

Now that we have learned a little of the history of the parishes in our RMC grouping the past few weekends, let's take a look back in time and review our own history; the history of Mater Christi Church...

Mater Christi Parish is a close cousin to two other parishes in our grouping, St Mary and St Hugh. Our relationship is not only geographically, but because of our history. Both grew from the community that first gathered at St Mary church in Lyons. It was in 1949 that Father Timothy Lyne, then associate pastor at Saint Mary, conducted a survey of the Catholics in North Riverside. Father William Murphy, pastor of Saint Mary, petitioned the Chancery to begin Saint Mary's Mission of North Riverside. The priests, Father Murphy, Father Lyne, Father Shirey, and Father Wisniewski served the Mission of North Riverside and Saint Mary.

Cardinal Stritch dedicated Mater Christi church on June 28, 1953. Father A.H. Menarik became the first pastor. Mater Christi was now a canonically established of the Archdiocese.

On Mother's Day 1956, the magnificent Italian sculpted Carrara marble Mother of Mothers Shrine at Mater Christi was dedicated. The statue depicts Mary, Mother of God, and the Christ Child gazing lovingly at a modern-day woman and child. The shrine has drawn visitors from around the globe to pray to Mater Christi, Mother of Mothers.

The lovely white marble statue of Mary which has graced the entrance to the church throughout its history still watches over the people of this faith community.

We know Mary, Mater Christi, will guide us through the Renew My Church process together with our cousin parishes and St. Pius X.



COMING SOON...THE MATER CHRISTI FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM IS PLANNING ON REOPENING FOR THE 2020-2021 CATECHETICAL YEAR!!

Plans are being finalized to reopen the Mater Christi Faith Formation Program for the 2020-2021 Catechetical year! Tentatively, we are planning for in-person classes following all safety, sanitization, distancing, and capacity guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Chicago **once a month** beginning in **October** in our school building. Materials will be given for home catechesis on the weeks that we will be unable to hold in-person classes.

More information will be released to our website soon including full information about our program for the 2020-2021 Catechetical year, including all safety protocols that will be in place for the catechetical year. Online Registration will begin at that time on our website, with the ability to fully register your students and pay tuition fees with either a credit card, debit card, or bank information.

We are currently awaiting our final Certification from the Archdiocese of Chicago before we can release full program and registration information.



Renew My Church News...



All four GFDT Teams from our grouping parishes (Mater Christi, St. Mary, St. Hugh, and St. Pius X) will be meeting on Wednesday, August 26th to discuss the Foundational Principals for evaluating sustainable parish and school scenarios for the Renew My Church process. Those principals are listed below...

Foundational principles for evaluating sustainable parish and school scenarios:

Potential parish structures are evaluated against a set of criteria determined using data across the Archdiocese for how a structure would support vitality and ensure viability, such as:

Ministerial and spiritual needs of the parish: To enliven the work of evangelization, formation, worship, and pastoral care in today's time and culture, parishes ordinarily will build a strong a staff team to support the pastor. Staff teams will be professionally trained and justly paid. To support this staffing and basic operations, such as paying utilities, parishes generally will need **operating revenue of \$750,000 or more (excluding rental income)**.

Parishioner count and Mass attendance: Based on the number of pastors expected to be available across the Archdiocese in the future, a minimum of **800 parishioners attending weekend Mass** is generally needed to be assigned a full-time, resident pastor. In addition, parishes need enough people power (i.e, parishioner count) to support vibrant ministries.

Pastoral manageability: It is critical that our structures support our pastors and pastoral teams to focus as much time and energy as possible on ministry. These structures need to be realistic to manage, considering potential travel between campuses, sacramental coverage, and administrative, facility, and ministerial needs.

Parish financial stability and facilities: Parish financial stability and adequate, accessible and safe facilities with capacity for growth and affordable ongoing repair/maintenance. Capital investments are prudent considering what the parish needs for ministry – including worship capacity and ministry space.

School quality and financial stability: A Catholic school should be best positioned to provide the very highest quality of faith formation and academic quality in a manner that is financially sustainable. A key measure is the **potential to enroll a minimum of 240 students in PK-8**, considering area demographics and parish student population.

Note on Foundational Principles in relation to the challenges posed by COVID-19

The above principles are a guide that will be used in compiling the scenarios that will be discussed within the process of Renew My Church, however, these principals are not the sole basis of creation of the scenarios. Multiple factors, including the realization that many of these principles are affected with the COVID-19 shutdown and reduced capacity with the Mass reopening process, will be taken into account along with other details specific to each of the four parishes.

For more information, feel free to reach out to Father Matthew, or any of the other members of the Mater Christi GFDT Team—Kathleen Keen, Ted Watylyk, Susan Storcel, Fernando Flores, or Scott Ernst.