



## SCIOTO CATHOLIC NEWSLETTER

### FALL 2019

Dear Scioto Catholic Family,

When someone says the word "Fall" we instantly begin to think Football games and pumpkin spice lattes. However and sadly, that is what the fall season means to so many people. We have lost contact with the actual natural signs of the seasons and we turn to man-made expressions as signs for the change of seasons. But a pumpkin spice latte and football game aren't true signals of the season change.

If we turn to the help of the Church to understand the season of Fall, some might remember the practice of September Ember Days. Ember Days were meant to be quarterly observances that "the Church is accustomed to entreat the Lord for the various needs of humanity, especially for the fruits of the earth and for human labor, and to give thanks to him publicly." (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, 45).

Even today, Ember Days are especially a part of the agrarian heritage of our Faith. The Church recognizes our dependency on God for His gifts of nature. The Liturgy reflects this connection with nature and God. Before man became so civilized, weather, crops, farm animals and the change of seasons were a part of daily life for everyone. Not everyone lived in rural locations, but there was a recognition of the connection between the land and our life. The agrarian connection also recognized that while man could work the land, he can never control the elements. Returning to our agricultural roots brings true humility in remembering man's role on earth as being completely beholden to God. The gift of nature is from God, and man is not and can never be in control of it.

This stroll down memory lane is not intended to be a backward-looking movement or a desire to live in the past. Ember Days are still a part of the Church's tradition. Ember Days are a help to live and understand the unbroken continuum of the Church's Liturgy. Ember Days may look a bit different than pre-Vatican II, but Ember Days are still a part of the Church's living tradition.

While our Diocese specially does not observe Ember Days, we can still use this season of Fall to look with wonder at our gifts of nature from God, see the connections in your life, and use Fall as a time to turn your hearts in praise and thanksgiving.

Many Blessings,

Fr. Joe



## SCIOTO CONSORTIUM SEMINARIAN SPOTLIGHT



### Andrew Wisniewski, Seminararian

Hello, my name is Andrew Wisniewski. I am 34 years old and just completed my second year of theological studies at the Josephinum. I am blessed and honoured to be able to spend my pastoral year with all of you! Portsmouth and Scioto County are new territory for me as I have never set foot here before now. So, that means there is much to discover, many folks to meet and plenty of experiences to share. I am excited to say the least!

So, a bit about me. I enjoy being outdoors, especially hiking and biking. I played football throughout my childhood (no, sorry I'm not a Buckeye fan ;-). More recently I have taken to boxing and have had some good sparring experience over the last couple of years. I like to shoot, though I'm not very good; I hope to improve on that! My father and I used to spend our summers going to classic car shows, so I know a bit about cars. If I could ever get my hands on a 1959 Imperial I'd been in hog-heaven! I was a drummer for a blues/fusion band in high schools and in my early twenties with an acoustic blues (think ZZ Top like) band. I enjoy every type of music especially cool and avant-garde jazz.

My vocation story is rather intricate but hopefully I'll be able to share it with many of you in person. Suffice it to say God showered with immense and undeserved mercy and I'm blessed to be able to discern and work towards how He wishes to share that mercy with the world. As you might have guessed the sacrament of Penance has been central in my vocational journey.

I look forward to meeting all of you in the Scioto Consortium and sharing the journey towards the City of God with you. I have no doubt that these months will be filled with copious graces, challenges and joys. Again, thank you for allowing to share your parishes with you!!

Many blessings and peace,  
Andrew Wisniewski

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## Congratulations Lexi!!!! Miss River Days 1st Runner Up!!!



I am so honored to be your 2019 Miss River Day's First Runner Up and to have received the following awards: Outstanding Platform, Miss Congeniality, People's Choice, Academic Excellence, Critical Thinking, Community Service, Fitness award, and third place on my float.



### *Miss Notre Dame - Alexis Graf*

Hello! My name is Alexis Graf, but most call me Lexi! I am a third generation Notre Dame Titan, and I am the daughter of Gregory and Alison Graf. I am one of five kids. I have a younger brother Aiden who is 8, and a younger sister Izzy who is 6. They both attend Notre Dame Elementary. I have two other sisters, Maddie who is 4, and Katie who is 1.

I am a member of Notre Dame's key club, yearbook staff, swim team, tennis team, and student council. I am a new inductee to Notre Dame's National Honor society and I am member of the Scioto Catholic Community. There, I am part of high school youth group and a leader for junior high youth group and vacation bible school.

