



March 2023

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As the Cathedral renovations begin in earnest, we wish to thank you again for your patience, support, and understanding as we best manage the effects of the construction.

The renovation of the Cathedral will be in three major phases.

- The first phase is the installation of the HVAC system (started February 27, 2023) in Burke Hall which will be substantially complete before Easter (April 9, 2023).
- The second phase begins on Monday, April 10, 2023 (Easter Monday). The Cathedral proper will close for weekday and weekend Masses, shifting Mass to Burke and Lee (School Gym) Halls. At this time, fencing will be erected around the Cathedral blocking the side entrances. Entrance to Burke Hall will be through the front of the Cathedral by the Christ the Redeemer statue. The sidewalk closest to the rectory and bell tower will remain open and you will be able to utilize the sidewalk leading to the front of the Cathedral. If you need an accessible entrance, the ramp closest to the Bishop's residence will be open with a covered pathway through the Cathedral to the elevator. Burke Hall seating capacity will be reduced to 175 spaces as structural supports are temporarily installed inside the hall as a function of the upstairs renovation. See the website for a diagram and more details.
- The third phase involves the exterior renovation and will begin once the second phase is complete (estimated December 2023). The Cathedral proper will reopen for Mass and the front entrance will be closed. The side entrances will be open.

Sunday Mass and Seating Capacity in Burke Hall

To serve and meet our parishioner's spiritual needs, we have increased the number of Masses offered on Saturday and Sunday to accommodate the reduced number of seats (175 seats). The new Mass schedule is as follows:

Saturday Vigil:	4:30 pm and 6:00 pm in Burke Hall
Sunday:	7:00 am (quiet Mass), 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am (Cathedral Choir), 12:45 pm and 7:00 pm in Burke Hall
Sunday:	10:00 am and 1:00 pm Spanish Mass in the Lee Hall (School Gym)

To ensure that all who want to attend Mass can be accommodated, we are suggesting that you sign up for the first few weeks. **It is not required; however, it is encouraged** so that all parishioners can make an informed decision about available seating. Sign-ups are temporary until we adjust to the new schedule. Sign-up information will be on the Cathedral website, in the bulletin, and the Connection, our weekly electronic newsletter.

Weekday Mass, Private Prayer, Adoration, Evening Prayer, Confessions and Holy Days of Obligation

Weekday Services will continue with 7:00 am and 12:05 pm Mass with the Rosary beginning at 11:40 am. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will continue after Mass, but all must vacate the hall by 1:00 pm to allow the contractors to resume work. We will continue to have Saturday morning Mass at 9:00 am in Burke Hall.

Private prayer during the week in Burke Hall will be available Mondays – Fridays after Mass from 7:30 – 8:00 am and 12:30 – 1:00 pm.

Adoration and Evening Prayer on Thursdays will be suspended, resuming upon work completion.

Confessions will continue to be held on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm and on Saturdays from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. *Please note the new Saturday confession time.* The music room and the credit union office will serve as the confessionals.

Please check the bulletin, website, and social media for schedule of Masses on Holy Days of Obligation and Federal Holidays.

Mass Intentions

We have added Masses and therefore intentions to our schedule; please check with the parish office and see if a new Mass time is available to celebrate or honor your loved one.

Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers, Sacristans and Eucharistic Ministers

If there was ever a time that we needed help, now is it. The expanded Mass schedule will place a burden upon our current volunteers. If you are interested in joining one of these ministries, please contact the parish office and we will work with the ministries to get you trained as soon as possible.

Livestreaming

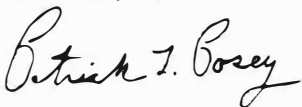
Unfortunately, we will not be able to livestream the Masses in Burke Hall because the current equipment was not designed for and cannot be transferred to Burke Hall. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Stewardship

Your support is a blessing to this parish, enabling us to do More for others. I understand that the construction may make in-person Mass attendance problematic; but I ask you to remember your spiritual home and continue your stewardship of our Cathedral. If you have not enrolled in Faith Direct already, please prayerfully consider doing so. You may enroll at faith.direct.net/VA326 or text “Enroll” to 703-382-5722.

While the construction will pose short-term challenges to our community, when the renovation is complete, we will all be able to celebrate and come together in a beautiful and inspired Cathedral to praise and give thanks to our God.

In Christ,



Very Rev. Patrick L. Posey, V.F.
Rector