



St. Michael the Archangel Church

Fr. Dan Kresinski

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April 16-17, 2016

4th Sunday of Easter

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael Church,

I have some news about our church which may be upsetting. A few days ago Bishop Persico announced his PRELIMINARY proposals for parishes in our diocese's Pastoral Plan. Our parish is greatly affected. The reasons for the diocesan plan are declining numbers: number of Catholics in our diocese; number of Catholics attending weekend Mass (about 35%); and also number of priests (in the next 5 years we hope to have 5 new priests, but 30 priests will reach the retirement age of 75).

To quote the bishop: "St. Catherine of Siena Parish will partner with St. Michael the Archangel Parish."

Let me explain the term, "partner": Partnered parishes continue to exist as distinct parishes. They have their own separate parishioners, parish church, bank accounts, other assets and liabilities, and Finance Council. They share a common pastor, staff, office and Pastoral Council.

This proposal is PRELIMINARY. There will be a period of feedback until May 20 for individuals, groups and parishes. More details on this will soon be announced. The bishop and his committee are open to other ideas; this was shown in some changes to the preliminary proposals for the Catholic schools of the diocese. After the feedback is received, the bishop and his committee will deliberate until September, when the final decisions will be announced. By mid-February 2017 all changes will be in effect.

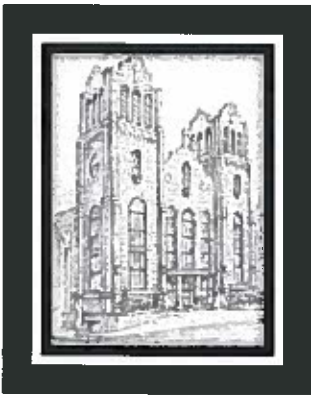
Continue to pray for wisdom and prudence for all involved in changes in our diocese. If you have any reason to speak with me, I am only a phone call away --- 371-5773 extension 3.

St. Michael the Archangel, pray for us.

Sincerely in Christ,

PS: On the other side of the page I explain the changes for St. Joseph Church; St. Michael parishioners will be affected.

PPS: If you go onto our parish website (stmikestjoe.com), you can see how the Pastoral Plan affects many other parishes around our area and throughout the diocese.



St. Joseph Church

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To quote the bishop: "St. Catherine of Siena Parish will be merged with St. Joseph Parish. The parish church will be St. Catherine; St. Joseph will be the secondary church."

Let me explain two terms:

- 1) "Parish church": It becomes the owner of its secondary church and all of that church's assets and liabilities. It will have the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and will be open daily. It will have regular weekend Masses.
- 2) "Secondary church": It will not have regular weekend Masses; it will be available for Masses for weddings, funerals and its feast day. There is no obligation to keep the Blessed Sacrament in its tabernacle, or to open the church occasionally.

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Continue to pray for wisdom and prudence for all involved in changes in our diocese. If you have any reason to speak with me, I am only a phone call away --- 371-5773 extension 3.

St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, pray for us.

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