



West Ridge Renew My Church Grouping Update: February 4, 2020

The West Ridge grouping includes St. Henry Parish, St. Margaret Mary Parish, St. Timothy Parish and Blessed Stepinac Croatian Catholic Mission at Angel Guardian Church. Northside Catholic Academy's Middle School Campus is also located at St. Margaret Mary.

Discernment Process

The West Ridge Renew My Church grouping began the review and discernment process in spring 2019. The Grouping Feedback and Discernment Team, which was made up of members from each parish community, met to review and discern the future parish structure for the area. Based on their meetings and discussions with the larger parish community, they submitted a feedback report to the Archdiocesan Standards and Recommendations Commission, which included representatives from across the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Commission met to review the feedback report and other materials and information, including demographic data, financial summaries, and parish and grouping trends.

Outcome

Over the course of the past several 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 grouping's structure.

St. Henry, St. Margaret Mary and St. Timothy will unite to form a new parish, effective July 1, 2020. Blessed Stepinac Croatian Catholic Mission will continue as a Croatian Mission. The new parish and the Croatian Mission will share use of and responsibility for Angel Guardian Church.

St. Margaret Mary will be designated the new parish's parish church, where the business office and records are kept.

The Renew My Church Commission recommended all regularly scheduled Masses from St. Henry and St. Timothy transition to St. Margaret Mary Church and Angel Guardian Church no later than February 17, 2021 (Ash Wednesday 2021).

There are no changes to Northside Catholic Academy.

Uniting the three parishes as one parish will best position these communities to invest their collective gifts and resources for ministry to their current parishioners and expanded outreach to the West Ridge community. The recommendation to locate all regularly scheduled Masses at St. Margaret Mary and Angel Guardian is intended to maximize the new parish's ability to focus financial resources on ministry by reducing facility operations costs. This will require significant patience and collaboration in the transition period but offers the strongest foundation for future ministerial growth.

Next Steps

Over the next few months, the archdiocese and the pastors of the West Ridge grouping parishes will support the communities to transition to the new parish structure and collaborative relationship between the new parish and Croatian Mission. Cardinal Cupich, Bishop Bartosic, and all archdiocesan leaders are grateful for the parish leaders who gathered as a grouping team over the recent months.

During February the archdiocese's Priests' Placement Board will gather feedback on the skills needed by the pastor and priest staff of the new parish to meet the new parish's diverse needs.

Parish leadership and parishioners will discern possibilities for the name of the new parish, within guidelines provided by the archdiocese, and submit their considerations to Cardinal Cupich for his decision on the permanent name of the new parish.

The new parish and Croatian Mission will embark upon the next phase of the renewal process to become a stronger, more sustainable presence capable of reaching more people in their work of making disciples of Jesus Christ, building communities with one another and inspiring witness in the world around us.