

March 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on changes in security measures for students while in the Cathedral. Fr. Paul and I have had many conversations about better security during Mass while the students are present. We have talked with a number of people in the field of school and public safety, members of our safety committee, and many parents.

We feel that a separate school Mass should now be implemented to provide a secure environment for our children. Beginning Thursday, March 12th, and for the remainder of the school year, we will have a weekly all-school Mass **at 8:50 a.m.** on Thursdays for our students and faculty. Therefore, the school will not participate in 8:00 a.m. weekday Masses.

During all-school Mass, all doors to the Cathedral will be secured -- either locked or monitored -- to allow only parents and grandparents to join with the school in celebrating Mass. Specifically, all Cathedral doors except the door by the cry room will be locked. The cry room door will be monitored by staff members, and that is the door parents and grandparents will need to use and then sit on that side of the church. Despite the later start time, we hope our families can still join us for these all-school Masses. You are an important part of your child's faith formation, and we welcome all who wish to attend.

I appreciate your support, understanding, and patience as we implement these changes. We will make additional changes as needed to keep things as safe and still as efficient as possible. I also greatly appreciate everyone's input and planning assistance in making this happen. Thank you!

Respectfully,
Paula Smith, Ed.S.
Principal

Emails about Masses:

Thank you for your email. Fr. Paul and I value your input. I fully agree with your concerns, and we have been working to implement changes to make sure issues like what happened last Thursday never happens again. More security during Mass must be put in place right away, and we are working to make sure our plans can happen without obstacles. Expect to see immediate changes this week at Masses. Thank you again for contacting me and voicing your concerns. I truly appreciate it.

Paula

Allison and Bill,

Thank you for your email. Fr. Paul and I value your input. I fully agree with your concerns, and we have been working to implement changes to make sure issues like what happened last Thursday never happens again. More security during Mass must be put in place right away, and we are working to make sure our plans can happen without obstacles. Expect to see immediate changes this week at Masses.

We have had training from Fayette County Police and some staff have had several safety trainings outside the building this year, including KCSS training and Safe Crisis Management. We have also had several come in to tour our facilities and give feedback, including Fayette County Police, a KCSS assessment, Tony Good, and the FCPS Police Department. Thank you again for contacting me and voicing your concerns. Have a great week.

Paula

Email after Mass announcement:

Dr. Donworth,

Thank you for your email. Fr. Paul and I value your input. I am so sorry to hear that Shannon is distressed by what happened at Mass. I understand your concerns, which is why we have implemented changes in our Masses to make sure nothing like that ever happens again. More security during Mass must be put in place right away, and we are working to make sure changes happen this week.

In regards to specific things Fr. Paul said, I would prefer you talk to him. I was not present to hear him on the altar that day, but I was told he asked for all to pray for her mental and spiritual health. I'm confident that he gave an explanation in the context of our Catholic faith.

I had Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Taylor speak with all the middle schoolers twice, and I spoke with some classes, as well. We have encouraged them to come speak to any of us if they need to. We have talked as an admin staff about ways to continue to provide comfort and support to our students. We do talk about common psychological disorders in Guidance classes in seventh and eighth grades so that could be another means to discuss if necessary. Thank you again for contacting me and voicing your concerns. I truly appreciate it.

Paula