



**MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD**

DECREE

This decree concerns the amalgamation of Saint James Parish and Assumption Parish, both located in Manchester, Connecticut.

WHEREAS, the Archdiocese of Hartford has had to undertake a planning process in relation to its parishes and churches;

WHEREAS, Saint James Parish was established in 1890, and Assumption Parish in 1955, originally meant to be a mission of Saint James; a recommendation was made to merge Assumption into Saint James Parish for the following reasons:

1. The number of registered households of Assumption has diminished.
2. The number of the faithful availing themselves of the sacraments there has also significantly decreased (about 25% in the last several years).
3. Saint James Parish is within close proximity, and thus the faithful of Assumption will not be unduly burdened by such an action.

WHEREAS, the intention or will of donors, any restrictions on assets, including land, as well as any acquired rights, have been examined and taken into consideration. The Presbyteral Council was consulted on May 1, 2017, in accord with canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law in relation to the modification of parishes and posed no objection;

WHEREAS, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired,

I HEREBY DECREE an “extinctive union,” following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Assumption Parish is subsumed into Saint James Parish; the separate juridic (legal) personality of Assumption Parish will cease to exist, and it will no longer be a subject of obligations and rights under canon law; the church building of Assumption will remain at present as a sacred place for divine worship but with no regularly scheduled Masses.

The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at Saint James Parish. The assets and liabilities of the former Assumption Parish will become the assets and liabilities

of Saint James Parish. The sacramental registers along with any other parish records and historical documents shall be preserved at Saint James Parish. The territorial boundaries of Saint James Parish will henceforth be the combined boundaries of it and that of the former Assumption Parish.

This decree becomes effective as of June 29, 2017, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parishes, including the display in an appropriate place so that parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the church. It will also be available on the website, *stewardsfortomorrow.org*. Canonical recourse may be made within the peremptory time limit of ten (10) business days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (CIC canon 1734 §2).

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, on the 2nd day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2017.

+ Leonard P. Blair

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor