



This letter to be read to the parishioners at all Masses July 15-16, 2023

July 14, 2023

To the parishioners of:

St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown/Guys Mills
including Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Cochranon
The Epiphany of the Lord Parish, Meadville

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am writing you to inform you of changes which I need to implement for your two parishes. With the declining number of priests in our diocese, as well as the decline in Mass attendance and enrollment in faith formation, I need to ensure that we are utilizing our ordained and lay ministers in the best way possible.

The Epiphany of the Lord Parish in Meadville and St. Hippolyte Parish in Frenchtown will continue as two parishes under the leadership of the Pastor, Father Jeffrey Lucas, with the assistance of your new Parochial Vicar, Father Kyle Seyler. I have decided, however, that it is time to make the following changes:

- The two parishes will become “partner parishes” requiring them to coordinate even more closely with regard to programs, staffing and pastoral administration.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Church will no longer have a Sunday Mass, however, it will have a regularly scheduled weekday liturgical celebration, be open for prayer, and be available for funerals and weddings. This means Our Lady of Lourdes Church will remain a secondary church of St. Hippolyte Parish but without “mission” status, effective August 7.
- The Mass schedule will be as follows:
Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm at St. Agatha Church
Sunday Morning: 7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:30am at St. Agatha Church
11:00am at St. Hippolyte Church
This Mass schedule will begin on the weekend of August 12-13.



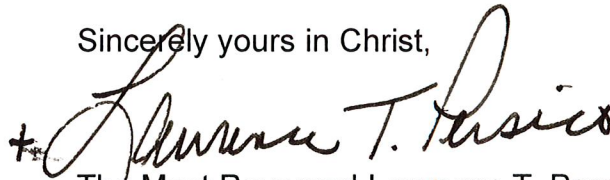
DIocese of Erie ♦ P.O. Box 10397 ♦ Erie, Pennsylvania 16514-0397

814.824.1120 ♦ FAX 814.824-1124

- The faith formation program at Our Lady of Lourdes will fold into the program at St. Hippolyte Parish beginning September 2023. This means that there will be two religious education programs for the children, one at each parish, for the time being.

I recognize that these changes will require adjustments to parishioners' preferences and routines. I thank you for your generosity and your support of Father Lucas and Father Seyler. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and for the revival of participation in the Eucharist.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence T. Persico". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie