



ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

1229 MOUNT LORETTA AVENUE • DUBUQUE, IOWA 52003

18 August 2021

To the parishioners of St. Wenceslaus and Immaculate Conception parishes:

According to the wise governance of our Holy Father Francis (God preserve him), it's now up to the local bishop to specify where Holy Mass using the 1962 missal may be celebrated. Our good Pope Francis stipulated that the bishop may not allow that celebration in a territorial parish church (such as Immaculate Conception).

St. Wenceslaus, on the other hand, was established in 1874, as a *non-territorial personal* parish to serve Catholic immigrants from Bohemia. It no longer serves that noble purpose. Also, it isn't expected, because of population shifts, that it'll ever become a territorial parish, or have a resident pastor.

For those reasons, St. Wenceslaus fits the criteria set by our Holy Father, and so is designated by me, Archbishop Jackels, as the church where Holy Mass using the 1962 missal will be celebrated (as it had been for many years).

The pastor of IC already has the responsibility to care for the parishioners, church, buildings and grounds of St. Wenceslaus. And the priests at IC already celebrate Mass and sacraments there; it's just that now they'll use both the current missal and the 1962 missal.

There will otherwise be no change to the canonical or civil status of either parish. The only noticeable difference will be the Mass schedule, and how the finances are handled.

In that regard, the financial administration is overseen by the pastor. The Sunday collections at St. Wenceslaus will be commingled with those taken up at IC. Out of those monies, the pastor will provide for the support of the priests, the Catholic school subsidy, and the maintenance of the church, buildings, and grounds for both parishes.

The intention of the donor will be honored for any monetary gifts designated for use at either St. Wenceslaus or IC. Fundraisers (like Goulash Day) may still be held to raise money for use by St. Wenceslaus Parish, with the guidance of the pastor, of course.

This new arrangement is provided to secure the future of St. Wenceslaus Parish. It also provides a stable provision for people who participate in Holy Mass using the 1962 missal. Everyone wins, no one loses: God is rightly honored with worship, and Catholics are transformed by Grace to go out and transform the world into the Kingdom of God.

God, come to our assistance. Lord, make haste to help us. Panna Maria, pray for us.

With kind regards and prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael O. Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque