

FR. CHRIS MARBURY

GOOD SHEPHERD
CATHOLIC PARISH PASTOR



Dear Good Shepherd Parish Family,

It is with great joy and deep humility that I write to you as your new pastor. I know that this transition comes with a mix of emotions. After fifteen years of faithful and devoted service, Fr. Fox's departure marks the end of an important chapter in the life of this parish. His steady leadership, prayerful presence, and spiritual fatherhood have been a great gift, and I want to honor and thank him for the impact he's had on this community. I also want to acknowledge that transitions like this can be hard. Some of you may be grieving. Others may be cautiously hopeful. And a few of you might be thinking, "I hope this new guy doesn't change too much." Wherever you are emotionally, I come with a listening heart, a love for the Church, and a desire to walk with you gently through this new beginning.

For the past three years, I've served as a parochial vicar at St. Thomas More in Centennial. It was a wonderful assignment—full of laughter, grace, and meaningful relationships. I often joked that I had the best job in the world: I got to preach, hear confessions, teach in the school, attend events, pray with families, and be a visible presence of the Church—without the weight of administration. I was basically the "fun uncle" of the parish. When anything hard came up, I could just smile and say, "You'll have to talk to the pastor about that."

Well... now I am the pastor. Which means I've officially graduated from fun uncle to dad. And like any first-time dad, I'll probably spend the first few months trying to look confident while quietly Googling things in my office. I've been a priest for just over five years—which makes me something of a kindergartener priest—and the Archbishop seems to think I'm ready for the "big school" of pastoring. But more than anything, I'm excited. This new role aligns with the deepest desire of my heart: to be a good shepherd after the heart of Jesus. That's been my constant prayer in the lead-up to this moment: Lord, help me to be a good shepherd for Good Shepherd.

A little bit about me: I was born in Denver and grew up in Castle Rock, where my parents still live. I have one younger sister who lives in Parker. When I was a little boy, I once told my parents I wanted to "make people live forever." That desire eventually led me to study medicine at

CU Boulder, where I earned a degree in Biochemistry and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. But during my junior year of college, something unexpected happened: at Mass one Sunday, as the priest lifted the host during the consecration, I heard Jesus speak to my heart, saying, "This is how you can make people live forever." That moment changed the trajectory of my life.

I entered seminary at St. John Vianney in Denver and completed three years of formation before being sent to Rome by the Archbishop to finish my studies at the Pontifical North American College. I was ordained a priest on May 16, 2020, during the early months of the pandemic, and celebrated my first Mass right here at Good Shepherd. I then returned to Rome for an advanced degree in philosophy and lived in residence here at Good Shepherd whenever I was back home. In all, I spent close to nine months here during 2020–2021, so this assignment really does feel like a homecoming.

Alongside my new role as pastor, I'll continue teaching philosophy part-time at the seminary. I promise to keep my homilies more spiritual than scholastic (though there may be the occasional guest appearance from Aristotle or St. Thomas Aquinas). Outside of ministry, I try to stay active and connected with God's creation. I love skiing—especially moguls at Mary Jane, which I've been doing since about the time I started walking. I also enjoy hiking, running, and cycling. I play the piano (though I'm admittedly a bit rusty), and I've been trying to carve out time to practice again. I'm also a voracious reader—mostly fiction when I have free time, which I find fuels both my imagination and my preaching. And, for what it's worth, I can solve a Rubik's cube in under 30 seconds. It's a great icebreaker, especially with kids, and occasionally serves as a useful metaphor for theology.

Most of all, I love being with people. One of the best ways I've found to get to know parishioners is by sharing meals together—so consider this an open invitation to invite your new pastor over for dinner (See QR Code below to sign up for a dinner). I genuinely enjoy spending time in your homes, hearing your stories, and building real relationships. Also, full disclosure: I don't really enjoy cooking. So there's that.

In these first months, I know there will be a learning curve. I'll do my best to listen well, to lead with love, and to be faithful in the little things. I ask for your patience and prayers as I settle in. And please know that I am praying for you. I already love this parish, and I truly believe that God has beautiful things in store for us.

With affection in Christ,
Fr. Chris Marbury

*Scan the QR code to schedule a
dinner with Fr. Chris!*

