

**ST. JEREMIAH PARISH TO HAVE SUNDAY MASS;
VOW TO APPEAL ARCHBISHOP O'MALLEY'S DECISION
TO CLOSE THE SECOND LARGEST PARISH IN FRAMINGHAM;
PRAYERFUL VIGIL TO CONTINUE**

FRAMINGHAM, MA. - August 4, 2005 ...The people of St. Jeremiah will celebrate Sunday Mass at their parish each week while they appeal the decision of Archbishop O'Malley not to re-open their parish. In failing to re-open the second largest parish in Framingham, Archbishop O'Malley missed an opportunity to begin to heal some of the divisions and harm to this Catholic Community that has resulted from the seriously flawed Reconfiguration process. St. Jeremiah parishioners vowed to continue to fight with an appeal to Rome, will also pursue their civil court lawsuit filed in Middlesex Superior Court, and their status as a historical and cultural resource. Their prayerful Vigil will continue.

"We believe strongly in the merits of our case and that our parish is essential in order to minister to our growing Catholic community in North Framingham," said Jackie Lemmerhirt, former Chairperson of the St. Jeremiah Parish Council and co-chair of the Appeal Committee. In addition to the canon law appeal and the civil lawsuit, the parishioners will also continue to pursue their historical designation on the state and national level based upon the parish's relationship with Christa Corrigan McAuliffe, the teacher-Astronaut who died in the Challenger explosion and the Carillon of Bells dedicated in her honor at the Church. "We will pursue all avenues open to us until we are restored as a parish," said Lemmerhirt.

St. Jeremiah, which has always been known as the "Family Parish," has accepted the Archbishop's offer to send a priest to celebrate Sunday Mass at St. Jeremiah while their appeal to Rome is pending. "We expect to begin having Mass by Sunday, August 14, 2005. We invite all St. Jeremiah parishioners and any Catholic in the North Framingham community to join us to celebrate the liturgy," said Mary Beth Carmody, co-chair of the Appeal Committee. Archbishop O'Malley has also granted permission for the celebration of other sacraments at the Church.

The more than 200 parishioners in Vigil at St. Jeremiah have been empowered and are stronger than ever in their commitment to their faith despite the number of flawed decisions of the Archdiocese to close their parish. The parish will hold Religious Education classes this Fall. Registrations can be made on-line at www.stjeremiah.org and at the Church. Their nightly Rosary will continue at 7:30 p.m. There is a summer book club for children, as well as a Scripture Study course for adults every other Wednesday evening. Communion services will continue on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. "We want to continue to be a part of this Archdiocese and will continue to meet our obligations as Catholic Christians. Ours is a vibrant and growing parish, sooner or later the Archdiocese will have to acknowledge this and reward our dedication rather than take action to undermine our faith," said Carmody.

The Archbishop's letter recognized the traffic and parking issues that plague the St. George location. These adverse conditions would only become increasingly worse with the addition of St. Jeremiah parishioners. These factors pointed to the need for two fully functioning parishes in North Framingham. Unfortunately, Archbishop O'Malley still refuses to recognize the seriousness of these issues.

The parishioners of St. Jeremiah are committed to fight the wrongful decision of Archbishop O'Malley in every possible forum. Despite the latest decision, there are still on-going issues about which the parish hopes to continue dialog with the Archdiocese in the near future. It remains their hope that the Archbishop will again review the situation in North Framingham and reverse his decision to suppress St. Jeremiah Parish.

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