As Miss Notre Dame, I plan to advocate for safe driving practices. I plan to educate the community on the importance of seat belt safety not just because it is the law but because it saves lives. In addition to seat belt safety, teaching the dangers of distracted driving. This platform is important to me because in 1998 my aunt, Katie Graf, was in a fatal car accident. She was not wearing her seat belt and was ejected from her car. If she would have been wearing it, she could have possibly still been here with us today. Seeing how this devastating accident has affected my family, as well as her friends, even after all this time has inspired me to bring awareness to the fatal consequences that could occur if some of the most basic safe driving practices are not followed.

I want to thank my school faculty for allowing me to represent Notre Dame, and my fellow classmates for their support. I am so excited to see where this journey takes me. I can't wait to make 11 new friends and together advocate for topics we are passionate about, as well as gain skills that are not just going to benefit us through our River Days journey but for the rest of our lives!





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# Scioto Catholic Community

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## ST. Mary International *Festival* September 13, 14, 15

We are having a food, fun & fellowship event which will include live free music and entertainment all weekend. Saturday's events include an antique custom car & truck show, a craft vendor show and a flea market inside the parish center. There will be food booths and a Chinese auction. There will be pony rides for the kids and a petting zoo. Sunday there will be a vintage tractor show.

### St. Mary *150th Celebration*

Mass with Bishop Brennan  
September 15th at 10:30 am

We are celebrating our parish's 150th Anniversary of laying the cornerstone and Bishop Brennan will celebrate the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday.



### RCIA *Becoming Catholic* Begins September 17th 6:30-8:00 PM St. Peter Hall

Something missing in your life? Thinking about the Catholic faith? Do you desire to be closer to God or want to know more about the Catholic faith? Come and See! All are welcome!

### Scioto Catholic *Parish Schools Of Religion*

St. Monica & St. Peter Program  
Begins September 8th 10:15-11:30 AM  
St. Peter Hall

Holy Redeemer & St. Mary Program  
Begins September 22nd 8:45-10:00 AM  
In the Holy Redeemer Activity Center

Visit [sciotocatholic.org/childrensministry](http://sciotocatholic.org/childrensministry) for more information.



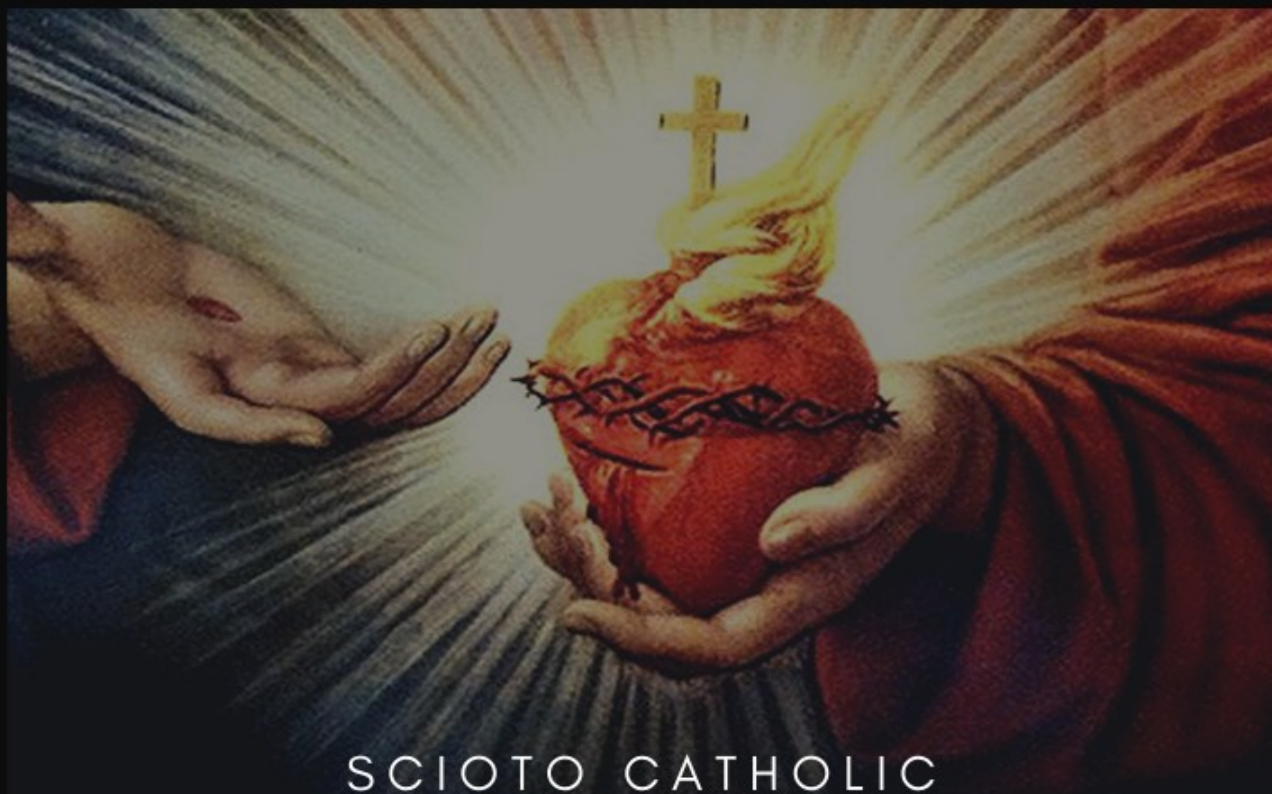
### Oktoberfest/Halloween Party St. Peter October 5th Mass @ 4:00

Josh Stewart Band will be performing. There will be hayrides, food, & drinks. Halloween Party (**No witches, demons, etc. @ Mass please**), kids games and more.



*All Saints Day*  
Holy Day of Obligation  
October 31st—Vigil Mass times  
7:00 pm—St. Peter  
7:00 pm—Holy Redeemer  
**November 1st - Mass Times**  
10:00 am—NDHS All Schools Mass  
12:00 pm—St Mary  
6:00 pm—St. Monica

*All Soul's Day*  
9:00 am—Cemetery Mass @ Greenlawn



# *Becoming Catholic*

AN INVITATION TO THE JOY OF CATHOLIC LIFE

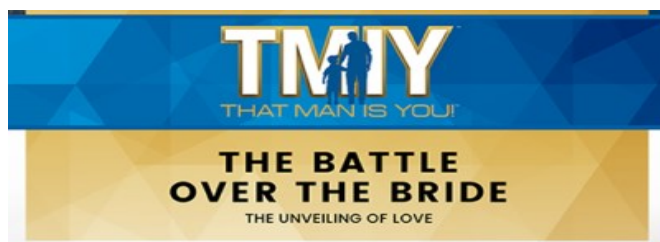
**STARTS SEPTEMBER 17TH / 6:30 - 8:00 PM**  
**ST PETER HALL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[fathertuttle@sciotocatholic.org](mailto:fathertuttle@sciotocatholic.org)  
740-354-4551

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# Scioto Catholic Community

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## DISCOVER:

- The unique Catholic vision of love and marriage, which is profound that it spans from Paradise in Eden through Christ's sacrifice to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in heaven.
- The latest neurological science that harmonizes profoundly well with the Church's vision of love and marriage.
- Powerful stories from around the globe of men and women whose lives give testimony to the power of love.
- The structured approach used by saints to make true progress in the spiritual life.
- The grace of renewal being offered to men and families through an encounter with Our Lady.

## *TMIY Battle Over The Bride*

### LOCATION and SCHEDULE:

Saint Mary Activity Center,  
514 Market Street,  
Portsmouth, Ohio

Starting Saturday Mornings Sept. 21st - Dec. 21st

7:00 am Continental Breakfast  
7:20 am Video Presentation  
7:50 am Breakout Group Discussion  
8:20 am Conclusion (Mass at 8:30 am at Holy Redeemer)

### REGISTRATION:

New registrants contact Tim Paul by cell:  
740.352.4017 or email [tim@sciotocatholic.org](mailto:tim@sciotocatholic.org)  
(Last year registrants are already registered)



## *St. Mary's 150th Anniversary*

Bishop Robert Brennan will visit Portsmouth St. Mary Church next month to highlight a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the laying of the church building's cornerstone.

He will celebrate a Mass at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 15 that will be part of the parish's annual international festival, held on the parish grounds for more than 40 years. Festival dates and times are: Friday, Sept. 13, 5:30 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 15, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

St. Mary Church is located at Fifth and Market St. in Portsmouth's historic Boneyfiddle area, just outside of downtown. The parish was founded in 1841. The church cornerstone was laid by Columbus' first Catholic bishop, Sylvester Rosecrans, one year after the founding of the Diocese of Columbus in 1868.

The building's clock tower, built in 1895, reaches a height of 216 feet, the tallest church tower in the city. It houses three bells known as St. Peter, St. George and St. Philomena. The tower has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979.

The parish is part of the Scioto Catholic consortium, with Father Joseph Yokum as pastor. Other parishes in the consortium, formed in 2017, are Portsmouth Holy Redeemer, New Boston St. Monica and Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains.



**The cornerstone of Portsmouth St. Mary Church in the city's Boneyfiddle area was laid in 1869. That event will be commemorated at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 15 as part of the parish's annual International Festival. The parish was founded in 1841.**



# adore

## >> MINISTRIES

This summer, two of our youth group volunteers spent their summer in Houston, Texas doing an internship with Adore Ministries. While there, they were partnered with Adore missionaries and helped run youth group nights, were trained in mentoring high school students, and had opportunities for their own faith formation. They were only able to do this because of the financial support of our amazing Scioto Catholic parishioners. Thank you for your generosity! Read the testimonies below to see how God worked in the lives of these young adults this summer.



### BRYSTIN WHITINGER

If I had to describe this summer in one word, it would be transforming. I came into this summer with little to no expectations, just knowing that the work I'd be doing would be similar in some aspects but also completely different than what I was used to. I was excited, nervous, but overall hopeful for the outcome.

I've been so transformed emotionally and spiritually through everything I experienced. Being placed in the 5th Ward of Houston this summer stretched me in every good way, and has shown me just how big God's calling for my future is. Placing me in a community of people who not only want to become saints themselves, but strived for me to be one too helped me figure out exactly where God and I stood and now has me craving for more. Not to mention, myself and the other interns created such a tight bond with each other, which allowed us to share mission better with one another. Overall, I am so joyful from this summer. I've learned to be confident in speaking God's word to others, learned how to build the community I long for, learned/am still learning how to be okay with just sitting with God and listening, and so much more.

I think I could go on for hours about my experiences from mission, but I want to end by thanking all of you for making it possible. Without your prayers and support I couldn't have even gone on mission. Because of your help, I am here as a better person than before I left. While I'm already missing my new friends, and especially missing all the tacos (they just aren't the same here), I am so excited to be back in Portsmouth. God has a lot planned, and I can't wait to see how he unfolds it all to us!



### ETHAN BOERGER

While working with Adore Ministries I was shown, even though I did not believe it, everything I needed to spread the Gospel I already possessed; but even more than that they helped me hone these gifts over the summer. These gifts were sharpened by leading bible study on Tuesdays, playing games with teens on Wednesdays, and helping out with youth group on Thursdays. On top of this, I was also given the opportunity to disciple three guys, and this usually just included going out to eat to talk and be present to them. Through these experiences I not only have become a better mentor to teens, but the experiences also taught me how to minister to teens more effectively.

Ultimately, this summer was supposed to provide active discernment to see if youth ministry was something I was actually called to do. Well, to say the least, the Lord went above and beyond to show me that I am definitely called into this line of work. I have a renewed heart for service, and an eagerness to share the love of Christ. Working for Adore has set my heart on fire, and I am excited to see where God leads me next! Thank you all for the overwhelming support you have provided.

***After the work that the Lord did in their lives this summer, Brystin and Ethan have accepted roles as student missionaries with Adore Ministries here in Portsmouth. They will work alongside Paul and Megan Baum (who have served with Adore for the last six years) to mentor and disciple the young people of Scioto Catholic. For more information about Adore Ministries, please visit [www.adoremministries.com](http://www.adoremministries.com).***

# SCIOTO CATHOLIC STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## MEGAN BAUM, Director of Evangelization

### **Tell us about your family.**

I am the only daughter to Mark and Mary Thompson and was raised in Columbus, but I have Portsmouth in my blood. Both of my parents are from Portsmouth. My dad is a Portsmouth High School grad and my mom is a Notre Dame Titan! I have three brothers (two older and one younger), so I was trained well for my current life with my three sons, Leo, Ignatius, and Jude. I'm married to Paul, who also works for Scioto Catholic. So many people tell us that there is no way they could work with their spouse, but we love getting to serve together and feel like our gifts complement each other in service to the parishes.

### **Where did you go to college and what did you study?**

I graduated from THE Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in social work. While doing my college studies and for a few years afterwards, I worked as the youth and young adult minister at St. Matthew parish in Gahanna. While on a mission trip to Portsmouth with my youth group from Columbus, the Holy Spirit gave me this huge love and desire for Portsmouth, a love and desire that ultimately led to Paul and I moving here a year later. Portsmouth has been the place where we have built our family and we are so grateful to call this city home.

### **What is your favorite thing about Scioto Catholic?**

My favorite thing about Scioto Catholic is the familial nature of our parishes. The people in all four churches have continually shown me that family is not limited to the people who live in your house, but extends further--to the people you sit next to in the pews and beyond. In our most difficult struggles and our most intense joys, we have felt the love and support of our parish family. This familial nature, in my opinion, is one of the greatest strengths we have as a church!

