



# Catholic Diocese of Columbus

## DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of St. Matthias Church, Columbus, Ohio  
and Changing the Parish of St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus, Ohio

Office of the Bishop  
614 • 224 • 2251

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, decline in offertory revenue, 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 clergy and faithful of St. Elizabeth Church and St. Matthias Church recommending the suppression of St. Matthias Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on March 21, 2024, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Matthias Parish and to make changes to St. Elizabeth Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Matthias Parish to that of St. Elizabeth 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. Matthias, Columbus, Ohio, is suppressed effective June 15, 2024;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Matthias Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of this parish will be joined to those of St. Elizabeth Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish. Furthermore, this parish is given a new name and henceforth will be known as "St. Josephine Bakhita Parish at St. Elizabeth Church."
3. The boundaries of the new parish are as follows:  
Northern boundary: I-270 from CSX-NS railroad tracks on west to Alum Creek on east.  
Eastern boundary: Alum Creek from I-270 on north to an air line to Elmore Avenue on the south.  
Southern boundary: Elmore Avenue (both sides) from Conrail railroad tracks on west to Alum Creek on the east.  
Western boundary: CSX-NS railroad tracks from Elmore Avenue to I-270.
4. The care of St. Matthias Church and the other properties of the former St. Matthias Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
5. This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan Website, 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2024.



Notary

*Earl K. Fernandes*

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes  
Bishop of Columbus