DECREE

Modifying the Parish Church of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Erie

History

By Decree of the Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman, Bishop of Erie, effective January 1, 2009, Holy Family Parish, Saint Ann Parish, and Saint Casimir Parish in Erie were all merged together in an extinctive union, and from them, Our Mother of Sorrows Parish was erected.

Prior to that extinctive union, Holy Family church had served as the parish church of Holy Family Parish. Likewise, Saint Ann church had served as the parish church of Saint Ann Parish, and Saint Casimir Church had served as the parish church of Saint Casimir Parish.

In April of 2016, after discovering that a parish church had not been designated in the 2009 merger, I intended to name Saint Ann the parish church of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish. However, after providing a period of consultation with the parishioners from Our Mother of Sorrows, concern surfaced that although Saint Ann church is the largest of the three, it is not handicapped accessible and lacks the parking which is available at the other churches. They recommended that I instead designate Saint Casimir as the parish church, which I did so by lawful decree dated September 20, 2016.

Current Situation

Since 2016, the parish has continued to discern the best facilities to maintain due to ongoing building maintenance issues at each of the parish locations, as well as a population that is continuing to decline. On December 2, 2025, I decreed that Holy Family church be relegated to profane but not sordid use because of its severe state of disrepair and a lack of funds in the parish to address those issues. At the same time, the pastor, Father Jason Glover, informed me of a grassroots effort developing in Our Mother of Sorrows Parish to designate Saint Ann as the parish church because it is the most populous and most used of the remaining two churches.

On October 18, 2026, the finance council and pastoral council of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish met to formally discuss the change of the parish church from Saint Casimir to Saint Ann. After a formal discussion which included approving the changes to correct what the parishioners felt disqualified Saint Ann in 2016, they unanimously

Diocese of Erie ◈ P.O. Box 10397 ◈ Erie, Pennsylvania 16514-0397
814.824.1120 ◈ Fax 814.824.1124

recommended that Father Glover petition me to effect the change of the parish church. He did so in a letter dated October 20, 2026.

Therefore, having first and foremost before my eyes the need for a better means to provide for the care of souls and to provide the faithful of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish with a stable parish church, I hereby decree the following:

> **1. Saint Ann church shall now be the lawfully designated parish church of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish.**
>
> **2. Saint Casimir church shall become a secondary church – without mission status – of Our Mother of Sorrows parish. It is to remain open to the faithful at least occasionally for sacred worship, whether public or private (cf. can. 1214).**
>
> **3. Furthermore, Mass is to be celebrated in Saint Casimir church every year on the solemnity of the anniversary of the church's dedication and on the solemnity of the church's title, in accord with current liturgical norms (cf. cann. 1167 §2 and 1168 of the former Code of Canon Law and can. 2 of the present Code). If such an observance is impeded by another date of higher rank according to the Roman calendar, the impeded solemnity is to be transferred to the first available date thereafter.**

This decree is effective November 29, 2026, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery
of the Diocese of Erie
on this 4th day of November, 2026

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

Christopher J. Singer

The Reverend Christopher J. Singer, JCL
Chancellor