

A Proposal for Our Weekday Mass Schedule

Now that I have had the opportunity to **land and become more grounded** in my new assignment, I'm beginning to see the natural rhythm of our parish life. While I'm still getting to know our **three parish communities**, I'd like to share a proposal for a revised **weekday Mass schedule** that, if adopted, would begin in **September**.

Before making any final decisions, I would sincerely appreciate your feedback.

Proposed Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday – 12:10 p.m. – Our Lady of Fatima

Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. – St. Francis Xavier

*Followed by a **Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament**.*

Wednesday – 8:00 a.m. – St. Francis Xavier

*Followed by **Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help**.*

Thursday – 8:00 a.m. – St. Francis Xavier

Friday – 8:00 a.m. – Our Lady of Fatima

*Followed by **Eucharistic Adoration until 12:00 noon**.*

The Four Principles Guiding This Proposal

1. Greater access to the Eucharist

One of the primary goals of this proposal is to offer weekday Masses at a variety of times—**morning, midday, and evening**—so that a **wider range of parishioners** has the opportunity to participate in the Eucharist during the week.

2. Looking beyond our own parish boundaries

As I considered this proposal, I also tried to look beyond the boundaries of our own parish communities. **The Eucharist is the heart of the Church's life, and our goal should be to make it as accessible as possible to the faithful.**

In preparing this proposal, I **reviewed the weekday Mass schedules of our neighbouring parishes**. Rather than every parish offering the same weekday Mass times, I believe we can better serve the faithful by **complementing one another**, together providing **morning, midday, and evening** opportunities for people throughout our region to participate in daily Mass.

The proposal also reflects the natural rhythm of ministry as I continue to serve **Our Lady of Fatima, St. Francis Xavier, and Most Precious Blood**. My hope is that the schedule supports not only the celebration of the Eucharist but also the many other aspects of parish life and pastoral ministry across our three communities.

3. Supporting the wider ministry of the parish

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of a priest's ministry, but it is not the whole of it. Each week also includes **hospital visits, school ministry, funerals, sacramental preparation, meetings, pastoral appointments, administration, emergency calls, and a regular day of rest** for each priest.

My hope is that this proposal creates **a healthy and sustainable rhythm** that supports these responsibilities while continuing to provide meaningful opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist throughout the week.

4. Growing our life of Eucharistic prayer

The Tuesday evening Mass would be followed by a **Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament**, while Friday mornings at Our Lady of Fatima would include **Eucharistic Adoration until 12:00 noon**.

Because the rectory is located at Our Lady of Fatima, the church can remain open safely during this time. **My hope is that we can deepen and strengthen the beautiful tradition of Eucharistic Adoration that already exists in our parish.**

If you feel called to become a regular adorer, **I would love to hear from you**. Please let me know if you would be willing to commit to a **regular one-hour time slot on Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon**. If enough parishioners are able to make that commitment, we can establish a regular schedule and, in time, prayerfully consider expanding the hours of Adoration.

Looking Ahead

This proposal concerns **only the weekday Mass schedule**.

At this time, **I am not considering any changes to our weekend Mass schedule**. As a new pastor, I believe it is important to continue **listening, learning, and becoming more deeply rooted** in the life of our parish communities.

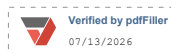
If, at some point in the future, it seems appropriate to review the weekend Mass schedule, it would not be before I have served here for **at least six months to a year**. Any such discernment would involve **prayer, careful consultation with our parish councils and parishioners**, and a thoughtful consideration of the pastoral needs of **all three communities**.

Your Feedback

This proposal is offered as **a starting point for conversation**. I would be grateful to hear your thoughts over the coming weeks. Please feel free to **speak with me after Mass, contact either parish office, or email me directly at dbutler@dol.ca**.

After **prayerfully considering your feedback**, I will make any final decisions later this summer, with the new weekday Mass schedule taking effect in **September**.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support as we continue to grow together in faith.



Fr. David Butler
Pastor



DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE

284 TRAFALGAR ROAD
PEMBROKE, ONTARIO K8A 5A8

Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, June 29, 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On this feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, the two great Apostles and pillars of the Church, may God bless you with the peace and hope of Jesus Christ through the grace of the Holy Spirit! As we enter into the summer, I would like to update the whole Diocese on the process of pastoral planning for the future in which we are engaged.

In Lent this year, the Steering Committee prepared and conducted seven Regional/Deanery information sessions across the Diocese. The information presented at these meetings was also posted to the Diocesan website. After these meetings, I asked every parish priest to convoke a meeting in each parish to reflect and respond to the challenges we face. During the Easter Season, the results of these meetings were sent to the Steering Committee, which studied them carefully as we explore ways forward for the Diocese.

