

## Saint Bernadette Parish

1343 Wheeling Road NE (740) 654 • 1893  
LANCASTER, OH 43130-8701

## Saint Mary Parish

602 Marietta Street (740) 569 • 7929  
BREMEN, OH 43107

*stbernadetteparish.net*



Jesus, you made Blessed Teresa an inspiring example of firm faith and burning charity, an extraordinary witness to the way of spiritual childhood, and a great and esteemed teacher of the value and dignity of every human life. Grant that she may be venerated and imitated as one of the Church's canonized saints. Hear the requests of all those who seek her intercession, especially the petition I now implore ... (mention here the favour you wish to pray for). May we follow her example in heeding Your cry of thirst from the Cross and joyfully loving You in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor, especially those most unloved and unwanted. We ask this in Your name and through the intercession of Mary, Your Mother and the Mother of us all. *Amen.*

official prayer for her canonization and logo designed by Mumbai graphic designer Karen Vaswani

## the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the Year

*September 4, 2016*

## Our Parishes

### AT BOTH PARISHES

<b>Fr Thomas Kessler</b>	pastor	(614) wnthomaskessler 634-0499 @icloud.com
<b>Kathy Kehnast</b>	pastoral coordinator	(740) stbernaparish 654-1893 @yahoo.com
<b>Angie &amp; Kent Kerns</b>	religious education	(740) kwkerns 654-2588 @gmail.com
<b>Julie &amp; Chase Stalford</b>	youth ministry	(740) maristellaspirt 808-7294 @gmail.com
<b>Nikki Schmelzer</b>	bookkeeper	(740) businessstbparish 654-1893 @yahoo.com

### AT BREMEN ST MARY PARISH

<b>Ben Factor</b>	liturgical music	(740) b_factor @lancaster.kl2.oh.us
<b>Jim Schmelzer</b>	maintenance chair	(740) 215-3894
<b>Tyna Fox-Schmelzer</b>	religious education	(614) schmelifox @earthlink.net
<b>Bremen St Vincent de Paul</b>		(740) 569-3710

The St Mary Parish office is at the church vestibule.

Hours are 9-11 AM, Tu. 602 Marietta St, Bremen, OH 43107 (740) 569-7929

### AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

<b>Deacon Mark Scarpitti</b>		(740) dcn.mark 438-3970 @frontier.com
<b>Deacon Jeff Carpenter</b>		(740) carpenter.277 681-9918 @osu.edu
<b>Ann Essman</b>	pastoral minister	(740) aessman001 653-9347 @att.net
<b>Steve Huber</b>	facilities coordinator	(740) shuber57 654-3137 @yahoo.com
<b>Liz Latorre</b>	liturgical music	(740) lizlatorre 243-1872 @gmail.com

The St Bernadette Parish office is in the Mary Good Center, across the back parking lot from the school.

Hours are: 9 AM-1 PM, MWThF; 11 AM-1 PM, Tu. 1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130

### AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

<b>Pam Eltringham</b>	principal	(740) peltring 654-3137 @cdeducation.org
<b>Barb Huber</b>	secretary	(740) bhuber 654-3137 @cdeducation.org

Saint Bernadette School is at

1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701 stbermlan  
www.stbernadetteschool.com @cdeducation.org

## Sacramental Life

### BAPTISM

To have a child baptized, you must register and attend a class as a couple (unless attendance just isn't possible, in which case some discussion with Kathy Kehnast will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. The next session will be Wednesday, **Oct 19. Take the class before the child is born.** If you are expecting, call Kathy to register for the class.

Please don't ask if you "have to go." This is an opportunity to meet with parents of children about the same age as your little one; they are in the same wonderful boat as you are.

At least one parent must be a practicing Catholic. **Both godparents need to be practicing Christians, at least one a practicing Catholic.** If you don't attend Sunday Mass regularly, there is something you can do about it: Start coming to Sunday Mass. If you can't come (health, severe weather, employment requirements, etc.), speak to your confessor. He will help you.

### PENANCE

The priest is available for Penance

1. at St Bernadette Saturdays at 3 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM, and
2. at St Mary Bremen on Sunday at 8 AM.

In addition to Advent and Lenten Penance Services, every Catholic priest is available whenever there is a need. There are Penance opportunities for parochial school children **four times during the year so that they will learn the beauty of frequent confession.** The Church's law requires us to receive the sacrament of Penance at least once a year.

### ANOIDING AND CARE OF THE SICK

The Sick receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick **when dangerously ill, facing major surgery, or suffering from the ravages of old age.**

We celebrate the sacrament communally at a Sunday Mass before Advent and during the Easter season so that we can all pray with you for "health of mind and body."

And, we are happy to bring Penance, Anointing, and Holy Communion to the homes or hospitals of the sick or shut in. It is very helpful to **call the parish office to let us know before a hospitalization or when it has been too long** since the sacraments were last available.

### HOLY MATRIMONY

Couples wishing to marry sacramentally should contact the parish office six months before they wish to celebrate the sacrament.

Why so long? Because **this sacrament, not just the ceremony, requires serious preparation.** And the Church needs to be involved in that preparation. She tries to support couples through the years of their married life. For this reason our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. To learn how, watch the weekly bulletin.

## let us pray together

### FOR THE 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### AND WITH POPE FRANCIS IN SEPTEMBER

His universal intention is about the centrality of the human person:

That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the center.

His evangelization intention is about the mission to evangelize:

That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.

## in both our parishes

### emergency flood collection

The recent flooding in Louisiana is the worst domestic disaster since Hurricane Sandy. It seems that 60,000 homes have been damaged, with nearly 20,000 people having been rescued from the flood waters. Bishop Campbell asks that all our parishes in the Diocese of Columbus participate in the Bishops' national emergency collection to assist the victims of the 2016 Louisiana Floods. Our prayer and material support is urgently needed to help rebuild lives. The collection will be taken the Sunday after next, Sept 17 and 18, and will be used to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to affected local churches.

### get ready for Mass

If it is something special, we get ready for it. That goes for Sunday Mass. The most important way to get ready is to be in—or get into—the **state of grace** so that we can receive Holy Communion worthily. Then we need to **fast** (a tough word for a very easy task) for at least an hour before we receive Communion. And we could try to prime the pump, as it were, for hearing the Word of God as it will be read that day by **reading and pondering that little portion of the Word of God**. Those are matters of spiritual readiness. But to go to Mass is to approach the great sacramental mysteries, **approaching physically as well as spiritually**. Old-fashioned rural Protestants were on to something when they spoke of wearing their “**Sunday-go-to-meetin’ clothes**.” We could all **dress up** a little bit, not to show off our fancy wardrobe but to “do something beautiful for God.” And think of what we say to our kids before a trip or before a film or a concert or a ride on the ferris wheel: We tell them to **go to the bathroom ahead of time**. Emergencies can happen to just about everybody. And each of us has the health she/he has been blessed with. But with a little extra precaution we could be (and help others to be) even more single-minded about worship and to avoid the procession to and from the rest rooms. Thanks for thinking about all these things.

### protecting God’s children

This workshop, required for all school volunteers, will be offered Saturday, Sept 10, at 9 AM at St Mary Lancaster, and at many other locations throughout our Diocese. For a complete list, or to register for a class, visit [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

Mass times and intentions			
at St Bernadette		at St Mary	
4 PM	60 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Leo & Eileen Schmelzer	Saturday, Sept 3	
		Sunday, Sept 4	8:30 AM for the people
11 AM	for the people	Sunday, Sept 4	
8:20 AM	Carl J Messerly	Monday, Sept 5	
		Tuesday, Sept 6	8:20 AM Msgr Thomas Bender
8:20 AM	David Yost	Wednesday, Sept 7	
6 PM	Martha Mitroff	Thursday, Sept 8	
8:20 AM	Abbott family	Friday, Sept 9	
4 PM	for the people	Saturday, Sept 10	
		Sunday, Sept 11	8:30 AM for the people
11 AM	for the people	Sunday, Sept 11	

### pray in church

You can come to church to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament **any day, during daylight hours** at either St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary. The front doors of both churches are unlocked during the day. People praying in church are welcome to **turn a light on** when needed. They are urged to **turn off lights** when they aren't necessary.

### to shelter the homeless

An older Catholic woman is looking for a room or a small place to live. If you are aware of a place for rent, call the office for details.

## st bernadette

### welcome to st bernadette catholic school

Our goal at St. Bernadette School is to nurture and encourage, in each child, academic, spiritual, emotional, and physical development; to guide them in their choices and appreciation of the cultural arts. Our students are active participants in their education.

