

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

***“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”*** (John 14:18) These words of Jesus, spoken to his disciples on the night before his death, resonate with profound urgency for us today. I know that the news regarding the closing of our sister parish Transfiguration has brought shock, grief, and many tears. It is natural to feel as though our foundation is shaking and to ask "why?" in the face of such a great loss.

On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, however, we are called to look beyond the physical walls of the building and remember the central truth of our faith: The Resurrection is a story of life returning from death, not a story of ending.

I want to share three reflections of hope as we navigate this transition together:

**1. The Church is people, not a place:**

We are not losing our church; we are changing how we exist as the church. As St. Peter reminds us in last Sunday’s second reading, we are living stones being built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5). The community we have formed here—the holy sacrifice of the Mass, the prayers, the baptisms, the weddings, and the quiet moments of communion—lives on in us.

**2. The promise of the Advocate:**

Jesus promised that even when he was no longer physically present, he would send the Holy Spirit to be our counselor, comforter, and guide. This same Spirit walks with us now, in our grief, and will guide us to where we are needed next. We are not alone, nor are we abandoned.

**3. God’s plans for a future:**

The Prophet Jeremiah tells us, *"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the Lord—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future full of hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11). As hard as it is to see right now, this closing is part of a larger plan that will allow our ministries to flourish in new ways.

**Our Next Steps & Town Hall Meeting**

We are committed to navigating this transition with transparency, dignity, and care for every member. I invite you to a Town Hall Meeting to discuss our next steps, ask questions, and share memories:

**When:** May 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM (**tentative**)

**Where:** Church Hall of Transfiguration

Let us walk through this transition together, not in fear, but in faith, looking forward to how God will continue to use us in our community. Our decision to close our church is not about mourning, but about honoring the journey God has allowed us to share. Our love for each other and for Christ remains the center.

With you in the Risen Lord,

Fr. Luke