



## November 15, 2004 - Archdiocese of Boston to Grant Closing Extensions to Six Parishes Requests granted to six pastors who met with Archbishop last week

**(Boston, Massachusetts) November 15, 2004...**The Archdiocese of Boston today announced that six of the 30 parishes remaining to be closed as part of the Archdiocesan reconfiguration have been granted extensions of their closing dates. Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Belmont, Sacred Heart Parish in Watertown, Holy Trinity Parish in Lowell and St. Jeremiah Parish in Framingham have been assigned new closing dates as indicated below. Sacred Heart Parish in Lexington and St. Florence Parish in Wakefield will be assigned new closing dates following further consultation between the Archbishop and the pastors.

These six parishes are among eighteen that had previously received a date for closing. The pastors of those eighteen parishes met with Archbishop O'Malley on November 11. At that meeting, the Archbishop listened to pastors' comments and observations regarding their parish's preparation for closing, with particular attention to their difficulties, and offered the pastors the opportunity to extend the closing date if that would be helpful to them. The other twelve pastors who attended the November 11 meeting may contact the Archbishop if there is a determination that they also wish to extend their parish closing dates. In all cases the Archbishop desires to provide the assistance that will help the parish community to make as calm, peaceful and prayerful a transition as is possible.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Belmont, MA  
Original Closing Date: November 18, 2004  
New Closing Date: December 31, 2004  
Pastor: Reverend James McGowan

Holy Trinity Parish, Lowell, MA  
Original Closing Date: November 20, 2004  
New Closing Date: April 3, 2005  
Pastor: Reverend Msgr. Stanislaw Kempa

Sacred Heart Parish, Watertown, MA  
Original Closing Date: November 22, 2004  
New Closing Date: January 9, 2005  
Pastor: Reverend Joseph Curran

St. Jeremiah Parish, Framingham, MA  
Original Closing Date: December 1, 2004  
New Closing Date: May 15, 2005  
Pastor: Reverend Ronald G. Calhoun

Sacred Heart Parish, Lexington, MA  
Original Closing Date: November 21, 2004  
New Closing Date To Be Determined  
Pastor: Reverend Arnold Colletti

St. Florence Parish, Wakefield, MA  
Original Closing Date: November 27, 2004  
New Closing Date To Be Determined  
Pastor: Reverend H. Joseph Murphy

The reconfiguration of parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston began in January of 2004, when there were 357 parishes divided into five regions. Since that time, 47 parishes have closed and other parish communities have welcomed those parishioners. When reconfiguration is completed, it is estimated that 83 parishes and 67 churches will have been closed, eight new parishes will have been created and eight churches will remain open as worship sites. This activity will result in 282 parishes and 290 churches serving the cities and towns that comprise the Archdiocese of Boston.

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