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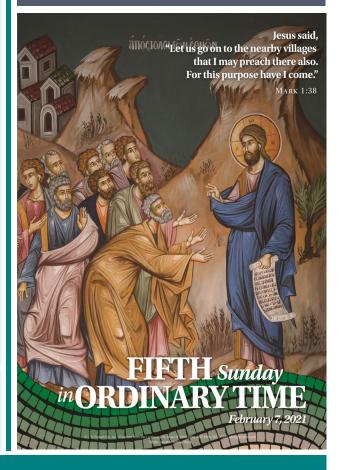
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February 7, 2021



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop 835 North Rush Street Chicago, Illinois 60611 312.534.8230 archchicago.org

Prot. N. 2021 RMC-2

DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

"Likewise, parishes which are too small should be united insofar as the situation demands it and circumstances permit." St. Paul VI, Apostolic Letter *motu proprio*, *Ecclesiae Sanctae*, n. 21, (1), August 6, 1966

Changing demographics have affected the size and wealth of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the vitality of her parishes. This is particularly true in the City of Chicago itself, where the total population has fallen by 21% since 1970, from 3,366,957 to an estimated 2,686,530 in 2020. The archdiocese has many vacant, old, and underused parochial buildings and fewer priests to pastor our faith communities.

According to the US Census Bureau, the Archdiocese of Chicago (Cook and Lake Counties in Illinois) had an estimated total population of 5,881,250 in 2018. The 2018 *Annuario Pontificio* indicated our archdiocese had 345 parishes serving a Catholic population of 2,512,000: an average of 7,281 Catholics per parish. According to the same source, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles had a total population of 11,519,517, with 287 parishes for a Catholic population of 4,362,000: an average of 15,199 Catholics per parish. For the Archdiocese of New York, the figures were 2,656,987 Catholics in 294 parishes, an average 9,037 Catholics per parish. A good number of our parishes were founded in the first half of the last century or earlier. Many were established for national, linguistic, or ethnic groups that no longer reside in the archdiocese or in the neighborhoods where they once flourished.

Many of our parishes are unable to support themselves and have been receiving financial subsidies from the archdiocese. From fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year 2019 the Archdiocese of Chicago provided \$162,332,527.00 in support to parishes and Catholic schools: \$42,620,585.00 to 106 parishes and \$119,712,942.00 to 83 Catholic schools. This was due entirely to the generosity of the faithful people of the archdiocese and other gracious donors. The archdiocese cannot continue this level of financial support. Our mission is to convert our parishes, helping them to become more vital, that is, active centers of Christian discipleship, evangelical mission, scholarship, and charitable outreach. To achieve this mission, the parishes must have a growing or, at least, stable membership and means to support themselves.

Nearly six years ago, inspired by the experience of St. Francis of Assisi before the cross of the ruined church of San Damiano, and by the Holy Father's dream of "a missionary option ... capable of transforming everything" (Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, n.

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27, November 24, 2013), and after wide and continuing consultation among the clergy and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Chicago, particularly in the Presbyteral Council, we embarked on the inauguration of Renew My Church (RMC), a multi-year process aimed at obtaining and preserving the conversion and vitality of our parishes. It is my intention that every parish join with some of its neighbors (groupings) and plan the future. Careful planning will create a menu of possibilities. We are identifying parishes to be reconfigured through pastoral coordination with neighboring parishes, divisions, unions, and other structural and governance changes.

This decree concerns three parishes located within a territory of approximately seven square miles in the Jefferson Park and Portage Park neighborhoods of the Northwest side of the City of Chicago: St. Bartholomew Parish (founded 1917), 4949 West Patterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60641-3512; Our Lady of Victory Parish (founded 1909), 5212 West Agatite Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60630-3778; and St. Pascal Parish (founded 1914), 3935 North Melvina Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60634-2527.

Recently the parishes have been serving an area of the City in which the population is changing from large numbers of Polish-speaking faithful to a growing population of Spanishspeaking faithful needing liturgical services and pastoral care in Spanish. Already Sunday Mass celebrated in Spanish at St. Bartholomew Parish encompasses 58% of the attendance, the remainder is in English. Meanwhile, Mass is celebrated only in English at Our Lady of Victory Parish and in English (65%) and Polish (35%) at St. Pascal Parish. The trends indicate an accelerating decrease in Polish-speaking faithful and a larger accelerating increase in Spanishspeaking faithful and a younger English-speaking population. To meet these needs the reconfiguration of parishes in the area is required.

