



A message from Fr. Chris

On Mission Update: I would like to take this opportunity to inform all parishioners of a few important updates regarding the On Mission process. Last week I invited Parish Services (from the diocese) to meet with the clergy team and me, members of all parish staffs, and with the Leadership Team of our grouping.

Listed below are some highlights and outcomes of what was presented and discussed during the meetings:

- Acknowledgement that during this time of transition many parishioners are feeling confused about next steps in the merger process and how we will exactly become a new parish.
- We need to acknowledge that the changes we are facing are sometimes challenging and create a sense of loss while at the same time many are feeling excited about new opportunities to bring all our resources together (human, financial, ministerial) in service to one parish with more vibrant ministry.
- We learned the difference between a parish and a church. A parish is a territory (geographic region), with people and a priest(s). Churches are sacred buildings designated for divine worship.
- Distinguishing between parishes and churches is important for us as we move closer to our merger. In January 2020 our three parishes will merge into one new parish. This means that the current parishes will cease to exist and we will become one new entity. In January 2020 none of our three church buildings will close. When we merge, the new parish will receive a new name and the church buildings will retain their current names.
- At the time of merger, all assets and liabilities of the former parishes become one. There will no longer be separate budgets, checking accounts, offertory envelopes, etc. All will become one under the name of the new parish.
- The Leadership Team discussed some of the following challenges/concerns with regard to our grouping:
 - 1) Financial sustainability,
 - 2) Maintaining different parish cultures
 - 3) Many of our parishioners live outside our boundaries which impacts volunteerism with our ministries and programs
 - 4) Each of the church buildings in our grouping has a specific distinction known to many throughout the diocese – how will we be able to maintain them all, especially if we face greater financial constraints.
- The Leadership Team discussed some of the following hopes and dreams for our new parish:
 - 1) Building new relationships with each other
 - 2) Increasing and strengthening lay involvement to support evangelization and service
 - 3) Building stronger relationships with community around us
 - 4) Offering a variety of spiritual and liturgical experiences so that everyone feels welcome
- We must all remember that the overarching vision for On Mission is to realign all of our resources to fulfill better the mission of Jesus Christ. The mission of Jesus is for his followers (that's us) to "go and make disciples." We are called to consider how we can become an even more vibrant and sustainable Catholic community in the City Center Parishes.

COMPLETING THE MERGER PROCESS: TIMELINE FOR JANUARY 2020

END OF JULY – MID-AUGUST 2019	AUGUST 2019	SEPTEMBER 2019	OCTOBER 2019	OCTOBER 2019	LATE NOVEMBER EARLY DECEMBER 2019 (TENTATIVE)	JANUARY 2020 (TENTATIVE)
<p>Parish Services meets with Leadership Team to put final touches on Parish Assembly Material</p>	<p>Fr. Donley will submit to Bishop Zubik the initial list of recommendations for a new parish name. (By Aug. 27, 2019)</p>	<p>Conduct Parish Assemblies (Dates and locations to be announced)</p>	<p>Fr. Donley submits necessary documentation to the Regional Vicar.</p>	<p>Bishop Zubik meets with his Priest Council to discuss merger petition.</p>	<p>Bishop Zubik officially announces Decree for a New Parish</p>	<p>Decree for a New Parish Becomes Effective New Parish Begins</p>