*from the school website*

### psr classes at st bernadette

St Bernadette PSR begins Sunday, Sept 11, at 9:45 AM. Parents are invited to this first session for a meeting while their children attend class. Call the office for information or to register.

### a new hymnal !

**St Michael Hymnal**, fourth edition, has arrived at St Bernadette. It will be making its debut in just a few weeks.

The cost of this new resource has been borne by generous parishioners who wish to remain anonymous. So you can't say "thank you" personally, but you can indeed pray for them and their intentions.

### caring for church linens

It's a small service with big dividends. If you could help wash and iron the altar linens for St Bernadette once a month, call the church office to volunteer.

### news from the lazarus committee

The Lazarus Committee thanks all the ladies who have prepared and delivered food for our funeral luncheons over the years. More people than you realize appreciate their help and generosity. Think how many of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are included in this service.

#### the spiritual works of mercy,

- counsel the doubtful
- admonish sinners
- forgive offences
- instruct the ignorant
- comfort the afflicted
- bear patiently those who do us ill
- pray for the living and the dead,

#### and the corporal works of mercy,

- feed the hungry
- clothe the naked
- heal the sick
- bury the dead.
- give drink to the thirsty
- welcome the stranger
- visit the imprisoned

Someone suggested that six of them are acted on! If you have not been a part of this ministry and would like to have your name added to the calling list, call the office at (740) 654-1893 for details. Thank you.



ministers at Mass at st bernadette				
	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
<b>Saturday, Sept 3 4 PM</b>	Tara Craaybeek	Kendall Cox, Clara & Susan Craaybeek	Teresa Carpenter Rose DeFillippo Lee Guinan	Marguerite Grimm Joyce Guenther Kathy Kehnast
<b>Sunday, Sept 4 11 AM</b>	David Shonk	Brooke, Bryson & Zachary Vogel	Pat Dreyer Nancy Griffith Ben Peters	Teresa Scarpitti Mary Jane Vajen Amy Woo
Monday, Sept 5 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Jack Gentile Sarah Woo	Pat Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday Sept 7 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Becca Fuller Carley Matson	Mary Guinan	Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, Sept 8 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Brianna Hilyard Joey Mannella	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Friday, Sept 9 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Mitchell Ortiz Gunner Robertson	Jim & Rita Merk	
<b>Saturday, Sept 10 4 PM</b>	Teresa Carpenter	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Susan Garrett Brad Rider Jim & Becky Kuhn	Denise McGuire Craig Shaw
<b>Sunday, Sept 11 11 AM</b>	Amy Woo	Dominic & Emeline Neighbor, Diana Woo	David Shonk Larry Sanford Jim & Rita Merk	Becky Wickham

**parish contributions**

The **St Bernadette offertory collection** for Aug 28 came to \$5,809.

**bremen st mary**

**men’s night out**

All men of the parish are invited to come —and bring a friend—to a **Men’s Night Out**, with a dinner and a brief inspirational presentation by Randy Tipple, at St Mary Church on Wednesday, Sept 14, at 6:30 PM. For information call (740) 215-3894.

**cleanup at schmelzer’s grove**

There will be a work day—well, the earlier part of a day—at Schmelzer’s Grove on Saturday, Sept 17, to clear brush and clean up the property. Come at 9 AM and bring a friend. Many hands make the work lighter and more enjoyable and enable the folks to accomplish that much more.

**saint mary home coming ox roast**

The parishioners of St Mary in Bremen welcome all members, past, present, and future, as well as members of other parishes and congregations who like to be with us for worship occasionally, to our **Homecoming Ox Roast**. Please join us Sunday, Sept 25, at Schmelzer’s Grove for a day of good food and great family fun, starting at 1 PM with our annual Ox Roast followed by an afternoon filled with music, dancing, hay and pony rides, games and much more. Admission cost? Bring a delicious dessert or a nice smile.

**parish contributions**

The **St Mary offertory collection** for Aug 28 came to \$1,500.

**st vincent de paul**

St Vincent de Paul members will be collecting donations after Mass today. Your generosity is appreciated.

