



**DECREE OF EXTINGUISHING UNION
REGARDING THE MERGING OF
HOLY ROSARY PARISH IN TACOMA INTO
ST. ANN PARISH IN TACOMA**

To Our Brothers and Sisters of the Archdiocese of Seattle

Holy Rosary Parish located in Tacoma was established in 1891 to provide for the needs of the primarily German community in the area. Over time, with the addition of other parishes nearby, the demographics of Holy Rosary Parish have changed with the shifting socio-economic conditions in the area. This has led to a loss of families and a steady decline in the sacramental life of the parish. In addition, the parish has been unable to meet its financial obligations for the last seven years.

In 2015, the Pierce Deanery began a planning process, mindful of Pope Francis' call to ensure that parish structures are oriented toward mission and "capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." (*Evangelii gaudium*, 27) There were serious concerns about the viability of Holy Rosary Parish even before the safety of the church building became an issue due to the issues set forth above.

Significant efforts to retain Holy Rosary Parish and the historical church building have been encouraged over several years. Parishioners were asked to engage more fully in missionary discipleship and support the ongoing parish operations financially and spiritually. These efforts have not been fruitful.

Deferred maintenance on the church led to specific, urgent safety concerns and, in October 2018, worship services were moved to the school auditorium out of concern for safety while an assessment of the church building was made. It was estimated that the cost of full repair would exceed \$17 million and the minimum amount to safely reopen the church for access would be over \$2 million. A professional assessment estimated that the parish community's maximum fundraising capability would generate approximately \$600,000.

A parish-wide meeting was held on May 29, 2019 to discuss these challenges. The Parish Pastoral Council met several times, as did the Parish Finance Council, during 2019 and 2020 to review and discuss these same difficulties. The Finance Council met for a final time on July 23, 2020 and made its final recommendation, which was to suppress the parish. The Pastoral Council was also heard and consulted in this process.

In September 2020, the parish school was relocated to nearby St. Martin of Tours Parish in Fife. That same month, sacramental and pastoral ministry ceased at the parish. The Catholic families remaining at Holy Rosary Parish were able to join neighboring parishes since there are six parishes within close distance of one another in Tacoma.

Therefore,

Having considered the law and the facts;

And having heard, in accordance with canon 50, all those whose rights might be injured, including a meeting with the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council on October 3, 2019;

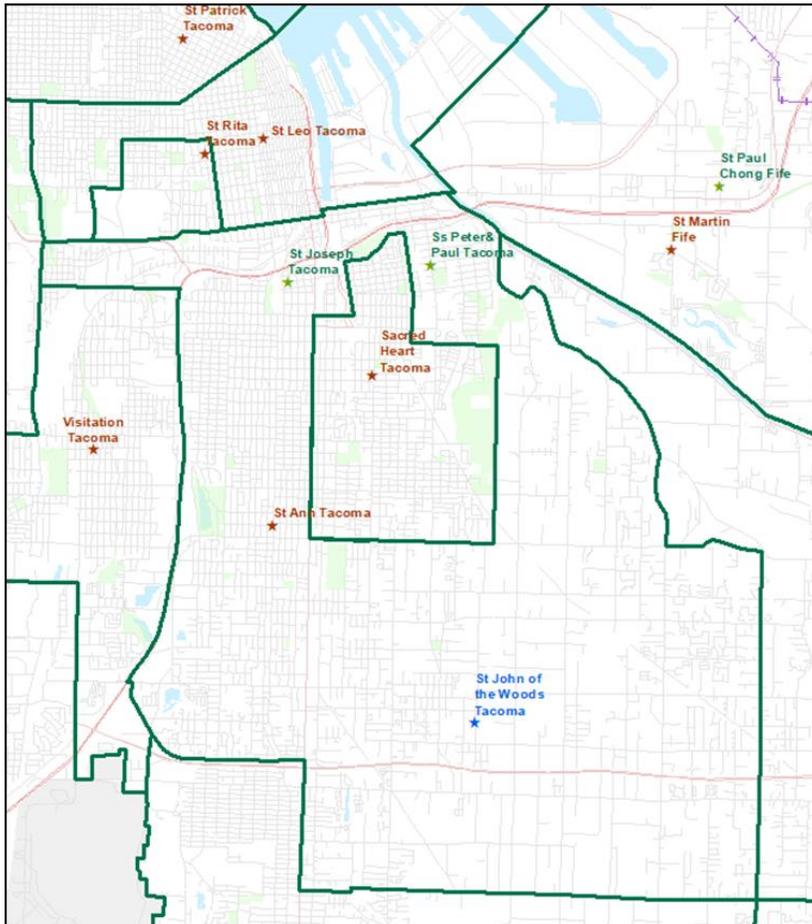
And having heard the Presbyteral Council, in accordance with canon 515 §2 on May 20, 2021;

