

Saint Bernadette Parish

Saint Mary Parish

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

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

stbernadetteparish . net



Madonna and Child

Painted (1905) by Marianne Stokes (1855-1927), painted in Dubrovnik

Wolverhampton Art Gallery, England

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

JANUARY 1, 2017

our parishes

at both parishes

Fr Thomas Kessler	pastor	(614) 634-0499	<i>wmthomaskessler @ icloud . com</i>
Kathy Kehnast	pastoral coordinator	(740) 654-1893	<i>stbernparrish @ yahoo . com</i>
Angie & Kent Kerns	religious education	(740) 654-2588	<i>kwkerns @ gmail . com</i>
Julie & Chase Stalford	youth ministry	(740) 808-7294	<i>maristellaspirit @ gmail . com</i>
Nikki Schmelzer	bookkeeper	(740) 654-1893	<i>businessmstbparish @ yahoo . com</i>

at St Mary Bremen Parish

Ben Factor	liturgical music		<i>b_factor @ lancaster . k12 . oh . us</i>
Jim Schmelzer	maintenance chair	(740) 215-3894	
Tyna Fox-Schmelzer	religious education	(614) 371-7702	<i>schmelifox @ earthlink . net</i>
Bremen St Vincent de Paul		(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

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

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, M W Th F; 11 AM-1 PM, Tu 1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130

at St Bernadette School

Pam Eltringham	principal	(740) 654-3137	<i>peltring @ cdeducation . org</i>
Barb Huber	secretary	(740) 654-3137	<i>bhuber @ cdeducation . org</i>
Saint Bernadette School is at 1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701 <i>stbernlan @ cdeducation . org</i> www . stbernadetteschool . com			

the 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, Feb 22. Take the class before your 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

- at St Bernadette Saturdays at 3 PM and Thursdays at 5:30 PM, and
- 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.

Anointing 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

with the Church today

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

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.

with the Holy Father in January: Christian Unity

That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.



Mass times and intentions

at St Bernadette		at St Mary
4 PM <i>for the people of the parish</i>	Saturday, Dec 31	
	Sunday, Jan 1	8:30 AM <i>for the people of the parish</i>
11 AM <i>for the people of the parish</i>	Sunday, Jan 1	
8:20 AM <i>Dolores Dill</i>	Monday, Jan 2	
	Tuesday, Jan 3	8:20 AM <i>Marie Young</i>
8:20 AM <i>Leonard & Betty Monaghan</i>	Wednesday, Jan 4	
6 PM <i>Russ Camden</i>	Thursday, Jan 5	
8:20 AM <i>Jo Ella Kiphen</i>	Friday, Jan 6	
9 AM <i>Veral Dick Kilbarger</i>	Saturday, Jan 7	
4 PM <i>for the people of the parish</i>	Saturday, Jan 7	
	Sunday, Jan 8	8:30 AM <i>for the people of the parish</i>
11 AM <i>for the people of the parish</i>	Sunday, Jan 8	

in our parishes

walking with purpose: living in the father's love

Join a great group of women for their next session, *Living in the Father's Love*, starting Jan 18. This six-lesson course is a brief but powerful study meant to revive and refresh us as we discover just how much God loves us. In this study, we learn how the Gospels are deeply relevant to our relationships, both with God and with those we love. For this session, we are partnering with St Mary Parish Lancaster. The morning group will meet weekly on Wednesdays at St Bernadette Mary Good Center from 9:30-11 AM. The evening group will meet at St Mary Spirit Center on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 PM. Both sites offer **free childcare** and there is no cost for this session. Please register by January 6, to have your materials. Walking with Purpose is Catholic Faith sharing that aims to **bring women to a deeper personal relationship with Christ**. Through **personal study and small group discussions**, the group helps to link our everyday challenges with solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. For questions or to register, contact Amy Woo at (414) 882-1863 or acfaching@yahoo.com. For general program information, visit www.walkingwithpurpose.com.