**news about the parish school of religion**

We are excited for the coming PSR year with Sarah Borah as a new voice. Our first session is Sunday, Sept 18. Registration forms are in the vestibules. We are happy to announce **this year’s teachers**:

- Pre-school, K & 1<sup>st</sup> Angi Skinner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Wyatt Borah
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade Shawna Kunkler & Cody Schmelzer
- 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade Jerry & Tyna Schmelzer

**ministers at mass at bremen st mary**

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
<b>Sunday, Sept 4 8:30 AM</b>	Karen Wolfe	Sydnee Rogers Nicole Terry	Damian & Deb Schmelzer, Karen Wolfe	Nick Schmelzer family	Damian Schmelzer
<b>Sunday, Sept 11 8:30 AM</b>	Joe Young	Caden Fyffe Cody Fyffe	Neil Boch, Joe & Cathy Young	Joe Young family	Joe Young

**in the diocese of columbus**

**breakfast with the bishop**

Catholic Social Services hosts **Breakfast with the Bishop** on Tuesday, Oct 4, at 7:30 AM at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. Speaker is Robert Lupton, author of *Toxic Charity*. To register call (614) 221-5891 or visit [www.colscss.org](http://www.colscss.org).

**the beauty of the feminine**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual **Beauty of the Feminine Catholic Women’s Conference** will happen on Saturday, Oct 8, from 8 AM to 3 PM at St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Zanesville. It is a day of fellowship, prayer and faith formation. This year’s theme is “**Witness to Mercy**.” To register call St Thomas at (740) 453-3309 or email [thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com](mailto:thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com). If you register by Sept 30, your \$20 include breakfast and lunch. Registration on the day of the event is \$25. Contact Susan with questions or visit [www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com](http://www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com) and Facebook @ TheBeautyOfTheFeminine for information.

**Sacred Heart congress**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Sacred Heart Congress will be Saturday, Oct 15, at St Matthew Church in Columbus from 7 AM to 1 PM. It features Timothy O’Donnell, president of Christendom College; Fr Stash Dailey, spiritual director of Sacred Heart Columbus and administrator of Holy Family Parish; and Fr Ted Sill, pastor of St Matthew Parish. A free-will offering will be taken. For information and registration visit [www.sacredheartcolumbus.org](http://www.sacredheartcolumbus.org).

**retrouvaille**

**If your marriage is troubled** and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; if you are separated, or are thinking about it, don’t give up. **Retrouvaille** (a French word that means “rediscovery”) is a **program to help heal and support** married couples experiencing difficulties, loneliness or pain. It is also for separated or divorced couples wanting to try again. For information call (614) 296-9704 or visit [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

**younger women’s evening of reflection**

“Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me.”

*Song of Solomon 2:10*

Experience God’s transformative love for women. On Saturday Sept 17, from 5-9 PM, all women ages 18-35 are invited to attend Mass followed by dinner, reflection, community, adoration, and

reconciliation at the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany. There is no cost. To sign up, contact Krista Winbigler at kristawinbigler @ gmail . com or (614) 315-4675.

### women's silent retreat

Women of the Columbus diocese, for just one week-end disconnect from election mania and the cyber world and connect with God by coming to a silent retreat for women from Friday, Sept 30, to Sunday, Oct 2, at St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Sponsored by the Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League, this retreat begins Friday evening and ends Sunday at noon. Fr Vincent Petersen, a Franciscan from Our Lady of Consolation Shrine in Carey, Ohio, will be the retreat master. His theme is "**Love and Praise: Reflections on the Writings of Pope Francis.**" The fee is \$125 for six meals and a private room. For information, send e-mail to retreatleague @ gmail . com or call Sharon Gehrich, CLRL Secretary, at (614) 882-1946. Deadline is Sept 15. Space is limited and fills quickly. Please respond soon. God is calling you.

### help needed

The Sisters of Children of Mary just excavated 4 acres of land and they need help **clearing trees and building permanent pastures** for their cows at their convent **in Newark**. Any day is fine. Call (740) 323-1977. Find information at [www . childrenofmary . net](http://www.childrenofmary.net).

### men's retreat at the shrine

The Catholic Laymen's Fall silent retreat happens at St Therese Retreat Center from 6 PM on Friday, Sept 9, through noon Mass on Sunday, Sept 11. In reflection sessions, **Fr Stephen Hayes OP** will help men to appreciate the value of the medieval crusades by developing his theme "**Taking up the Cross: Becoming Modern Crusaders for the New Jerusalem of Christ.**" Cost is \$130. For information and registration contact Charles Kielkopf at (614) 268-0175 or [kielkopf.1 @ osu . edu](mailto:kielkopf.1@osu.edu) .