The reconfiguration will provide an ability to better serve the growing Hispanic population. continue to serve the remaining faithful of Polish heritage by reinforcing Polish ministry in the parishes immediately north and south of St. Pascal Parish, and to address the needed outreach and evangelization among a growing and younger English-speaking population. The first move toward this endeavor is to begin changes that will not burden any of the parishes with the need to serve a tri-lingual community. To that end Mass will no longer be celebrated in Polish at St. Pascal Church, leaving room for increased services to Spanish-speaking neighbors.

From 2009 to 2019 there was a 21% decline in Sunday attendance at St. Bartholomew Parish. During the same period the decline was 35% at Our Lady of Victory Parish and 40% at St. Pascal Parish. In 2019, St. Bartholomew Parish had income of \$497,810.00 and expenses of \$679,589.00, leaving an operating deficit of \$181,779.00. At Our Lady of Victory Parish, the 2019 figures were income of \$482,864.00, expenses of \$564,583.00, and operating deficit of \$81,791.00. At St. Pascal Parish, the same year's figures were income of \$700,524.00. expenses of \$816,792.00, and operating deficit of \$116,268.00. There is a \$2,315,283.00 debt at St. Bartholomew Parish and significant capital investment needs in each of the parishes.

Following consultations last year with lay and clergy members of the parishes, including input from parishioners at large, a report was submitted to the Archdiocesan Standards and

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Recommendations Commission, a group of lay and clergy representatives from across the Archdiocese of Chicago. Recently, the Commission submitted its recommendations to the pastoral leadership of the archdiocese. The recommendations proposed that St. Bartholomew Parish, Our Lady of Victory Parish, and St. Pascal Parish be extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form one new territorial parish within combined territory of St. Bartholomew Parish and St. Pascal Parish and part of the territory of Our Lady of Victory Parish, with St. Pascal Church designated the new parish church.

The proposal is supported by demographic changes in the area, and by data mentioned or attached to this decree. The three parishes now serve an area with an increasing population of Spanish-speaking Catholics, a decreasing Polish-speaking population, and an increasing need for outreach to a growing and younger English-speaking group of Catholics. A union of the parishes avoids the need to assign more than one priest as pastor and saves the expenses of funding more than one governing administration. The continuing economic health of the faith community depends upon uniting the faithful as fully as possible. Moreover, the territory of the proposed parish will be reasonable for this area of the City of Chicago.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norms of canon 50, canon 127 §§1 & 3, canon 166, and canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, have before me the proposal that St. Bartholomew Parish, Our Lady of Victory Parish, and St. Pascal Parish, all in the Jefferson Park and Portage Park neighborhoods of the City of Chicago, be extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form a single new territorial parish within the combined territory of St. Bartholomew Parish and St. Pascal Parish and part of the territory of Our Lady of Victory Parish, with St. Pascal Church designated the parish church. Know also, I convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago *via* video conference over the internet on December 18, 2020. Then, after hearing the Presbyteral Council and receiving its vote of 28 for and 7 against the proposal, I accepted the Presbyteral Council's majority advice and now, invoking the Holy Spirit,

decree the following:

- 1. Effective July 1, 2021, the above-mentioned St. Bartholomew Parish, Our Lady of Victory Parish, and St. Pascal Parish will be extinguished as separate juridic persons in the Church and united to form a single new juridic person, a territorial parish to be known, ad interim, as Our Lady of Victory and SS. Bartholomew and Pascal Parish;
- 2. The missions of the three extinguished parishes will be subsumed completely into that of the new Our Lady of Victory and SS. Bartholomew and Pascal Parish;
- 3. Each and all the parishioners of the three extinguished parishes and the faithful residing within the territorial boundaries of the new parish will be parishioners of the new Our Lady of Victory and SS. Bartholomew and Pascal Parish;
- 4. The territory of the new Our Lady of Victory and SS. Bartholomew and Pascal Parish will be the combined territory of the extinguished St. Bartholomew Parish and the extinguished

