



DECREE

OF THE AMALGAMATION OF

SAINT MONICA – SAINT GEORGE PARISH, CINCINNATI, OHIO, AND HOLY NAME PARISH, CINCINNATI, OHIO,

INTO

ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH, CINCINNATI, OHIO

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Saint Monica – Saint George Parish was founded in 1993 from the merger of Saint Monica Parish and Saint George Parish; Saint Monica Church was completed in 1927. Holy Name Parish was founded in 1904, and its present church building was completed in 1951. Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish was founded in 1910; the present church was completed in 1930.

Since July 2021 all three parishes have been served by a common pastor. From that time many of the administrative functions of the parishes have been united and streamlined, and the parishioners of the three parishes have worked to grow together as a community of faith. The pastor is assisted by a parochial vicar and lay staff members who serve the parishioners of the three parishes. Additionally, the parishes benefit from a combined pastoral council with representatives from all three parishes as well as a finance council with representatives from all three parishes.

Many discussions have taken place between the pastor, the other clergy and lay staff serving the parishes, the parishioners, and the appropriate archdiocesan offices regarding the best way to meet the needs of the faithful and evangelize in accordance with the mandate of the Lord Jesus.

The pastor of Saint Monica – Saint George, Holy Name, and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes having consulted the members of both the pastoral council and finance council and having heard from the parishioners of all three parishes, has proposed an extinctive union in which Saint Monica- Saint George Parish and Holy Name Parish are amalgamated into Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. The pastor and people of these parishes believe this arrangement to be a fitting means to both best meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of the faithful and more effectively manage the resources at their disposal. Having consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on December 15, 2025, I have determined that the pastoral mission of the Catholic Church in this portion of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati would best be served through such an amalgamation of Saint Monica – Saint George Parish and Holy Name Parish into Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

The following factors contribute to the just cause which motivates this decision:

- 1) the current three parishes have worked together under a common pastor since 2021 to share clergy and expenses, centralize administrative office and centralize communication efforts;
- 2) amalgamation will allow the parishes to better use the resources for the ministries desired and required of a parish, as they are currently unable to meet those needs individually;
- 3) the current financial agreements for shared expenses among the parishes are complicated; uniting the parishes into one would simplify the determination of financial allocation and responsibility; uniting into one parish would allow for better financial and temporal stewardship;
- 4) uniting into one parish would reduce the administrative burden on clergy and staff; meetings, sacramental registers, financial accounts, and other administrative tasks in many cases can be reduced from three to one;
- 5) amalgamation would allow an administrative structure which would facilitate campus ministry existing as a separate entity, while protecting and providing for the rights of those who live in the territory; and
- 6) this proposal would provide the opportunity for enhanced collaborative ministry and better utilization of clergy and lay personnel and allow for greater emphasis to be placed on evangelization.

Taking into account the supreme law of the Church, i.e. the salvation of souls (cf. canon 1752), it is my belief that this action will better serve the Church's mission to evangelize and allow for more efficient administration of the temporal goods of the faithful.

Therefore, in virtue of my office as diocesan bishop, in accordance with canon 515 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby decree the extinctive union by amalgamation of Saint Monica – Saint George Parish (Cincinnati) and Holy Name Parish (Cincinnati) into Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish (Cincinnati).

The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the former parishes of Saint Monica – Saint George and Holy Name must be respected. Furthermore, the patrimonial goods, rights, and assets, including *bona sacra* and religious articles, as well as the obligations and liabilities of the former parishes of Saint Monica – Saint George and Holy Name shall belong to Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, according to the norm of law (canon 121). This includes the temporal goods and administration thereof associated with Corryville Catholic School, which is currently a ministry of Saint Monica – Saint George Parish. The pastor of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish will be responsible for the administration of all the temporal goods, in accordance with the universal law of the Church and the particular law of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The territory of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish shall include the territory of the former parishes of Saint Monica – Saint George and Holy Name. The new boundaries of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish shall be:

On the north: east from the point where Ludlow Avenue meets Interstate 75 (Mill Creek Expressway) to the point where Interstate 75 meets West Mitchell Avenue; southeast along West Mitchell Avenue to the property line of the Vine Street Hill Cemetery; south along the property line of the Vine Street Hill Cemetery to Vine Street; south along Vine Street to the intersection with Forest and Woolper Avenues; east along an airline to the end of Purdue Street; south along Purdue Street to Forest Avenue and continuing south along an airline through the Zoological Gardens to the intersection of Erkenbrecher Avenue and Vine Street; east on Erkenbrecher Avenue to the intersection with Burnet Avenue; north on Burnet until it dead ends with Forest Avenue; east on Forest until it becomes Rockdale Avenue; east on Rockdale until it dead ends into Victory Parkway; southeast on Victory Parkway until it meets Interstate 71; then

On the east: south along Interstate 71 to Dorchester Avenue; then,

On the south: west along Dorchester Avenue to Young Street; south on Young Street to Ringgold Street; west on Ringgold until it dead ends; then continuing west on an airline to the intersection of Sycamore and Mulberry Street; west on Mulberry Street until it intersects with Main Street; south on Main Street until it intersects with East Clifton Avenue; northwest on East Clifton Avenue continuing as it becomes West Clifton Avenue; west on West Clifton Avenue until it intersects with Klotter Avenue; west on Klotter Avenue until it ends at Kress Alley; then along an airline to Interstate 75; then,

On the west: north on Interstate 75 to the point of beginning.

I further decree that Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church will be the parochial church and that Saint Monica Church will continue to function as a subsidiary church. Holy Name Church, by a separate decree, is to be relegated to profane but non-sordid use.

The sacramental records of the former parishes of Saint Monica – Saint George and Holy Name shall be closed and remain in the care and custody of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish to be properly preserved and safeguarded. Any sacraments which take place at Saint Monica Church are to be recorded in the sacramental registers of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish with proper notations.

The parishioners of the former parishes of Saint Monica – Saint George and Holy Name are to associate themselves with their new proper territorial parish, Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, or another parish of their choice in accordance with universal and archdiocesan law.

The rich history and legacy of the former parishes of Saint Monica – Saint George and Holy Name are to be held in high esteem and rightly honored. Furthermore, the people of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, under the leadership of their pastor, are to strive diligently, with God's help, to form a unified, harmonious congregation dedicated to fulfilling the mission that Jesus Christ committed to his disciples.

This decree becomes effective on March 25, 2026, and is to be published such that all members of Saint Monica – Saint George Parish, Holy Name Parish, and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish will be properly notified. Recourse may be made against this decree in accord with the norms of canon law.

Given from the Chancery of the Archdiocese,
Cincinnati, Ohio,
on the 19th day of December in the Year of Our Lord 2025,
Friday of the Third Week of Advent.

+R. G. Casey

Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati

SEAL

R. J. Williams

Reverend Jason A. Williams, J.C.L.
Chancellor