



NEWS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ERIE

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5.31.24

### **Bishop Persico amends decree regarding St. Andrew Parish, Erie**

On April 11, 2024, The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, issued a decree effecting the merger of St. Andrew Parish in Erie into St. Jude the Apostle Parish, also in Erie. The merger was to take effect July 9, 2024.

On April 24, 2024, within the appropriate canonical timeframe, parishioners of St. Andrew Parish presented a petition asking the bishop to revoke his decision. The petition asked that St. Andrew Parish instead be made a partner parish with St. Jude Parish, which would have created two, independent parishes sharing a single pastor.

As a result of the request, and after extensive consultation with parish leaders and with the diocesan priest council, Bishop Persico amended the decree of April 11, 2024, issuing an amended decree on May 29, 2024. With a focus on pastoral considerations and against the unanimous advice of the priest council — which advised him to retain the original decree — Bishop Persico offered a compromise: While St. Andrew will still merge into St. Jude Parish, it will now be designated as a secondary mission church rather than a secondary church without mission status. This means that Mass may be celebrated at St. Andrew Church on Sundays, holy days and the evenings which precede them, so long as priests

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**ANNE-MARIE WELSH**  
**DIRECTOR**  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
Office 814.824.1167  
Cell 814.746.6889  
[amwelsh@ErieRCD.org](mailto:amwelsh@ErieRCD.org)

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



are available to support those Masses. The bishop said his decision was made in response to the “need for a stronger and more sustainable means to provide for the care of souls for the faithful of the West side of the City of Erie and Millcreek Township.”

The compromise and amended decree are effective July 9, 2024. The amended decree, which details the history of St. Andrew and St. Jude the Apostle parishes, as well as the current situation, can be found at [www.eriercd.org/bishop/decrees.html](http://www.eriercd.org/bishop/decrees.html).

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