

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



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DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, located at 9837 South Throop Street, was established in 1893 as a territorial parish in the now Washington Heights neighborhood of the City of Chicago. In 1956, St. Thaddeus Church, 9540 South Harvard Avenue, was established by and for African American Catholics as a mission of Holy Name of Mary Parish in the eastern Washington Heights and Princeton Park neighborhoods of Chicago. In 1962 the mission was made a territorial parish in its own right.

Until the 1970s, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish served a mixed community of residents, mostly of European ancestry. Today the parish is home to a predominantly African American population and the vast majority of parishioners are black Catholics. Some former parishioners, mostly white Catholics from nearby neighborhoods, also worship at St. Margaret of Scotland Church and provide some financial support for the parish and its parochial school. The current average attendance of about 350 persons at Sunday Mass has dropped by more than 75% over the last three years. Nonetheless, financial contributions to the parish have remained steady and school enrollment has grown by more than 30% in the past two years. In recent years the parish received annual financial grants from the Archdiocese of Chicago, and it was in debt to the archdiocese for \$2,993,445.17 in September 2016.

The existing parish church of St. Margaret of Scotland, a Tudor Gothic edifice seating 1200 worshippers, was dedicated in 1928. Other parish structures include the school, an unused rectory, and a convent. By contrast, the modern brick church of St. Thaddeus was opened in 1959 and today seats 263. The parish also has a school and a rectory. In 2004 the parochial school of St. Thaddeus Parish was closed due to a diminishing number of pupils and a three decade decline in the overall population of the Washington Heights and Princeton Park neighborhoods. Sunday Mass attendance of approximately 200 persons each Sunday and stable financial contributions over the last five years leave the parish without debt and with \$351,451.00 on deposit in 2016. There was one Baptism at St. Thaddeus Church in 2016, one wedding, and eleven funerals. No youth have been registered for religious education at the parish since 2012.

The Reverend Daniel J. Mallette was pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish for 32 years, from his appointment in 1977 until retirement in 2009. Since 2009 there have been three administrators followed by a pastor who served for only three years. The current pastor, the Reverend Paul Whittington, O.P., was appointed in 2015. The Reverend Frank M. Sasso has been pastor of St. Thaddeus Parish since 1998. Father Sasso is expected to retire in the near future and, given the needs of this particular church, it will be impossible to justify the appointment of a new pastor for St. Thaddeus parish.

THEREFORE, know that I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, according to the norm of canon 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, convened the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago at St. Giles Parish in Oak Park, Illinois, on September 13, 2016. There the Most Reverend Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago and episcopal vicar for the area concerned, presented to the Council a plan to unite St. Thaddeus Parish with St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, both on the Southside

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of the City of Chicago. After hearing the Presbyteral Council's views on the matter, as expressed at the same meeting, and obtaining the full support of the pastors of St. Thaddeus Parish and St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, I now

decree the following:

1. The separate juridic person of St. Thaddeus Parish, located at 9540 South Harvard Avenue in the Princeton Park neighborhood of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, is extinguished, and wholly united with St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, located at 9837 South Throop Street in the adjacent Washington Heights neighborhood of the same City of Chicago.
2. The mission of the former St. Thaddeus Parish is subsumed completely into that of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish;
3. Each and all the parishioners of the former St. Thaddeus Parish are now fully and equally parishioners of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish;
4. The territory of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish is extended to include the territory of the former St. Thaddeus Parish, and now encompasses all within these boundaries:

Start at West 91st Street and South Loomis Street,
East on south side of West 91st Street to South Halsted Street,
North on South Halsted Street to C.R.I. & P. - Belt Line RR,
East on south side of C.R.I. & P. - Belt Line RR to extension of South Prairie Avenue,
South on both sides of South Prairie Avenue to east fork of the Dan Ryan Expressway,
West on north side of east and west forks of the Dan Ryan Expressway to South Peoria Street,
South on west side of South Peoria Street to West 103rd Street,
West on north side of West 103rd Street to South Sangamon Street,
South on west side of South Sangamon Street to West 107th Street,
West on the north side of West 107th Street to South Beverly Avenue,
Northwest on South Beverly Avenue to South Ashland Avenue (West 95th Place),
North on South Ashland Avenue to West 93rd Street,
East on West 93rd Street to South Loomis Street, and
North on South Loomis Street to West 91st Street;

5. The church of St. Margaret of Scotland will be the parish church of the extended parish, retaining its own title;
6. Subject to the intention of founders and donors, and with due regard for any acquired rights, the goods and patrimonial rights of the former St. Thaddeus Parish are those of the extended St. Margaret of Scotland Parish (see *CIC* c. 121);
7. The report given to the Presbyteral Council on this matter, together with the minutes of the aforementioned Council meeting of September 13, 2016, is to be attached to the original of this decree;

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8. The sacramental records and other materials relevant to historical research concerning the former St. Thaddeus Parish are commended to the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives and Records Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago for safe keeping and suitable access; and

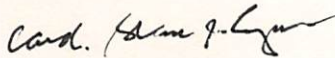
9. Notification of this decree is to be made immediately to the pastors concerned and through publication on the public website of the Archdiocese of Chicago and in the bulletins of the two parishes concerned.

Before hierarchical recourse may be taken against this decree, a petition to reconsider or amend the decree must be delivered to me within ten (10) useful days from notification of the decree (CIC cc. 1734, 1735, 1737).

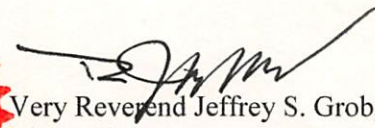
Given and effective this

6th day of January, A.D. 2017.

From the Archbishop Quigley Center,
Chicago, Illinois



Cardinal Blase J. Cupich,
Archbishop of Chicago



Very Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob, J.C.D.,
Chancellor

Attachments