

The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See

Bishop of Bridgeport

**DECREE MERGING THE PARISHES OF
SAINT BENEDICT-OUR LADY OF MONTSERRAT, STAMFORD, CT
and
SAINT MARY, STAMFORD, CT**

In virtue of the office entrusted to me, I, the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, duly concerned with the spiritual welfare of the souls entrusted to me, zealous of removing everything that may be detrimental to their well-being and desiring to promote everything becoming of their progress, having engaged with the people of Saint Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford, CT and Saint Mary Parish, Stamford, CT, having prayerfully considered the information presented to me, the law and the facts, having heard all those whose rights may be harmed (c. 50), on January 12, 2020 and February 9, 2020, having ascertained from documents and deeds and consulted those concerned that there are no major donors or heirs to be heard, and having heard the Council of Priests (c. 515 §2) on January 23, 2020, and having determined that the good of the souls requires it,

ESTABLISH THAT

The above two parishes be merged through an extinctive union so as to form one parish. This determination has been made to strengthen the pastoral care of the people of God in this area of my diocese, and to address several trends that are of serious concern, including: diminished Mass attendance, lack of sustainability in the face of diminishing income, declining sacramental celebrations, and clergy availability. Also, to be noted is that the two parishes have shared the same Pastor and some of the same parish leaders for the past five years.

Wherefore, I, the undersigned Bishop of Bridgeport, in virtue of c. 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, do hereby decree that Saint Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford, CT and Saint Mary Parish, Stamford, CT, which up until now have been independent parishes, be merged as to form one parish which will be named Saint Mary Parish.

- I also hereby decree that all the rights, obligations and privileges of the members of Christian faithful domiciled in the territory of the now extinct Parish of Saint Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat, Stamford, CT, accorded to them by law or legitimately acquired, are to be transferred to and made part of Saint Mary Parish.
- The territorial boundaries of the aforementioned parishes, by this canonical decree, shall be amalgamated to become the boundaries of Saint Mary Parish.
- Furthermore, the intentions of the founders and donors of the patrimony of Saint Benedict-Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Stamford, CT, and Saint Mary Parish, Stamford, CT, must be respected, in accordance with the law (c. 121 & 122).
- All sacramental registers, seals, and parish files of the parishes are to be properly transferred to, preserved and safeguarded by Saint Mary Parish in accord with the norm of law.
- The Church of Saint Benedict shall remain open as an additional worship site of Saint Mary Parish.

This decree will become effective on May 1, 2020, The Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

This decree is to be communicated to the Pastor who is the proper administrator of the two juridical persons that are being amalgamated. It is also to be communicated to all interested persons, according to the norm of law (c. 532). It may be challenged within the peremptory time limit of ten (10) days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (c. 1734 §2).

Given this 19th day of April 2020, the Octave of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, at the Catholic Center, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Frank J. Caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

Rev. Robert M. Kinnally

Reverend Robert M. Kinnally
Chancellor