



DECREE
OF THE MERGER OF
OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE PARISH,
MIAMISBURG, OHIO,
SAINT HENRY PARISH,
DAYTON, OHIO,
AND
SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH,
SPRINGBORO, OHIO
INTO THE NEW
SAINT JOHN PAUL II PARISH

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

Our Lady of Good Hope Parish was founded in 1852; the present church building was completed in 1971. Saint Henry Parish was founded in 1960, and its present church building was completed in 1982. Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish was founded in 1867; the present church was completed in 2016. Since 2022 all three parishes have been served by a common pastor. Over the following years, modifications have been made to the organizational structures of the three parishes such that they are now served by a shared administrative and ministerial staff. The parishioners continue to grow together as one community of faith. 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 Our Lady of Good Hope, Saint Henry, and Saint Mary of the Assumption Parishes, with the recommendation of the members of the pastoral council and finance council of the parishes, has proposed an extinctive union in which Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Saint Henry Parish, and Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish are merged together into a single new parish – Saint John Paul II Parish. The pastor and people of these parishes see this arrangement as a fitting means to both best meet the pastoral needs of the faithful and most effectively manage the resources at their disposal. Having consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on September 8, 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 a merger of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Saint Henry Parish, and Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish into the new Saint John Paul II Parish.

The following factors provide the just cause which motivates this decision:

- 1) the parishes have worked together since 2022 to share clergy and expenses, reorganize the administrative offices for better functioning and use of space, centralize communication efforts, provide common youth ministry and religious education programs, and establish joint sacramental formation and initiation programs;
- 2) parishioners from all three parishes have come together to support social outreach ministries throughout the territories of all three parishes;
- 3) the current financial agreements for shared expenses among the parishes prove burdensome; uniting the parishes into one would simplify the determination of financial allocation and responsibility;
- 4) the administrative burdens on clergy and staff members would be reduced by such a unification;
- 5) the school currently operates on two of the three campuses and enjoys the support of parishioners from all three parishes;
- 6) this merger into one new parish will foster stability in the local Catholic Church by putting into place a parish configuration which can remain secure into the future;
- 7) 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 merger of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish (Miamisburg), Saint Henry Parish (Dayton), and Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish (Springboro), canonically erecting the new parish under the title of Saint John Paul II Parish.

The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the former parishes of Our Lady of Good Hope, Saint Henry, and Saint Mary of the Assumption 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 Our Lady of Good Hope, Saint Henry, and Saint Mary of the Assumption shall belong to Saint John Paul II Parish, according to the norm of law (canon 121). The pastor of Saint John Paul II 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 Saint John Paul II Parish shall include the territory of the former parishes Our Lady of Good Hope, Saint Henry, and Saint Mary of the Assumption. The new boundaries of Saint John Paul II Parish shall be:

On the north: beginning at the intersection of Jamaica Road and Dayton Germantown Pike and continuing northeast on Dayton Germantown Pike to its intersection with Pinnacle Road; then east on Pinnacle Road to its intersection with Soldiers Home West Carrollton Road; south to its intersection with the Opossum Creek; then east along the creek to its confluence with the Great Miami River; north along the Great Miami River to a point where an airline west from Southlawn Avenue would intersect with the River; east along this airline, following along Southlawn Avenue, across an airline to the intersection of Big Hill Road and South Dixie Avenue; east along Big Hill Road to Tait Road; then,

On the east: south along Tait Road until it ends and then south on an airline until it would hit West Alex Bell Road; then south on West Alex Bell Road until the intersection with Mad River Road; then southwest to Yankee Street; then south on Yankee Street to the intersection with West Social Row Road; then east on West Social Row Road to Route 48; then South on Route 48 to Ridgeville and the intersection with East Lower Springboro Road; then northwest on East Lower Springboro Road until it becomes West Lower Springboro Road and intersects with Route 741; then south on Route 741 to Red Lion and the intersection with Route 122; then,

On the south: east along Route 122 to the intersection with the South Dixie Highway; then north along the Dixie Highway to the intersection with Manchester Road; then west along Manchester Road until it ends, and then along an airline west to Route 73, the North Verity Parkway; then,

On the west: north along Route 73 until the point of the confluence of Twin Creek and the Great Miami River; then north along Twin Creek to a point where it would meet an airline south from the intersection of South Butter Street and the Carlisle Pike; then east along an airline to Jamaica Road; then north along Jamaica Road to the point of beginning.

I further decree that Our Lady of Good Hope Church will be the parochial church of Saint John Paul II Parish. Saint Henry Church and Saint Mary of the Assumption Church will all continue to function as subsidiary churches.

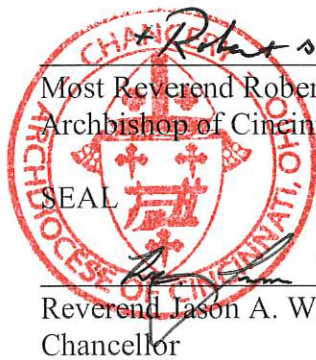
The sacramental records of the former parishes of Our Lady of Good Hope, Saint Henry, and Saint Mary of the Assumption shall be closed and remain in the care and custody of Saint John Paul II Parish to be properly preserved and safeguarded. A new set of sacramental records is to be established for Saint John Paul II Parish. Any sacraments which take place at Our Lady of Good Hope Church, Saint Henry Church, and Saint Mary of the Assumption Church are to be recorded in the sacramental registers of Saint John Paul II Parish.

The parishioners of the former parishes of Our Lady of Good Hope, Saint Henry, and Saint Mary of the Assumption are to associate themselves with their new proper territorial parish, Saint John Paul II Parish, or another parish of their choice in accordance with universal and archdiocesan law.

The rich history and legacy of the former parishes of Our Lady of Good Hope, Saint Henry, and Saint Mary of the Assumption are to be held in high esteem and rightly honored. Furthermore, the people of Saint John Paul II 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 July 1, 2026, and is to be published immediately such that all members of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Saint Hery Parish, and Saint Mary of the Assumption 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 1st day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2026,
Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker.


Robert G. Casey

Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati

Jason A. Williams

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