who has traveled out from Jersey City almost every Saturday evening for the past three months.

This arrangement cannot continue. Fr. Hrihoriy has other, additional responsibilities, and the few bi-ritual priests available to us are likewise unable to commit to serving the Chapel on Saturday evenings on a regular basis. Father Jody will not be returning to active ministry at St Michael's in the near future, and the faithful of Holy Wisdom Parish in Flanders need one Sunday Liturgy, which can only be celebrated on Saturday evenings, given the Sunday Liturgy schedule here in Passaic and Woodland Park. There is not another priest available in the Eparchy who can be assigned to St Michael's or who can serve this Liturgy on a regular, reliable basis.

Therefore, please be informed that the Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy will be suspended at the conclusion of 2018, at least through Pascha 2019. **The last Saturday Vigil Liturgy at the Chapel will be Saturday, December 29.** If regular, reliable staffing should become available again after Pascha, the possibility of restoring the Vigil Liturgy will be explored.

The Saturday Vigil was introduced into the Roman Catholic Church after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council as a concession to people whose work schedules made it impossible for them to worship on Sunday. For most Catholics, however, a Saturday evening service has simply become a matter of convenience.

Please take this opportunity to reconsider how you can make Liturgy a priority on Sundays. There is ample, safe parking at the Cathedral for the 9am Divine Liturgy. The 11am Divine Liturgy at the Chapel is followed by refreshments and a chance to socialize. If serious obligations require you to worship on Saturday evening, you will always be welcome at the 4pm Divine Liturgy at Holy Wisdom Parish, 197 Emmans Road, Flanders. It is handicap accessible, refreshments always follow the Liturgy, and a pot-luck dinner is shared on the first Saturday of each month. Father Marcel celebrates a Divine Liturgy at St John's, 15 E. 26<sup>th</sup> Street, in Bayonne at 4pm on Saturdays.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the faithful parishioners who have opened up, set up, and locked up the Chapel on Saturday evenings for years: Dennis and Pat Ditzig, Monica Majowicz, Kathy Milne, and Ted and Cynthia Grubiak. Their gift of extra time has made it possible for visiting priests to serve you all these years. Thank you!

I will be happy to hear any questions or concerns you may have. I hope this change in our schedule will encourage us all to pray more earnestly for men to respond to God's call to serve His people as priests.

God bless you!