

Notice to the Parish Community Regarding the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX)

In light of the recent decree of the Holy See concerning the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX), we wish to provide the following guidance to the faithful of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The Holy See has decreed that the Society of Saint Pius X has entered into schism through its illicit episcopal consecrations and that its bishops have incurred the canonical penalty of *latae sententiae excommunication* pursuant to [Canon 1387](#). SSPX clergy and those laypeople who formally adhere to the Society's schism are to be considered schismatic and excommunicated in accordance with [Canon 1364 §1](#) and the [Holy See's Explanatory Note of July 2, 2026](#). Catholics are therefore urged not to attend SSPX chapels or seek the Sacraments there, due to their illicit and/or invalid nature.

This guidance includes *Mission Santa Maria* in Dewey, Arizona, and *Our Lady of Sorrows Church* in Phoenix, Arizona, both of which are operated by the Society of Saint Pius X.

We encourage any parishioner who has been attending an SSPX chapel or who has questions regarding these developments to speak with one of our priests. The Church's desire is always the reconciliation and salvation of souls.

Please join us in praying for the unity of the Church, for the reconciliation of those who have separated themselves from Her communion, and for all who seek to follow Christ faithfully.

For further information, please consult the [Holy See's decree](#) and the Holy See's Explanatory Note published by the Vatican.