THE
NOTRE DAME
SCHOOLS
FAITH · EXCELLENCE · SERVICE

**Notre Dame Elementary**
1401 Gallia St
Portsmouth, OH 45662
**Phone:** (740) 353-2354

**Notre Dame Jr/Sr High School**
2220 Sunrise Ave
Portsmouth, OH 45662
**Phone:** (740) 353-2354

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

11/24/2026

It is with tremendous joy and gratitude to Almighty God that I share with you a historic announcement for our parish and The Notre Dame Schools.

After just eleven months of fundraising, and with more than $16 million raised toward our $20 million Building on Faith Capital Campaign, Bishop Earl K. Fernandes has granted us permission to officially break ground on our new Notre Dame Elementary School on Tuesday, April 27, 2027. Bishop Fernandes will be present to lead us in this historic ceremony.

What was once a dream is becoming a reality!

This is about far more than constructing a new school. It is about securing the future of Catholic education in Scioto County. Long after we are gone, generations of children will walk through these doors, encounter Christ, and benefit from the sacrifices we are making today.

As your pastor, I am profoundly grateful to everyone who has prayed, sacrificed, and generously supported this endeavor. What we have accomplished together in such a short time is truly remarkable.

Our work, however, is not yet finished. I continue to ask for 100% participation from our parish and school families. Whether your gift is one dollar or one million dollars, I want every parishioner to be able to look upon this school and proudly say, *"I helped build that."*

The Notre Dame Schools are our parish's largest ministry. This is not simply a school project; it is our shared responsibility and our legacy.

Please mark April 27, 2027, on your calendars. Additional details will be forthcoming, and I hope our entire parish family will join us for this historic occasion.

May Our Blessed Mother, Notre Dame, continue to guide our efforts and intercede for the generations of children entrusted to our care.

With a grateful heart, I remain,

Fr. Stephen M. Smith

Rev. Stephen M. Smith
Pastor