christian initiation

Please pray for our **catechumens**. They are **officially welcomed** members (albeit not yet full members) of the household of faith. These include Ralph Mohler and his son Bryant of Bremen St Mary, and Jennifer Palmer of St Bernadette. They have all publicly ratified their desire to become baptized members of the Catholic Church and are preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

psr (aka parish school of religion)

PSR has begun but it is not too late to enroll students. Remember: Catholic parents have a **solemn moral duty** to see that their children are **properly and completely instructed in the Catholic Faith**. And they have a duty to see that their children attend every week (barring health or weather deterrents). And children will find **getting to know**

Jesus and his Church is an irreplaceable and joy-filled part of their upbringing.

in bremen: celebrate the merriness of the season

Please join us for the Bremen St Mary **Epiphany Gathering** on Saturday, Jan 7, at 6 PM in the Parish Hall. This is an event for all the adults and children who worship at our parish—especially the new ones! Dinner will be served, but we will only know how many to prepare for when you sign up on the bulletin board in the vestibule telling how many will attend. Call Jodie Schmelzer with any questions at (740) 569-9343.

sacristan / ushers

These are the people **who make things flow smoothly** during our Sunday (including Saturday evening) Masses. They get things ready, make sure all the other ministers are ready, and help late arrivals find a seat with a minimum of disruption. Would you like to help? Contact Kathy Kehnast or one of the folks you see doing the job.

parish contributions

Due to early bulletin printing deadlines, the Dec 25 regular collections for both parishes will be reported in a future bulletin.

What do you mean when you say "Lamb of God"?

You could pick up (for free!) a copy of the book

The Lamb's Supper – The Mass as Heaven on Earth

by Scott Hahn. This book is a **Christmas gift for parishioners**. Or other people who come to our church. Its title comes from Saint John Paul II's description of the Mass as "Heaven on Earth" because what "we celebrate on Earth is a mysterious participation in the heavenly liturgy." Dr Hahn draws on **the Book of Revelation** (as did the early Christians) **as the key to understanding the mysteries of the Mass**. His book will help you pray the liturgy with a renewed heart and enter into the Mass more fully, enthusiastically, intelligently, and powerfully than ever before. We have 120 copies which are **available at the main Church doors** on a first come, first served basis. Just be sure to read it.

men's night out

The next **Men's Night Out** at St Mary Bremen happens on Wednesday, Jan 11, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall, featuring a meal and a speaker. Contact Jim Schmelzer at (740) 215-3894 for details.

friends forever

The first **Friends Forever** gathering of the New Year happens on Thursday, Jan 19, at noon in the Mary Good Center at St Bernadette. Contact Ann Essman at (740) 654-1893 for information.

where everybody knows your name

If you aren't already registered in our parish or if there has been some change in your household (as to who actually lives there or address, phone number, etc), contact Kathy Kehnast at the parish office any morning.

in the diocese of columbus

catholic youth summer camp

Catholic Youth Summer Camp is Ohio's one week-long, residential high adventure camp for students entering grades 6-12. Activities typically include jet skis, water tubing, paintball, blobbing, high ropes, archery tag, zip lining, rock climbing, giant swing, and mountain boarding. CYSC offers **a truly Catholic and safe environment with daily catechesis that awakens faith and builds missionary disciples**. A week at camp includes daily Mass, adoration, reconciliation, small group conversations, worship, service and authentic community. This is especially valuable for young people who are not now receiving other catechesis as well as to reinforce catechesis for those who are. Go to www.cysc.com for information and to register for 2017 dates: high school sessions run the weeks of June 11, 18, 25, and July 2; middle school sessions run the weeks of July 9, 16, 23, and 30. Registration is open now.

happily ever after ... despite the rough spots

Come to 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 weekend in central Ohio is Feb 17-19. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit www.wmecom Columbus.org.

vehicle donations to the josephinum

The Pontifical College Josephinum is a Catholic Seminary in Columbus. Seminarians there are studying for the priesthood and need transportation from time to time for a variety of local needs. The Josephinum has a fleet of vehicles but could use additional vans. If you have **a used van that you could donate** to the Josephinum, contact their business office at (614) 985-2230 so delivery arrangements can be made. The Josephinum is a non-profit charitable organization and will provide you with the appropriate documentation for the donation of a vehicle.

