

Dear Friends,

This evening a group of ONE Catholic lay leaders, Fr. Jan Trela and I received the announcement of the final decisions of Bishop Michael Fisher regarding parishes to be merged and/or sold across our Diocese. As regards our ONE Catholic Community, it was announced that:

1. The St. Stephen's worship site, rectory, and property in Middleport, which are part of Holy Trinity Parish, will be closed and sold. Holy Trinity Parish will continue with one worship site at St. Mary's Church in Medina.
2. St. Mark's Parish in Kendall will merge with St. Mary's Parish in Holley. The building and property at St. Mark's in Kendall will be closed and sold. St. Mary's in Holley will be the sole worship site following the merger.
3. The rectory and property which remain at the site of the former St. Joseph's Church in Lyndonville will be sold.
4. Our Lady of the Lake Parish, with its sole remaining worship site of St. Patrick's in Barker, will move to the Central Niagara Family of Parishes, also known as Family #10.
5. Holy Family Parish in Albion will remain open.
6. ONE Catholic will retain the St. Rocco's Festival grounds in Hulberton.

These transitions will take place at various times between October 1, 2024 and June 8, 2025. As of right now, specific dates have not been set.

These decisions have been difficult to countenance and consider over the last few months since we received the Recommendations from the Road to Renewal Team. It is painful to lose things that we have known, loved and treasured. Our Churches are sacred places that have been blessed by God through the Church in order to enable us to be with the Lord in the celebration of the Sacraments. It is sorrowful to let go of them. And in the same moment, we know and trust that God, who is ever faithful, will guide us in his pathways and always be with us in the Holy Eucharist.

Now having received these decisions, we will move forward with God's help and grace. I will continue to provide information on this process in the weeks ahead. As the ONE Catholic Community, we will deepen our mission of faith, charity, evangelization, and stewardship in this portion of the Vineyard of the Lord.

God Bless you, Fr. Mark