NEWS RELEASE DIOCESE OF ERIE

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Saint Ann Church designated parish church of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Erie

The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, has decreed that Saint Ann Church will become the designated parish church of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Erie, effective November 29, 2026. Saint Casimir Church, which has served as the parish church since 2016, will become a secondary church without mission status and will remain available for occasional sacred worship.

Our Mother of Sorrows Parish was established on January 1, 2009, through the merger of Holy Family, Saint Ann and Saint Casimir parishes. In September 2016, Saint Casimir was designated the parish church following consultation with parishioners regarding accessibility and parking concerns at Saint Ann.

Since that time, the parish has continued to evaluate its facilities in response to ongoing maintenance needs and declining population. Following the relegation of Holy Family Church in December 2025, parishioners expressed renewed interest in designating Saint Ann as the parish church, recognizing it as the most populous and frequently used of the two remaining churches.

On October 18, 2026, the parish pastoral council and parish finance council unanimously supported the change after discussing improvements to address the concerns that had previously prevented Saint Ann from being designated the parish church. Father Jason Glover, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, formally petitioned Bishop Persico on October 20, 2026.

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Under the decree, Saint Casimir Church will remain open to the faithful at least occasionally for sacred worship. Mass will continue to be celebrated there annually on the anniversary of the church's dedication and the solemnity of its title, in accordance with liturgical norms.

A complete history and explanation of the decision is included in the decree, available at https://www.eriercd.org/bishop/decrees.html.

The decree is effective November 29, 2026.

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