The Sebago Lakes Region Parishes
St. Anne, Gorham – St. Anthony, Westbrook – Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Windham

Petition for Canonical Merger

Procedure for Naming the New Parish

Empowered by faith, the charity of Christ impels us
to grow ever more deeply in celebrating the Sacraments
and proclaiming the Gospel,
to serve one another’s needs in fulfilling the social mission of the Church,
and to provide a legacy of faith as a voice of hope
for future generations of Maine Catholics.

GOAL:

It will be the task of the Parish Merger Committee to discern the three names for our newly-merged parish that we will propose to the Bishop in order of our preference. The Bishop will make the ultimate determination on the title for our new parish.

PROCESS:

This is an area where we can include maximum input from our parishioners. The process has three phases.

We will elicit nominations from all parishioners and parish leaders. This phase will begin on February 20 and end on March 16, 2021. Parishioners will be asked to submit their nominations on a paper response form that will be inserted into weekly bulletins, placed in the narthex of our churches, and sent by mail at their request by calling the parish offices. Forms will also be available at each of the scheduled communications and feedback sessions in February and March.

Parishioners can also submit nominations via email before March 16 at: newparishname@gmail.org

During this time, each of the three parish leadership teams will also meet and submit their nominations to the pastor of 3 to 5 titles in order of preference.

The new parish name cannot be the same as an existing parish or church in the Diocese of Portland. All nominations, in order to be considered, must not be the name of an existing cluster, parish or church. A list of names that cannot be considered will be made available to parishioners (see attached).
COMMUNICATIONS:
The call for nominations and the procedure to be used will be communicated to parishioners in weekend Mass announcements, bulletin announcements, live-streamed Mass announcements, and existing email chains.

DISCERNMENT PROCESS:
The results of the nomination procedure will be tallied and sent to the members of the Parish Merger Committee. The Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 17 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the results and decide on a short list of 5-6 possible names. At this point, we also need to provide for a rationale for choosing these particular possible titles for the new parish. A “ballot” will be designed to elicit further feedback from parishioners.

PARISHIONER FEEDBACK PHASE:
Each parishioner will be invited to submit a ranked-choice personal recommendation for the new parish name. This is not necessarily a “majority-rule” process, but is seen rather as a helpful tool in providing guidance for the Parish Merger Committee in making the ultimate determination. The “ballots” will be available beginning the weekend of March 21-22 at each of our three churches.
Parishioners can call the office to have a “ballot” mailed to them.
Parishioners will also have access to an on-line “ballot.” Recommendations can be submitted any time before Monday, April 5. The results of the surveys will be made available to members of the Parish Merger Committee prior to the April 7 meeting.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION TO THE BISHOP
The final recommendation of three parish names in order of preference that we will make to the Bishop will be determined by consensus at a Zoom meeting of the Parish Merger Committee on Wednesday, April 7 at 1:30 p.m.
INELIGIBLE NAMES FOR THE NEW PARISH

The following titles have already been assigned to Clusters, Parishes and Churches in the Diocese of Portland, and are therefore not eligible for nomination.

All Saints  St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Ascension of the Lord  St. Francis of Assis
Assumption  St. Francis Xavier
Christ the Divine Mercy  St. Faustina
Christ the King  St. Gabriel
Corpus Christi  St. Gerard
Good Shepherd  St. Gregory
Notre Dame  St. Helena
Holy Cross  St. Ignatius
Holy Eucharist  St. James
Holy Family  St. John Paul II
Holy Martyrs of North America  St. John the Baptist
Holy Name  St. John the Evangelist
Holy Redeemer  St. John Vianney
Holy Rosary  St. Joseph
Holy Savior  St. Jude
Holy Spirit  St. Kateri Tekakwitha
Holy Trinity  St. Katherine Drexel
Immaculate Conception  St. Leo
Immaculate Heart of Mary  St. Louis
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  St. Luce / St. Lucy
Notre Dame  St. Mark
Our Lady of ... / Our Lady of the ...  St. Margaret
Precious Blood  St. Martin of Tours
Prince of Peace  St. Mary
Resurrection of the Lord  St. Matthew
Sacred Heart  St. Maximilian Kolbe
Star of the Sea  St. Michael
St. Agatha  St. Patrick
St. Agnes  St. Philip
St. Ambrose  St. Paul the Apostle
St. Ann  St. Peter
St. Anne  St. Peter Chanel
St. Augustine  St. Peter the Fisherman
St. Bartholomew  St. Rose of Lima
St. Benedict  St. Sebastian
St. Bernard  St. Teresa of Calcutta
St. Brendan  St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Catherine  St. Thomas Aquinas
St. Charles Borromeo  St. Timothy
St. Christopher  St. Vincent de Paul
St. David  Stella Maris
St. Denis  Transfiguration of the Lord
St. Dominic