

A Name For Our New Parish

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The new COMBINED PARISH, formed by the MERGING of the three parishes (St. Al's [Sauk City] + St. Marys [Merrimac] + St. Camillus [Durward's Glen]) will have a new name. Change is always difficult, and this change is in response to the shortage of priests in the world and in our Diocese. We are blessed to be able to maintain all the churches open and functioning at their full capacity due to the number of priests that we have in the cluster. But the truth is...

that we desperately need more priests to meet the needs of our Diocese. It is not desirable to have to join two parishes (although it is not a bad thing in and of itself), but it is for the good of the parishes so that a fewer number of priests will be able to take care of the spiritual needs of all the parishioners. It will require from us a great deal of open-heartedness and generosity to welcome a greater scope of people into this new parish family.

Why a new name? Because it is a new parish, a new reality. We are joyfully going to join together into one parish. So, it won't be named St. Aloysius, because it won't be St. Aloysius, in the same way that it won't be named St. Mary's because it won't be St. Mary's. This new reality will have a new name, and although it is tough to let go of something we may have felt that we belonged to for so many years, let's look into the future and into the new, greater, bigger reality that we have ahead: DIVINE MERCY PARISH.

DIVINE MERCY PARISH This is the new name that the Bishop has chosen for our new parish. Soon we will ask EVERYONE to register as a member of this parish, an offer that will be made in all the three MERGING PARISHES. The central office of Divine Mercy Parish will be at St. Aloysius. It is the most central church, the largest, and with a secretary on site every day of the week. What happens to the existing parishes? What should we call them? This is how it works. There will be ONE PARISH with THREE CHURCHES (or "worship sites" if you will). So, St. Aloysius will be St. Aloysius Church, and St. Mary Health of the Sick will be St. Mary Health of the Sick Church. And finally, how long is this going to take? The truth is that we don't have a specific date just yet. As soon as we know, we will announce the opening of Divine Mercy Parish, and until then we will operate as we have been. We are hoping to be functioning by April, and maybe even able to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday as Divine Mercy Parish! But this is all yet to be determined; there is still much to be done.