

Many of you have correctly heard that merger decrees are beginning to be promulgated. These may be found at the Diocese of Saint Cloud website: <https://stcdio.org/mergers-and-relegations/>. A decree concerning our parishes and ACC has not yet been promulgated.

This delay might come as a bit of a surprise to you, as it has to me. Originally, we were told to expect word by the end of March. Then I was told around the end of April. Now, we are in the middle of May and we still have not received definitive word beyond the initial acceptance of the plan presented at the end of last year.

I am not in a rush to see any of these proposed changes go into effect. That said, I know many of you have been waiting on a definitive word, either way. I guess I write this only to say that I have been, too. However, the way it is looking, I might need to inform you of all the changes resulting from the decree in an unexpected and very short span of time. It is not my style, but might be my only option.

Please continue to pray for one another throughout this process.

I will be gone a few days this week getting drone footage of more of our churches around the Diocese. Know that Fr. Oswaldo will be here and ready to assist with any of your pastoral and spiritual needs while I am away.

This project has been an unexpected joy since it requires me to visit ever Catholic Church in our Diocese, and even learn about ones that merged long ago (e.g. – Saint Patrick's, Melrose - Saint Peter's, Browerville – Saint Isidore's, Moran Township, etc.). The history of our Diocese is rich and storied. I only hope that these videos help to further capture and preserve that story for future generations.

Mary, model of all virtues, pray for us.

In Christ,

Father Mitchell Bechtold

EDITION - X

FATHER MITCHELL'S PASTORAL BULLETIN

Sunday, May 17, 2026

To the parishioners of Saint Andrew's, Greenwald,
Saint John the Baptist's, Meire Grove, Saint Mary's, Melrose &
Saint Michael's, Spring Hill, of the One In Faith Area Catholic Community

Greetings.

A blessed Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus to you all!

This marks the beginning of the final week of the season of Easter, which concludes with the celebration of Pentecost. Pentecost of course being that glorious day in which the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles. United in their love of the Lord Jesus, united by the Spirit, they set forth to conquer the world for Christ with love. To seek out the lost sheep of Israel and welcome gentile souls like ours into the fold of God's flock.

The busyness of life can cause us to look around and forget to look up. I assure you: If you are too busy to pray then you are too busy! Whether in the car or the tractor, in the pew or the garden, don't forget to pray; and we look forward to seeing you at Sunday Mass. And, while it can still be said, "Happy Easter season!"