
Diocese of Buffalo

Office of Communications



For Immediate Release

Decision Reached on Fire Damaged Our Lady of the Lake Worship Site in Lyndonville

Buffalo, N.Y., July 10, 2023 – Following a period of consultation with diocesan officials, the pastor and parish leaders from Our Lady of the Lake worship site and its Family of Parishes, a decision has been made that the Our Lake of the Lake worship site of St. Joseph’s in Lyndonville, NY will not be rebuilt following the late February fire that caused extensive damage.

On Feb. 28, a fire in a classroom structure attached to the church caused substantial damage to the church building. Because of that extensive damage to the church, no Masses have been able to be celebrated at the worship site that was founded as St. Joseph’s Parish 117 years ago.

In a letter to parishioners at weekend Masses, Pastor Mark Noonan said, “the event of this fire was both shocking and saddening for all of us. We love our churches.... Over the course of the past few months, it became apparent that St. Joseph’s worship site could not be sustained long-term, and thus we could not responsibly take the step of rebuilding it following the fire. I know that our entire Catholic community in Eastern Niagara and Orleans counties, Family of Parishes #11, is here to come together and to build one another up in the grace and life of the Holy Spirit.”

Family of Parishes #11 includes Our Lady of the Lake (St. Patrick’s) in Barker; St. Mary, Holley; St. Mark, Kendall; Holy Family, Albion; and Holy Trinity (St. Mary’s and St. Stephen’s), Medina/ Middleport.

Work will begin to create appropriate memorials honoring St. Joseph’s at St. Patrick’s in Barker and St. Mary’s in Medina. St. Mary’s Church is a 10-minute drive from Lyndonville, while St. Patrick’s is 15-minutes away.

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Note: As a result of the pastoral planning process, St. Patrick Parish in Barker was linked and then merged with St. Joseph Parish in Lyndonville, effective March 30, 2009. The merged parish was then named Our Lady of the Lake. St. Patrick’s site in Barker became the primary site and Lyndonville became the secondary (worship) site.