



Dear Families and Friends,

As many of you know, the daily mass schedule was changed for a trial period for the summer. Having now entered fall, I am writing to share with you the results and to inform you of the decision made about the future of the daily mass schedule. Please read this letter in its entirety.

First, I thank you for your letters to me with concerns as well as the letters of support. It is clear that the change affected the parish in no unimportant manner, both positively and negatively. Every perspective was listened to while making the decision.

While there were many reasons that we changed the schedule, one of the most important was that there were consistently a larger amount of people attending the 12:15pm masses that were already being offered. We wanted to see, if more afternoon masses were offered, if this trend would continue during the summer. Even though the summer meant that the university students and many families would not be around, the trend continued throughout the summer. Consistently, the mass attendance was above the average for the added afternoon masses. On the whole, afternoon mass attendance is above average twice as often as the morning mass. Now that school is back in session, this has affirmed the trend as well. It has become clear that the 12:15pm mass is a more convenient time for a larger number of people, and it is not offered in other parishes in the area. This the clearest reason as to why we will be keeping daily mass at 12:15pm.

We have seen many fruits in the community because of this change. Every age demographic seems to have benefitted. There have been more children than usual attending daily mass, either too young for school or homeschooled. Also, seniors who do not drive early in the morning have welcomed the opportunities to attend more often. We have even seen more young adults than before, both at mass and in the confessional line. There has been great acceptance of the new confession times made available by these new masses. Most days the lines are substantial, and I have heard that this is actually helping the access to confession in the larger Bryan/College Station area, because people are not getting turned away as often due to time limitations at other churches. It brings me great joy to help bring the mercy of God into our community more.

However, the numbers were not the same for the scheduled communion services on Mondays. Being attentive to attendance at these services, we will be having the Monday communion services at 7am. It will fit well with the Deacon's schedules and allow people to start off their work week by receiving Holy Communion.

Given more time and awareness, it is reasonable to assume that the attendance will actually continue in growth at the daily masses. My desire is to bring the sacraments to more people than before, and help create a real love for the Lord, especially in His eucharistic presence. For those negatively affected by this decision, I pray that you may find peace with it in the coming days. I also hope that you will pray for me and my shepherding of this community.

Your Servant in Christ,


Very Reverend Albert Laforet, Jr.
Pastor

New Schedule

Monday	Communion Service @ 7am
Tuesday - Friday	Confession @ 11:30am Mass @ 12:15pm