

Christ the King and Pope John XXIII Linkage



In 2017, the diocesan Office of Pastoral Planning decided that the parishes, Christ the King and Pope John XXIII, would create a linkage upon the retirement of one of its pastors. In July 2018, Rev. James Fritzen retired as pastor of Christ the King and this June, Rev. Msgr. James T. O'Brien will retire as pastor of Pope John XXIII.

Linked parishes consist of two parishes working together to serve their faith communities while sharing one pastor. Linked parishes do as many things cooperatively as possible, especially given the pastor is striving to serve two parishes. Linking involves:

1. Complete coordination of Mass times;
2. Increased taking of responsibility by lay people for as many areas of mission as possible in order to reduce the burden on the priest;
3. Full cooperation between the parishes with joint committees and outreach programs.

Characteristics of linked parishes include:

- * The parishes remain independent corporations and canonical entities.
- * The parishes are separate communities of faith but are one faith community.
- * According to Canon Law, linked parishes must have separate pastoral and finance councils.

Parish Linkage Committee

The purpose of a joint parish linkage committee is to discuss and finalize decisions that will impact the linkage between Christ the King and Pope John XXIII. The main agenda item at the January 7, 2019 meeting was to begin the discussion of proposed Mass schedules for the two parishes that will be implemented on June 3, 2019.

Linkage Committee Members

Christ the King

Rev. Zachary Miller
Lisa McConnell
Claire Dana
Brian Caswell
Hal Henty

Pope John XXIII

Rev. Msgr. James T. O'Brien,
Don MacLaughlin
Larry Messina
Elizabeth Fallon
Jacqueline Bressette

Timeline for linkage

February 23/24: Suggested mass schedules will be distributed to both parish communities for review.

March 2/3 Fr. Miller will celebrate Mass at Pope John XXIII. He will also hold a town hall meeting after each Mass to explain further what led to the creation of the proposed Mass schedules and to allow parishioners the opportunity to speak with Fr. Miller about any questions or concerns they may have.

March 9/10: Fr. Miller will hold similar town hall meetings at Christ the King after each Mass.

March 16/17: The Linkage Committee will convene to review parishioner input regarding the suggested Mass schedules. The committee will then finalize the Mass schedule.

March 30/31: The finalized Mass schedule will be shared with both parish communities.

June 1/2: Msgr. O'Brien's last weekend as pastor of Pope John XXIII.

June 3: The linkage of Christ the King and Pope John XXIII will be official.

June 8/9: The new Mass schedule will be implemented at both parishes.