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- St. Pascal Parish and part of the territory of extinguished Our Lady of Victory Parish, as described and drawn in the attached document and map;
- 5. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the three former parishes, together with any obligations with which they may be burdened, will become those of the new Our Lady of Victory and SS. Bartholomew and Pascal Parish (see c. 121);
- 6. The churches of the former St. Bartholomew Parish, the former Our Lady of Victory Parish, and the former St. Pascal Parish will be churches of the new Our Lady of Victory and SS. Bartholomew and Pascal Parish, retaining their own titles (c. 1218), and St. Pascal Church will be designated the parish church of the new parish;
- 7. The data submitted to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the Council meeting of December 18, 2020, are to be attached to this decree and will become available upon request to those eligible to receive them;
- 8. The sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research pertaining to the three former parishes will be collected and maintained at the St. Pascal Church campus, unless otherwise determined by the expert staff of the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago; and
- 9. Notification of this decree shall be given immediately through the official website of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The decree shall be conveyed to the pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, the pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, and the pastor of St. Pascal Parish. As soon as possible, the pastors shall inform their parishioners through the parish bulletin or other suitable means.

Before hierarchical recourse (appeal) may be taken against this decree, a written, dated, and signed petition to reconsider or amend the decree must be delivered to me within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737).

Given this 28th day of January, A.D. 2021.

From Holy Name Cathedral.

Chicago, Illinois

Res Robot Facilie
Ecclesiastical Notary

This is the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is World Day for Consecrated Life and Scout Sunday. During the week we remember St. Jerome Emiliani, International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Scholastica, Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick, and Lincoln's birthday.



REP will have in-person classes on February 10th and 24th. Please remember that Ash Wednesday is February 17th. If you are attending Mass you must register on our website!

The First Communion retreat is February 27th at 9:30-11:30 in our school hall. Lunch will not be served. All children must wear a mask at all times and they will be socially distanced.

March is a busy month. Please mark your calendars! March 2nd at 7 p.m. is our Confirmation practice in the upper church for all candidates and sponsors only. REP meets on March 10th and 24th. The Confirmation Vigil is March 11th at 7 p.m. for the Confirmation class, their sponsors and immediate family members. Confirmation is March 12th at 7 p.m. No Bishop will be present. Fr. Michael will confirm the class. Reservations must be made by calling the REP office to attend any service in church.

In Closing....I recently came upon a book that belonged to my Italian grandmother. The book is truly a treasure. My grandmother had written a few things as notes in the book, and just to see her handwriting brought me joy. She had beautiful handwriting.

The book is called "Grandmother Said It Best!" It is a treasury of Italian Proverbs. I will share some of them with you.

"Amici e maccheroni, se non sono caldi, non sono buoni".

This means friends, like macaroni, if they're not warm, they're not good!

"Il male non viene sempre per nuocere ma per perfezionare.

" Misfortune does not always come to injure, but rather to perfect.

"L'educazione dei figli si deve incominciare nelle braccia della sua madre." A child's education ought to begin in his mother's arms.

Have a good week! M.B. Frystak DRE/Pastoral Associate

M.B. Frystak

Our Lady of Victory - Mass Intentions



SATURDAY - February 6

4:30pm † 50th Wedding Anniversary Pat & Pat O'Brien req. by O'Brien Family

SUNDAY - February 7

8:00am † William. Daly Jr.

req. by Parish Family of Our Lady of Victory

10:30am † Patricia Montmarquett req. by Friends

MONDAY - February 8

8:00am † Daniel La Fleur

req. by Maureen & Tom Taylor

TUESDAY - February 9

8:00am Open Intention

WEDNESDAY - February 10

† Greg Prete req. by Dr. Ekta Patel

THURSDAY - February 11

8:00am Open Intention

FRIDAY - February 12

† Gertie Brennan req. by Daughter

SATURDAY - February 13

4:30pm † Deborah Schiavo

req. by Parish Family of Our Lady of Victory

SUNDAY - February 14

8:00am † Betty Joch & Ed Schoewe

req. by Dolores Schoewe

10:30am † John Jakubosky

req. by Parish Family of Our Lady of Victory

Mass Time	Lector
February 13 4:30pm	Pat O'Brien
February 14 8:00am	Jackie Brennan
February 14 10:30am	Annette Baase

Offer the gift of Holy Mass for your loved ones. Mass intentions can be requested by calling our office.