### happily ever after ... despite the rough spots

Join us for a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn ways to use your marriage's ups and downs to deepen your love for each other and for God. Why not **try a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend**? The next weekends in central Ohio are Nov 11-13 and Feb 17-19. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www . wmeccolumbus . org](http://www.wmecolumbus.org).

### bishop campbell audio files

You can now find inspiration from Bishop Campbell through the St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820 audio archive online at [www . StGabrielRadio . com](http://www.StGabrielRadio.com). The Bishop's audio archives are a great tool for use in RCIA groups, faith study groups, and private meditation as well as in school religion and theology classes - in fact, any Catholic school class, for our Faith is the basis for every discipline. The archives are free to use, available 24/7, and searchable by topic and date.

### canonization of mother teresa on EWTN

Tune in to EWTN Global Catholic Network for extensive television coverage of the canonization of Mother Teresa **live from Rome on Sunday, Sept 4**. Go to [ewtn . com](http://ewtn.com) for information and find EWTN on a channel near you by going to [www . ewtn . com/channelfinder](http://www.ewtn.com/channelfinder).

### visit our lady of consolation

There will be a **Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation** in Carey on Wednesday, Oct 5. Cost is \$25 (lunch can be purchased at

the cafeteria). Make checks payable and send reservations by Sept 7 to Margaret Kronenbitter, 2700 Wayne Ridge Rd., Zanesville, Ohio 43701. For information, call Ann Messerly at (740) 654-3447 or Rita Merk at (740) 654-3255.

## in the deanery

### fisher catholic high school: advisory board

The pastor must appoint **two new members to the FCHS advisory board to advise the administration of the school**. A person does not need to be a Fisher parent or alum. The main requirement is that an adult parishioner be a practicing Catholic member of St Bernadette Parish who is concerned about how Fisher can continue in support of the high school's purpose: to help parents educate their young to be faithful Catholic Christians, good citizens, and good husbands or wives, good fathers or mothers. The term of service is two years. Interested applicants should contact Fr Kessler.

### fisher fall festival

The Fisher Fall Festival happens Friday, Sept 9, from 5-10 PM and Saturday, Sept 10, from 5-11 PM. Enjoy inflatables, children's games, adult games of skill, K of C Fish Fry, Bob's Backyard Barbeque, a beer garden, and other entertainment. Contact Eileen Gundelfinger at (740) 277-7063 with questions.

## being a catholic citizen

### register so you can vote

We need to vote. Just skipping it isn't being a faithful citizen. Excuses you will hear might include:

- "I don't like either candidate in a particular contest."
  - Couldn't you vote for the candidate who seems to you to be the most respectful of human life and religious freedom?
  - What about the other contests on the ballot, the "down-ticket" candidates for congress, senate, local elections? Do your homework!
- "I know how it is going to turn out from hearing the polls."
  - So don't respond to the polling questions which seem to muddy the waters. But don't skip the polling booth. Polls are predictive, not determinative.
  - Your choice of candidate may lose. May not. Don't abdicate your vote.
- "The process is corrupt."
  - There is corruption. But your vote will still be counted. The way to insure that corruption increases, may even destroy a fragile republic, is to wash your hands of it and complain—without voting.
- "The big shots make the decisions for us."
  - Don't vote and they will have an easier time of it.
- "I forgot to register."
  - No excuse.

### registration information

There is a process for voting absentee for people who are shut in (or are likely to be shut in or travelling on election day). So you can vote without ever leaving your home. It has become possible to vote at the Board of Elections prior to election day. Early voting is better than not voting. But it has the disadvantage of not taking into account all that happens right up to election day. There is a lot to be said for the civic experience of coming to the neighborhood polling place in a school or a

firehouse or a museum. Wearing one of the little “I voted today!” stickers may be the secular counterpart of wearing ashes on Ash Wednesday.; it shows you have been involved even though it may not have been a festal event.

In any case, register. Then vote. Registration must be done by Oct 11. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov 8. You can do either in person at the Fairfield County Board of Elections, 951 Liberty Drive in Lancaster (off West Fair Ave) or at <http://www.fairfieldelections.com> or [www.myohiovote.com](http://www.myohiovote.com).

