

## Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe

**One trait of us Kansas Citians is that we hate to pay for parking. If I drive someplace for theater, a concert or dinner, I may spend a lot of money on my entertainment, but I don't want to pay for parking. I'll find free parking on some street, even if I have to walk an extra block or two.**

**One concern I have about launching a new mass schedule at the cathedral is that it will make parking even more difficult than it is now. We have a small parking lot. People already cram cars into it three or four deep, sometimes blocking access to emergency vehicles, those with disabilities, and even the priest's garages, as if to punish us for not providing a larger lot. But if you're like me, wherever you go in Kansas City, you want to park close, and you want to park free. I have the luxury of being able to walk to the cathedral, so I'm the last one with any right to comment on how we park here. But people have told me no matter how much space is available for worshipers inside the cathedral, if there isn't room for their cars outside the cathedral, they'll never come in to fill it.**

**Next weekend we begin a new mass schedule. On paper it only inconveniences two groups: those who have come to the Saturday 4:30 and those at the Sunday 6 pm. However, it could inconvenience everyone. I hope that those of you who have come regularly to the discontinued masses will still come to one of the others - even though, if you do, parking may be even more difficult than it already is. If you regularly attend a mass we are keeping, you could find it more inconvenient starting next week.**

**However, we stand to gain in many ways. Our frequent worshipers will see one another more regularly. We will add more warmth and spirit to each mass. Congregational singing will improve. The number of liturgical ministers will increase. We will give more dignity to this historic building and more robust glory to God. And if you accept the inconvenience in a spirit of patience and sacrifice, you will already be putting yourself in the proper frame of mind to participate in the mass. We call it the sacrifice of the mass not just because of the sacrifice of Christ, but because of the sacrifice we bring. Here we offer God the activities of the past week, in hopes that they have been pleasing.**

**In today's first reading from Ezekiel, God promises to tend his own sheep. Some of them "were scattered when it was cloudy and dark," but God will gather them back together into one fold. There they will find rest.**

**Starting next week we will gather the sheep scattered among six masses into four. It may take you a while to park and walk in here, but when you do, I hope you will find rest. Furthermore, I hope that you will seek out other scattered sheep and invite them to join you here. God promised Ezekiel, "The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, shepherding them rightly." On the last day, when Christ comes as judge to separate sheep from goats, he will place us on his right if we have done our part to help gather the straying members of the flock. Next week is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new church year. Let's make it a new day for cathedral parish, a day when we invite others to join us. When they discover Christ in the people assembled here, they won't care where they have to park.**

Sunday, November 26, 2017