To the Parishioners of St. Martin de Porres,

As you are aware, Fr. Ted was in a serious car accident on October 14th. Unfortunately, although it appeared that his injuries were minor, this accident resulted in a serious back injury that did not present itself until last week. At this time, it is difficult for him to walk and he will require extensive physical therapy for, possibly, several months.

For some time now, we have heard how there is a vocation shortage. We have heard how, at some point, we may reach a time where there will not be enough priests to cover all of our Masses. I believe we have reached that time.

We have been fortunate to have the help of Fr. Bill Endres (as we have experienced this weekend) but due to commitments of his own with other parishes, we cannot rely on his being able to assist us while Fr. Ted is away.

It has not been an easy decision, but because of the shortage we are going to have to drop three of our six Masses. Beginning the first weekend of Advent, November 30/December 1, the Mass schedule for our parish will be:

4:00 pm at St. Columba’s in Caledonia
9:00 am at St. Mary’s in Scottsville
11:00 am at St. Vincent’s in Churchville

I realize that this is a sudden and drastic change to the Mass times we are all used to. I understand it will take time for all of us to adjust and adapt to this new schedule. I do, however, have faith in the strength and resilience of our parish and hope we experience a re-vitalization in our faith community because of it.

It goes without saying, that this has been an incredibly difficult decision to make, but under the circumstances, it is the only one that can be made. Please keep Fr. Ted and our parish in your prayers, as we enter into this new phase of our church.

God bless,

Fr. John Hayes, Pastor

PS. We realize that one of the questions will be “What will happen to Mass and candle intentions that have already been purchased?” We have decided, for the time being, that we will have two intentions for each Mass to accommodate those already purchased. We will revisit this plan as it becomes necessary.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we walk this journey.