



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

**Decree of Suppression
of the parish of St. Mary, Groveport, Ohio
St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester
and aggregation and erection of the new parish
of The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Canal Winchester Ohio**

Office of the Bishop
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Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of the parishes of St. Mary, Groveport and St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester recommending the suppression of these parishes and the aggregation of the suppressed parishes to form a new parish with a new title; and

Whereas, the need to consolidate resources and to better utilize the limited numbers of available priests, and taking into consideration the Mass attendance data, community demographics, the financial conditions and the conditions of the physical plant serving all communities; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus on March 21, 2024 in accordance with C. 515.2, and receiving unanimous approval of this plan;

Therefore, I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following

1. The parish of St. Mary, Groveport is suppressed effective June 8, 2024;
2. The parish of St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester is suppressed effective June 8, 2024;
3. Simultaneously with the suppression of these parishes, the parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these suppressed parishes of St. Mary and St. John XXIII Parish will be joined by aggregation into a single juridic person, to form a new parish, the boundaries of which are:
 - a. Northern: Beginning at Williams Road and Lockbourne Road, East on Williams Road to Alum Creek Drive; North on Alum Creek Drive to Refugee Road (104); East on Refugee Road to Noe-Bixby Road;
 - b. Eastern: South on Noe-Bixby Road to Winchester Pike; East on Winchester Pike to Ebright Road; South on Ebright Road to U.S Route 33; East on U.S. Route 33 to Winchester Road; West on Winchester Road to Pickerington Road; South on Pickerington Road to Alspach Road,
 - c. Southern: West on Alspach Rd to Winchester Southern Rd; South on Winchester Southern Rd to Duvall Rd; West on Duvall Rd to Goodman Rd; North on Goodman Rd to London Lancaster Rd; West on London Lancaster Rd to the boundaries of Rickenbacker International Airport (formerly Lockbourne Air Force Base), to London Groveport Rd; West on London Groveport Rd to Lockbourne Rd;
 - d. Western: North on Lockbourne Road to Williams Road
4. This new parish will be given the title "The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary."
5. There is no change in status or title of St. Mary Church foreseen at this time; it continues as dedicated parish churches in the care of which henceforth is the responsibility of The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. St. John XXIII Church will retain its name for the time being.
6. This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan Website, in the Catholic Times and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 21st day of March, 2024.

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Notary

■ 198 East Broad Street

■ Columbus • Ohio 43215-3702