Many parishes asked for more specific information about the situation of their parish, including Mass Attendance, sacraments, finances, employees, buildings, and cemeteries. With the assistance of parish priests, secretaries, and others, the Chancery has prepared a report for each parish. The report for your parish will accompany this letter. Please read it carefully for a better understanding of your actual situation.

During the summer, the Steering Committee and the five Deans will study these reports, as well as all the information presented at the Regional Meetings and the responses from the Parish Meetings. These Reports will help the Steering Committee to prepare concrete proposals for the next steps in our pastoral planning process, which will be communicated to you next fall.

Once again, I would like to thank all those who are continuing to generously give their time and energy to this process of pastoral planning. These efforts are crucial to the future of the Diocese, and to building strong, vibrant parish communities. Thank you to all of you who have taken part in the process so far through meetings, reflection, and most especially, through your faithful prayer that the Holy Spirit Guide us on our path into the future with courage and hope.

Personally, I have been encouraged and strengthened as I visit the parishes and speak with so many of you about these questions. You are aware of the challenges we face, and you continue to encourage and support your pastors, your bishop, and your communities. I am inspired by your commitment and your engagement. Your faith in God and your love for the Church and for your communities is the firm foundation on which we continue to build together!

May God bless us all as we follow Jesus guided by the Holy Spirit! May the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Columbkille pray for us and accompany us with their example and compassion.

In Christ our Redeemer,

+ Michael Brehl, C.S.R.

+ Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R



DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING REPORT

Name of Parish: St. Francis Xavier Parish

Location: Renfrew, Ontario

Date of Report: May 25, 2026

SECTION 1

Celebration of the Sacraments

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2025</u>
Baptism	15	13
First Holy Communion	10	11
Confirmation	0	14
Marriage	1	2
Funerals	35	34

SECTION 2

Attendance

Median Mass Attendance 2025	272
Donating Households (Envelope & Online)	203

SECTION 3

Financials

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Ordinary Revenue	\$317,736	\$283,883	\$293,968	\$322,866	\$337,826
Extraordinary Revenue	\$50,287	\$147,737	\$73,242	\$51,477	\$41,752
Ordinary Expenses	\$326,355	\$378,375	\$377,845	\$350,209	\$359,004
Extraordinary Expenses	\$69,108	\$36,055	\$19,674	\$15,691	\$112,392
Net Income (Loss) Ordinary	(\$8,619)	(\$94,492)	(\$83,877)	(\$27,343)	(\$21,178)
Net Income (Loss) Total	(\$27,440)	\$17,190	(\$30,309)	\$8,443	(\$91,818)

Loan(s) Payable as at March 31, 2026 N/A

Loan Status N/A

Parish Savings as at March 31, 2026 \$74,000 (Funds invested with Diocese)

Withdrawal of savings for operational expenses NIL (2021 - March 31, 2026)

SECTION 4

Personnel

Please indicate title and status of lay staff employed by the parish

	Full Time > 30 Hours Per Week (X)	Part Time (X)	Shared Duties with other Parish(es) Y/N
Custodian	X		No
Secretary	X		Yes
Housekeeper		X	Yes

SECTION 5

Building, Plant and Property

Building Age

Please indicate age of the buildings in years where applicable

Church	Rectory	Hall
58 yrs	58 yrs	60 yrs

Rectory and Hall

Describe below as applicable, if attached to church building or separate. Is rectory occupied by clergy or vacant?

Rectory is attached to church and occupied by clergy. Hall is separate.

Critical and Material Items Identified in 2021 Dunbar Property Report

Please indicate in last column if item has been rectified as of the date of this report.

	Church	Rectory	Hall	Rectified
Multiple exterior and interior items (foundation, walls, windows, doors, ceiling, flooring, deck, heating)			X	Partial
Multiple exterior and interior items (windows, doors, ceiling, flooring, concrete walkway, electrical)	X			Partial
Multiple exterior and interior items (roof drainage, foundation, crawlspace, walls, windows, doors, stairway/handrail, electrical, plumbing, chimney)		X		Partial
Note potential presence of asbestos (tiles, pipe wrap)	X	X	X	No

Please indicate major repairs identified subsequent to the 2021 Dunbar report that are pending or need to be completed within the next five years.

(Heating plant, roof, flooring, stone pointing, windows, concrete steps and walk ways, other)

None

Please list the cemeteries under the care of the parish.

St. Francis Xavier Cemetery (Bruce St, Renfrew)