



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop
614 • 224 • 2251

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

**of the parish of Holy Trinity Parish, Pond Creek, Ohio
St. Mary of the Annunciation, Portsmouth, Ohio
Holy Redeemer Parish, Portsmouth, Ohio
St. Peter in Chains Parish, Wheelersburg, Ohio
and aggregation and erection of the new parish
of St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish, Portsmouth, Ohio**

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of the Scioto Catholic Parishes of Holy Trinity, Pond Creek; St. Mary the Annunciation, Portsmouth; Holy Redeemer, Portsmouth; and St. Peter in Chains, Wheelersburg recommending the suppression of all 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 January 17, 2024 in accordance with C. 515.2, and receiving unanimous approval of this plans;

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

1. The parish of Holy Trinity Parish, Pond Creek is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
2. The parish of St. Mary the Annunciation Parish, Portsmouth is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
3. The parish of Holy Redeemer Parish, Portsmouth is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
4. The parish of St. Peter in Chains Parish, Wheelersburg is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
5. Simultaneously with the suppression of these parishes, the parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these suppressed parishes of Holy Trinity, Pond Creek; St. Mary the Annunciation, Portsmouth; Holy Redeemer, Portsmouth; and St. Peter in Chains, Wheelersburg, will be joined by aggregation into a single juridic person, to form a new parish, the boundaries of which are to include all of Scioto County, Ohio.
6. This new parish will be given the title “St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish.”

7. There is no change in status or title of Holy Trinity Church, Pond Creek; St. Mary the Annunciation Church, Portsmouth; Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth; and St. Peter in Chains Church in Wheelersburg foreseen at this time; they continue as dedicated parish churches in the care of which henceforth is the responsibility of St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish.
8. This decree shall be promulgated by publication 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 17th day of January, 2024.

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

[Signature]
Notary

