



Brothers and sisters,

As we continue the journey through **Beacons of Light** and the process of canonical unification, many parishioners have asked what this will mean for their daily lives of faith. The good news is that for most parishioners, very little will change. Many of the adjustments have already taken place, and most of the remaining changes are administrative.

Below is a simplified overview of what will not change and what will.

WHAT WILL NOT CHANGE

1. Church Buildings

- All three churches — **St. Joseph, St. Jude the Apostle, and Our Lady of the Visitation** — will remain open for worship.
- The merger restructures the parish administration, not the churches themselves.

2. Our Schools

- Both parish schools will remain open and fully operational. **They will not merge.**
- Catholic education will continue to be a central part of the mission of Divine Mercy Parish.

3. Athletic Programs

- Athletic programs **will not be affected** by the merger.
- There will be **no merging of St Jude and Visitation athletic organizations.**

4. Ministries and Programs

- Ministries, devotions, and traditions will continue as long as they stay vibrant, relevant, and focused on our Vision.
- The goal is to carry these forward into Divine Mercy Parish, preserving what makes each community unique.

WHAT WILL CHANGE

1. A New Canonical Parish

- Our three churches will become one canonical parish through a process called an “**extinctive union.**”
- The new parish will be **Divine Mercy Parish**, made up of our current communities.
- “Extinctive union” is a canonical legal term and **does not mean any churches will close.**
- All three church buildings will remain open for worship.

2. A New Legal and Financial Identity

- Currently each parish, including their school, operates as a separate legal entity with its own tax identification number.
- After unification:
 - Divine Mercy Parish will become **one new legal entity.**
 - It will have a **single tax identification number and unified financial accounting.**
 - All parish assets, property, and liabilities will be consolidated under the new entity.
- **Schools will maintain separate financial accounts** under the Divine Mercy Parish.



3. Financial Unification

- Currently, each parish manages its own budget and donations.
- After unification:
 - Parish financial accounting will be combined under Divine Mercy Parish.
- A detailed **financial transition plan** is being developed with the Parish Finance Council.

4. Mass Schedule and Liturgy

- Mass times are being reviewed in light of Archdiocesan guidelines, including the policy that Masses reach at least 50% capacity in order to be maintained.
- Our goal is to maintain Mass availability at all three churches.
- All liturgies concerning the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil) will be celebrated at the parochial church.

5. Sacramental Records

- Each parish currently maintains its own sacramental records.
- After the merger:
 - A **single sacramental register** for Divine Mercy Parish will be created.
 - Baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other sacraments will **still take place at all three churches**.

6. Parochial and Subsidiary Churches

- One church will be designated as the parochial church.
- The other two will be subsidiary churches.
- This is a **canonical administrative designation only** and does not reflect importance.
- Parishioners will have input on this designation before this decision is finalized.

AN INVITATION

Thank you for your patience, prayer, and engagement during this process. Change can bring uncertainty, but we are committed to moving forward together as one family of faith.

To ensure that every voice is heard:

- A **parish survey** will soon be distributed allowing parishioners to share questions and concerns.
- In **October or November**, we will host a **Family Unity Discernment Day** in coordination with the Archdiocese to reflect together on the future of Divine Mercy Parish.

May **St. Joseph, St. Jude the Apostle, and Our Lady of the Visitation** continue to intercede for us as we journey together toward a unified parish family in **Divine Mercy Parish**.

In Christ,


Rev. Don Siciliano
Pastor


Rev. Jonathan Jergens
Parochial Vicar