

ON MISSION FOR
THE
CHURCH
ALIVE!

On Mission for The Church Alive!

Parish Presentation

Fall 2017

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Hopes for this time

1. Reflect on why we are *On Mission for The Church Alive!*
2. Review the On Mission Timeline: 3 Phases
3. Understand the context for Mass schedule changes
4. Think about what we can do to prepare
5. Provide additional information through handouts: Q and A and Suggestions for Preparation

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On Mission Prayer

Father of Mercy, as we journey On Mission for The Church Alive!, endow us with your gifts of collaboration, courage and compassion.

Help us to fulfill the mission of Jesus and His Church through vibrant parishes and effective ministries. Raise up selfless, energetic leaders to serve the Church in fidelity and with care.

May we, the Church of Pittsburgh in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington counties, be sustained and strengthened by your grace.

Help us to learn Jesus, to love Jesus and to live Jesus. Hear this prayer and grant it through Jesus Christ our Lord, with the help of our dear Blessed Mother, under the mantle of her love, Amen.

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Why we are *On Mission for The Church Alive!*

- This diocese was established in 1843 in response to the large number of Catholic immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe
- Each ethnic group needed its own parish church to provide needed pastoral care

A response to the needs of the time!

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Why we are *On Mission for The Church Alive!*

- In terms of church properties, we are now over built for our present needs.
- We looked at our structure in the 1990s as we began even then to feel the effects of a changing Church.
- Current demographics continue to impact us today as people move out and the culture moves away from organized religion.
- The On Mission initiative will eventually release financial resources for new forms of faith formation, pastoral care, and outreach to those who do not know the saving mercy of Jesus.

On Mission is a response to the needs of the time!

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Why we are *On Mission for The Church Alive!*

- So people will come to know Jesus
- We have a responsibility as individuals to bring others to Jesus
 - ❖ In our families
 - ❖ In our neighborhoods
 - ❖ In our workplaces



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Why we are *On Mission for The Church Alive!*

- We have a collective responsibility to bring others to Jesus
- The Church has the mandate from Jesus:
 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”
(Mt 28: 19-20)



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How do I bring others to Jesus?

- Through the witness of my personal life of holiness
- Some elements of holiness:
 - Prayer
 - Study
 - Generosity
 - Evangelization (speaking of Christ to others)



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How do I bring others to Jesus?

- The New Evangelization depends on you and your baptismal call to holiness!
- We need all hands on deck to bring Jesus to others, just as the missionary religious sisters and brothers did in previous generations.

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How do I bring others to Jesus?

- Through building up relationships of trust, respect, and good will.
- St Paul wrote: “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1Co 12:27)
- We are Christ’s hands, feet, arms and legs in our world today.



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How do I bring others to Jesus?

- In his pastoral letter, *The Church Evangelizing*, Bishop Zubik put it this way:
 - “Be a friend,
 - Be a friend of Jesus,
 - Make friends for Jesus.”



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For what do we hope?

- In the end this is not about buildings, or pews, or Mass times or clergy assignments.
- It's about hope.
 - We live a life of faith built on hope.
 - A hope that defines the meaning of my life right now regardless of all that is swirling around us – hope that restores the life of the broken (addiction, job loss, broken relationships, national tensions, etc...)
 - A hope that one day I will share eternal life in the eternal kingdom – called heaven.



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Timeline Overview

Let's now move through the
timeline for On Mission



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Timeline Overview

From Now – Fall 2018

On Mission Timeline

Consultation Phase	A N N O U N C E M E N T S	Transition Phase	D A Y O N E	Implementation Phase
Now – March 2018		April 2018 - Fall 2018		Fall 2018 and beyond



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Timeline Overview

On Mission Timeline

Consultation Phase	ANNOUNCEMENTS	Transition Phase	DAY	Implementation Phase
Now – March 2018		April 2018 - Fall 2018	ONE	Fall 2018 and beyond



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Consultation Phase Now thru March 2018

- On September 7, 2017 – The On Mission Commission made recommendations to Bishop Zubik about Parish Groupings.
These are not yet final decisions and do not include implementation recommendations such as buildings and number of clergy.
- Sept. – Dec., 2017 – Bishop Zubik is consulting with Priest Council to review the On Mission Commission's recommendations.

