

# Father's Notes

*February 2, 2025*

We have recently been planning our Ash Wednesday schedule as well as the schedule for the Fridays of Lent. Questions arose about how best to schedule Stations of the Cross for the Fridays of Lent, and it came down to two different approaches, which I'll share here.

One approach was to provide stations of the cross on Fridays, but to do them in either Spanish or English, but not bilingual. Additionally, it was thought that we could alternate which site (St. Philomena or St. Thomas) hosted a specific language.

So, for example, on the first Friday of Lent, we would have Stations of the Cross in Spanish at St. Philomena and Stations of the Cross in English at St. Thomas (both at 7:00pm). The next week we would alternate sites, having Stations of the Cross in Spanish at St. Thomas and Stations of the Cross in English at St. Philomena. Through the subsequent weeks of Lent, we would continue alternating sites.

To help reduce confusion, our plan would be to create a small card that you could take home with you that includes the schedule for reference. This approach is being considered with the belief that while parishioners are willing to attend bilingual liturgies if that's what is offered, they prefer to have it in either Spanish or English.

A second approach is to leave the schedule as it was last year. According to what I was told, it was as follows: St. Philomena had bilingual Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm, using the combination of a book in English and a supplemental sheet in Spanish. St. Thomas had Stations of the Cross in Spanish on Fridays, and Stations of the Cross in English on Wednesdays.

Leaving it as it was last year, is being considered with the belief that for the time being, less change is better for parishioners; that there's been enough change by virtue of new priests and the introduction of Partners in the Gospel, and whatever changes it may bring with time.

So, those are the two scheduling approaches for Stations of the Cross for our parishes for Lent 2025. Nothing is in stone, so I thought it would be good to get your input. Do you feel one approach would be better than the other? Please understand, while I would find your input valuable, I don't expect we will get a consensus, and it's not a formal voting process. In the next ten days or so, feel free to send an email, a voicemail, or share your thought with me as you see me in person.



**Father Todd O. Strange** (*Pastor*)

+ St. Philomena Parish & School (*Des Moines, WA*)

+ St. Thomas Parish (*Tukwila, WA*)