



Diocese of Buffalo Secondary Worship Site

Worship Site: This generic term is used to designate a building that has been set apart for sacred worship which can be either a church or an oratory. It is possible for one parish community to have more than one worship site but one of them must be designated as the parish church. The other site(s) are known as “secondary worship sites.”

Canonically, a secondary worship site functions as an additional location for masses and ministry within the boundaries of the primary parish.

Secondary worship sites

Do have

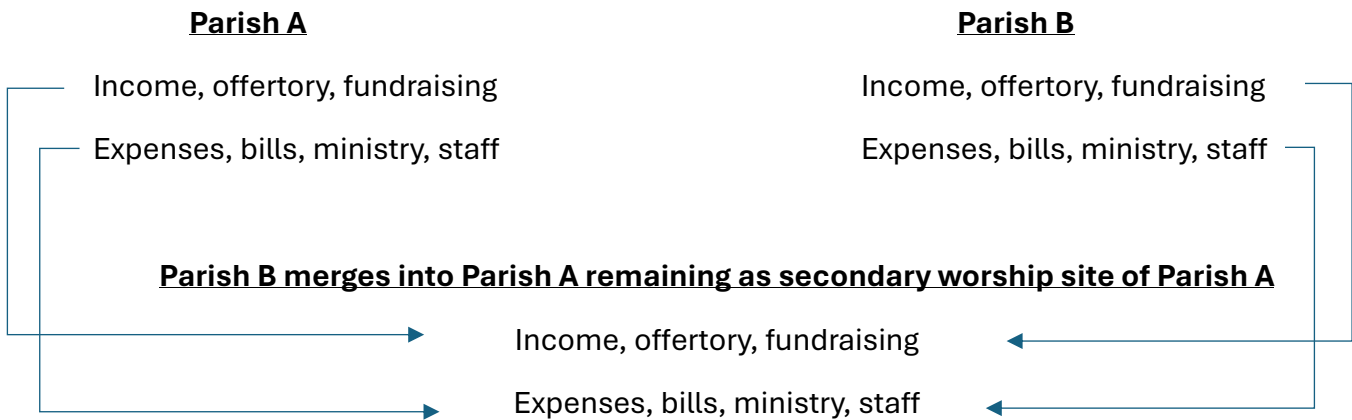
- Masses as needed by parish/family
- Ministry opportunities
- Cooperative attitude with parish/family
- Ability to use facilities as deemed needed by family
- Representation in leadership at the primary parish/in family

Don't have

- Office for regular business
- Their own leadership groups, ie: parish council, finance council, their own trustees
- Separate bank accounts
- Individual parish name



How does a secondary worship site function?



Secondary sites offer invaluable flexibility and fosters inclusivity by facilitating the need for FoP's to serve multiple purposes beyond worship alone.

1. Liturgical Services:

- Regularly scheduled Masses, including Sunday and weekday services.
- Sacramental celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

2. Geographical Necessity:

- Located in areas where parishioners may have difficulty accessing the primary parish church due to distance or transportation issues.
- Serves outlying or more rural areas within the parish boundaries.

3. Historical or Cultural Significance:

- Churches or chapels that hold historical value or significance for the parish community.



4. Community Needs:

- Could be used to serve specific groups within the Family of Parishes, such as language-specific congregations or particular cultural communities.
- Venues for special liturgical events, retreats, or pilgrimages.

5. Operational Management:

- Under the leadership of the Family of Parishes Pastor, a Secondary Worship Site is managed and maintained by the primary leadership group, sharing clergy and all resources.
- Completely integrated into the parish's and family's overall pastoral plan and activities.

Importance of Secondary Worship Sites in the Family of Parishes:

• Accessibility:

- Ensures that all parishioners have access to the sacraments and can participate in the liturgical life of the church, regardless of their location.

• Community Building:

- Helps build a sense of community by maintaining connections with various groups within the parish, providing spaces for gatherings, worship, and ministry activities.

• Cultural Preservation:

- Preserves and honors the historical and cultural heritage of the parish, keeping important traditions and unique parish identities alive.

• Catechetical Functions:

- Adapting secondary sites to serve as educational spaces for religious formation, such as catechism classes, RCIA programs, youth ministries, and adult faith formation, fostering deeper spiritual growth.

• Ministry Hub:

- Provides spaces for diverse ministries (e.g., OutReach, InReach, prayer groups, community service) to operate, enhancing the parish's ability to meet the spiritual, pastoral, and social needs of its members.