young professionals group

Join the Catholic Foundation's Young Professionals Group as they travel to **St Vincent Family Centers** (<http://svfc.org/>). They will meet on Wednesday, Jan 18, from 6 PM until 9:30 PM at 1490 East Main St, Columbus to learn about **the mission and purpose of the center and how it helps our community**. Tours will be available. They will finish the evening at Rusty Bucket, 2158 East Main St, Columbus, for networking and drinks. To RSVP visit: www.meetup.com/Catholic-Young-Professionals-Columbus-Meetup/ or contact Craig Heppner at (614) 443-8893.

sts peter & paul retreat center needs help

Have you or a member of your family ever participated in a group or personal retreat at the Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center? If you have, the experience was spiritually uplifting and rejuvenating for your soul. They ask for our prayerful consideration and our continued support of the Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center. They need assistance through our tax deductible donations that will help **update and improve their facility**. They will continue to operate the Retreat Center in a frugal manner so that more retreatants will be able to enjoy the peace, tranquility and spirituality that Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center offers. The needed updates and required improvements to enhance current and future retreatant experiences include:

- energy efficient boiler system (replacing the unit from 1955)
- wifi accessibility
- refrigerated storage unit (compressors and condensers)
- air conditioning the chapel and north hall.

Mail your tax deductible donation to: Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road, Newark, OH 43056.

from the chair

Bishop Campbell meets with our high school students from St Francis DeSales, Bishop Watterson, Bishop Ready, Bishop Hartley, William V Fisher Catholic, Newark Catholic, Christo Rey and St Charles Preparatory High Schools for the 7th annual Student Forum from 5-6 PM on Tuesday, Jan 3, on St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820. Tune in by car, stream live or download the free St Gabriel Catholic Radio app to hear the students of our diocese.

catholic conversations: the lessons of st Faustina

Come to the Upper Room at Sports on Tap, at 4030 Main St, Hilliard, on Sunday, Jan 15, at 6 PM to hear a talk by Michele Faehnle & Emily Jaminet. Catholic Conversations is hosted by St Margaret of Cortona and St Brendan parishes and is an outreach ministry open to all adults **to bring our Catholic faith into the every day**. The event is free of charge. They ask only that you pay for your own food and drink of choice. They encourage registration to ensure seating. Go to Eventbrite and search for Catholic Conversations. Contact Julie Naporano at julienaporano1@gmail.com.

some other ways to support your parish

You can support your parish with gifts of **cash, appreciated assets, real estate, retirement plans, life insurance and even a trust or bequest in your will**. Designate St Mary Bremen or St Bernadette (or another non-profit Catholic entity) to benefit from your gift knowing that these gifts are invested in ways that are faithful to Catholic teaching. For donors age 70½ and older, the IRA Charitable Rollover is permanent law. Under this provision, these donors can transfer up to \$100,000 from their IRA to an endowment fund at The Catholic Foundation. The transfer is made free of federal income tax and the gift qualifies for the donor's required minimum distribution. Should you have questions or need assistance, contact The Catholic Foundation. They can help you take advantage of these opportunities in support of your beloved organizations. They can be reached at (614) 443-8893.

and elsewhere

trial subscription to the register

Receive EWTN's *National Catholic Register*. The Register is the **premier American Catholic newspaper**. It keeps you informed on everything happening in the Church and in the world — all through a faithful Catholic lens. Call 1-(800) 421-3230. This is not a paid ad. Just a very good idea for people who care about the truth of our Faith.

pilgrimage to fatima and lourdes

Fr Stash Dailey, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Columbus, invites you to join him on a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from June 19-30, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our

Lady at Fatima. For details, contact Liz Grinder at the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office at (877) 276-7279 or lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net or go to www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com. Reservation deadline is March 15.

