

Saint Joseph and St. Mary Parishes

229 W. Washington Place

Freeport, Illinois 61032



Dear Parishioners of St. Mary and St. Joseph,

As many of you know, we are evaluating the structural condition of the St. Mary Church building. An evaluation took place in February of this year, and we had a parish meeting to discuss it in March.

With winter approaching, and the wind, ice, and snow it brings, we are taking precautions, out of an abundance of caution, to protect everyone who enters the building.

After consulting with the diocese, we have decided to suspend all activities at St. Mary while the building undergoes a full structural analysis. All Masses and activities at St. Mary will be moved to St. Joseph.

This transition will begin the weekend of Nov. 14 and Nov. 15. The last Masses at St. Mary Church will be celebrated next Sunday, Nov. 8.

Mass times will not change. The St. Mary schedule of English Mass at 8 a.m. and Spanish Mass at 12:15 p.m. on Sundays will now be celebrated at St. Joseph Church. The regular St. Joseph schedule will continue with Masses celebrated in English at 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. on Sundays.

Religious education classes will be moved to the St. Joseph School building. Other meetings in the Holy Family Center will continue to be held there. After Nov. 8, St. Mary Church will be closed to the public. Please do not enter the church building or the areas around it. Please follow posted signs and staff directions on the St. Mary campus. If you have a wedding, baptism, or Quinceanera scheduled at St. Mary Church, these will be celebrated at St. Joseph.

Father Ospina and I ask for your patience and charity as we adapt to this necessary change. We ask the St. Joseph parishioners for their hospitality in this challenging time.

Freeport is home to us all. We are grateful to gather at St. Joseph Church, and we remind ourselves during this transition that God welcomes our presence in the Eucharist no matter where we gather to be with him.

In Christ's Peace,

Father Matthew McMorrow
Pastor
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Fr. Diego Ospina
Director of Hispanic Ministry, Freeport