

DECREE

OF THE AMALGAMATION OF

**SAINT ANTHONY PARISH,
CINCINNATI, OHIO**

AND

**SAINT MARGARET–SAINT JOHN PARISH,
CINCINNATI, OHIO**

INTO

**SAINT CECILIA PARISH,
CINCINNATI, OHIO**

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

Saint Anthony Parish was organized in the Madisonville neighborhood of Cincinnati in 1858. Saint Margaret–Saint John Parish was founded in 2008 from the merger of Saint John Vianney Parish in Madison Place and Saint Margaret of Cortona Parish on the border of Madisonville and Fairfax. Saint Cecilia Parish was founded in the Oakley neighborhood of Cincinnati in 1908. All three parishes have been served by the same pastor since 2016. Since then, 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 Anthony, Saint Margaret–Saint John, and Saint Cecilia Parishes, with the recommendation of the members of the pastoral council and finance council of all three parishes, has proposed an extinctive union in which Saint Anthony Parish and Saint Margaret–Saint John Parish are amalgamated into Saint Cecilia Parish 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 March 27, 2023, 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 extinctive union by which Saint Anthony Parish and Saint Margaret–Saint John Parish are amalgamated into Saint Cecilia Parish.

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

- 1) the declining number of faithful attending Mass and the downward trend of additional sacramental experiences at Saint Anthony Parish and Saint Margaret–Saint John Parish for many years;
- 2) the opportunity for enhanced collaborative ministry and better utilization of clergy and lay personnel;
- 3) the already existing collaboration and sharing of resources between Saint Anthony Parish, Saint Margaret–Saint John Parish, and Saint Cecilia Parish;
- 4) the fostering of greater stability of the Church in this area by putting into place a parish configuration which should be able to remain secure for many years.

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.

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 Anthony Parish and Saint Margaret–Saint John Parish into Saint Cecilia Parish.

The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the former parishes of Saint Anthony and Saint Margaret–Saint John 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 Anthony and Saint Margaret–Saint John shall transfer to Saint Cecilia Parish, according to the norm of law (canon 121). The pastor of Saint Cecilia 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 Cecilia Parish shall expand to incorporate the territory of the former parishes of Saint Anthony and Saint Margaret–Saint John. The new boundaries of Saint Cecilia Parish shall be:

On the south: from the intersection of Edwards Road and Hyde Park Avenue, east along Hyde Park Avenue to Madison Road; northeast on Madison Road to Drake Avenue; south on Drake Avenue to Wasson Road; east on Wasson Road to Greenhouse Lane; east on Greenhouse Lane until the boundary of the Hyde Park Country Club; northeast along the border of the Hyde Park Country Club to Brotherton Road; north on an airline to the Pennsylvania Railroad; southeast along the Pennsylvania Railroad to Columbia Parkway; southwest along Columbia Parkway to Eastern Avenue; south along Eastern Avenue to Wortman Street; east to the point where an airline extension of Wortman Street crosses the Little Miami River; east on an airline to where Route 32 meets Beechmont Avenue; west a short distance to where Beechmont Avenue crosses the Little Miami River; northeast along the Little Miami River to the bridge over the river on Newtown Road;

On the east: from the bridge over the Little Miami River at Newtown Road on an airline to Drake Road; north on Drake Road to the intersection with Varner Road;

On the north: from the intersection of Drake Road and Varner Road on an airline west to the intersection of Muchmore Road and Miami Road; northwest along an airline to the intersection Indian Hill Road and Susshine Lane; north on Susshine Lane and then around Camaridge Lane to follow an airline northwest to the intersection of Kenwood Road and Cherokee Drive; west along Cherokee Drive to the point where an airline extension of Cherokee Drive intersects with Stewart Avenue; north along Stewart Avenue to the intersection with an airline extension of South Fordham Place; west to the intersection of South Fordham Place and Plainfield Road;

On the west: from the intersection of South Fordham Place and Plainfield Road south along an airline extension of Plainfield Road to Interstate 71; west along Interstate 71 to an airline extension of Strathmore Drive East; south to Duck Creek Road; west on Duck Creek Road to Interstate 71; south along Interstate 71 to Edwards Avenue; south on Edwards Avenue to Hyde Park Avenue.

I further decree that Saint Cecilia Church will be the parochial church of Saint Cecilia Parish. Saint Anthony Church will be a subsidiary church. Saint Margaret of Cortona Church, by a separate decree, will be relegated to profane but non-sordid use.

The sacramental records of the former parishes of Saint Anthony and Saint Margaret–Saint John shall be closed and transferred to Saint Cecilia Parish where they are to be properly preserved and safeguarded. Any sacraments which take place at Saint Anthony Church are to be recorded in the sacramental registers of Saint Cecilia Parish.

The parishioners of the former parishes of Saint Anthony and Saint Margaret–Saint John are to associate themselves with their proper territorial parish, Saint Cecilia 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 Anthony and Saint Margaret-Saint John are to be held in high esteem and rightly honored. Furthermore, the people of Saint Cecilia 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 as of July 1, 2023, and is to be published immediately such that all members of Saint Anthony Parish, Saint Margaret–Saint John Parish, and Saint Cecilia Parish will be properly notified.

Given from the Chancery of the Archdiocese,
Cincinnati, Ohio,
on the 8th day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2023.



Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

SEAL



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