



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

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May 3, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings this Fifth Sunday of Easter! May the hope and joy of Jesus' victory over sin and death give each of us the courage and conviction that we, too, share in that ultimate victory. No matter the triumphs or trials of this life, we pray that we may keep our hearts joyful in the promise of the dwelling place God has prepared for us in heaven.

Please allow me to express my heartfelt affection and care for you, the people of St. Joseph Parish, as we announce a significant change for your community. Effective July 1, 2026, St. Joseph Parish will move from the Our Lady of Guadalupe Family of Parishes to the Cathedral Basilica Family of Parishes. Fr. Jan Schmidt, rector of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, will become your canonical pastor and Fr. Len Wenke will be appointed to serve as your Moderator for Pastoral Care.

In an undertaking as complex as Beacons of Light, the pastoral planning endeavor we began several years ago, it would be quite unusual to get every decision 100% right on the first try. It is not surprising, then, that three years after moving to the structure of Families of Parishes, certain adjustments would need to be made in the interest of providing the best pastoral care for all in our archdiocese. This is one such adjustment.

The Church of Cincinnati deeply values and celebrates the profound faith, many gifts, generous contributions, and long tradition of our Black Catholic community. I am hopeful that aligning St. Joseph Parish with the Cathedral Basilica will enable St. Joseph to move forward and flourish as a vibrant community of faith and assist it in continuing its distinctive and beautiful liturgical and devotional traditions, so that they may enrich our archdiocese for generations to come.

Please know of my daily prayers for you. May the Risen Christ abundantly bless you, your families, and your community.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Casey".

Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati

ljh

RADIATE CHRIST