**labor day statement**

The annual Labor Day Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops USCCB is available online. This year the bishops focus on the struggles of communities in the midst of elevated poverty rates, substance abuse, and family dissolution. They invite us to replace fear with a fuller vision. Check out what they have to teach us at [www.usccb.org / issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment / labor-day-statement-2016.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2016.cfm).

**pray for peace in our communities**

In light of recent incidents of violence and racial tension in the United States, the US bishops invite Catholics across the country to participate in a Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities on September 9. That is a good choice in light of the feast that day: Catholics will commemorate St Peter Claver. For resources, visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

(When polled some Catholics complain about that. Imagine!) You won’t be able to say that you aren’t being nourished by the Word of God. The bishop’s production organization is called **Word on Fire**. That says it pretty well. Subscribe. You will be grateful for this recommendation.

**EWTN has its own app**

It is called, not surprisingly, EWTN.

**saint bernadette parish has a website !**

The address is [stbernadetteparish.net](http://stbernadetteparish.net). And it hosts the **bulletin and information about St Mary Bremen as well as St Bernadette**. Maybe we should have called it by both parish names. But that would have made it more difficult to google. The important thing is that it has information and bulletins, etc, for parishioners of both parishes. And for people who want to keep in touch with our parishes.

**and so does the vatican**

You probably already knew about it, but it can be a problem to google, because some fakes put up anti-Catholic websites with Vatican in their name. **Home for the real thing is Vatican.va**. One very helpful place to turn to find out what the Church really teaches is **the Catechism (book length) page** at [http://www.vatican.va / archive / ENG0015 / \\_INDEX . HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)

**on the web**

**the word on fire**

Remember **Catholicism**? That was the TV series written and hosted on PBS and EWTN TV a few years back by **Father Robert Barron** a very smart and very engaging priest from Chicago. Recordings were presented and discussed in lots of parishes, including St Bernadette. If you liked **Catholicism**, you will probably like now-Bishop Barron’s (auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles for about a year now) **Sunday homily podcast**. It is a really good weekly source of reflection on the Scripture readings of the week. It takes fifteen minutes each week, and is easily listened to during one trip between Bremen and Lancaster. Podcasts are great that way. By following Bp Barron you can do something about the quality of the sermons you hear on Sunday.

**confessions & weekday Mass nearby**

These times sometimes change, though, so call ahead

parish	confessions	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Bremen St Mary	8 am Sunday		8:20 AM				
Lancaster St Bernadette	5:30 Thursday 3 PM Saturday; 8:30 AM on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat 9 AM
Lancaster St Mary	4 PM Saturday	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
Lancaster St Mark	5:30 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
Sugar Grove St Joseph	½ hour before Mass	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	
Circleville St Joseph	4 PM Saturday	9 AM	7 PM	9 AM		9 AM	10 AM
Logan St John	4 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM

**the Church’s plan for reading God’s word this week**

Sat Sun	Sept 3 Sept 4	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Wisdom	9:13-18	Philemon	9-17	Psalm	90	Luke	14:25-33
Mon	Sept 5	St Teresa of Calcutta	1 Corinthians	5:1-8			Psalm	5	Luke	6:6-11
Tues	Sept 6		1 Corinthians	6:1-11			Psalm	149	Luke	6:12-19
Weds	Sept 7		1 Corinthians	7:25-31			Psalm	45	Luke	6:20-26
Thurs	Sept 8	Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary	Micah	5:1-4			Psalm	13	Matthew	1:1-23
Fri	Sept 9	St Peter Claver	1 Corinthians	9:16-27			Psalm	84	Luke	6:39-42
Sat	Sept 10		1 Corinthians	10:14-22			Psalm	116	Luke	6:43-49
Sun	Sept 11	24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Exodus	32:7-14	1 Timothy	1:12-17	Psalm	51	Luke	15:1-32

# Language matters

Language matters. Especially when it is about fundamental things that have to do with God and with human beings. God and people matter. In a very big way. If we get what we say wrong, we can easily get what we think and what we do wrong.

