



DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

**HIS EXCELLENCY
MOST REVEREND ROBERT D. GRUSS**
By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

DECREE
Reversion of St. Ignatius Church, Frieburg from Occasional use to Additional use Church
Good Shepherd Parish, Ubly Michigan

THE FACTS

Saint Ignatius Church, Frieburg, located at 1826 Cumber Road, Ubly, Michigan 48475, was established in 1904 and has long served the Catholic faithful of the region.

In July 2013, St. Ignatius Church was merged into Good Shepherd Parish, Ubly, together with St. John the Evangelist (Ubly), St. Columbkille (Sheridan Corners), and St. Joseph (Argyle), thereby consolidating regular parish life within the new parish structure.

The Pastoral and Finance Councils of Good Shepherd Parish reviewed the matter on July 23, 2025, and the Presbyteral Council was consulted on October 13, 2025.

It has been determined that the building of St. Ignatius Church remains structurally sound and pastorally suitable for limited liturgical use, and that there is continuing pastoral benefit in permitting its use for certain celebrations.

THE LAW

In accordance with can. 1214 of the Code of Canon Law, a church is a sacred building destined for divine worship to which the faithful have the right of access for the exercise of divine worship, especially public worship.

In accordance with can. 1215 §§1–2, no church is to be erected without the written consent of the diocesan bishop, who judges its suitability for divine worship.

In accordance with can. 515 §2, it belongs to the diocesan bishop alone to erect, suppress, or modify parishes after hearing the Presbyteral Council.

In accordance with can. 381 §1, the diocesan bishop possesses all ordinary, proper, and immediate power required for the exercise of his pastoral office.

THE ARGUMENT

The pastoral circumstances of Good Shepherd Parish indicate that while regular liturgical life has been consolidated within the parish churches, St. Ignatius Church continues to hold significant historical, spiritual, and pastoral value for the faithful of the region.

The building remains suitable for sacred use on a limited basis, and its use for divine worship serves the good of souls, particularly by providing proximity for the celebration of the sacraments.

Such limited use does not contradict the prior parish merger, nor does it require the erection of a new parish or quasi-parish. Rather, it constitutes a prudent exercise of the diocesan bishop's governance to ensure pastoral care in accord with can. 381 §1 and can. 1752, whereby the salvation of souls is the supreme law of the Church.

Therefore, it is pastorally appropriate to designate St. Ignatius Church as an additional place of worship within Good Shepherd Parish for liturgical use.

THE DECREE

Therefore, **I, Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss**, Bishop of Saginaw, by virtue of my ordinary executive authority and after having considered all pertinent circumstances, hereby decree the following:

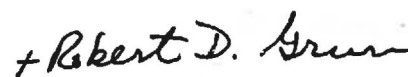
1. Saint. Ignatius Church, Frieburg, is hereby designated as an additional church within Good Shepherd Parish, to be used for the celebrations of divine worship seasonal liturgies, and other pastoral celebrations as determined by the pastor;
2. This designation does not constitute the erection of a new parish or quasi-parish, nor does it alter the canonical structure of Good Shepherd Parish;
3. The pastor of Good Shepherd Parish is entrusted with the pastoral, liturgical, and material care of St. Ignatius Church in accord with diocesan norms;
4. All celebrations in this church must be conducted in full conformity with liturgical law and diocesan directives;
5. I reserve to myself and my successors the right to modify or revoke this decree for pastoral reasons if circumstances so require.
6. This decree is to take effect on June 1, 2026

Everything I have decreed herein is to be observed in all its parts. Anything to the contrary, even if worthy of special mention, notwithstanding, may not be acted upon following the promulgation of this decree.


I further decree that this act be promulgated by publication on the website of the Diocese of Saginaw and on the parish website of Good Shepherd Parish.

In accordance with canons 1734-1737, any party aggrieved by this decree has the right to petition for its revocation or amendment by hierarchical recourse within ten (10) canonical days of its legitimate notification.

Given on this 12th day of May in the year of Our Lord 2026, at the chancery of the Diocese of Saginaw.



Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw



Reverend Alberto E. Vargas, JCL. JV.
Chancellor