



OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH

January 8, 2022

Dear parishioners,

Last October I shared with you the situation regarding two of our churches – St. Cyril and Methodius Church and Holy Name of Jesus Church. I explained that both churches have been used for worship less than five times in the past year and that each building costs us over \$25,000 a year to insure and maintain. Both have some maintenance issues which further burden our resources. After consulting our parish pastoral council and finance council, I submitted a request to Bishop Bonnar to formally close St. Cyril and Methodius Church and Holy Name of Jesus Church.

This closure means that we will no longer have services at either church and that after a final Mass at both, these buildings will be available to sell for “secular but not sordid use.” This means that any entity acquiring the buildings and property must respect the sacred nature of the building and not use it for questionable purposes. As a corrective to my October 30 letter, Our Lady of Sorrows will continue to maintain the two churches until they are sold or properly transferred to another entity. Any proceeds from the sale or transfer would benefit Our Lady of Sorrows Parish. The Diocese of Youngstown will assist us in these matters.

I appreciate your understanding in these matters, especially those who have been part of St. Cyril and Methodius and Holy Name of Jesus church communities. We are grateful for those who have chosen to remain part of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and have done so with graciousness and generosity. Our Lady of Sorrows Parish will continue to serve and meet the spiritual needs of our merged parish with dedicated pastoral zeal. Please let me know of any questions you may have.

Yours in Christ,

Father John Jerek

Pastor, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish