



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of St. Mark Church, Lancaster, Ohio
and Changing the Parish of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster, Ohio

Office of the Bishop
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Whereas, demographic changes in the general population and among the Catholic faithful of the neighborhood, including but not limited to decline in registered parishioners, decline in mass attendance, and the shortage of priests, have drastically affected the viability of the parishes in that region; and

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the pastor of St. Mark and St. Mary parishes recommending the suppression of St. Mark Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of St. Mary Church; and


Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on September 28, 2023, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Mark Parish and to make changes to St. Mary Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Mark Parish to that of St. Mary Parish; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council in accordance with Canon 515.2;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following

1. The Parish of St. Mark, Lancaster, Ohio, is suppressed effective April 30, 2024;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Mark Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of this parish will be joined to those of St. Mary Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of St. Mary Parish. The territorial jurisdiction of this parish will encompass the territory which by long-standing custom pertained to St. Mary and St. Mark parishes.
3. The care of St. Mark Church and the other properties of the former St. Mark Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of St. Mary Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
4. This decree shall be promulgated by publication in the Catholic Times and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 28th day of September, 2023.


Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus




Notary