



**Diocese of Worcester**  
**Office of the Bishop**  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

# DECREE

## **In Nomine Domini. Amen.**

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish located in West Brookfield, Massachusetts, is a territorial parish serving the sacramental and spiritual needs of the Catholic community in Brookfield and West Brookfield. Its parish church is located at 22 West Main Street, West Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Saint Mary Parish, located in Brookfield, Massachusetts, was merged with Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish on November 21, 2011. Its parish church is located at 11 Lincoln Street, Brookfield, Massachusetts. After the merger with Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Saint Mary Church was designated an Oratory and placed under the guardianship of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. The name of the parish was changed to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Saint John the Baptist Parish, East Brookfield, Massachusetts, is a territorial parish serving the sacramental and spiritual needs of the Catholic community in East Brookfield. Its parish church is located at 131 Blaine Avenue, East Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Saint Joseph Parish, located in North Brookfield, Massachusetts, is a territorial parish serving the sacramental and spiritual needs of the Catholic community in North Brookfield, New Braintree and Oakham, Massachusetts. Its parish church is located at 296 North Main Street, North Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Study groups from all three parishes were established to determine how best to meet the spiritual needs of the Catholic communities located in Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield and West Brookfield given a dwindling parish census, financial resources and limited available clergy to serve the parishes. It has become imperative that certain significant, and albeit, painful decisions must be made.

These study groups have presented several proposals to our Diocesan Planning Committee. Among the proposals presented and recommended to me by the Diocesan Planning Committee is that the parishes of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, West Brookfield, including Saint Mary Oratory, Brookfield, Saint John the Baptist Parish, East Brookfield, and Saint Joseph, North Brookfield, be merged into one parish with a new name and that Saint John the Baptist Church building, East Brookfield and Saint Mary Oratory, be closed.

All the requirements of canons 50, 51, 127, 166 and 515 have been fulfilled.

In view of this recommendation, and after hearing the parties mandated by law, most especially the Presbyteral Council, in accord with canons 500, §§ 1-2 and 515, §2, of the *Code of Canon Law*, which met on June 19, 2025, and voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation, I, the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, holding

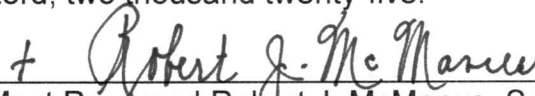
before me my pastoral responsibilities to this particular church, hereby declare and decree the following:

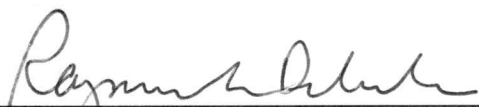
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, West Brookfield, Massachusetts, including Saint Mary Oratory, Brookfield, Massachusetts, are hereby merged with Saint John the Baptist Parish, East Brookfield, Massachusetts, and with Saint Joseph Parish, North Brookfield, Massachusetts, to form one new parish, in accord with canon 121; The name of the new parish will be Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and Saint Joseph Church will retain their respective titles, in accord with canon 1218. Saint John the Baptist Church and Saint Mary Oratory will close.
- In accord with canon 121, the territory and care of souls of the territorial membership of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, West Brookfield, including Saint Mary Oratory, Brookfield, Saint John the Baptist Parish, East Brookfield and Saint Joseph Parish, North Brookfield, are hereby transferred and entrusted to the newly created Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish, whose parish church is located at 22 West Main Street, West Brookfield;
- The newly created Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish will assume the goods, assets, including property and patrimonial rights, as well as the burdens and liabilities of the former Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, West Brookfield, including Saint Mary Oratory, Brookfield, Saint John the Baptist Parish, East Brookfield and Saint Joseph Parish, North Brookfield, respecting the intentions of the founders and donors, concerning the allocation of goods and the fulfillment of obligations, in accord with canons 121 and 123;
- The sacramental records of the former Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Saint Mary Parish, Saint John the Baptist Parish, and Saint Joseph Parish are hereby placed under the guardianship of the newly created Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish and located at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church office in West Brookfield.
- The newly created Blessed Carlos Acutis Parish will enjoy public juridic personality by the law itself, in accord with canon 515, §3.

The effective date of this decree is July 1, 2025, at 12:01 a.m.

I order that this decree be published.

Given at Worcester, Massachusetts, in the halls of the Chancery, this the twenty-third day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-five.

  
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.D.B.  
Bishop of Worcester

  
Mr. Raymond L. Delisle  
Chancellor

