



Renew My Church: **Invitation to First Parish Session**

Jesus Christ calls us to constantly renew His Church. *Renew My Church* is the Archdiocese of Chicago's response to His call and our invitation for renewal.

Through a multitude of *Renew My Church* initiatives, the Archdiocese will re-commit our local Church to our gospel commission to make disciples, build vital communities of faith and inspire witness to bring the light and hope of Christ to a world in need.

Today, we face a trending crisis of faith. Fewer people than ever are connected with organized religion. Many who identify as Catholic do not attend weekly Mass. Overall, we see an increase in signs of a broken world. As a result of this crisis, we find ourselves with less people and financial resources for ministry. However, we are a strong and committed Church that will work together to overcome the challenges we face today and in the centuries to come.

One initiative of *Renew My Church* is focused on increasing the vitality of our local communities. Cardinal Cupich has asked our parish to come together with the other parishes in our grouping to start a process of reflection, discernment, and planning to consider how we can collaborate and combine resources so that we are better equipped to bring Jesus Christ to the world today.

Our journey from now through May will entail collaborating with our neighbors to:

- Assess current realities in our community,
- Understand the criteria and principles for our planning efforts,
- Discuss possible scenarios for how our grouping's parishes and schools could be structured in the future, and
- Compile our feedback to share with the Archdiocese as we move to the discernment and decision phase of this important process

We Invite You

As a first step, we invite you to join parish leadership for our first *Renew My Church* parish session **on Sunday Feb. 18th at 11:45am in the Community Room.**

During this session we will:

- Discuss *Renew My Church* and the process we are beginning together,
- Review important information and questions about our community such as the strengths and challenges that exist in our grouping, and
- Answer any questions you may have.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Let us hold each other and the other parish and school communities in our grouping in prayer as we enter this time of rededication to our faith in Jesus Christ and planning for the future.

A Prayer For "Renew My Church"

*Lord Jesus, you speak to us today,
as you spoke to holy men and women
who have gone before us.*

Visit archchicago.org/renew to learn more.



*In every age and in our own time,
you call to us and say: Renew My Church.
Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us,
and so enable us
to hear you clearly
to listen to each other attentively
to imagine our future boldly
to discern your direction wisely
to persevere in your holy will courageously
to stay together in charity
to surrender our own plans readily
to embrace the greater good
to hand on your gifts to future generations.
May we remain in the holy company of
the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, and all the saints.
May their example and presence
inspire us with patient confidence
in the work of your grace.
We ask this of you who live and reign
with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever. Amen*