ministers at Mass at st bernadette

			Lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion		
Saturday,	Dec 31	4 PM	Brad Rider	Collin & Emma McCrady, Addy Myers	Susan Garrett Rosalie DeFillippo	Marguerite Grimm Kathy Kehnast	Mickey Steyaert Shelia Taylor
Sunday,	Jan 1	11 AM	David Shonk	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Patricia Dreyer Patrick Gins	Sandy Landefeld Larry Sanford	Anna Sevigny Mary Jane Vajen
Monday,	Jan 2	8:20 AM	Mary J Vajen	Jack Gentile, Joey Mannella	Pat Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast	
Wednesday	Jan 4	8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Becca Fuller, Brianna Hilyard	Mary Guinan	Mary Jane Vajen	
Thursday,	Jan 5	6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Gunner Robertson, Sarah Woo	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan	
Friday,	Jan 6	8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Carley Matson, Mitchell Ortiz	Jim & Rita Merk		
Saturday,	Jan 7	9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim & Rita Merk		
Saturday,	Jan 7	4 PM	Robert Christy	Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance, Cady Tipple	Terry Carpenter Angie Christy	Craig Shaw Jim & Becky Kuhn	Kathy Wagner
Sunday,	Jan 8	11 AM	John Hartig	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Tara Craaybeek Ben Peters	Jean Robertson Teresa Scarpitti	Becky Wickham Amy Woo

ministers at Mass at bremen st mary

			lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sunday,	Jan 1	8:30 AM	Jeanne Schmelzer		Leo Kunkler Sr, Joe & Cathy Young	Maurice Schmelzer family	Joe Young
Sunday,	Jan 8	8:30 AM	Susan Foltz	Sydnee Rogers Nicole Terry	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Susan Foltz	John Schoenlaub family	Joe Young

the Church's plan for reading God's word this week

Sat	Dec 31	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God			Numbers 6:22-27	Galatians 4:4-7	Psalm 67	Luke 2:16-21
Mon	Jan 2	Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen			1 John 2:22-28		Psalm 98	John 1:19-28
Tues	Jan 3	Most Holy Name of Jesus			1 John 2:29-3:6		Psalm 98	John 1:29-34
Weds	Jan 4	St Elizabeth Ann Seton			1 John 3:7-10		Psalm 98	John 1:35-42
Thurs	Jan 5	St Joh Neumann			1 John 3:11-21		Psalm 100	John 1:43-51
Fri	Jan 6	St André Bessette			1 John 5:5-13		Psalm 147	Mark 1:7-11
Sat	Jan 7	St Raymond of Penyafort			1 John 5:14-21		Psalm 149	John 2:1-11
Sun	Jan 8	The Epiphany of the Lord			Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:2-6	Psalm 72	Matt 2:1-12

confessions & weekday Mass nearby

These times sometimes change, though, so be sure to call ahead!

<i>Bremen</i>	<i>St Mary</i>	8 AM Sunday	8:20 AM					
<i>Lancaster</i>	<i>St Bernadette</i>	5:30 PM Thurs, 3 PM Sat; 8:30 AM on 1 st Sat	8:20 AM		8:20 AM	6 PM	8:20 AM	1 st Sat @ 9 AM
<i>parish</i>	<i>confessions</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
<i>Lancaster</i>	<i>St Mary</i>	4 PM Saturday	7 AM	9 AM	7 AM	9 AM		
<i>Lancaster</i>	<i>St Mark</i>	5:30 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	6 PM	8 AM	8 AM	
<i>Sugar Grove</i>	<i>St Joseph</i>	½ hour before Mass	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	NOON	8 AM	
<i>Circleville</i>	<i>St Joseph</i>	4 PM Saturday	9 AM	7 PM	9 AM		9 AM	10 AM
<i>Logan</i>	<i>St John</i>	4 PM Saturday	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM		8 AM	9 AM



Catholics: the Christians with a Calendar

Please take home a **2017 Catholic calendar**, given to our parishes courtesy of **Morgan Funeral Home** in Bremen and **Sheridan Funeral Home** in Lancaster and **Frank E. Smith Funeral Home** in Lancaster. It wouldn't hurt to thank these businesses for their generosity.

