

Types of Parish Configurations

Mission: A mission church is a community of people who are under the care of a local pastor and parish. They may have their own worship site with regular Sunday Mass but are not a separate parish. All aspects of its administration are the responsibility of the pastor of the parish to which the mission is attached.

Oratory: Oratory Status designates a church that is no longer a parish or mission and which no longer has regularly scheduled services, although the church building can be used for special liturgies such as the funeral of a long-time parishioner or to celebrate the oratory's patronal feast. An oratory is the responsibility of the local parish.

Linked Parishes: This term reflects 2 or more parishes which remain independent parish corporations, but who share a common pastor. This arrangement usually involves a consolidated Mass schedule and would require the assistance of other pastoral personnel such as a pastoral associate, deacons, and/or parish life coordinators. St. Margaret's is a linked parish with a common pastor and a deacon pastoral associate.

Clustered Parishes: This term reflects 2 or more parishes being served by more than one priest and where the staff work together to coordinate the different areas of parish ministry. Sometimes this type of joint activity may serve as a step towards the merging of the parishes involved.

Merged Parishes: A merger takes place when 2 or more parishes join together to form a new parish corporation. Usually this results with a new name for the parish with a consolidation of assets and liabilities of the parishes involved. A merger may result in centering all parish activities at one site or 2 or more buildings may be used as a worship site for Mass or other parish activities.

Worship Site: This is a church site of a parish that has been merged but which continues to be used for the regular celebration of Mass. Some worship sites are seasonal and are open only for certain months, such as to accommodate summer w