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SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS CHURCH

6741 Rock Hill Road · Affton, Missouri 63123

On Wednesday (February 21st) Fr. Callahan and I met with representatives from the Archdiocese who informed us that all of the appeals concerning St. John Paul II have now been settled and the decree that was issued back in May that St. JPII was to be subsumed into Seven Holy Founders now takes full effect. So what does this mean going forward? The assets of JPII follow the parishioners, thus all of the material assets (buildings, furnishings, cash reserves) are now joined with the assets here at Seven Holy Founders to be used for the advancement and benefit of souls within the territory of what is now officially one parish, i.e. Seven Holy Founders.

Those of you who were parishioners of JPII will no longer receive any correspondence from JPII (envelopes, emails, Flocknotes, etc.) but rather all communication will come from Seven Holy Founders. If you have been receiving envelopes, you will begin to receive them marked as Seven Holy Founders. For most everyone the day-to-day operation of the parish will look very much the same. We will continue to allow weddings and funerals to take place at the former JPII and will continue monitoring and caring for all the facilities. We have had some inquiries into possible rental agreements for some of the space(s) and will be diligent about our ongoing stewardship of all our resources.

I am well aware that there may be sorrow for some of you in letting go of places and the memories they may hold, and I sympathize with that, but I do believe that this Wednesday's news will allow for all of us to make fuller use of our abilities and resources. If you have any questions do not hesitate to present them to me. May this news find us confident in the present and hope filled in the future.

Blessings,

Fr. Jeff Knight



February 23, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last May, after the extensive *All Things New* consultative process, followed by my own time spent in prayer, study and discernment, I issued a decree that Saint John Paul II Parish in Affton was to be amalgamated into neighboring parish, Seven Holy Founders, effective August 1, 2023.

In keeping with Canon Law, a period of time was allowed for any member of Saint John Paul II or Seven Holy Founders who claimed to have been aggrieved by the decree to formally request that I change my decision or, in the case of my decision standing, to request that the Dicastery for the Clergy in Rome review and rule on the decree.

Early in the process, we were informed of two possible appeals regarding St. John Paul II Parish. While we awaited responses from the Dicastery regarding these and any other possible appeals, I asked your pastor, Monsignor Jeffrey Knight, to refrain from any changes that would be difficult to reverse, such as merging the two parishes' finances, until the Dicastery completed reviews.

We have since received correspondences confirming that the two appeals were deemed invalid by the Dicastery of the Clergy, and a proper amount of time has now passed that I am confident no other appeals are pending. Therefore, I have asked Monsignor Knight to proceed with all remaining practicalities to complete the amalgamation.

I thank you for your prayers and trust during the extensive discernment and implementation process and ask for your continued support of your parish priests. You remain in my prayers as you come together as a single parish family to be a collective witness of Christ's love to your community.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis