



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop
614 • 224 • 2251

DECREE NOTABLY ALTERING the PARISH BOUNDARY of Holy Trinity-St. Joseph Somerset

WHEREAS, a parish is defined as “a certain community of the Christian faithful stably constituted in a particular church, whose pastoral care is entrusted to a pastor as its proper pastor under the authority of the diocesan bishop” (can. 515 §1);

WHEREAS, “as a general rule, a parish is to be territorial, that is, one which includes all the faithful of a certain territory” (can. 518);

WHEREAS, the parish of St. Joseph Somerset was suppressed and merged into the parish of Holy Trinity Somerset by lawful decree on 21 March 2024 and renamed Holy Trinity-St. Joseph Parish;

WHEREAS, the parish boundary of Holy Trinity-St. Joseph Parish was as yet not defined or imprecisely defined;

WHEREAS, having duly consulted with the pastors of Holy Trinity-St. Joseph Somerset, St. Patrick Junction City, and St. Rose New Lexington whose territories are affected (c. 50); having heard the Presbyteral Council which was provided with the necessary information, lawfully convoked according to cc. 127 and 166 on 20 November 2024, and offered genuine consultation according to c. 515 §2 in the form of unanimous agreement with the proposed definition of the parish boundaries;

WHEREAS, having determined that the good of souls will suffer no harm and will benefit from a more certain definition of parish boundary of the parish;

THEREFORE, having considered the law and the facts, I, Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, decree the following:

- 1) That the territory of Holy Trinity-St. Joseph Parish is defined as:

In a general way consisting of Thorn, Hopewell, Madison, Reading, and Clayton townships in Perry County, Ohio.

The precise boundaries are defined by the following latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates and roads: Northern boundary: Beginning at 39.9303, -82.4628, east to 39.9279, -82.4181; south to 39.9224, -82.4186; east to 39.9093, -82.1623; Eastern

boundary: Beginning at 39.9303, -82.4628, south to 39.8207, -82.1700; east to 39.8190, -82.1360; east on the center of Loop Road to 39.8187, -82.1324; south to 39.7895, -82.1347; west to 39.7904, -82.1528; south to 39.7312, -82.1573; Southern: Beginning at 39.7312, -82.1573, west to 39.7446, -82.4042; Western: Beginning at 39.7446, -82.4042 on County Line Road, north on the center of County Line Road to 39.7668, -82.4019; north to 39.8314, -82.3958; north to 39.8330, -82.3961 on Baltimore Somerset Road NE; west on the center of Baltimore Somerset Road NE to 39.8372, -82.4724 on New Salem Road; north on New Salem Road to the intersection of New Salem Road, Blacklick Eastern Road NE, and Custers Point Road NE; north on Custers Point Road NE to 39.9235, -82.4635; north to 39.9246, -82.4637; north to 39.9303, -82.4628.

- 2) That this alteration shall take effect upon the promulgation of this decree.
- 3) That this decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocese of Columbus website and in *The Catholic Times* diocesan newspaper.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio this 2nd day of December, 2024.


Deacon Thomas Berg, Jr.
Chancellor




Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus