



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Reverend James D. CIUPEK
Pastor of St. John the Baptist and SS. Peter and Paul Parishes
43 Argyle Place
Orchard Park, New York 14127

7 January 2025

Dear Rev. Ciupek,

On 6 January 2025 I signed the decree merging St. John the Baptist Parish, Boston into SS. Peter and Paul Parish, effective 4 March 2025. The enclosed decree explains the details of this merger including the responsibility of SS. Peter and Paul Parish over the entire footprint of St. John the Baptist church and other properties. Please make the parishioners at St. John the Baptist Parish aware of this merger by public announcement at Mass this weekend, notification in the parish bulletin, and publication on the parish/family website.

All funds from St. John the Baptist Parish will first be utilized to pay off existing parish debt. Included in the parish debt is anything owed to the Diocese of Buffalo by way of parish assessments, Legacy Retirement Fund contributions, and a future assessment of a contribution to the Catholic Family's portion of our Chapter 11 Federal Bankruptcy settlement. For this reason, the enclosed decree speaks of SS. Peter and Paul Parish being the recipient of the "net assets and liabilities" of St. John the Baptist Parish.

In order to determine the net assets and liabilities of St. John the Baptist Parish, you are to continue to maintain, as is, the civil corporation of St. John the Baptist Parish including its lay trustees and bank accounts. If you have further questions regarding this instruction, please contact Rev. Peter J. Karalus, Vicar General, at 716.847.5500.

Thank you for your dedication to this important work of Renewal in our diocese. The enclosed decree is for the parish archives at SS. Peter and Paul Parish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo

Encl: Decree merging St. John the Baptist Parish into SS. Peter and Paul Parish

CC: Rev. Peter J. Karalus, Vicar General
Melissa Potzler, Chancellor
Rev. Peter Santandreu, Vice Chancellor