

# FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JEFF

## St. Catherine Labouré New Mass Schedule, starting October 1, 2024:

Day	Time	Location
Saturday	4:30 PM	St. Louise de Marillac
Sunday	8:00 AM	St. Louise de Marillac
Sunday	10:00 AM	St. Louise de Marillac
Sunday	12:00 PM	St. Louise de Marillac
Sunday	4:30 PM	St. Louise de Marillac

### **Monday through Saturday New Daily Mass Schedule**

- 7:00AM at St. Louise de Marillac Monday-Friday
- Noon at St. Louise de Marillac Tuesday & Thursday
- 9:00AM at St. Louise de Marillac Friday & Saturday
- 7:00PM at St. Louise de Marillac Wednesday

### **Rationale for New Mass Schedule:**

For the few suggestions that asked for adjustments to the proposed Mass schedule, they were mainly regarding either a) keep the 4pm or 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass or b) adjust some of the Sunday morning Mass times. The reason that I decided to keep the 4:30PM Saturday Vigil Mass time was because the two closest geographical churches already offer a 4PM (St. Thomas More) and a 5PM (St. Benedict the Abbot) and so in collaboration with other nearby parishes, and so that we are able to offer everyone in the local area an additional Mass time for everyone's busy lifestyle, 4:30PM ended up being the most reasonable, practical, and collaborative time.

Additionally, I know that the 6PM Mass time worked for some because it is the latest Saturday option in our Parish. However, we are thankfully not the only parish to offer this time. Corpus Christi Parish also offers a 6PM Mass on Saturday evenings for those who need that option. Also, our 6PM Mass was by far the lowest attended Mass at the St. Louise site and has seen virtually no increase in attendance in the last 12 months.

The reasoning behind keeping the Sunday morning Mass times was based upon the significant growth in attendance at those particular Masses in the past 12 months and also because of our new Faith Formation times on Sunday mornings. Since October of 2023 to August of 2024, we have experienced about a 21% increase in attendance at the 8AM Mass, a 23% increase in attendance at the 10AM Mass, a 23% increase in attendance at the 12PM Mass, and a 23% increase in attendance at the 4:30PM Mass. As we can see with the significant and consistent growth at each of those Masses in a short amount of time (of particular note is that August is still considered a heavy vacation time and most churches in the Pittsburgh area see a decrease during the Summer months), changing those Mass times could disrupt the significant continued growth in our parish community. There are also various Mass times in our neighboring parishes that offer other Mass options for those weekends where these times do not always work for your schedule.

As you know, our new robust Faith Formation (I grew up with it being called CCD) has times that are set so that the families can go to Mass either before or after their Sunday formation session. Changing the Mass times on Sunday morning would make it impossible for these families to attend their Faith Formation Session and Sunday Mass here, which would certainly not be fair to them.

### **New Seminarian**

I am happy to announce that the Diocese of Pittsburgh has assigned seminarian Dominic Tomasello to St. Catherine Labouré Parish for this upcoming academic year. He is originally from Ellwood City and is entering his very first year of seminary to discern the priesthood for our diocese. He will be with us for roughly a week out of each month to get pastoral experience in the parish. After having already been blessed by the presence of seminarians Deacon Randy (now Father Randy!) and Thach (who will be with us during the holidays when he returns from school), we are blessed again as a parish to have another seminarian assigned to us. He will join us at the beginning of October. Welcome, Dominic!