

Dear Parishioners of our Tri-Parish Community,

As we begin this new year together, I would like to share a few reflections and hopes as we continue to move into the new reality of being one parish with three campuses.

First, I want to acknowledge that, for the most part, we have successfully navigated what is often the most difficult aspect of becoming a multi-campus parish: the implementation of a new Mass schedule. There is no question that this is the most challenging and, at times, painful part of any parish merger. Changes to Mass times affect everyone and are a very visible sign that real change is taking place—something that can understandably feel unsettling or even frightening.

I know that the new Mass schedule has caused frustration for some parishioners across all three campuses. At the same time, others have expressed gratitude and joy at seeing fuller churches and more vibrant participation in our liturgies. Both reactions come from a deep love for our parishes, and for that I am very grateful. Thank you for your patience, your generosity of spirit, and your commitment to walking through this transition together. Experience tells us that it can take six months to a year for a community to fully adjust to a new Mass schedule. I ask for your continued patience and trust during this time. Please also remember that similar changes are taking place throughout our diocese and across the country. The long-term goal is that the four churches of Michigan City—eventually becoming three—will come together as one parish, under the leadership of one pastor, united in mission and purpose.

Once our merger is completed on July 1, 2026, and our three campuses have settled into this new reality, I hope to shift our focus toward two important priorities. For the past three years, much of my time and energy has been devoted to the merger process. My hope is that, once this work is complete, we will be able to focus more intentionally on the immediate and internal needs of our parish family.

First, I would like us to strengthen the spiritual life of our parishioners. With the guidance of the Tri-Parish Pastoral Council, we will work toward deeper Christian formation within our community. In 2027, I hope to place special emphasis on deepening our sacramental life—both in the parish and in our schools. One concrete step will be the introduction of a parish retreat program across all three campuses, designed to help us grow spiritually and rediscover our faith in a renewed and life-giving way. As our own faith is strengthened, we will be better equipped to respond to the call to re-evangelize Michigan City. There are many people who have not yet fully encountered Jesus Christ or heard His invitation to conversion. It is both our privilege and our responsibility to share that Good News with our neighbors and friends.

Second, we will need to take a thoughtful and prayerful look at the future of the buildings on the St. Mary and Notre Dame campuses. It appears likely that, in the not-too-distant future, capital campaigns may be necessary at one or both of these sites. Whether these efforts are undertaken individually or together will depend largely on the discernment and commitment of those who feel a strong connection to those campuses. I want to be clear that parishioners who are currently participating in the Queen of All Saints capital campaign are not expected to take on an additional financial burden, unless they feel personally called to do so.

Though we are still in a time of transition, I invite you to look to the future with hope. Our city and our world need the truth and hope of the Gospel more than ever. I firmly believe that, as a united parish community, we can radiate the light of Christ even more powerfully in these times.

Thank you for your faith, your patience, and your love for our parish.

Yours with every blessing,
Fr. David Kime