



Holy Martyrs Parish

801 W 73rd Avenue
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

Our Lady of Consolation

8303 Taft Street
Merrillville, Indiana 46410



29 August 2025

Feast of St. John the Baptist

Dear Parishioners,

I am overjoyed to announce that effective September 15, 2025, on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Holy Martyrs and Our Lady of Consolation will be united as one new parish under the title, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs.

When assigned to shepherd the Merrillville community in September 2021, I joined an ongoing conversation that began seven months earlier, following the untimely death of Fr. Meade, regarding the viability of the five Merrillville parishes. Since then, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many leaders in our community, including members of our Pastoral and Finance Councils and other groups, who participated in this consultative process. These conversations have **affirmed the wisdom of the decision published by the Bishop on July 1, 2021, accepting the recommendation that, in phases over time, all our Merrillville parishes would become one parish with two worship sites.**

On January 1, 2022, Holy Martyrs Parish emerged out of the former communities of Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Andrew the Apostle, and St. Joan of Arc Parishes as a new expression of faith, hope, and love. On August 1, 2023, at the request of their Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council, St. Stephen, Martyr Parish joined with Holy Martyrs Parish. On March 1, 2022, I became pastor of Our Lady of Consolation and have been greatly encouraged by how all have worked together to make Christ known more vibrantly through our many joint ministries and activities.

Following the necessary consultation and canonical processes, Bishop McClory celebrated final Masses of Thanksgiving at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, St. Joan of Arc Church, and St. Stephen, Martyr Church. Since then, these properties have either been sold or are in the process of being sold, with the proceeds benefiting Holy Martyrs Parish. As outlined in the recommendation accepted by Bishop McClory, and continuously affirmed by our Pastoral Council over the last four years, **the united parish community of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs will inherit all of the assets and liabilities, spiritual and temporal, including the facilities at Our Lady of Consolation and Holy Martyrs, as well as our parish school, Aquinas, and make use of them for many years to come.**

Since Holy Martyrs and Our Lady of Consolation have been working closely together in very practical ways for several years, many things will not change. **The current Mass schedule and office hours and location etc. will continue unchanged.**

Participation in weekend Mass has blossomed since changes were made to the Mass schedule in June of 2022. The new schedule reasonably respected each parish's previous customs while allowing for one priest to celebrate all the regularly scheduled Masses without regular assistance from visiting priests. I am happy to say that the consolidation of five sites with fourteen weekend Masses, to two sites with five weekend Mass times has resulted in the **average Mass attendees growing from 800 to 1,000 attendees**. It is exciting to experience the Merrillville Catholic community coming together and welcoming new parishioners.

I cannot fully express in words my joy at seeing the many people and ministries of our communities unite as one parish over the last four years. This unity led the Parish Pastoral and Finance Council and others to a consensus regarding, from several options, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs as our new parish name. We are committed to joyfully proclaiming Christ with a single voice as our communities unite together as one.

Over the next several weeks, you will see some changes in signage and stationery. Eventually, you will receive new envelopes reflecting our new name, as it will take some months for all the details to be finalized. **For now, please continue to write checks, or give electronically, to *Our Lady of Consolation* or *Holy Martyrs Parish* as you prefer. I have included a copy of this Sunday's bulletin to invite you to take advantage of the many exciting things going on.**

As I hope you know, I am honored to serve as your pastor. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of service. I am thankful for the support you have shown to me. May you and your families know of my continued prayers and blessings!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mauch", written in a cursive style.

(Father) Ted Mauch
Pastor

Enclosure: Bulletin