Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

April 1, 2026

Reverend Peter R. Scheffer, Jr.
Saint Joan of Arc Parish
61 Canal Road
Orleans, MA 02653-2404

Dear Father Scheffer,

Grace and peace in Christ!

After prayerful consideration and consultation, taking into account your gifts and talents and the needs of the parish, I am pleased to appoint you as the Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Wellfleet and Pastor of Saint Peter the Apostle Parish in Provincetown, while remaining Pastor of Saint Joan of Arc Parish in Orleans, and with continued residence at St. Joan of Arc rectory. This appointment is effective Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

Please contact the Dean of the Cape Cod Deanery, the Very Reverend Thomas Washburn, V.F. at Holy Trinity Parish in West Harwich, to make the Profession of Faith and take the Oath of Fidelity on Assuming an Office to be Exercised in the Name of the Church.

As Pastor, you are entrusted with the spiritual care of the faithful, the administration of the sacraments, and the overall guidance of the parish community. You are to lead with wisdom and humility, fostering a spirit of unity, evangelization, and service. Additionally, you will be responsible for overseeing the parish's liturgical, pastoral, and administrative life in accordance with the teachings of the Church and the directives of our Diocese.

I also wish to remind you that every parish is required to have an active Finance Council and Pastoral Council. If these Councils are not constituted at Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Peter the Apostle Parishes, I ask you to make sure that they are created as soon as possible.

I trust that you will carry out your new additional with devotion and zeal, always seeking to glorify God and serve His people with love and compassion. Be assured of my prayers and support as you begin this new chapter in your priestly ministry.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in your mission and may the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints strengthen you in your service.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+Edgar M. da Cunha

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River

p.s.

I ask that you make this announcement over the weekend of April 11/12 so that announcements are made at all parishes at the same time.

cc: Very Rev. Thomas Washburn, V.F.

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