

How well do you know the other parishes in our RMC Grouping? As we embark on the journey of Renew My Church together, let's take a brief look at the histories of our neighbors...

St Mary Parish

St. Mary parish began around 1873, when there is evidence of an active Catholic community in the area. In 1874 land at the present 45th and Joliet Rd. in Lyons was donated for the first church. Father Austin Morini was the first pastor, followed by several more Servite priests. Parishioners were from Berwyn, Clyde, Lyons, Riverside and Summit.

The parish grew! In 1899, pastor Father Joseph Lamb purchased land for a new church on Blackhawk Road in Riverside and he helped the parishioners of Summit to secure land for their own church. A mission was established in Berwyn and in 1923 it became St Leonard parish. In 1925, parishioners from Lyons dedicated their own church, St Hugh. In 1926, a new St Mary church and school on Herrick Road were dedicated. In 1949. The growing number of Catholics in North Riverside joined the St Mary Mission of North Riverside. In 1953, that mission became Mater Christi Parish with the dedication of their church.

St. Mary is still on Herrick Road, but so much is not the same! The years have seen many changes. Today our pastor is Father Tom May and we serve approximately 1100 families from 37 different communities. Our parish school has 357 students and our Religious Education program has 300 students.

A variety of organizations and ministries work together to welcome all and to serve the needs of parishioners and the communities beyond. Our website, stmaryriverside.org, provides current information and resources for growth in faith, live-stream Sunday Mass and daily reflections.

Our newest facility, the Parish Pastoral Center, is at 40 E. Burlington. Being on the main street of Riverside, it is convenient for parishioners and accessible to those who may be seeking the Lord.

We are proud of our history, but prouder that we are a parish of people who are open to the Holy Spirit and responsive to the Spirit's work in our midst.

In next week's bulletin we will be featuring our own history...the history of Mater Christi Church...



Holy Name Society Meeting, Mass and Membership Breakfast

On behalf of the Mater Christi Executive Committee, we hope that all men of the parish and their families are in good health and good spirits during these unprecedented times. May everyone remain safe.

As Mater Christi has reopened under Phase 2 of the Archdiocese of Chicago's phased reopening plan, the Holy Name Society is planning on commencing its **2020-2021 term** the weekend of **September 11-13, 2020**. On Friday, September 11th, the season will begin with the first regular meeting. It will be held in Menarik Hall. Doors open at 7:00p.m. with the meeting commencing at 7:30p.m.

The Holy Name Society Mass will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2020 and celebrated at the 9:30a.m. service with the Membership Breakfast immediately to follow in Menarik Hall.

Please mark your calendars for those days. More details will be provided once final plans are set for each event. Continue to check the Word in the coming weeks.

Note that due to COVID-19, modifications will be made to the Meeting, Mass, and Membership Breakfast formats to comply with recommended safety guidelines. These modifications, include, but are not limited to a maximum of 50 individuals at any one event and social distancing.