

## New Mass Schedule Info & FAQs

This weekend, we announced a new, interim Mass schedule **that will take effect July 12-13**. We know change can be difficult. Most importantly, as changes come within our parish community, we need to keep our eyes fixed on Christ and on His never-ending care for His Church. Let us also thank God ahead of time for the blessings He will bestow on our new Parish of St Benedict. Below is the new schedule and additional background information and FAQs.

<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
4:00 PM – Most Holy Trinity (MHT) 5:30 PM – Church of the Resurrection (COR)	7:30 AM – COR 9:00 AM – Our Lady of Fatima (OLF) 10:30 AM – COR 10:30 AM – MHT 12:15 PM – MHT (Spanish Mass)
<b>Weekday Mass (Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday)</b>	<b>Weekday Mass (Thursday/Friday/Saturday)</b>
COR – 7:30 AM	MHT – 7:30 AM (Thurs. & Sat.) / 9:00 AM (Fri.)
<b>Weekday Mass (Spanish)</b>	
MHT - Wednesdays - 6:00 PM	
<b>Adoration &amp; Confession: TBD</b>	

*It is important to note that none of the adjustments made in our interim Mass schedule were made in isolation from each other. Much to the contrary, a change in one Mass time or place often required changes to be made elsewhere in the schedule in order that the interim schedule best serves the needs of the new Saint Benedict Parish. If a Mass at your preferred place or time has changed locations, it is our hope that you will worship with our new parish community at the new location. Following are considerations given to specific Mass times and circumstances:*

### Saturday Vigils

We need to reduce the number of Vigil Masses from 3 to 2 so that we can have a schedule that one priest can celebrate (either in an emergency or potentially in the future as a single priest parish). Other factors include:

- The attendance at COR's vigil is about 100 more than at either MHT Parish Vigil (4:00 PM or 5:30 PM);
- Retaining a 4:00 PM vigil at MHT will allow the priest to get to COR for a 5:30 PM vigil Mass there. It would be a much tighter time frame from OLF to COR for this Mass; the driving distance from OLF to COR is about 6 miles, while it's only 2.5 miles from MHT to COR.

That, and that only, is the reason for the cancellation of the vigil Mass at OLF.

We recognize that changing the COR vigil Mass time by 30 minutes (from 5:00 PM to 5:30 PM) will cause our worshipping community to adjust some Saturday afternoon routines. The same is no less true for our parish clergy, staff, and volunteers. That being said, it is also important to remember the “big picture” of these changes. The cancellation of a vigil Mass at OLF is a very difficult decision to make. For the good of our new parish, all of us - priests and parishioners - will readjust together to our new vigil Mass time.

### Sunday 7:30 AM

As you know from our earlier communications, we must reduce the number of Sunday Masses for all Wallingford Catholics from 10 to 7, and eventually to 6. In the case of our two 7:30 Masses, we need to consolidate them into one Mass at that time. That Mass will be celebrated at COR.

There are slightly more people at Resurrection's 7:30 Mass and that church has the capacity for all those who choose to worship early on a Sunday. It also has generous parking and easy building accessibility at this time of day and in the case of inclement weather.

## New Mass Schedule Info & FAQs

### **Sunday 9:00 AM**

We need to consolidate our two 9:00 AM Masses into one Mass at that time. The “family Mass” will continue to be celebrated at OLF.

There are slightly more people at OLF’s 9 AM Mass, and that church and its accompanying parish hall and classrooms will play a major role in our new parish’s family faith formation program. It also has the capacity for all those who choose to worship at that time, generous parking, and easy building accessibility. This Mass is also the only Mass that will be offered at OLF Church, a campus which previously had both weekday Masses and multiple weekend Mass times.

We are keenly aware that this change likely provokes questions about the Children’s Liturgy of the Word and Choir that is offered weekly at COR. The children’s liturgy will continue and move to the 10:30 AM Mass at COR; singing time will be shared with the adult choir and/or the bell choir. Eventually, we will align these two Masses with our new, combined family Faith Formation program (See also last FAQ below).

### **Sunday 10:30 AM**

In the case of our two 10:30 Masses, one at MHT and the other at COR, the decision has been made to retain both of these Masses unaltered in our interim schedule. This is because both of these Masses are the highest attended English Masses in our parish, and because, for the time being, we will still have enough priests assigned to our parish to celebrate them each week.

It is important for you to know that the retention of these two simultaneous Masses cannot be a permanent, long-term solution. Our eventual final Sunday Mass schedule of 6 Masses will need to be a schedule that one priest can celebrate, both in an emergency and perhaps as a single priest parish should that become necessary. Further adjustments to the Sunday morning Mass schedule will thus eventually be necessary.

### **Daily Mass 7:30 AM**

We also need to consolidate our two existing daily Masses at COR (7:00 AM) and MHT (8:30 AM). Attendance at both of these Masses is comparable and accommodable at one Mass. Thus, beginning on July 14, excluding Fridays, we will have a single English daily Mass at 7:30 AM. A 7:30 English daily Mass is early enough for most people heading to work and is not a well-served Mass time by other parishes in our area. This Mass will rotate between the COR campus (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) and MHT campus (Thursday and Saturday). Meanwhile, Mass will be offered at MHT at 9:00 AM on Friday morning in order to provide greater flexibility and participation by the Holy Trinity School community. Finally, the Wednesday evening Spanish Mass at 6PM at MHT will remain unchanged.

### **Will a campus be closed?**

As we have said in previous updates, an engineering study of every building which will belong to the new St. Benedict Parish has now been completed. That study still needs to be reviewed. At this time, all three campuses will remain open. But this will evolve over time. We need to carefully evaluate which buildings will not only best serve our new parish right now, but also in the years to come. That work will be done in deep prayer, asking the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout.

### **By going from ten to seven Masses per weekend, there are fewer opportunities for Mass Intentions to be submitted. How do you plan to address this?**

First, it’s important to note that we’ve seen a decline in Mass Intention requests over the last several years. Based on the current volume of requests, we believe both the weekday and weekend schedules will be able to accommodate most, if not all, requested intentions. However, with the approval of the Archbishop, we will be designating one Mass per weekend that can accommodate multiple intentions. This will ensure that everyone who requests a specific weekend date can be reasonably accommodated.

### **Will there continue to be two Faith Formation programs?**

These programs will eventually become one, with an anticipated Fall 2025 start date. More information will be forthcoming.