Ash Wednesday,
February 17th:

Mass:
8:00 am & 7:00 pm

Ash Service:
3:00 pm

Our temporary schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8 AM Mass

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday

7PM - 8PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mass celebrated by Fr. Michael without presence of faithful.

Friday

7PM - 8PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass celebrated by Fr. Michael without presence of faithful.

Saturday

3 PM – 4 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:30PM Vigil Mass

Sunday

8 AM Mass 10:30 AM Mass

www.ourladyofvictory.info

Mass reservation can be done by calling (312) 880-7790 or visiting our webpage at www.ourladyofvictory.info

2021 Annual Catholic Appeal Come, follow me ... and bring hope to the world

I invite you to spend some time this week reflecting on the Annual Catholic Appeal materials you should have received in your bulletin or in the mail. The Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection: It is a pledged commitment to make a gift over time. Your pledge can be made payable in installments.

Each pledge makes a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services to answer the call of Jesus to "Come, follow me ... and bring hope to the world."

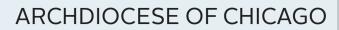
If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back. This year, we also encourage our parishioners to make their Annual Catholic Appeal gifts online:

http://annualcatholicappeal.com





and bring hope to





PLEASE PRAY FOR

Please pray for all the Sick, Shut-ins, and the Convalescents of the Parish, our relatives and friends, especially:

George Alex, Judy Allen, Phil Anselmini, William Avorywoskie, Pamela Banks, Ted Bauer, Cathy Behof, Virginia Bentley, Paul Bilyeu, James Booth, Jessica Butler, Chuck Conn, Sue Crimmins, Patricia Dineen, Dawn Donovan, Charles Farley, Ed Galus, Mark Goldman, Rose Groya, Laura Hartman, Catherine Henehan, Walter Hoendervoogt, Robert Johnson, Tom Johnson, Eleanor Jura, Ann Kaleneasa, Edward Kocal, Eleanor Kost, Patricia Leck, Patrick & Nora Lynch, Paul Masciopinto, Nan Nash, Diane Ockerlund, Judy Ordonez, Roberta Paulson, Elaine Pettersen, Carol Piorek, Louis Rangel, Leonard Rizzo, Elsie Robello, Gertrude Rollinson, Michael Rowland, Carmele Sarno, Barbara Schuler, Gloria Sedlacek, Richard Sieracki, Norb Sliwa, John & Ann Sobun, Rita Stahl, Katherine Snow, Rosetta Taylor, Frances Turner, Ed Watkowski, Barbara White, Theresa Zavacki.

Please remember in your prayers all the faithful departed family and friends of Our Lady of Victory, especially for Audrey Graziano, Dominick Clemente, Barbara Magaha, John Magaha, Dolores Cantacessi, Joseph Ejnik Jr., Chester Dymek, Agnes Brown, Nanette Meyer, Patricia DiPrizio, William Daly Jr., Debbi Schiavo, John Jakubosky, Edward Schoewe, Bill Hackett, and Walter Bilyeu who have recently passed during the time we have been unable to celebrate as in the past, may they rest in peace.



VIGIL LIGHTS

FOR THE LIVING

Michelle Albanese, Leilani Anderson, Ed Belsan, Mary Berens, Nick Buccola, Audrey Butler, Mary Campanolo, Jocelyn V. M. Chan, George S. Domaszek, Mary Ann M. Domaszek, Martha Francico, Elyse Harwick, Michael Hassett, Bob Jones, Vicki Kost, Cecelia LaPorta, Josephine Lentino, Patricia Natale, Ostling Family, Gloria Paglini, Richard Palasik, Helen Pobat, Paul E. Posch, Stacy Posch, Ann Marie Posch, Ediwn & Natalie Radwanski, Jake Reed, Janet Santicola, Diane Schick, Michelle Schmidt, Gertrude Skiba, Skowronski Family, Josephine Sproch, Mary Tomczak, Jim Warner, Special Intention, Halina, Andrzej, Victoria.



FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS

Marie & Carmen Ambroggio, Adele Anselmini, John & Ann Anselmini, Gloria Austria, Nicholas & Muriel Buccola, Charles & Carmela Buccola, Rose & Placio Buccola, Michael & Robert Buccola, Audrey Butler, Joseph & Anna Catanzaro, Carol Conn, Rosemary

Colby, Gerald Crowley, Ellen C. DePouw, Leo Dineen, George P. & Cecelia V. Domaszek, Jaime Figueroa, Wanda Jones, Theresa Juda, Gayle Small-Kopera, Herbert Kost, Wayne Larsen, Dolores Levar, Marie & Mikie Lomascolo, Helen Mueller, Gregory Paglini, Alex Pobat, Paul L. & Anne Posch, Lillian Rymko, Skowronski Family, George Sproch, Ron Szatkowski, Martha Todd, Henry & Agnes Tush, Frances & Ignatius Wycislo, Nicolina & Edwin J. Wycislo, Bob Zavacki, Special Intention for the Souls in Purgatory.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

C	01/26/20	01/31/21
Stewardship\$	5 4,800	.\$ 3,755
Loose	565	.\$ 148
Total	5 5,365	.\$ 3,903
Envelopes Used	140	47
Mass Attendance.	486	not given
The weekly figures above do not include electronic giving.		
Electronic giving for December 2020\$ 5,055		

Thank you for your generosity!

Please remember our lady of victory in your will.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2020

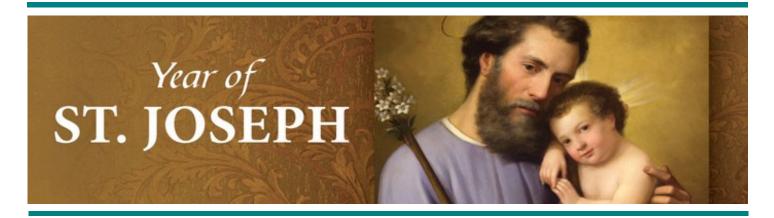
Parish Goal:	\$28,225
Total pledged:	\$27,812
% of Goal	96%
Total Collected thru 01/20/21	\$27.067



Parish Goal:	\$645,000
Total Pledged:	\$694,803
Percent of Goal:	108%
Total collected through 01/20	\$473,349
Parish portion collected:	\$286,341
Arch. portion collected:	\$190,894

Pope Francis' Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.





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MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil Mass

4:30pm

Sunday Masses

8:ooam

10:30am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - Morning Mass 8:00am

Holy Day Masses

As Announced

Eucharistic Adoration:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – 8:30am – 9:00am Wednesday, Friday - 7:00pm - 8:00 pm

Rosary

Thursday after the 8:00am Mass

All Fridays in Lent:

Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS*

M -F 9:00am-4:00pm closed for lunch 12:00-1:00pm SAT & SUN CLOSED Rectory Phone Number 773-286-2950 *(Currently due to Covid-19 restrictions – office visit by appointment only)

POPE FRANCIS GLOBAL ACADEMY

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SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 7:00pm – 8:00pm, and Saturday 3:00pm – 4:00pm Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 2:00pm. Parents will attend a Baptism Preparation Program prior to the Baptism. Call the Rectory at 773-286-2950 for more information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Contact must be made with one of the priests at least 6 months in advance.

Call the Rectory at 773-286-2950 for more information.

Ministry of Care

is available to bring Communion to the homebound, to visit and pray for those hospitalized, and to arrange for the Anointing of the Sick.

Call the Rectory at 773-286-2950 for more information.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

R.E.P. Religious Education Program for grade school children is held on Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm.

R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - Religious Instruction and Formation for adults preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

OLV for Me is a program for 3-5-year olds. The classes meet in the school during the 10:30am Mass on Sunday mornings from September thru May. Registration forms are available in the rectory and the REP office. For more information on this or any of the other religious education programs, please contact Mary Beth Frystak at 773-283-2229 ext.29.

SPRED provides faith information and inclusion for children and adults with developmental disabilities or learning problems. For information call the rectory at 773-286-2950.

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul

Please call the rectory for more information.