

MOST REVEREND CHRISTOPHER J. COYNE
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

On Our Lady of Sorrows Parish being Subsumed into the Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish, Hartford, Connecticut

WHEREAS, the Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish was created in 1872, and Our Lady of Sorrows Parish was created in 1895;

WHEREAS, the Missionaries of La Salette, after 130 years of ministry to the parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows, returned the pastoral care of the parish to the Archdiocese of Hartford on January 1, 2024;

WHEREAS, Father John P. Melnick, Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, was appointed Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish on January 1, 2024;

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2026, Father Melnick, the Parochial Administrator, and the Trustees of Our Lady of Sorrows (originally founded as a mission of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph), having consulted with the Parish Finance Council on August 11, 2026 and the Trustees and Finance Council of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on August 10, 2026, upon the recommendation of the two Finance Councils wrote to the Archbishop recommending that Our Lady of Sorrows Parish be subsumed into the Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish, stating that the aforementioned entities have been working closely together by trying to share financial resources to benefit Our Lady of Sorrows Parish which is growing in number of parishioners but is not financially viable for the long term;

WHEREAS, the intention or will of donors, any restrictions, including land, and any acquired rights have been examined and taken into consideration. The Presbyteral Council was consulted on September 21, 2026, in accordance 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, as noted above, are present and the good of souls will not thereby be impaired;

I **HEREBY DECREE** an "extinctive union" type II, following from canons 121 & 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, by which Our Lady of Sorrows Parish is subsumed into the Cathedral

of Saint Joseph Parish; the separate juridic personality of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish will cease to exist and will no longer be subject to obligations and rights under canon law; Our Lady of Sorrows Church building will remain as a sacred place for divine worship.

The administration of the church buildings and premises will be based at 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford. The assets and liabilities of the former parish of Our Lady of Sorrows will become the assets and liabilities of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish. The sacramental registers, along with any other parish records and historical records, shall be preserved at 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford. The territorial boundaries of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish will encompass the boundaries of the former Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.

This decree is to be published by Father John P. Melnick, the Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph Parish and Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.

This decree becomes effective as of December 8, 2026, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parishes, including by way of a display in an appropriate place so that parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the churches. It will also be available on the Archdiocese of Hartford website, under News-Public Notices: [https://archdioceseofhartford.org/category/news/public-notices/]. 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 19th day of November in the Year of Our Lord 2026.

✠ C. J. Coyne

Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Archbishop of Hartford

Reverend Christopher M. Ford, J.C.L.
Chancellor