



**NEWS RELEASE**

**DIOCESE OF ERIE**

[www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)

3.8.25

### **Mount Calvary Church in Erie relegated**

The Reverend James McCormick, pastor of Saint James Parish, Erie, announced on March 8 that the Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, after consultation with the Presbyteral Council, has relegated Mount Calvary Church in Erie, a secondary church of Saint James Parish, Erie, to “profane but not sordid use.” The technical designation refers to the canon law process by which a bishop removes the blessing or consecration of a church building. The building then ceases to be reserved for divine worship, and therefore, can be used for non-religious purposes.

The designation is the result of a process that occurs when a pastor, with the support of the parish finance council and the parish pastoral council, believes a church building can no longer be maintained for any of a variety of reasons and petitions the bishop to relegate the church.

Mount Calvary Parish was established on December 13, 1951, to accommodate the growing population of the northeast section of the City of Erie. The original church, which doubled as a social hall, was completed in 1954. Mount Calvary then opened a school, staffed by the Sisters of St. Benedict, which was operated by the parish until 2004. The current church, completed in 1977, was built as an addition to the school building.

Mount Calvary Parish was partnered with Saint Mark the Evangelist Parish in Lawrence Park in 2017. Both parishes merged into Saint James Parish in Erie in July of 2024, at which time regularly scheduled Masses ceased at Mount Calvary church.

- more -

**KRISTINE RILLING**  
**DIRECTOR**  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
Office 814.824.1167  
Cell 814.397.8366  
[krilling@ErieRCD.org](mailto:krilling@ErieRCD.org)

**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
Office 814.824.1161  
**AFTER-HOURS ANSWERING SERVICE**  
814.451.1531

Father McCormick, with the unanimous support of both the parish finance council and the parish pastoral council, petitioned the bishop to request that Mount Calvary Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use.

A complete history of the church, as well as a detailed narrative of the current situation, is described in the decree announcing the bishop's decision, now available at [www.ErieRCD.org/bishop/decrees.html](http://www.ErieRCD.org/bishop/decrees.html).

The decree is effective March 10, 2025.

#####



**KRISTINE RILLING**  
**DIRECTOR**  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
Office 814.824.1167  
Cell 814.397.8366  
krilling@ErieRCD.org

**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
Office 814.824.1161  
**AFTER-HOURS ANSWERING SERVICE**  
814.451.1531