And having determined the good of souls requires it;

I have deemed it necessary and proper that Holy Rosary Parish in Tacoma, be amalgamated and extintively merged with St. Ann Parish, Tacoma and that the boundaries of St. Ann Parish include the geographical boundaries of Holy Rosary Parish.

I, the undersigned Archbishop of Seattle, exercising my ordinary power and, in accord with canon 515 §2, do hereby decree that, effective July 1, 2021, Holy Rosary Parish, Tacoma, with all the rights, obligations and privileges accorded to it by law, be hereto united to and amalgamated with St. Ann Parish, Tacoma and, from this extinctive union, St. Ann Parish, Tacoma remains. The territory of St. Ann Parish shall comprise the territory of the extinct Holy Rosary Parish as well as its current territory.

Henceforth, the boundaries of St. Ann Parish, Tacoma shall be as follows:



- **North:** Beginning at the intersection of State Rte 16 and S Tylor St, proceed east along State Rte 16 to the intersection of S Sprague Ave and S 25th St and continue east on S 25th St to I-705,
- thence north on I-705 to Puyallup Ave,
- thence east on Puyallup Ave to the Puyallup River.
- **East:** Southeast following the Puyallup River to the eastern Tacoma City limits,
- thence south on the eastern Tacoma City limits to Pioneer Way E
- thence southeast on Pioneer Way E to its intersection with Canyon Road E,
- thence south on Canyon Road E to 72nd St E
- thence east on 72nd St E to Woodland Ave E,
- thence south on Woodland Ave E to 128th St E.
- **South:** West on 128th St E as it becomes 129th St E to Pacific Ave S/State Rte 7.
- **West:** North on Pacific Ave S to 108th St S,
- thence west on 108th St S as it becomes Sales Rd S,
- thence northwest on Sales Rd S extended as it becomes 26th Ave S,
- thence north on 26th Ave S to 96th St S,
- thence west on 96th St S to I-5,
- thence north on I-5 to the extension of S 35th St,
- thence west on S 35th St extended to S Tyler St,
- thence north on S Tyler St to State Rte 16, the point of beginning.
- All boundaries above are exclusive of the territory assigned to Sacred Heart Parish.

The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the extinct Holy Rosary Parish must be respected. In addition, the patrimonial goods, rights and obligations of the extinct Holy Rosary Parish are to be defined and allocated in accordance with the norm of law (cc. 121 and 122).

All the parish and sacramental records of the extinct Holy Rosary Parish are to be properly preserved and safeguarded by St. Ann Parish in accordance with the norm of law.

This decree is to be communicated to the pastor of St. Ann Parish and the priest moderator of Holy Rosary Parish who are the legal representatives of the parishes, and all other interested persons according to the norm of law (c.532). It may be challenged within the preemptory time limit of ten useful days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (c. 1734 §2). Any initial recourse is to be sent to the Archbishop of Seattle at 710 9th Avenue Seattle, Washington, 98104.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery
of the Archdiocese of Seattle
this 1st day of July
in the year of the Lord 2021.



Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle



Mary E. Santi
Chancellor