



MOST REVEREND DANIEL E. THOMAS
BISHOP OF TOLEDO

DECREE

EXTINCTIVE UNION – MERGER OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH, TOLEDO, WITH SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, POINT PLACE

WHEREAS in June 1900, Most Reverend Ignatius Horstmann, then Bishop of Cleveland, erected Saint Michael the Archangel Parish which was completed in 1901. In 1910, this parish became part of the newly erected Diocese of Toledo;

WHEREAS Saint Michael the Archangel Parish originally cared for those residing in the current territorial boundaries of Saint John the Baptist Parish, Point Place. Given the amount of growth in the area, in or around 1914 Saint John the Baptist was established as a mission of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish. It then became a parish in 1918;

WHEREAS in 2005, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish and Saint John the Baptist Parish were twinned up until 2021 when Saint Michael the Archangel Parish returned to being a stand-alone parish with a Parochial Administrator;

WHEREAS pre-COVID 19 pandemic Mass attendance declined from 105 to 80 attendees over the course of five years. Since 2020, the parish continued to decline with an average attendance not greater than 50 attendees at the one Sunday Mass, this is an average decrease in Mass attendance of 5% annually;

WHEREAS in winter of 2025, an analysis of the overall health of the parish was undertaken, evaluating the sacramental statistics, Mass attendance, finances, vitality of the parish, options for pastoral care, etc., involving the Parochial Administrator, parish staff, members of the finance and pastoral councils of the parish as well as parishioners and diocesan officials, resulting in a recommendation to merge Saint Michael the Archangel Parish with Saint John the Baptist Parish, in order to provide for the pastoral care of the faithful and to promote better their active engagement in the Church's mission of worship, evangelization, and care for the poor;

WHEREAS the undersigned Diocesan Bishop convoked the Presbyteral Council on 17 September 2025 and presided over it according to the norm of law (cann. 127 §1, 166 §1, and 500 §1), placing the proposed modification of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish and Saint John the Baptist Parish

on the agenda ahead of time, ensuring that a summary of the status was provided to the members of the Council (can. 50), proposing the extinctive union-merger, seeking the informed and free counsel of the members concerning the proposed modification (can. 515 §2), listening to arguments both for and against the proposed modification, and receiving strong support for the same;

WHEREAS “It is only for the diocesan bishop to erect, suppress, or alter parishes. He is neither to erect, suppress, nor alter notably parishes, unless he has heard the presbyteral council” (can. 515 §2);

Therefore, to promote the good of souls and appropriate pastoral care, the undersigned Bishop of Toledo, has determined by virtue of this

DECREE

1. The parishes of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Toledo, and Saint John the Baptist, Point Place, are united via an extinctive union-merger and Saint John the Baptist Parish alone remains.
2. The territory of Saint John the Baptist Parish will now include the territory of the former Saint Michael the Archangel Parish and the pastor of Saint John the Baptist will have pastoral responsibility of caring for the members in the newly defined territory.
3. The parish church of Saint John the Baptist will continue to be the parish church located at 5153 N. Summit St, Toledo, OH 43611.
4. The regular schedule of Masses and the celebration of the sacraments will continue to be determined by the pastor of Saint John the Baptist.
5. All sacramental registers hitherto preserved by Saint Michael the Archangel Parish are to be conveyed to the diocesan Archives located at 2535 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo, OH 43610, where they are to be faithfully preserved according to the norm of can. 535 § 5.
6. The maintenance of the temporal goods will be assumed by the Diocese of Toledo given that Saint John the Baptist Parish is not prepared to undertake the financial management of these affairs.

Decree
6 October 2025
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This decree is effective upon its legitimate publication to all the faithful (cf. can. 54 §1). The merger will take effect on 6 January 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The request for revocation or emendation of this decision may be sought in accord with the norm of law (can. 1734 §2).

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Toledo on this sixth day of October in the year of our Lord, two-thousand twenty-five.


Sister Rose Marie Timmer, RSM
Chancellor


Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo