

DAVID ALLEN ZUBIK



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See  
**BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH**  
**DECREE**

THE EXTINCTIVE UNION OF  
SAINT MARK PARISH, SAINT MICHAEL PARISH,  
AND QUEEN OF THE ROSARY PARISH  
INTO  
SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE PARISH

Whereas, Saint Mark Parish was established on October 9, 1993, as part of the diocesan reorganization and revitalization project. The parish was formed by the merger of Saint Eugene Parish in Liberty Borough and Saint Joseph Parish in Port Vue.

Whereas, Saint Michael Parish was founded in response to the rise in the coal mining industry in the area and the subsequent rise in population. A church was built in Elizabeth and dedicated on September 28, 1851 to Saint Michael. For four years, Saint Michael was a mission church served by priests stationed elsewhere. In 1855, the parish was assigned its first resident pastor.

Whereas, Queen of the Rosary Parish was established on January 15, 1994, as part of the diocesan reorganization and revitalization project. It was formed by the merger of Holy Cross Parish and Saint Cecilia Parish.

Whereas, information regarding the future of the parishes has been consistently communicated to the parishioners in the weekly, combined parish bulletin, on the parish website, and at announcements during weekend Masses.

Whereas, because in-person assemblies could not be held due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual parish assembly was posted on the parish website on

September 1, 2020, to provide information to the people of the parishes and to receive parishioner input regarding the possible merger of the parishes.

Whereas on September 28, 2020, three (3) petitions were presented to the diocesan bishop, each signed by the one priest who serves as Administrator of Saint Mark Parish, Saint Michael Parish, and Queen of the Rosary Parish, along with the signatures of the respective Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils requesting that Saint Mark Parish, Saint Michael Parish, and Queen of the Rosary Parish be merged into Saints Joachim and Anne Parish forming an extinctive union.

Whereas merging these parishes will provide more vibrant and effective ministries to the faithful and, because of the fewer number of priests in the diocese and faithful in the territory, forming one parish will facilitate a stronger community of the faithful for liturgical worship, ministry, and outreach.

Whereas, merging these parishes will better facilitate the ability of the assigned clergy to work together, building upon one another's individual talents, in order to better serve the People of God entrusted to their pastoral care.

Whereas, merging these parishes will provide greater and more accessible resources for parochial administration and the employment of effective staff members.

Whereas, the need for evangelization is pressing in the territories concerned and merging these parishes will make resources available for the effective proclamation of the Gospel so as to enliven the Faith, bring the people closer to the Lord, and win souls for Christ.

Therefore, having received the petition of the three (3) parishes and having heard the Presbyteral Council on October 19, 2020 and the Vicars General on the same day, and with no harm coming to the good of souls and indeed for the spiritual benefit of the faithful, and all of the requirements of canons 50, 51, 127, 166, and 515 having been fulfilled, we do hereby decree the following:

1. By means of an extinctive union Saint Mark Parish, Saint Michael Parish, and Queen of the Rosary Parish are merged and subsumed into the newly formed Saints Joachim and Anne Parish, which is erected by this decree according to the prescriptions of canon 515§ 2 of the *Code of Canon Law*.
2. In accordance with the norms of law (cf. canon 121), all assets, responsibilities and liabilities of Saint Mark Parish, Saint Michael Parish, and Queen of the Rosary Parish are transferred into the newly erected Saints Joachim and Anne Parish. The intention of donors is to be respected.

3. Furthermore, the voluntary offerings of the faithful and all other grants that have been made and will be made to Saints Joachim and Anne Parish constitute its revenue.
4. All sacramental records from Saint Mark Parish, Saint Michael Parish, and Queen of the Rosary Parish will be housed at the Archives and Records Center of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
5. All churches are to remain open to the faithful for at least occasional sacred worship, whether public or private (cf. can. 1214). If a church is not used for regular public worship, the holy Mass is to be celebrated there at least 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. can. 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.
6. All present members of Saint Mark Parish, Saint Michael Parish, and Queen of the Rosary Parish are entitled to be parishioners of Saints Joachim and Anne Parish according to the universal law and legitimate custom within the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
7. The boundaries of Saints Joachim and Anne Parish shall be as follows:

Beginning at the point of beginning at the intersection of the City of McKeesport-Glassport Borough-Port Vue Borough borders, proceed northeast and southeast along the Port Vue Borough border to the Liberty Borough border; proceed east and south along the Liberty Borough border to the Lincoln Borough border; proceed south and west along the Lincoln Borough border to the intersection with Boston Hollow Road (PA Route 48); proceed south along the centerline of Boston Hollow Road to the intersection with Mansfield Road; proceed east along the centerline of Mansfield Road to the intersection with Ridge Road; proceed west and south along the centerline of Ridge Road to the intersection with Broadlawn Drive; proceed east along the centerline of Broadlawn Drive to the intersection with Greenock Buena Vista Road; proceed southeast along the centerline of Greenock Buena Vista Road to the intersection with Industry Road/Duncan Road; proceed east along the centerline of Duncan Road to its endpoint; proceed east via airline route to the Allegheny County-Westmoreland County border; proceed south and west along the Allegheny County-Westmoreland County border to PA Route 906 North; proceed west along the centerline of PA Route 906 North which becomes Rainbow Run Road (PA Route 136); proceed west along the centerline of Rainbow Run Road to the intersection with Rostosky Ridge Road; proceed northwest via airline route to the endpoint of Malerie Lane; proceed northwest along the centerline of Malerie Lane to the intersection with River Hill Road; proceed west and north along the centerline of

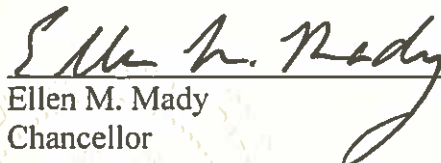
River Hill Road to the intersection with Pangburn Hollow Road; proceed northwest along the centerline of Pangburn Hollow Road to the intersection with Ridge Road; proceed west along the centerline of Ridge Road to the intersection with Lytle Road; proceed west along the centerline of Lytle Road to the intersection with Raccoon Run Road; proceed west and north along the centerline of Raccoon Run Road to the intersection with Church Hollow Road; proceed north along the centerline of Church Hollow Road to the intersection with Elkhorn Road; proceed west along the centerline of Elkhorn Road to the intersection with Bunola River Road; proceed west via airline route to the middle of the Monongahela River; proceed north along the middle of the Monongahela River to the Dravosburg Borough-Glassport Borough border; proceed north along the Dravosburg Borough-Glassport Borough border to Glassport Borough-City of McKeesport border on the W.D. Mansfield Memorial Bridge; proceed east along the Glassport Borough-City of McKeesport border to the point of beginning.

This decree becomes effective at 12:01 AM on January 4, 2021, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Finally, those who have the right may appeal this decree in accordance with the prescriptions of the law.

Given at Pittsburgh, PA, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the Year of Our Lord 2020.

  
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Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

  
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Ellen M. Mady  
Chancellor

