



+ May 20, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Our Lady of Mount Virgin parish,

Today I have issued the official decree to suppress the parish of Our Lady of Mount Virgin, effective July 1, 2022.

Our Lady of Mount Virgin began as a personal parish for the Italian community and since then it welcomed many other cultural communities. Today the parish church is located close to several other parishes and no longer serves its founding goal of offering Mass in Italian for the Italian community. Today the Italian community is found all across the Archdiocese of Seattle celebrating Mass and engaged in their own local parishes, which is wonderful.

These factors, including several others, such as the lack of engagement in the sacraments and faith formation, low ministry outreach and declining Mass attendance among other things led to the recommendations for me to suppress this parish.

However, before doing so, I asked the strategic planning team to work closely with Father Hung Nguyen and the stakeholder team comprised of your fellow parishioners, to help each cultural community determine their desires for the future.

I share my sincere gratitude with everyone who has been involved in this process. Clearly you have listened to the Holy Spirit and worked tirelessly to help your community move forward with hope. We have not only heard your wishes, but have begun work to ensure that the Vietnamese, Chinese and Lao communities have a home in their primary language at a different parish.

Please know that these efforts are all underpinned by the heartfelt desire to foster strong, vibrant parish communities that carry out the mission of the Church with engaged communities and robust evangelization efforts to spread the joy of the Gospel.

After July 1, 2022, use of Our Lady of Mount Virgin church and the attached meeting spaces will be considered on a case-by-case basis with prior approval. Please contact [churchrequest@seattlearch.org](mailto:churchrequest@seattlearch.org) for more information.

Please know of my continued prayers for you. I pray that through these changes you experience the grace of the Holy Spirit and hope for the future. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

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