

## ROAD TO RENEWAL UPDATE

Dear Parishioners of The Catholic Family of Cheektowaga,

It is with great sadness that we communicate to you the Diocese of Buffalo's decision to close two of our parishes, Queen of Martyrs and St. Josaphat's.

Building the best possible future for all of our parishioners we strongly encourage everyone in the name of God to continue to worship every weekend with our family.

Our plan is to continue to hold Sunday and daily Masses at all churches until May 2025. Our Saturday vigil mass schedule may be revised in the future. It may be necessary to close churches on an earlier timeline than originally anticipated if attendance drops considerably, fewer parishioners continue to support the parish, and/or it is the wish of the parishioners.

A meeting will be held sometime in October at Queen of Martyrs and St. Josaphat to discuss plans for the future. All parishioners will be welcomed to attend.

Once the final Mass has been celebrated at Queen of Martyrs and St. Josaphat, the many holy statues and other liturgical items contained within these worship sites will be transferred to the merged parish. We will establish "memorial chapels" to preserve our history as much as possible. The St. Josaphat Memorial Chapel will be set up at Resurrection and similarly, a Queen of Martyrs Memorial Chapel will be set up in OLHC's candle room where some of the most holy elements will be placed for people to come in, light a candle, and pray. No statues or sacred art will be wasted or forgotten, but will continue to be used in Liturgy and devotions.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the Vietnamese Ministry, which currently worships at Coronation Parish and will merge with Our Lady Help of Christians at a future date to be determined.

Please pray strongly for one another in this painful time in hopes that the Catholic Church continues to flourish. We hope for God's help and grace to heal all our wounds, comfort our sorrows and show us his mercy in a positive future journey of faith and grace.