

As the parishes of the Diocese of Erie along with the Bishop review the possibility of closing certain parishes in 2020, it may be helpful to know that many prayer resources have already been created to meet such needs. Following is a summary of available services or service outlines. In addition, files of appropriate prayers, intercessions, and worship aids are sprinkled throughout the on-line Pastoral Planning Process web resource. The Worship Office is working with the Communications Office to create a single point of access for all these materials.

Available prayer services and liturgy outlines:

1. Prayer Services for Parish Restructuring, September 2016

(prepared by the Liturgical Commission with the Worship Office; includes service for stand-alone parishes to pray with parishes experiencing change.)

- Praying Through Disbelief, Anxiety and Hurt
- Prayer Service for Healing
- Prayer in Time of Transition
- Prayer for Hope and Trust in God's Faithfulness
- Honoring our Traditions, People and Treasures
- Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving to God
- Looking Forward with Hope (Partnering /Merging)
- Looking to the Future with Hope (Stand-Alone Parishes)

2. Liturgical Resources for Parish Restructuring, February 2017

(Sample introductions, Intercessions, closing remarks, Solemn Blessing, prepared by Worship Office)

- Parishes not experiencing restructuring at this time
- Partnering Parishes
- Communities being merged into an existing parish
- Parishes welcoming new parishioners (Mergers)

3. Rituals for Closing a Parish, 2012

(derived from Holy People, Holy Places: Rites for the Church's House, Thomas G. Simons with annotations from the Worship Office.)

- Background
- Model 1
- Model 2
- Closing Rituals apart from Mass
- Rituals leading up to the closing
- First Celebration with Combined Parishes