



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
Office of Communications

Statement Regarding Saint Michael's Church, December 22, 2020

Recently, some media has reported that Saint Michael's Church "is slated to close." This is incomplete.

Saint Michael's Church is one worship site together with two other churches, namely Our Lady of the Americas (formerly Corpus Christi Church) and Annunciation, which comprise Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish. For years, the parish as a whole has been experiencing declining attendance, serious financial difficulties, accompanied by major structural and required safety repairs needed, most significantly at Saint Michael's Church.

In view of the above, a Parish Strategic Planning Committee was formed earlier this year to assess the parish's spiritual, pastoral, sacramental and physical needs and to determine the best path forward to maintain a vibrant Catholic presence in this community. The Committee is composed of the pastor and parochial vicar, parish staff and parish leadership, as well as parishioners from each of the three worship sites comprising Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish. Our Diocesan offices were and are available to assist the parish in this process.

The Parish Strategic Planning Committee upon completion of this study will submit its recommendation to the Bishop. In accordance with the canonical process set forth in the *Code of Canon Law*, the Bishop will then review the recommendation of the Parish Strategic Planning Committee before a final decision is made. It should be noted that the Parish Strategic Planning Committee's recommendation will come from the parish, after the Committee's work and consultations. In sum, this matter is still in process.