

**Parish Council Recommendation on
New Church Location for
Sunday Morning Mass
March 27, 2026**

Dear Parishioners,

Following visits to the two proposed church locations to replace Holy Cross as the site of our Sunday morning Masses that we outlined to you a couple of weeks ago, the Parish Council voted 7 to 2 (NOTE: corrected from a previously published incorrect vote count) to recommend that the Diocese of Limburg arrange for us to move to **Liebfrauenkirche (the Church of Our Lady) in Oberursel (Taunus)**, a town on the northern border of Frankfurt.

As we noted in our previous message on this shift, this move strictly applies to our presence at Holy Cross -- whose parent parish of St. Joseph plans to sell the building due to cost and local demographic issues -- and will not affect our existing 5 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Leonhard's or 5 p.m. Sunday Mass at St. Mary's.

While the vote was decisive, the choice was a difficult one and generated hours of discussion. Any such change will result in people finding their circumstances won't allow them to follow us to the new church; Council members' top priority was therefore to ensure we lose as few parishioners as possible, and particularly to preserve attendance by our numerous young families.

This meant balancing out each location's liturgical atmosphere, public-transport access, parking availability, classroom capacity, ability to continue the weekly coffee socials so vital to our sense of community and -- importantly -- how we'd fit in and avoid disputes with the respective German parishes. In the end, perhaps the strongest element in the Council's decision was one member's argument that the new location should generate as few disruptions as possible for parishioners as they navigate new routes to church and adapt to new schedules for their Sunday

routines.

Because Oberursel-Liebfrauenkirche's German congregation mainly (with occasional exceptions) holds their Sunday Masses in the evening, we are free to choose what time to hold our morning Mass, and there are largely no time constraints on after-Mass activities such as the coffee social, national festivals or First Holy Communion class. There are also two parking lots available, plus on-street parking nearby, and paid parking garages not far away. (That contrasts with the other candidate church, which, while within Frankfurt's city limits, had no parking lot of its own and a fixed Sunday timetable that would have meant our Masses could only take place at either 9 a.m. or 1 p.m., requiring major changes to our parishioners' Sunday schedules).

Now that the Council has made its recommendation, the diocese must ratify it and work out a contract with the Oberursel parish of St. Ursula, of which Oberursel-Liebfrauen is a part, and our church leadership discuss details with them on schedules and use of facilities.

We ask you to continue keeping us in your prayers as we strive to make this transition as smooth as possible so that our faith community, which is already at a record in size, will continue to grow.

Tom Lavell, Parish Council President

Christian Enke, Parish Priest

Lori Bemb, Pastoral Associate