



294 South Corridor Renew My Church Update: January 2022

Discernment Process

Infant Jesus of Prague, St. Anne (Hazel Crest), St. Irenaeus, St. Emeric, St. Joseph (Homewood) and St. Lawrence O'Toole Parishes engaged in the Renew My Church (RMC) review and discernment process over the past few months. The Grouping Feedback and Discernment team (GFDT), which was made up of members from each community, met to review and discern the future parish structure for the area. Our deepest appreciation goes to the GFDT who prayerfully discerned the parish structure during this challenging time of the pandemic.

Based on their meetings and feedback gathered from the larger parish community, they submitted feedback to the archdiocese. The Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, which includes representatives from across the Archdiocese of Chicago, reviewed the feedback and other information, including financial summaries and parish trends.

Cardinal Cupich and Bishop Perry are grateful to the priest leaders and the entire Grouping Team who gathered together, and all who offered feedback through the recent discernment process.

Outcome

In the past few weeks, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, the archdiocese's auxiliary bishops, and the archdiocese's Presbyteral Council met to discuss the Commission's recommendation. Based upon those discussions and prayerful consideration, Cardinal Cupich made the following decisions regarding the parish structure in this grouping.

- **St. Anne, St. Emeric, and St. Joseph will unite as a new parish, with a new name, one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2022.**
 - St. Joseph will serve as the parish church and the sole location for the parish's regular schedule of Masses.
 - The specific timeline to fully transition Masses to St. Joseph will be determined by parish leadership in the coming months.
 - The local community will discern possibilities for the new permanent name, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich.
 - The Archdiocese of Chicago's Priest Placement Board will continue its discernment of a candidate to recommend as pastor of the newly unified parish. More information will be shared when it is available.

- **Infant Jesus of Prague, St. Irenaeus, and St. Lawrence O'Toole will unite as a new parish, with a new name, one pastor and one pastoral team, effective July 1, 2022.**
 - Infant Jesus of Prague will serve as the parish church and the sole location for the parish's regular schedule of Masses.
 - The specific timeline to fully transition Masses to IJP will be determined by parish leadership in the coming months.
 - The RMC Operations support team and parish leadership will work together to further investigate the possibility of retaining a portion of either St. Irenaeus or St. Lawrence O'Toole campus for continuing outreach ministry.
 - The local community will discern possibilities for the new permanent name, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit three to five options to Cardinal Cupich.
 - The Archdiocese of Chicago's Priest Placement Board will continue its discernment of a candidate to recommend as pastor of the newly unified parish. More information will be shared when it is available.
 - Infant Jesus of Prague School will serve as the parish school.