



NEWS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ERIE

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## Status of St. Adalbert Church in Farrell changes

Father Matthew Ruyechan, pastor of the partnered parishes of St. Anthony of Padua in Sharon and Our Lady of Fatima in Farrell, announced on September 12 that the Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, after consultation with the presbyteral council, has relegated St. Adalbert Church in Farrell, a secondary church of St. Anthony Parish, to “profane but not sordid use,” effective September 20, 2020.

The technical designation refers to the canon law process by which a bishop removes the blessing or consecration of a church building. The building then ceases to be reserved for divine worship, and therefore, can be used for non-religious purposes. The term “profane” means secular or non-religious, while “sordid” means unbecoming or inappropriate.

The designation is the result of a process that occurs when a pastor, with the support of the parish finance council and the parish pastoral council, believes a church building can no longer be maintained for any of a variety of reasons and petitions the bishop to relegate the church. A complete history of the church, as well as a detailed narrative of the current situation,

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is described in the decree announcing the bishop's decision, available at [www.ErieRCD.org/bishop/decrees.html](http://www.ErieRCD.org/bishop/decrees.html) .

St. Adalbert Parish was established in 1912 as a personal parish for Catholics of Polish heritage in Farrell. While the parish grew quickly, by 1930 the Polish Catholic population of Farrell was migrating to Sharon. St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish was thus established in Sharon in 1931 to meet their needs. The last full-time pastor of St. Adalbert left in 1989. From that point forward, the parish was either under the care of an administrator or shared a pastor with other parishes until finally, as part of a diocesan-wide pastoral planning effort, in February 2017 it was merged into St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Sharon.

The pastoral planning process involving parishes that was completed in 2017 was designed to allow parishes to evaluate their own situations going forward. Several parishes in the 10,000-square-mile Diocese of Erie have since made recommendations to the bishop that their secondary churches be closed.

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