September 18, 2019

Dear Assumption School Families,

**Short Version:**

On October 1st, our daily Mass times at Assumption will change to the following:

**Tuesdays:** 5:30 p.m., **Wednesdays:** 7:15 a.m., **Thursdays:** 7:15 a.m., **Fridays:** 10:45 a.m.

The Wednesday and Thursday times were selected specifically to give Assumption School families the opportunity to attend Mass together before school. I want to invite you to try attending these Masses with your children from time to time. Daily Mass is a beautiful way to grow closer to the Lord and to develop a deep devotional life, both of which are very helpful for children once they get to high school and beyond.

**Long Version:**

Christians have offered Mass together on Sunday since Christ was first raised from the tomb, but it was only after a few centuries that the tradition of celebrating Mass *daily* took hold in the Western Church. Once this tradition did develop, though, generation after generation of Christian experienced the daily offering of the Eucharist to be an incredible source of grace, strength, and relationship with the Lord.

One of my first priorities as priest administrator of Assumption Parish was to expand the ability of our working people and school children to be able to attend daily Mass. After a consultative process, I have decided to change our daily Mass schedule to the following, effective October 1st, 2019:

**Tuesdays:** 5:30 p.m., **Wednesdays:** 7:15 a.m., **Thursdays:** 7:15 a.m., **Fridays:** 10:45 a.m.

The two Masses at 7:15am are specifically scheduled so that the students of Assumption Catholic School are able to attend daily Mass with their parents and guardians on a regular basis, and these Masses are timed such that students will always be finished with Mass before the 8:00 a.m. school day begins.

I am writing this letter to invite you to attend these daily Masses with your children!

I began attending daily Mass ten years ago during my junior year of undergraduate, and in the intervening decade I have come to appreciate how beautiful and powerful this daily ritual can be. The daily Mass is often much simpler than the Sunday Mass, with minimal music or pomp. It is nothing more than a modest, unadorned offering to the Lord at the beginning of the day, and it is in this minimalism that I have found a new appreciation of the Mass in all its forms. When all that I have are the words of the Church, the words become a part of me, *the words cling to my soul*, in an intense and lasting way.

Though it took me until adulthood to avail myself of the daily offerings of the Church, many of my classmates in seminary described the influence that attending Mass daily with their parents had on their vocation to the priesthood. While I do not expect every student who attends daily Mass to become a priest or religious, I strongly believe that increased exposure to the Mass and reception of the Eucharist can only serve to intensify the devotion of our children and their love for the Lord. And in our current world torn by strife, this may be exactly what they need to survive and thrive in high school and beyond.

Two final, practical notes: first, we would like to revisit the school Mass time more extensively next year to ensure that it fits our school schedule better and to allow more parents to attend. We are considering 8:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and leaving it at 10:45 a.m., but all options are on the table. If you have opinions on what time would be most helpful for you, please e-mail myself or Principal Dan Anderson to let us know. Second, we are always looking for additional sacristans, lectors, and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist for our daily Masses. If you plan to attend regularly, and would like to help, please let me know.

As important as I believe our work is here at Assumption Catholic School, I also know that children *first* learn to love Jesus from their parents. Thank you for leading your children to Jesus and investing in a Catholic education! I hope that this Mass change can provide your family with even more tools to carry out that essential evangelical task of Christian parenting.

May the Lord bless you and your families,
Fr. Moore