



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

**DECREE
ON THE MERGER OF THE PARISHES OF
SAINT JOSEPH AND OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL IN
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT**

WHEREAS, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish was established on June 26, 1923, for the Italian immigrants of Waterbury, at first named for Saint Philip Neri; and Saint Joseph Parish was originally created on March 28, 1894, for the Lithuanian immigrants in Waterbury, then merged with Saint Patrick Parish on June 29, 2017, to form Saint Blaise Parish, with two sacred edifices, that is, Saint Patrick Church and Saint Joseph Church;

WHEREAS, subsequently, Saint Patrick Parish was separated from Saint Blaise Parish, as an independent juridic entity, with its own sacred edifice of Saint Patrick Church. The remaining Saint Blaise Parish, with the sacred edifice of Saint Joseph Church, returned to its original name of Saint Joseph Parish in 2019;

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2018, the two juridic entities were linked, shared one pastor, and worked together to share events and liturgies and to consider combining both properties and staff;

WHEREAS, after prayerful consideration and discussion, the leadership of both parishes discerned that the merger was going to better serve the spiritual and practical needs of the two parishes and fulfill their shared mission of evangelization;

WHEREAS, though the Pastor and parish leadership recognize that change can be challenging, they believe that their combined efforts will create a more united and vibrant spiritual home for all. During the merger process, a Transition Team will be formed with Trustees, Finance Councils and Parish Councils of both parishes to facilitate the transition and preserve the traditions and values of both the Italian and Lithuanian communities of the two merging entities;

WHEREAS, although both parishes have experienced a decrease in membership over the course of their histories, bringing them together into one entity will ensure the good of souls, the vibrant celebration of the sacraments, a preservation of their institutional legacy, and just stewardship of their past patrimony and assets;

WHEREAS, On February 1, 2024, the Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel wrote to Archbishop Leonard P. Blair to formally request the merger of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Joseph Parish in Waterbury;

WHEREAS, the intention or will of donors, any restrictions, including land, and any acquired rights have been examined and taken into consideration. The Presbyteral Council was consulted on March 4, 2024, in accordance with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection;

WHEREAS, having judged that sufficient just causes, as noted above, are present and the good of the souls will not thereby be impaired;

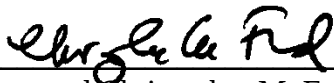
I HEREBY DECREE the merger following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Saint Joseph Parish is subsumed into Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personalities of the Parish of Saint Joseph will cease to exist, and it will no longer be subject of obligations and rights under canon law; the newly merged entity will be known as Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, with two sacred edifices: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and Saint Joseph Church. The sacred edifice of Saint Joseph Church will remain at present a sacred place of divine worship but without regularly scheduled Masses;

The assets and liabilities of the former Parish of Saint Joseph will become the assets and liabilities of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. The sacramental registers, along with any other parish records and historical documents shall also be preserved at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church premises, according to the norm of canon 535.

This decree becomes effective as of May 1, 2024, on the Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parishes, including by way of a display in an appropriate place so that parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the churches. It will also be available on the Archdiocese of Hartford website, under News-Public Notices: [<https://archdioceseofhartford.org/public-notice/>]. Canonical recourse may be made within the peremptory time limit of ten (10) business days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (CIC canon 1734 §2).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut on the 15th day of March in the Year of Our Lord 2024.



Reverend Christopher M. Ford, J.C.L.
Chancellor



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford