

Frequently Asked Questions About the Proposed Merger of St. Casimir, St. Brigid and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parishes

WHAT IS A PARISH MERGER?

A merger is when two or more parishes come together as a single parish. This is done when the Archbishop approves of this merger at the request of the pastor. After completion of specific processes, this action legally establishes the single parish by issuing a canonical decree and updating the parish civil law corporation to reflect the merger. In this case, the three parishes of St. Casimir, St. Brigid and St. Elizabeth of Hungary would become one parish.

WHY IS THE PARISH MERGER BEING PROPOSED?

Over the last several years, the leadership of all three parishes have been considering how best to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to people in our pastorate while also strengthening the faith of our current parishioners. They agreed that, in order to do this well, it is important for the pastorate to be a community unified in worship, welcome, and evangelizing spirit. Our pastorate plan contains a number of ideas for how we can begin moving in this direction. One of these is to explore a merger as a way to combine and leverage the gifts and resources each parish has, directing them throughout the whole pastorate in order to have the greatest evangelizing impact.

WILL THE NAME OF THE PARISH CHANGE? IF YES, WHAT WILL THE NEW NAME BE?

Yes, St. Brigid Parish and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish will be merged into St. Casimir Parish. After the merger, the parish will be known only as St. Casimir Parish. We will designate the two worship sites (campus locations) in the parish as St. Casimir/Canton-Patterson Park. We will also make sure that Sts. Brigid and Elizabeth are prominent in the parish by side shrines in St. Casimir's church and/or possibly renaming buildings.

WILL ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH BE CLOSED AS A RESULT OF THE MERGER?

No.

WILL THERE STILL BE MASSES AT ST. CASIMIR AND ST. ELIZABETH'S CHURCHES?

Yes.

WILL MASS TIMES CHANGE AFTER THE MERGER?

Possibly.

WILL OUR PASTORAL COUNCIL OR FINANCE COUNCIL CHANGE?

Since becoming a pastorate, the Pastoral Councils of the three parishes have already been combined into one Pastorate Council. The same is true of the Pastorate Finance Council.

WILL THERE BE ANY CHANGES IN OUR CHILDREN'S CATHOLIC FORMATION PROGRAM?

No. This will continue to be offered to all the parishes' children, hosted at St. Casimir.

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WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE ASSETS (MONEY AND BUILDINGS) AND LIABILITIES (DEBTS) OF EACH PARISH AFTER THE MERGER?

After the merger St. Casimir parish will be the owner of all the assets and all the liabilities currently held by all three parishes. The weekly collection from both St. Casimir and St. Elizabeth of Hungary will support one parish with their two campus locations.

DO I HAVE TO CHANGE HOW I DONATE TO THE PARISH?

The on-line giving and envelope process currently used by St. Casimir will be used for both.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH AFTER THE MERGER?

The Pastorate Council is still discerning what is best for the Pastorate as far as St. Brigid Church and Rectory. While the fate of the buildings has not yet been finalized, one decision was made that the church will not be used in the future as a worship site.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE DEDICATED FUNDS IN THE CATHOLIC FAMILY FOUNDATION AFTER THE MERGER?

Currently there are only funds in this foundation from St. Casimir. These funds would stay with the merged parish.

WILL PARISHIONERS BE ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND/OR PROVIDE INPUT ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL BEFORE IT IS FINALIZED?

Yes. All parishioners are given the following options: 1) attend a public meeting regarding the proposal which will be held at St. Casimir Church, 2) provide comments in writing to the parish office, 3) participate in a Zoom Meeting or 4) participate in a Conference Call, dates and times to be determined.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INPUT THAT IS RECEIVED ABOUT THE PROPOSAL?

The pastorate leadership of St. Casimir, St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Brigid parishes will meet to discuss any suggestions or concerns that are brought forward at the public meetings regarding the proposal to merge the parishes. The leadership may determine that other decisions need to be made after hearing the parishioners. This information will also be reviewed by Bishop Madden and Archbishop Lori before any final decision is made to merge the parishes.