



**DECREE OF MODIFICATION**  
**FOR**  
**ST. JOSEPH PARISH IN SEATTLE**

To Our Brothers and Sisters of the Archdiocese of Seattle:

Whereas, St. Joseph Parish in Seattle was established in 1907 to provide for the needs of the Catholic faithful in the area; and

Whereas, the South Seattle Deanery initiated a planning process in 2015 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 channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.” (*Evangelii gaudium*, 27); and

Whereas, the results of this planning process recommended that St. Patrick Parish in Seattle be merged into a nearby parish to ensure the vitality of the Church in Seattle; and

Whereas, St. Joseph Parish is located in close proximity to St. Patrick Parish and shares a geographical border; and

Whereas, St. Joseph Parish has the capacity to welcome the parishioners of St. Patrick Parish and provide for their pastoral care; and

Whereas, a merger of St. Joseph Parish and St. Patrick Parish in Seattle would allow these communities to combine resources for the benefit of all;

Therefore, having considered the necessary information and proofs; having heard, in accordance with canon 50, all those whose rights might be injured; having heard the Presbyteral Council, in accordance with canon 515 §2, on March 10, 2022; and with due consideration for the good of souls; I, the undersigned Archbishop of Seattle do hereby decree the following:

1. By means of an extinctive union, St. Patrick Parish in Seattle shall be subsumed into St. Joseph Parish in Seattle so that only St. Joseph Parish remains, in accordance with canon 121.

2. St. Joseph Parish obtains the goods and patrimonial rights proper to the extinct St. Patrick Parish and assumes its obligations. With regard to the allocation of goods in particular and to the fulfillment of obligations, the intention of the founders and donors as well as acquired rights must be respected in accordance with the norm of law. (cc. 121, 1267 §3)
3. All sacramental registers of the extinct St. Patrick Parish are to be properly preserved and safeguarded by St. Joseph Parish in accordance with the norm of law.
4. Henceforth, the boundaries of St. Joseph Parish shall be as follows:
  - **North:** Beginning in the center of the Ship Canal Bridge (on Interstate 5) as it crosses Portage Bay.
  - thence south along the shore of Portage Bay (including the houseboats on the western shore of the Bay)
  - thence east along the shoreline of Portage Bay, through the Montlake Cut to the western border of East Montlake Park.
  - **East:** South on the western border of E Montlake Park and under Hwy 520 to Lake Washington Blvd E. where it intersects 24th Ave E,
  - thence east along Lake Washington Blvd E to the western border of the Lake Washington Arboretum,
  - thence south along the western border of Washington Park Arboretum to the point where its southern border meets E Madison St.
  - **South:** Southeast on E Madison St. to E Denny Way at 22nd Ave,
  - thence west on E Denny Way to 15th Ave E,
  - thence north on 15th Ave E to E Mercer St,
  - thence west on E Mercer St to 10th Ave E,
  - thence north on 10th Ave E to E Roy St,
  - thence west on E Roy St to Fairview Ave N.
  - **West:** Thence north on Fairview Ave N to Lake Union,
  - thence north on the eastern shoreline of Lake Union (including the boats, docks and houseboats) to the point of beginning at the Ship Canal Bridge.
5. This decree becomes effective on September 1, 2022.
6. A separate decree for St. Patrick Parish has also been issued this day to provide a summary of facts particular to that parish's condition.
7. This decree is to be communicated to the pastoral leader of St. Joseph Parish, who will notify the parishioners as soon as possible upon receipt. It may be challenged within the peremptory 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of July  
in the year of our Lord 2022.



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



Benjamin Altenhofen  
Chancellor