Sometimes the cause of our inaccuracy is an intentional lie. I don't know if that is the case most of the time. "I didn't do that" (but I really did; I'm just not telling). Or "I did do that" (but I really didn't, but if you think I did, you might give me a raise. Or vote for me). That is a lie. It is a sin. And we used to think it was bad. Now, although God still thinks it is a sin, a lot of us shrug our shoulders. We don't mind so much. We say "Ease up. Everyone does that." Set aside for a moment (but only for a moment!) the sinfulness that is the main thing about that lie (for pleasing God—or displeasing God—is the main thing!). It also plays havoc with our social or political or economic lives. Sometimes all of the above.

Sometimes we exaggerate and say something that isn't literally true. And we don't intend our listeners to take us literally. Or we just don't even think about deceiving anyone. It helps us make a point—a point that *is* true. Even God does that sometimes. In the Gospel Jesus says that if your hand is the cause of sin to you, cut it off. His point is true: Striking people in violence or shoplifting must be taken seriously, as must be our protection of our bodily integrity. His point is important: This *matters*. Stop doing it! Humans exaggerate too. I've done so billions of times. Oh, wait! Maybe not literally *billions*, but a whole lot of times. I must be careful not to leave the impression that it really does amount to billions. I trust you did not think it was that often or that I had really gone to the trouble of counting. If you thought I did, you need to learn about how human language works. If I left any reasonable doubt, I need to learn about how human language works ... or about how defective is my hearer's understanding.

Sometimes the inaccuracy is meant with honesty but received in bewildered ignorance. When I was a seminary student, almost all of my classes at the Pontifical Gregorian University were conducted in Italian. In one lecture an American priest / professor, who spoke Italian but never quite grasped the idiom, disturbed an Italian classmate of mine (who did not know English) from Bari (home of the great shrine of St Nicholas). He thought that Father Moriarty had gone over the deep end when he said, "*Non gettare il bambino coll'acqua del bagno.*" That is an old American cliché about not throwing out the baby with the bath water. I told my classmate that Father was not taking about pediatric hygiene but about the necessity of paying respect to the things that need to be protected, even if they are associated in some way with things that are eminently expendable. My friend asked why our teacher hadn't said what he meant. I asked him if this gave him a hint about what we foreigners faced not having a complete command of his beautiful language and its sometimes strange colloquialisms.

There are uses of language which distort reality and which can become annoying without any major misunderstanding occurring. When a waitress at a drive-through addresses me as "honey" or "baby", I believe that is policy at some restaurants (never, so far, at banks or turnpike toll booths). Instead of being endearing it strikes me as a phony familiarity. This is not a child or a boyfriend. I respond addressing the waitress as "ma'am." I hope I don't sound offensively stuffy. I really mean the respect I am trying to show.

There are times when our language is inaccurate about big issues. The biggest issues of all have to do with God and humans, who they really are and how we really regard them. Sometimes the inaccuracy is in exaggeration that is entirely innocent in intention; a distortion creeps in that debases language. "I love her to death" or "I adore that kitten" or "I could just kill him." Even "Absolutely!" and "I swear!" Of course when we say things like that we don't mean what they say literally. And we probably all do know enough about the workings of language not to be deceived when we hear them. But what is left of words that matter? Words of love or death or adoration concern things that matter. Our attitudes about them matter very much. We ought to think about the distorted language in a time of decaying respect for the holiness of God and the sacredness of human life.

Perhaps what I wrote about words of love or death helps explain why we were forbidden (and still are forbidden!) in a very solemn way from taking the Lord's name in vain. Perhaps that is why Jesus forbids us to call our brother a "fool." Perhaps what you say is what you start thinking.

Not awfully long ago I had a conversation with a very friendly person who told me about another person with a serious illness. That sick person was becoming increasingly demented. And what remained of the expressions of personality had become decidedly nasty. The sick person had been someone of reasonable intelligence, someone whom people had liked. A health professional said to my friend that his friend, though still living, was "gone now." That he was just a shell of the person he had once known. You know what the pro was getting at, but the words are false and they give license to evil. If grandma (or whoever) is not the person she once was or if your spouse is no longer the person you promised to be true to in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, in good times and in bad, well, then, that person could be divorced or even ... exterminated. If I call a human being who is not yet born an "it", a blob of protoplasm, I determine that that person, or any person not highly functioning by my standards, is expendable. Such language is not just inaccurate, it is not truthful. And when we speak the lie on such basic facts about God's gift of human life, we undermine the grounding of our social existence and, even more, of our awareness of our connection to God.

—Father Kessler

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