

Announcement made at Masses on January 31 and February 1

As you are aware, parishioners from St. Pius X parish appealed to Rome to keep St. Pius X Parish open. We have received notification from the Diocese of Buffalo that this appeal has been rejected and that Rome has upheld Bishop Fisher's decision to merge St. Pius X with St. Gregory the Great Parish. There is one change, in that St. Pius X Church property is not required to be sold and the Church may be used for Masses. Basically, it is up to me, as the pastor, to decide what we will do. As long as the Church building remains in use, two masses a year must be celebrated there: one on the anniversary of the consecration of the church and the second on the feast day of St. Pius X which is August 21st. I want to be clear: St. Pius X Parish is closing. The property on North French Road becomes St. Gregory the Great Parish property. The Church building is allowed to remain open and used as St. Pius X worship site of St. Gregory the Great Parish and used as the pastor sees fit.

I have met with the St. Pius X Parish Council and Finance Council to begin discussion of a merger date, and I will continue to meet with parish leadership of both parishes and the Diocese to determine a merger date. Father Rob and I understand how important the church building of St. Pius X is to you. It is very much home for you. Because of this, it is my hope that we will still be able to celebrate Sunday masses, funerals, weddings and baptisms at the St. Pius X worship site. That will be determined by the number of parishioners from St. Pius X who will register and become parishioners of St. Greg's and financially support St. Gregory the Great Parish. It will be the responsibility of St. Greg's to upkeep the property on North French Road. If the current parishioners of St. Pius X choose to go to other parishes or choose not to register and support St. Greg's, the Church building will probably need to be shuttered and two masses a year celebrated there. I am sure you may have many questions regarding what will happen, and I have one basic answer at this time: I do not know. I will keep you informed as decisions are made from meetings with the leadership of both parishes as well as working with the Pillar Groups and working with the leadership of Good Shepherd Parish, who is part of our Family of Parishes, but not part of the merger. The merger is between St. Pius X and St. Gregory the Great and does not directly affect the status of Good Shepherd, but it most likely will affect scheduling in the entire Family of Parishes especially since we have been down to two priests for some time.

At this time, I ask for your patience as we work together to come together as one parish. Please pray for this process and for Father Rob and me and all our lay leadership in the Family of Parishes, and especially at St. Pius X and St. Greg's as we embark on this important task and the next chapter of our life of Faith together.

Please know of my prayers for you always.

Father Leon Biernat, Pastor