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Consultation Phase Now thru March 2018

- November and January – Bishop Zubik is consulting with Diocesan Pastoral Council
- Clergy Office is conducting interviews with all priests and deacons in active ministry
- Clergy Personnel Board will make recommendations to the Bishop on clergy assignments

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Consultation Phase

Now – March 2018

- Developing Implementation Categories for Parish Groupings
 1. Category A
 2. Category B
 3. Category C

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Timeline Overview

On Mission Timeline

<p>Consultation Phase</p>	<p>A N N O U N C E M E N T S</p> <p>Transition Phase</p>	<p>D A Y</p> <p>Implementation Phase</p>
<p>Now – March 2018</p>	<p>O N E</p> <p>April 2018 - Fall 2018</p>	<p>Fall 2018 and beyond</p>



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Transition Phase

April 2018 – Fall 2018

Bishop's Announcements in April 2018 will include:

- ✓ Parish Groupings
- ✓ Categories (A, B, C)
- ✓ Clergy Assignments (*Administrators, PVs, Chaplains and Deacons*)
- ✓ Number of Masses for each Grouping
- ✓ Blueprints (Guides for Implementation)

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Action Steps – During Transition (April – Fall 2018)

- Diocesan Staff will begin to support clergy teams around the blueprints
- Provide Parish Data of the Grouping to incoming clergy
- Debrief with both outgoing and incoming clergy in each Grouping
- Develop Mass schedule with outgoing and incoming clergy



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Why will the Mass schedule change?

- *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* (1963) strongly emphasizes the communal nature of the Celebration of the Eucharist, and the significance of the community's full and active participation.
- The sacrament of the Eucharist is a celebration of the entire Church; ideally, there should be present at each celebration of the Eucharist a group of people who represent a significant part of the local community.



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Why will the Mass schedule change?

In implementing *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, Mass schedules will be adjusted in order to foster this sense of community and respect canonical guidelines regarding how many Masses a priest may celebrate per day.



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Mass Schedule Policy

- The new Mass schedule will be published in the summer of 2018.
- The new Mass schedule will affect every parish.

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Timeline Overview

On Mission Timeline

Consultation Phase	A N N O U N C E M E N T S	Transition Phase	Implementation Phase
Now – March 2018		April 2018 - Fall 2018	DAY ONE Fall 2018 and beyond



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Implementation Phase Day One

Fall 2018 (THE ONLY THINGS HAPPENING)

- New Clergy Assignments begin
- New Mass schedule begins
- Parishes continue to function as individual parishes under a common pastor/administrator and clergy team
- We begin building relationships between new clergy teams and parishes

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Here is What Day One Looks Like:

Fall 2018

Saint
Larry the General
Parish

Saint
Ronald the Great
Parish

*All Clergy Assigned to all
Parishes in the Grouping
and
New Mass Schedule Begins*

Saint
Thomas the Lawyer
Parish

Saint
Nicholas the Nice
Parish

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Implementation Phase Clarifications