But, you know, there is a reason for having a Catholic calendar. **Catholic Christians are people with a calendar.** We have daily, weekly, and annual celebrations that punctuate just about **everything** that happens in the course of a year. There are festival times, big or small, for many of the days of the year and whole seasons of fasting and self-denial. From the earliest Christian times **these days and seasons** all had to do with a schedule of worship. But they also gave people their holidays—the very word holiday comes from the Catholic word **holy day**. Today's somewhat more (but not completely, thank God!) secular society still observes many of these days and seasons.

The seven-day shape of the week, with its day of rest, comes from God's communication with the Jewish people. But the Jews were told to rest on Saturday, the Sabbath, the day when the Lord rested after he completed his creation and saw that it was good. The earliest Church moved that **Sabbath** day of rest to the Day of the Lord, **Sunday**, the day of the resurrection of Jesus. Sometimes they called it the eighth day of the week: the day of the beginning of the new creation replaced the last day of the first creation.

For Catholics, Sunday is the day of rest—not just of loafing but of making time for God and for our family. That's why we are always supposed to go to Mass that day. We don't think of this as a **weekend** thing, even when we have to go to Mass on a Saturday evening. Weekends are a nice bit of rest, which can count Jews in, as well as Christians. But, for us, this weekly worship is a Sunday thing, an Easter thing.

When we get to thinking of the beauty of the Resurrection of Jesus which made possible **the defeat of the power of sin and death**, we soon think of the generous sacrifice of Jesus who so loved the world that he was willing to suffer for our sake on Calvary on the preceding **Friday**. And before you know it, early Catholics started observing Fridays as the special day of solidarity with Jesus in his suffering. It was on a Friday that by his holy Cross Jesus has redeemed the world. And Catholics developed a communal and symbolic action of solidarity with him. On **Friday** they were told not to eat meat. Although the discipline of the Friday abstinence from meat was relaxed about 40 years ago, we are still encouraged to abstain or do some such thing each Friday. The reason is still so that, if we join with our Lord in his suffering even in a small and symbolic way, we will be better able to join in the celebration of his resurrection in Mass on Sunday.

This was the beginning of our Catholic calendar, this **weekly cycle of observance of his dying and rising**. But before long **special annual days** began to be added to the calendar of Catholic Christians. Very early there was the annual celebration of the anniversary of the death of the many **martyrs** of the early Church. Perhaps the most famous of these days which is still observed by many people today is the anniversary of the Roman priest Valentine. He had been beloved for writing letters of encouragement to fellow Christians who had been arrested for their faith. Soon **Father Valentine**, too, was arrested and put to death for his faith. But the Christians remembered his death not as a defeat. Just as Jesus had a victory over death, and because of Jesus' victory, Christians saw the death of those who gave witness to their faith, to the point of death, as something to be celebrated. They referred to the death day as a **birthday**. They understood that the martyrs were **born** that day **into eternal life**. And when they remembered Valentine on his death day, which was also such a birthday, they remembered his loving letters. So began our custom of sending loving greetings on Feb 14, Saint Valentine's Day. It gets distorted, but it is still a beautiful thing to remember where the observance came from.

It wasn't just the martyrs who were so remembered. After the coming of religious freedom in the Roman Empire, the day of the **death of other great Christians** would be remembered. The most complete Catholic calendars have as many as a few dozen saints on any given day. I have never met anyone who knew all of them. In different countries different local heroes and heroines would be remembered. Only a few of the really greats would be remembered more widely. The most famous such saint day that still leaves its mark on our calendar as it is observed in the English-speaking world is Saint Patrick's Day, March 17.

An all-purpose Saints day observance began to happen on November 1 when Catholics celebrate All Saints Day. Catholics observe it as a day to remember all the good people who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, with a special emphasis on the less dramatic and often very ordinary people, like our own loved ones. We go to Mass that day as a reminder that they and we are included together in our prayer to the heavenly Father. A spin off of this holy day is the all holies eve or Halloween. The popular and secular way of observing Halloween puts the emphasis on the spooky and the ghoulish, but the original point is still there: our solidarity with the legions of ordinary but holy folks who have preceded us in this earthly pilgrimage to the heavenly Father.

