

DECREE

OF THE MERGER OF

**HOLY TRINITY PARISH,
NORWOOD, OHIO,
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD PARISH,
PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO,
SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH,
DEER PARK, OHIO,
AND
SAINT SAVIOUR PARISH,
ROSSMOYNE, OHIO**

INTO THE NEW

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD PARISH

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

Holy Trinity Parish was founded in 1994 from the merger of Saint Elizabeth Parish, Saint Matthew Parish and Saints Peter and Paul Parish, all located in Norwood, Ohio; the present church building was completed in 1940. Nativity of Our Lord Parish was founded in 1917, and its present church building was completed in 1969. Saint John the Evangelist Parish was founded in 1891; the present church was completed in 1967. Saint Saviour Parish was founded in 1947, its current church building being completed in 1962. Since 2022 all four 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 continue to grow together as a community of shared faith. Various 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 Holy Trinity Parish, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, and Saint Saviour Parish with the recommendation of the members of the pastoral council and finance council of all four parishes, has proposed an extinctive union in which Holy Trinity Parish, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, and Saint Saviour Parish are merged together into a single new parish – Transfiguration of Our Lord 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 about this

matter on March 23, 2026, I have determined that the pastoral mission of the Catholic Church in this portion of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati would best be served through a merger of Holy Trinity Parish, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, and Saint Saviour Parish into the new Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish.

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

- 1) the current four parishes were once six separate parishes and have worked together under a common pastor since 2022 to share clergy and expenses, centralize the administrative offices, centralize communication efforts, provide common youth ministry and religious education programs, and establish common sacramental formation and initiation;
- 2) the parishioners from all four parishes strive to work together to support the mission of the Church and to serve the needs of their neighborhoods;
- 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, as well as fostering better financial and temporal stewardship;
- 4) the administrative burdens on clergy and staff members would be reduced by such a unification;
- 5) uniting resources to better utilize available sacred space for worship will allow more dynamic, diverse, and appealing Eucharistic celebrations; and
- 6) a merger would further provide for opportunities 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 Holy Trinity Parish (Norwood), Nativity of Our Lord Parish (Pleasant Ridge), Saint John the Evangelist Parish (Deer Park), and Saint Saviour Parish (Rossmoyne), canonically erecting the new parish under the title of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish.

The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the former parishes of Holy Trinity, Nativity of Our Lord, Saint John the Evangelist, and Saint Saviour 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 Holy Trinity, Nativity of Our Lord, Saint John the Evangelist, and Saint Saviour shall belong to Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, according to the norm of law (canon 121). The pastor of Transfiguration of Our Lord 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 Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish shall include the territory of the former parishes of Holy Trinity, Nativity of Our Lord, Saint John the Evangelist, and Saint Saviour. The new boundaries of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish shall be:

On the north: beginning at the interchange of Reading Road (US Route 42) and Ohio Route 562 (the Norwood Lateral) and moving east on an airline to the end of Lawn Avenue; then east along Lawn Avenue to the intersection with Section Avenue; then north along Section Avenue to its intersection with Portman Avenue and Misty Oak Lane; then east along Misty Oak Lane until its end; then east along an airline to Fenwick Park which sits along the Norfolk Southern Railroad; then north along the railroad tracks until the crossing at Sunnybrook Drive; then east along Sunnybrook Drive until it ends, and continuing east along an airline to the intersection of Elbrook Avenue and Twigwood Lane; then north along Elbrook Avenue to Larkfield Drive; then east along Larkfield Drive and following along the southern border of Amberly Green to Ridge Road; then north along Ridge Road until the interchange with Ohio Route 126 (Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway); then northeast along the highway to Plainfield Road; then north along Plainfield Road to Glendale Milford Road; then east along Glendale Milford Road to Kenwood Road; then,

On the east: south along Kenwood Road to the intersection with East Galbraith Road; then west along East Galbraith Road to Camner Avenue; then south along Camner Avenue to the intersection with Matson Avenue; then south along an airline to Hegner Avenue; then west along Hegner Avenue to the point where an airline drawn north from the intersection of Stewart Road and Montgomery Road would be; then south along the same airline to the intersection of Stewart Road and Montgomery Road; then south along Stewart Road to its interchange with Interstate 71 South; then west along an airline to Tamworth Circle and following west along Tamworth Circle to Plainfield Road; then south along Plainfield Road to the intersection with Woodford Road; then south along an airline to the point where Red Bank Road passes under Interstate 71; then,

On the south: southwest along Interstate 71 to the interchange with Edwards Road; then south along Edwards Road to the intersection with Wasson Road; then west along Wasson Way to Montgomery Road; then,

On the west: northeast on Montgomery Road to Williams Avenue; then west on Williams Avenue to its end, and continuing west along an airline to the intersection of Victory Parkway and Ledgewood Drive; then north to the end of Ledgewood Drive at the intersection with Asmann Avenue; then north along an airline to the intersection of Victory Parkway, Sherman Avenue, and Reading Road; then north along Reading Road to the point of beginning.

I further decree that Saint Saviour Church will be the parochial church of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish. This merger does not affect the sacred spaces of Holy Trinity Church, Saint John the Evangelist Church, and Nativity of Our Lord Church which continue to function as subsidiary churches of the new parish.

The sacramental records of the former parishes of Holy Trinity, Nativity of Our Lord, Saint John the Evangelist, and Saint Saviour shall be closed and remain in the care and custody of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish to be properly preserved and safeguarded. A new set of sacramental records is to be

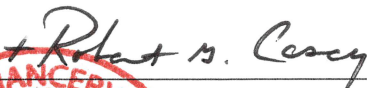
established for Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish. Any sacraments which take place at Holy Trinity Church, Nativity of Our Lord Church, Saint John the Evangelist Church, and Saint Saviour Church are to be recorded in the sacramental registers of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish.

The parishioners of the former parishes of Holy Trinity, Nativity of Our Lord, Saint John the Evangelist, and Saint Saviour are to associate themselves with their new proper territorial parish, Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, or another parish of their choice in accordance with universal and archdiocesan law.

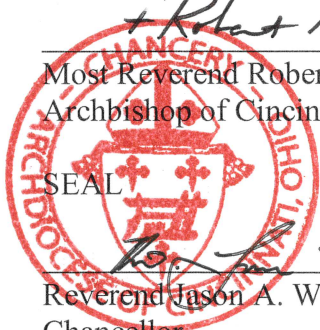
The rich history and legacy of the former parishes of Holy Trinity, Nativity of Our Lord, Saint John the Evangelist, and Saint Saviour are to be held in high esteem and rightly honored. Furthermore, the people of Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, under the leadership of their pastor, are to strive 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 August 6, 2026, the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, and is to be published immediately such that all members of Holy Trinity Parish, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, and Saint Saviour 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 20th day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2026,
Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter.



Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati



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