

**Holy Name of Mary Church**  
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Dear Holy Name of Mary,

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your pastor since June of 2018. It has meant a lot to me to learn your rich history, see your determination and sacrifice for the good of your church, to celebrate the Eucharist and give words of inspiration, comfort, and guidance along with the occasional joke and sports predictions. I appreciate you embracing my family and I over the years.

Thank you, Holy Name of Mary!!!

In May of 2021 we embarked on the Renew My Church Process with Robert Matthews, Janean Hines and Estelle C. Baker who represented our church. They came together with 7 other parishes in our Vicariate and after visits to different churches, prayer and discernment, Holy Name of Mary was chosen as the worship site to unite Holy Name of Mary, Saints Peter and Paul and St. John De La Salle. Since January, we have prayed for and with Saints Peter and Paul and St. John De La Salle and preparations are well underway to make our unification successful and begin the work of Evangelization.

In February we celebrated our history and as the year has progressed, we have honored those who have made significant contributions to Holy Name of Mary. The Naming Team composed of members from all three parishes are working to obtain names and submit recommendations to Cardinal Cupich. More will be forthcoming from the Naming Team.

As we unite as one parish beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, I wanted to do 3 things:  
Invite all current and former parishioners and alumni to the final celebration of our history on Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> here on the church grounds. We will gather for fellowship at 10am in the Diner and hold Mass in the church at 12 noon. We invite you to wear your best African/Afro-Centric Attire and join us as we celebrate our history and our future.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup> we invite you back to celebrate the first Mass of Holy Name of Mary, Saints Peter and Paul and St. John De La Salle at 10am at the worship site of Holy Name of Mary. It is surely a Mass you do not want to miss. We invite you to renew your commitment, share your ideas, hopes, inspiration, talent, and time with our new parish.

Our new Mass schedule beginning July 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Sunday Mass at 10am. Weekday Mass will begin July 4<sup>th</sup> and take place every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9am. Saturday Mass will return on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

We will see new faces. Let us welcome them and seek to be empathetic as we must realize there will be some grief as we continue to unite. We too must accept this change and realize what we too have come to know is now changing. The road is guaranteed to be bumpy at times but with faith, patience, communication and understanding we will get thru those bumpy times.

I am honored along with Fr. Honoratus, as associate pastor, to shepherd this new faith community and excited to work with this new community to be the best black Catholic church on the far south side of Chicago.

I look forward to seeing you as celebrate the history of Holy Name of Mary and as we make new memories and start a new history as one united parish.

Yours in Christ,

Father Robert Gilbert  
Pastor