Fall 2018 - What IS NOT happening on Day One

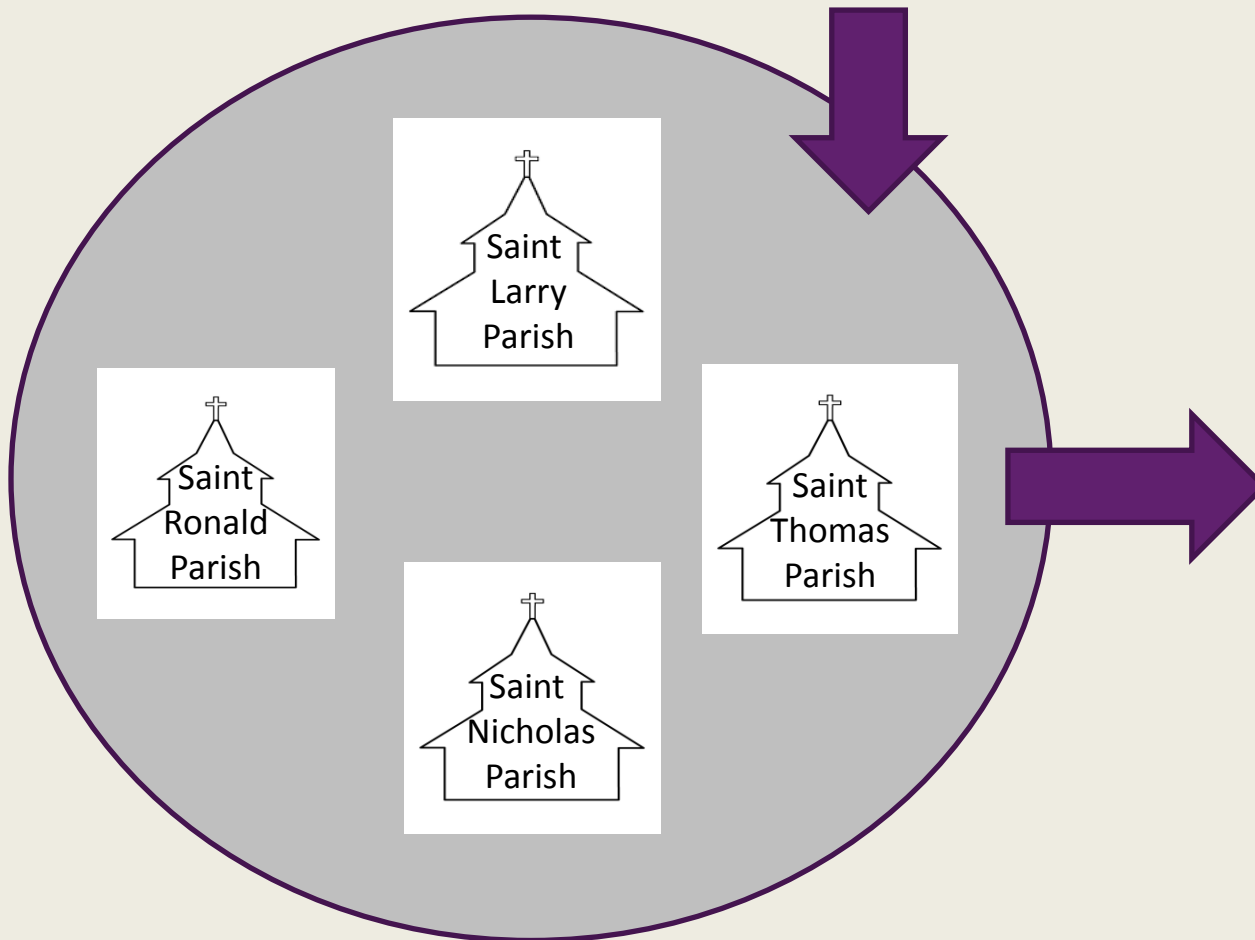
- NO parishes are merging
- NO churches are closing



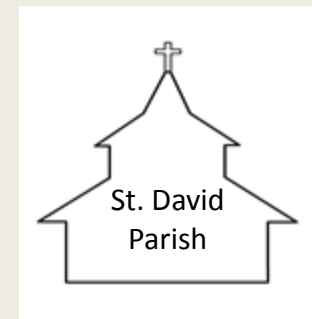
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At Some Point: Here Is What It Looks Like (Merger)

THE FORMER PARISHES OF:



