

DECREE

In accordance with canons 50, 120 §1, 121, and 515 of the Code of Canon Law and after having consulted the Presbyteral Council and members of the faithful of the concerned parishes, I hereby decree that Saint Stephen Parish in Richwoods, Missouri, is amalgamated into Saint Joachim Parish in Old Mines, Missouri.

I further decree that the territory formerly belonging to Saint Stephen Parish is subsumed into Saint Joachim Parish. Saint Joachim Parish obtains the temporal goods, patrimonial rights, and obligations which formerly belonged to Saint Stephen Parish (canon 121). While Saint Stephen Church remains a sacred edifice to which the faithful have the right of entry (canon 1214), Saint Joachim Church is the Parish Church. I direct that all ecclesiastical records of Saint Stephen Parish be forwarded to the Archives of the Curia of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis.

The following are the reasons in summary form for Saint Stephen Parish being amalgamated into Saint Joachim Parish (canon 51).

1. Saint Stephen Parish has 104 Catholic households.
2. Saint Stephen Parish has 17 adult parishioners under age 50.
3. In 2012, 77 members of the faithful were present for the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist on Sundays, but now there are 63 members of the faithful present.
4. The parish has averaged 1 baptism and 6 funerals annually for the past five years.

This Decree is effective August 1, 2023. Its official notification is its publication on the website of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis on May 28, 2023.

I direct that the Pastor of Saint Stephen Parish and the Pastor of Saint Joachim Parish announce at all Masses on the weekend of May 27-28, 2023, that this Decree has been published on the website of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis (allthingsnew.archstl.org). I ask the Pastor and the faithful of Saint Joachim Parish to make every effort to welcome warmly the members of the former Saint Stephen Parish.


Any member of Saint Stephen Parish who claims to have been aggrieved by this Decree has the right to seek its revocation or emendation. This request must be made in writing and postmarked no later than June 12, 2023, to the Most Reverend Archbishop of Saint Louis, Cardinal Rigali Center, 20 Archbishop May Drive, Saint Louis, Missouri 63119 (canon 1734).

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, this twenty-fourth day of May, in the Year of Our Lord, 2023.

+ Mitchell T. Rozanski

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of Saint Louis


Very Reverend Philip J. Bené, J.C.D.
Notary

