



DECREE OF EXTINCTIVE UNION REGARDING THE MERGING OF ST. JOHN OF THE WOODS PARISH IN TACOMA INTO ST. ANN PARISH IN TACOMA

To Our Brothers and Sisters of the Archdiocese of Seattle

St. John of the Woods in Tacoma was established as a parish in 1929 to provide for the spiritual needs of that portion of the Christian faithful in the area. Over time, the demographics of the area have changed and other parishes have been established nearby.

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) While evaluating the situation of St. John of the Woods Parish, the priests of the deanery proposed that it could be administered as a mission of St. Ann Parish in Tacoma.

In fact, St. John of the Woods Parish is currently administered by the pastor of St. Ann Parish and functions as a mission with minimal staff and ministries of its own. A change in its status would formalize this arrangement.

Therefore, in order to provide more effectively for the needs of the Christian faithful in the central Tacoma area at this time, I have deemed it necessary and proper that St. John of the Woods Parish in Tacoma be amalgamated and extinctively merged with St. Ann Parish in Tacoma and that the boundaries of St. Ann Parish include the geographical boundaries of St. John of the Woods Parish.

The church of St. John of the Woods is to be relegated to the status of a mission entrusted to the care of the pastor of St. Ann Parish, Tacoma to which the new mission is to be attached. In particular law, a mission is defined as a community of the Christian faithful stably established in a particular Church that is not a parish or quasi-parish, where the sacraments are celebrated regularly, and whose pastoral care is entrusted to the proper pastor of the territorial parish within whose geographical boundaries the mission is located, under the authority of the diocesan bishop.

Therefore,

Having considered the law and the facts;

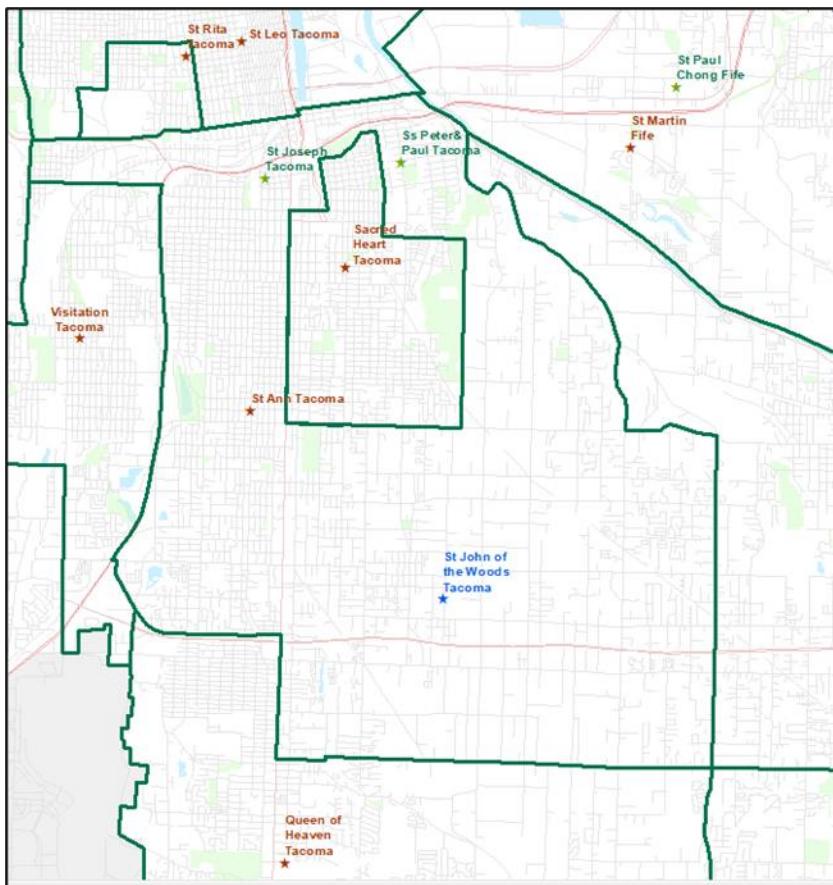
Having consulted with the local parish leadership who would be impacted by these modifications;

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

And having determined that the good of souls requires it;

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, St. John of the Woods Parish in Tacoma, with all the rights, obligations and privileges accorded to it by law, be hereto united to and amalgamated with St. Ann Parish in Tacoma and, from this extinctive union, St. Ann Parish, Tacoma remains. The territory of St. Ann Parish shall comprise the territory of the extinct St. John of the Woods Parish as well as its current territory.

Furthermore, the church of St. John of the Woods is relegated to the status of a mission entrusted to the care of the proper pastor of St. Ann Parish, effective July 1, 2021. The boundaries of St. Ann Parish in Tacoma are thereby modified 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.

This decree is to be communicated to the pastor and all 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