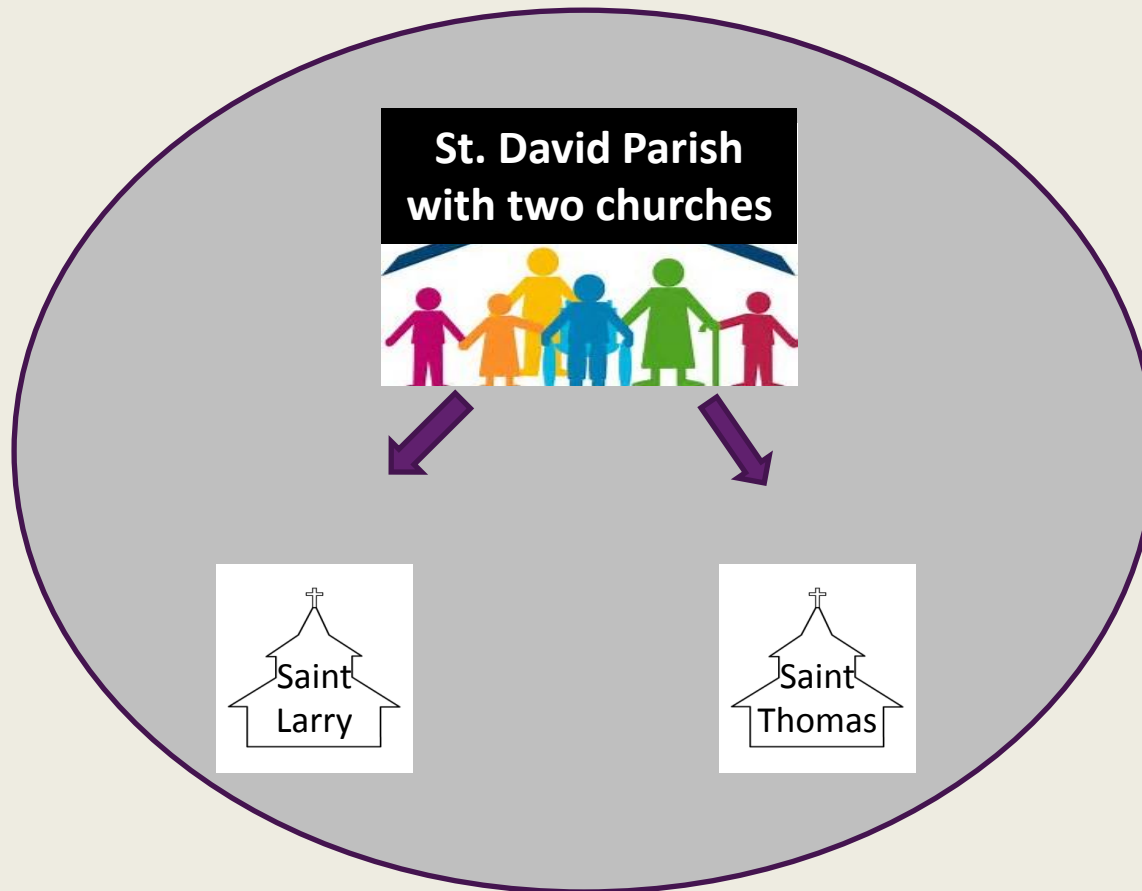
BECOME A NEW PARISH



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At Some Point: Here Is What It Looks Like (Church Buildings)

Number of Churches is Reduced



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This Means:

The Administrator after consultation with the Clergy, Parish at large and Parish Advisory Councils will recommend to Bishop Zubik:

- That the existing parishes within a grouping merge to form a new parish
- The church buildings that will best serve the new parish

Timelines will be established for these actions

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Change is Coming: What Can You Do to Prepare?

- Pray for openness
- Acknowledge feelings
 - What are your fears?
 - What are your hopes?
- Imagine the good that can come from this process

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Change is Coming: What Can You Do to Prepare?

- Change your habits
 - Go to a different Mass time in your parish.
 - Sit in a different pew at the Mass you usually attend
- Be welcoming!
 - Introduce yourself to someone whom you do not know
- Accompany others to visit a neighboring parish

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Thank You!

For more information go to
OnMissionChurchAlive.org

