



## Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

*Dear Parish Family,*

As many of you know, I've only been here a couple of weeks, and I'm still getting my feet under me—learning names, finding my way around, and trying not to get lost on the way to the sacristy. I'm grateful for the warm welcome so many of you have offered. Even in this short time, I've already seen the faith and generosity that run deep in this parish. It's clear there's a strong foundation here, and I'm excited for what lies ahead.

Last week at daily Mass, I shared a proposal to move our weekday Mass time from **7:30 AM to 7:00 AM**. After receiving feedback and reflecting on the needs of the parish, I've decided to move forward with this change. The new schedule will begin on **Monday, August 4th**. The response I received was overwhelmingly positive, with many people expressing support and excitement. A few shared some hesitation or concern, and I want to acknowledge and respect that. I know this change won't be ideal for everyone, and I'm grateful to those who shared their thoughts with honesty and charity.

I also recognize that this change may feel sudden. If there were more time before the school year starts, I might have waited longer. But with school resuming on August 18, this gives us a short but sufficient window to make the adjustment and settle into a new rhythm before the year begins.

There are three main reasons for the shift. First, it opens daily Mass to more of our parish community. At 7:30, most school families, teachers, and working professionals can't attend because of drop-off or early job commitments. A 7:00 AM Mass gives them a real opportunity to start the day with the Eucharist. My hope is that this small shift encourages broader participation and helps daily Mass become part of more people's spiritual life.

Second, it allows me to be present during school drop-off. That may seem like a small thing, but I think it matters. A simple wave or hello in the morning builds trust and connection over time. I want to be visible in the life of the school—not just in classrooms or at Sunday Mass, but in the everyday moments.

Third, the change eliminates the tight squeeze between daily Mass and our 8:15 AM school Mass on Wednesdays. A 7:00 AM start gives both Masses the breathing room they need to be celebrated well and without rush.

To school families, teachers, and professionals: please know you're warmly invited to daily Mass, even if only occasionally. And to our regular daily Mass-goers: thank you. I know this change requires some adjustment. I invite you to see it as a small but meaningful sacrifice offered for the good of others—especially the children, who may one day grow into the same habits of daily prayer you've modeled so well.

If you'd like to talk more, I'm always happy to connect. Thank you for your faith, your patience, and your love for the Eucharist.

*Fr. Chris Morley*