

# *Mater Christi Catholic Church*

2431 South 10th Avenue  
North Riverside, Illinois 60546  
(708) 442-5611

## **The Future of Mater Christi Parish - We need your help!**

Mater Christi Parishioners,

God the Father frequently reminds us to recognize change or difficulty as God's calling, and that we must view strife as opportunity cloaked in the appearance of turmoil. Rarely has this been truer for the Catholic Church as a whole, the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the Mater Christi Parish.

Facing a climate of reduced mass attendance, fewer staying with the faith, lower collections to fund church efforts, all while staring at a global pandemic, the Renew My Church process has been accelerated. ***The Renew My Church process asks us to "...build a renewed, vital, and sustainable Catholic presence for the good of all people."*** Collectively, we at Mater Christi have been grouped with St. Hugh, St. Mary and St. Pius X to re-envision our ministries moving forward. **In short, you must know, Mater Christi Parish, as she stands and currently operates, is likely to look very different a year from now.** The same is true for the other three parishes in our grouping.

To lead these efforts, Fr. Matt has assembled a team of parishioners to collaborate with the other parishes in our grouping and to represent and collect feedback of the many demographics of Mater Christi Parish. We hope all parishioners can join us actively and prayerfully walking this journey.

To provide better understanding, and for us to collect feedback and address concerns, a number of steps will be taken. **First, we will be hosting two town hall meetings.** These town halls will last about an hour, include a short presentation, as well as a question and answer session. If you know you have questions or comments, please email them in advance to [businessoffice@materchristichurch.com](mailto:businessoffice@materchristichurch.com) so we can make sure to address them. We encourage you to attend one, or both town halls. Please join us:

- **Virtually, via Zoom, at 7pm on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.** The link will be listed on our website as well as our Facebook invite.
- **On the lawn (if weather permits) or inside at 9am on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.** Please bring your own chair, wear a facemask, and remain socially distant from one another. To attend the meeting, please sign up via Sign Up Genius on our website, [www.materchristichurch.org](http://www.materchristichurch.org).

While we plan to have other town halls to continually update you on the process, it is critical that we collect your feedback at this juncture as this process is rapidly moving forward.

**Secondly, please take time to visit our website, view the bulletins online, and visit our Facebook page.** These locations will have updates as we go through this process. Similarly, Fr. Matt will continue to update parishioners during Mass, which can also be viewed online.

**Third, please view the attachment for insight on the baseline data of the church as a whole, within Chicago, and specifically at Mater Christi.**

Finally, please keep the Renew My Church Team, the Parishioners of Mater Christi, the parishes of our grouping and the church in your prayers. We are reminded that the church began with no budget and only a handful of disciples, she has survived difficulty before, and it is our prayerful goal that we will prevail stronger as a church community at the conclusion of the Renew My Church process.

Faithfully yours,

The Mater Christi Renew my Church Team