



DECREE
OF THE AMALGAMATION OF
SAINT MATTHIAS PARISH,
FOREST PARK, OHIO
INTO
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PARISH,
GREENHILLS, OHIO

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

Saint Matthias Parish was founded in the city of Forest Park in July of 1967. Our Lady of the Rosary Parish was founded in the village of Greenhills in July of 1938. Both parishes have been served by the same pastor since 2014. Since then, many discussions have taken place between the pastors, 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 Matthias Parish and Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, with the recommendation of the members of the pastoral council and finance council of both parishes, has proposed an extinctive union in which Saint Matthias Parish is amalgamated into Our Lady of the Rosary 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 May 8, 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 Matthias Parish is amalgamated into Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

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

- 1) priest allocation has made it impossible to have enough regularly scheduled weekend Masses to support the parishes sacramentally and financially;
- 2) having reduced the number of weekend Masses at Saint Matthias Parish, the vast majority of Saint Matthias parishioners currently attend Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish or other parishes closer to their homes;
- 3) the financial situation of Saint Matthias Parish has rapidly declined over the past year, a problem which has been developing for the last several years and was exacerbated by the recent pandemic; steps have been taken to reduce expenses; however, the parish's savings are still on track to be exhausted in the next 12 to 18 months;
- 4) the capacity of Saint Matthias Church is lower than that of other nearby churches, including Our Lady of the Rosary;
- 5) the opportunity for enhanced collaborative ministry and better utilization of clergy and lay personnel;
- 6) the already existing collaboration and sharing of resources between Saint Matthias Parish and Our Lady of the Rosary Parish;
- 7) the fostering of greater stability of the Church in this area by putting into place a more secure parish configuration.

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 Matthias Parish into Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the former parish of Saint Matthias 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 parish of Saint Matthias shall transfer to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, according to the norm of law (canon 121). The pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary 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 Our Lady of the Rosary Parish shall expand to incorporate the territory of the former parish of Saint Matthias. The new boundaries of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish shall be:

On the south: beginning at the intersection of Miles Road and West Park Road east on Miles Road to the intersection with Daly Road and Southshore Drive; east on Southshore Drive to Winton Road; then continuing east across Winton Road on Lakeridge Drive to the point where the channel of Winton Woods Lake between McKelvey Road and Lochrest Drive passes under Lakeridge Drive;

On the east: from the point where the channel of Winton Woods Lake passes under Lakeridge Drive north along the same channel of Winton Woods Lake to its dam; north along McKelvey Road to Bessinger Drive; east along Bessinger Drive and an airline extension to Sheffield Road; north along Sheffield Road until it becomes Southland Road; north along Southland Road to Northland Boulevard; east along Northland Boulevard to Springfield Pike (State Route 4); north along Springfield Pike to the border of Hamilton and Butler Counties where State Route 4 becomes Dixie Highway; north along Dixie Highway to Seward Road; north along Seward Road to Port Union Road;

On the north: from the intersection of Seward Road and Port Union Road west on Port Union Road to Holden Boulevard; southwest on Holden Boulevard to the intersection with Dixie Highway and South Gilmore Road;

On the west: from the intersection with Holden Boulevard, Dixie Highway, and South Gilmore Road south along South Gilmore Road to Interstate 275; west along Interstate 275 to Mill Road; south along Mill Road to the point where an airline extension of Jonquilmeadow Drive would meet Mill Road; continuing east along this extension, Jonquilmeadow Drive and a further airline extension of Jonquilmeadow Drive to the point where this extension intersects with an airline extension of Golfview Drive; south along this extension and Golfview Drive to the intersection with Springdale Road and Valleyview Drive; south on Valleyview Drive to West Park Road; south on West Park Road to Miles Road.

I further decree that Our Lady of the Rosary Church will be the parochial church of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. Saint Matthias Church, by a separate decree, will be relegated to profane but non-sordid use.

The sacramental records of the former parish of Saint Matthias shall be closed and transferred to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish where they are to be properly preserved and safeguarded.

The parishioners of the former parish of Saint Matthias are to associate themselves with their proper territorial parish, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, or another parish of their choice in accordance with universal and archdiocesan law.

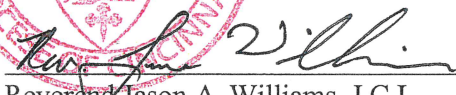
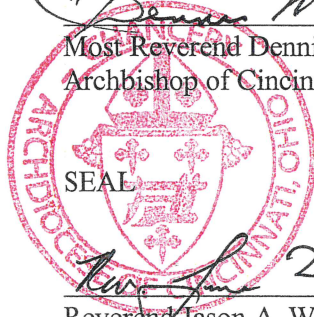
The rich history and legacy of the former parish of Saint Matthias are to be held in high esteem and rightly honored. Furthermore, the people of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, under the leadership of their pastor, are to strive diligently, with God's help, to form a unified, harmonious congregation dedicated to fulfilling the mission that Jesus Christ committed to his disciples.

This decree becomes effective as of September 1, 2023, and is to be published immediately such that all members of Saint Matthias Parish and Our Lady of the Rosary Parish will be properly notified.

Given from the Chancery of the Archdiocese,
Cincinnati, Ohio,
on the 16th day of June in the year of our Lord 2023,
the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr, J.C.D.
Archbishop of Cincinnati



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