Catholics are a people with a calendar that has seasons as well as individual days to celebrate. The greatest season of all in our calendar, the one with the greatest festival, takes up a full quarter of the year, from mid-winter until mid-spring. It is organized around Easter, the day of the resurrection of the Lord.

The sanctification of time is what these calendars are all about. Not just the week and the year, but the day too. The Church has a schedule of praying the psalms which monks and nuns and priests ... and increasingly many lay folks pray at different times during the day. In monasteries, the community can gather seven times a day to spend a few minutes to a half hour to chant a few psalms. This is one of the treasures of the church's prayer life, but it isn't always easy for people with lay jobs to organize a day around prayer together. In our parishes we gather for ten minutes of praying the psalms at 8:10 every morning, Monday through Friday. Many churches used to ring the Angelus bell to call people to pray a brief prayer of celebration of the Mystery of the Incarnation at 6 AM, noon, and 6 PM. The 6 AM bell is not always popular with the neighbors. But in farm communities it used to be as basic to ordinary life as a factory whistle later became for other kinds of communities. That Angelus prayer only lasts two or three minutes, but it does recall people to prayer, reminding them to put first things first.

— Father Kessler

The Holy Family ... and Catholic Teaching about *Your* Family

God is interested in the family. No, that's putting it much too mildly. Family is at the heart of his communication to humans about what it means to be a human being and about how we are to understand God.

For instance, family shows up in a starring role in the Bible. From the very creation, **GOD MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE**, because it was not good for them to be alone. That was his idea. And it was with a meaning altogether deeper than the maleness and femaleness of the plants and animals. Then God prepared us for the salvation he was going to bring us in Christ by calling some people (Abraham and Sarah) to be involved in **MAKING A SPECIAL FAMILY**. God's concern was much more generous than just having a personal and individual relationship with a lot of individuals (a relationship which he does want us to have). And he didn't invent a club or a government into being. He rose up Abraham to be the father of a people. That people developed other aspects (like a language, a culture, and government), but it never stopped being first and foremost a family. To this day the people of Israel has never ceased to be that family which was especially God's own.

And all our Christmas celebration of the coming of Jesus puts a lot of stress on how he was situated right in the heart of a family. Both of the two Gospels that tell the Christmas story (Matthew and Luke) make a big deal out of the genealogy of Jesus. **THIS IS HOW JESUS IS TRULY MAN**. And **THE HOLY FAMILY** of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was the **CONTEXT FOR HIS LIVING AMONG US** as Emmanuel.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them;
and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Luke 2:51-52

When he let us **LISTEN TO HIM AT PRAYER**, we heard him speaking to God not as the King or the almighty one (which he certainly is) but as his own Father, his "Abba" or "Dad." **THAT IS HOW JESUS IS TRULY GOD**. And our relatedness to him is ratified by the words of Jesus to his close friend, the Beloved Disciple, and to his mother Mary. To him he says, "Behold your Mother"; to her, "Behold your Son."

Family keeps cropping up in the **CATECHISM**. In the **FOUR PILLARS** of that official book of the teaching of the Catholic Church

- the Creed,
- the Sacraments,
- the Commandments, and
- the Lord's Prayer,

family is not just an interesting sideline, a curious sociological phenomenon; it is at the heart of the matter.

The Shape of the **CREED**. Look at how the Creed is organized: "I believe in God the Father ... and in God the Son ... and in God the Holy Spirit" It got its start as the prayerful assertion of belief in the fundamentals of Baptism. The person who is about to be baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (which is how Jesus said we are to be initiated into his life), as well as the person who has already been baptized and now needs to grow into that life, recalls that it is a family sort of thing. That's the shape of all of our Christian faith.

Two of the **SACRAMENTS**. **BAPTISM** is an adoption of a person as a daughter or son of the heavenly Father. In the process the person takes Jesus, the Lord, as a brother. And **MATRIMONY** models the union of a man and a woman in a union of self-giving love. This is what marriage is meant to be for us. What Saint Paul has to say about this model is not very popular these days because of a misunderstanding of Christ as domineering, of the Christian as groveling; that forgets that his love is the generous kind and it has filled our submission with a fine dignity.