### **Who is your favorite Saint and why?**

When I was in college and was living a life far from the Church, it was St. Therese of Lisieux whose friendship helped to bring me back to Jesus. I firmly believe that the Saints want to be our companions in this life to lead us to the next and she has been my faithful friend for years, inspiring me by her 'little way' of holiness. Currently St. Ignatius of Loyola keeps popping up everywhere I go, so we will see what that friendship is all about. : )



## CHRIS PONZIO, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor

### **Tell us about your family.**

I am the fifth child of six children. I grew up in New Jersey, but came to Portsmouth for college. I have one son named Tyler who entered the Church with me two years ago and he has one son who attends Notre Dame. I also have two Rottweiler fur babies, Barrett and Riley.

### **Where did you go to college and what did you study?**

I attended Shawnee State University and majored in electro mechanical engineering.

### **What is your favorite thing about Scioto Catholic?**

The day I entered the church, someone walked up to me and said, "Welcome to the family". And Scioto Catholic has really felt like that to me. Plus they throw a lot of parties (and are good at it)!

### **Who is your favorite Saint and why?**

St. Christopher. I have a background in aviation and he is the protector of travelers.

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**NEW  
SERIES  
SEPTEMBER 8TH  
7-9PM HOLY REDEEMER**

**WHAT  
WOULD  
JESUS  
UNDO?**



**CONTACT: PAUL BAUM  
614-623-7722**



# ST. MARY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

**SEPTEMBER 13TH, 14TH, 15TH**

*Fifth & Market Streets  
Portsmouth, Ohio*

**CALL 740-354-4551 FOR MORE INFO**

*St. Mary Church*



**Sunday Sept. 15th at 10:30 am  
Mass with Bishop Brennan**

**JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP. LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT. FOOD BOOTHS SERVING AMERICAN-'RIBBER' RIBS & CHICKEN, GERMAN-BRATS & KRAUT, POTATO SALAD, INDIAN, ITALIAN, IRISH, MEXICAN, ASIAN. YOU COULD BE A WINNER! \$3,000 IN TOTAL RAFFLE WINNINGS! TREASURE CHEST OF GOODIES (OVER \$1000 VALUE)**

## *Schedule of Events*

### **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2019**

- FOOD BOOTHS & BIERGARTEN OPEN AT 5:30
- CONCERT FEATURING NIGHT SHIFT

### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2019**

- FLEA MARKET OPENS AT 8 (INSIDE CENTER)
- ANTIQUE CUSTOM CAR & TRUCK SHOW
- CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW
- INTERNATIONAL FOOD BOOTHS OPEN AT 11:00
- ENTERTAINMENT - GROUND ZERO, STEVE FREE
- KID GAMES & INFLATABLES, PETTING ZOO
- BIERGARTEN (PORTSMOUTH BREWING CO.)
- CHINESE AUCTION & QUILT SHOW & CRAFT BOOTH
- MASS AT 5:30PM
- EVENING CONCERT - SHELDON ROAD BAND

### **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**

- MASS WITH BISHOP BRENNAN
- FOOD BOOTHS OPEN AT 11:30 - FLEA MARKET
- VINTAGE FARM TRACTOR SHOW - PETTING ZOO
- ENTERTAINMENT - CITY HEAT & OTHER BANDS
- RAFFLE DRAWING AT 6:00

## *150th Celebration*





THE 4TH ANNUAL  
ST. PETER'S

# Oktoberfest

JOSH STEWART  
BAND

HALLOWEEN  
PARTY

No witches, demons,  
etc. @ Mass please!

HAYRIDES



KIDS  
GAMES

FOOD  
+ DRINKS

AND  
MORE!

OCTOBER 5, 2019

ST. PETER IN CHAINS  
2167 LICK RUN LYRA, WHEELERSBURG, OH  
MASS 4PM

# SCIOTO CATHOLIC

*Four Parishes, One Family*

HOLY REDEEMER  
1325 GALLIA STREET  
PORTSMOUTH, OHIO 45662  
(740) 354-4551

ST. MONICA  
4252 PINE STREET  
NEW BOSTON, OHIO 45662  
(740) 354-4551

ST. MARY OF THE ANNUNCIATION  
514 MARKET STREET  
PORTSMOUTH, OHIO 45662  
(740) 354-4551

ST. PETER IN CHAINS  
2167 LICK RUN-LYRA ROAD  
WHEELERSBURG, OHIO 45694  
(740) 354-4551

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FR. JOSEPH YOKUM, PASTOR  
FR. CHRISTOPHER TUTTLE, PAROCHIAL VICAR

Please  
place stamp  
here

Scioto Catholic Office  
514 Market Street  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

