



ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

The Chancery

100 NORTH 62ND STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68132
TEL: 402 558-3100
FAX: 402 558-3026

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CONTACT: Rev. Joseph C. Taphorn, Chancellor
(402) 558-3100 ext. 226

Archdiocese of Omaha announces closing of St. Richard Parish

March 29, 2009 (Omaha, Neb.) — The Archdiocese of Omaha announced today that St. Richard Parish, 4320 Fort St., will be closed this spring. The decision was shared with parishioners after Sunday Mass today.

With membership declining in recent years, St. Richard had cut back to only one Mass on Sunday. Now 50-75 people attend weekly Mass there. Archdiocese of Omaha Chancellor Rev. Joseph Taphorn acknowledged that while it was a difficult decision to close the parish, he believes it is the best choice for the future.

Taphorn explained, “While this is not easy news, we think the change will be positive in the long run. The people from St. Richard have much to offer their new parish communities and we believe they’ll benefit from new opportunities to participate in vibrant, nearby parishes.”

Neighboring parishes that will take up the territory formerly belonging to St. Richard are Holy Name, 2901 Fontenelle Blvd., Blessed Sacrament, 3020 Curtis Ave., St. Bernard, 3601 N. 65 St., and Sacred Heart, 2218 Binney St. The St. Richard property and buildings will transfer to Holy Name, providing an additional campus approximately 1.5 miles north of its current location. Holy Name will explore the best possible uses of the property, including possible space for Holy Name Housing, as well as other community needs.

The pastor of St. Richard Parish, Rev. Frank Baumert, and members of the parish will work through a timetable for the transition. Rev. Baumert is also pastor of Holy Name. The Archdiocese previously announced that St. Richard School will close at the end of the academic year.

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