Husbands, **LOVE YOUR WIVES**, even **AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH** and handed himself over for her ...

So (also) husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church,
because we are members of his body. ... This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband. Ephesians 5:24-30

Three of the **COMMANDMENTS**. There is **ONE COMMANDMENT** about the honor of a family (Honor thy father and thy mother), one about the beauty and sacredness of the marriage bed (Thou shalt not commit adultery), and one about the respect due to our neighbor's marriage (Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife).

The Addressee of the **LORD'S PRAYER**. And finally, there is the obvious message about family in the prayer which Jesus taught us when he let us be joined to his amazing and unique way of being related to the Heavenly Father by teaching us "the Lord's Prayer"—but not just teaching us the words of a prayer formula, but giving us that energizing Spirit that makes it possible for us to be speaking the truth when we call God our own Father. When Saint Paul spoke about his own praying to the heavenly Father, he told us "... I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named ..." (Ephesians 3:14-15). In a nutshell, God is a father not because we decided to call him that after something we see as a model. No, he is the original Father, and he is the source of meaning for our relatedness to each other. It is not for us to redesign the family. It is our job to rediscover the original pattern. And to live up to it.

— *Father Kessler*

R. N. SMITH, INC.
PLUMBING, HEATING
& AIR CONDITIONING
1312 Campground Rd.
653-5011

Home Instead
SENIOR CARE *Trusted in person*
654-4250
www.homeinstead.com/763
Eric Blosser, RN

Pacer's
Italian Steakery Restaurant
111 SOUTH MAIN ST., PLEASANTVILLE
Party Room
& Catering
Weddings &
Rehearsal
Dinners
Open for Lunch: Sunday: 11a-2p/4-9p
Monday-Thursday: 11a-2p/4-10p
Friday & Saturday: 11a-2p/4-11p
www.pacersitalian.com

PRE-NEED MONUMENTS
TRUST
Mike LeMay
www.FuneralHome.com
FRANK E. SMITH FUNERAL HOME

AlternaCare
Home Health Services, Inc.
740-653-2224
Diane Flowers-Stuckey, RN, BSN

Pizza Crossing
"The Best Pizza...
Period!!!"
681-9889
www.pizzacrossing.com

STEPHEN L. HUTCHESON, D.D.S.
OFFICE HOURS BY APPT.
1320 E. MAIN ST.
654-8445

JOOS OPTICAL, INC.
402 N. Memorial Drive Lancaster, Ohio 43130
654-2527

JIM FOX
State Farm Insurance
Auto, Home, Life, Health & Business
jimfoxinsurance.com State Farm
121 W. Sixth Avenue
687-5545

BAY FOOD MARKET
Corner of S. Maple and Walnut
Lancaster's Only Member-Discount Store
740-653-9606
bayfoodmarket.com Become our fan on Facebook!
We offer free delivery within Lancaster city limits on orders of \$25+

SIEMER DIST. CO., INC.
Meats - Cheese Distributors
Buckeye Ice
New Lexington 342-3230

NOLL'S PLUMBING JEFF NOLL Owner
YOUR PROFESSIONAL FULL SERVICE PLUMBER
740-687-0073
Residential Commercial
nollplumbing@nolloptical.net

740-654-8030
1-877-DeDent
ORTHODONTICS
ANDREW M. GOMOR, D.D.S., M.S., M.C.
131 West Wheeling St., Lancaster

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Joe Barrows
130 W. Chestnut Street
740-653-6987 • joebarrows@edwardjones.com
John J. Kelley, AAMS
800 N. Broad Street
740-653-5302 • johnkelley@edwardjones.com

Lancaster Animal Clinic
Neil B. Busham, D.V.M. • Tracy R. Ball, D.V.M.
Jim R. Fultz, D.V.M. • Shannon L. Moore, D.V.M.
PET ANIMAL MEDICINE • X-RAYS • SURGERY
M-F 9a-7p BOARDING • GROOMING
Sat. 9a-1p 687-1591
1311 River Valley Blvd
lancasteranimalclinic.com

TRADERS Cafe
416 N. Columbus Street, Lancaster, OH
Monday-Friday, 6a-8p; Saturday, 6a-2p
Closed Sunday
Carry-out Available 653-5255

Serving Lancaster & Fairfield County Since 1903
Brian Sheridan
Thomas Theller II
SHERIDAN
Funeral Home
Custom Designed Funerals •
Pre-Arrangement • Monuments
222 South Columbus Street, Lancaster, OH 43130
740-653-4633

Garry D. Boyd, D.D.S.
Julie Messerly, D.D.S.
127 W. Sixth Ave.
687-4484

BUCKEYE
Honda • Toyota
WWW.BUCKEYECARS.COM

654-3456
ASK
2535 Columbus-Lancaster Road, NW

ONE STOP CROSSING
GAS FOOD & DRINKS
20 LOGAN THORNTON RD. NE, ROSEH, OH
740-569-4237

DAGGER, JOHNSTON, MILLER, OGILVIE & HAMPSON • ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Brian D. Shonk, *Parishioner* 653-6464
144 E. MAIN STREET • www.daggerlaw.com

MORRIS VETERINARY CLINIC Inc.
Robert Guinan, D.V.M.
John Hartig, D.V.M.
Teresa Hartig, D.V.M.
Allison Murray-Bowman, D.V.M.
1610 Sheridan Dr., Lancaster, OH 43139
Office: 740.653.4084 • Fax: 740.654.114
www.morrisvetclinic.com

Chuck Stowe REALTOR®
Office: (614) 868-8200
Cell: (740) 901-1832
charleestowe@howardhanna.com
10400 Gladwin Eastern Rd.
Pickerington, OH 43147
www.howardhanna.com

St. Vincent DE PAUL STORE
653-6037
424 E. Locust St., Lancaster
svdplancasterohio.org

PINK CRICKET RESTAURANT
929 E. Main Street, Lancaster, OH
740-653-7300
Monday-Saturday: 11a-1a
Dine in • Carry out
Like us on Facebook for Special Discounts

martin PAINTING & COATING CO.
614-875-8733
JohnMartin@MartinPainting.com

Crestview Rehab & Skilled Nursing
Physical • Occupational • Speech
Aquatic • Cardiac Rehab
Crestview
(740) 654-2634 • www.crestviewrehab.com

Sparks Family Chiropractic, Inc.
740-689-1175
Drs. Robert & Laura Sparks
Bring in all tax receipt, coordination, examination and x-rays for \$37!
This offer does not include treatment
Serving Lancaster for 17 years
385 E. Main St., Lancaster

BOYDEN RENOVALATIONS
Complete Kitchen/Restroom Services
614.801.5600 • FREE ESTIMATES
www.boydenrenovations.com

Morgan Funeral Home
"A life lived is a life worth remembering."
740-669-4155 - 124 Fort St., Boonza
www.MorganFuneralHomeOhio.com
Mark & Sherri Morgan, Owners

FAIRFIELD PULMONARY
CRITICAL CARE ASSOCIATES
Schedule an appointment today!
(740) 689-6833
Dr. James Bruce, Dr. Christian Yencza, Dr. Andrew Treshues and Ginger Davis, C.M.P.

BOB BOYD AUTO FAMILY
Columbus-Lancaster bobboyd.com
Family owned & operated for 40 years!
740-654-1122 740-681-8506 jhelm@bobboyd.com

Fairfield Federal Savings and Loan
653-3863
Member FDIC

To Advertise Here, Please Call
DEE PRINTING
1-800-292-9020

WALKER'S SHOE CENTER
Established 1915
"No Ohio legacy for its grandsons"
740-654-3166

FUN-BUS ADVENTURES
Lancaster, Ohio
740-653-4600/653-TAXI (8294)
www.funbus.com

Providing comprehensive medical care for infants to elders for over 30 years.
COLONNADE MEDICAL GROUP, INC.
Family Medicine Geriatrics Internal Medicine
740.654.0232
Accepting New Patients
www.colonnademedical.com

PHOTO: J.P. BOYD