

# St Bernadette Parish

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

# St Mary Parish

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

[stbernadetteparish.net](http://stbernadetteparish.net)



... is this Wednesday. That's when Lent begins.  
Why not make this a good Lent?

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year**

*FEBRUARY 26, 2017*

## Belonging to a Parish

Holy Mother the Church expects us to worship in the parish where we live. It makes sense. (There are exceptions: military people, college students, people visiting or caring for relatives, and the like.) If you have moved to another place (or from another place), you should register in the new parish, for, if you are going to be a practicing Catholic, it is most likely that you will worship with your new neighbors. We are not like some denominations for whom membership in a congregation is permanent. Our permanent membership is in the Catholic Church; parish membership needs to be registered with the parish where we live. Our “home parish” is important to us, but it is seldom the actual place of worship on anything like a regular basis after we have moved away. For purposes of Baptism, first Communion, Confirmation, marriage, burial, and such, the parish where we have registered and where we ordinarily worship is the one that counts. This has been the practice of the Catholic Church for a very long time, but it only becomes obvious when people move more often. Whether it is here or there, register!

## Our Parishes

FATHER THOMAS KESSLER (614) 634-0499  
pastor [wthomaskessler@icloud.com](mailto:wthomaskessler@icloud.com)

### AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

MARK SCARPITTI (740) 438-3970  
deacon [den.mark@frontier.com](mailto:den.mark@frontier.com)  
JEFF CARPENTER (740) 681-9918  
deacon [carpenter.277@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.277@osu.edu)  
ANN ESSMAN (740) 653-9347  
pastoral minister [aessman001@att.net](mailto:aessman001@att.net)  
STEVE HUBER (740) 654-3137  
facilities coordinator [shuber57@yahoo.com](mailto:shuber57@yahoo.com)  
LIZ LATORRE (740) 243-1872  
liturgical music [lizlаторre@gmail.com](mailto:lizlаторre@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 43130-8701 (740) 654-1893

### AT BREMEN ST MARY PARISH

BEN FACTOR  
liturgical music [b\\_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us](mailto:b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us)  
JIM SCHMELZER  
maintenance chair (740) 215-3894  
TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER  
religious education (614) 371-7702

*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 BOTH PARISHES

NIKKI SCHMELZER (740) 654-1893  
bookkeeper [businessmstbparish@yahoo.com](mailto:businessmstbparish@yahoo.com)  
KATHY KEHNAST (740) 654-1893  
pastoral coordinator [stbernparish@yahoo.com](mailto:stbernparish@yahoo.com)  
ANGIE & KENT KERNS (740) 654-2588  
religious education [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com)  
JULIE & CHASE STALFORD (740) 808-7294  
youth ministry [maristellaspirit@gmail.com](mailto:maristellaspirit@gmail.com)

### AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

PAM ELTRINGHAM [peltring@cducation.org](mailto:peltring@cducation.org)  
principal  
BARB HUBER [bhuber@cducation.org](mailto:bhuber@cducation.org)  
secretary

*Saint Bernadette School* is located at  
1325 Wheeling Rd, (740) 654-3137  
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701  
[www.stbernadetteschool.com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)  
[stbernlan@cducation.org](mailto:stbernlan@cducation.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 Kehnst will be necessary). Sessions are held quarterly for both parishes. Try to 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 Catholics. If you don't attend Sunday Mass regularly (a major component of being a practicing Catholic), there is something you can do about it: Start coming to Sunday Mass.

### 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 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 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.

The Church wishes to support couples **through the years** of their married life. That's why our diocese offers programs to enhance married life. To learn about these programs, watch the weekly bulletin.

# let us pray together

## with the Church today

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,  
that the course of our world  
may be directed  
by your peaceful rule  
and that your Church may rejoice,  
untroubled in her devotion.  
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.

## on ash wednesday

Grant, O Lord,  
that we may begin with holy fasting  
this campaign of Christian service,  
so that, as we take up battle  
against spiritual evils,  
we may be armed  
with weapons of self-restraint.  
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 pope Francis in February: comfort for the afflicted

That all those who are afflicted,  
especially the poor, refugees, and the  
marginalized,  
may find welcome and comfort  
in our communities.

## with the pope in March: support for persecuted Christians

That persecuted Christians may be supported  
by the prayers and material help  
of the whole Church.

## in both parishes

### christian initiation

Please pray for our **catechumens**. They are **officially-welcomed** members (albeit not yet full members) of the household of faith. **Ralph Mohler** and his son **Bryant** of Bremen St Mary, and **Jennifer Palmer** of St Bernadette, have publicly ratified their desire to become baptized members of the Catholic Church and are preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Learn their names so you can pray for them. Find out who they are so you can make them feel welcome.

### getting to know a very good school ... that teaches the Catholic faith

Two opportunities that you might not want to miss:

- **St Bernadette School Open House, today**, Sunday, Feb 26, from noon-2 PM, provides you the opportunity to tour the building, meet the staff, and receive registration and financial assistance information.
- **“K for a Day”**, on Friday, Mar 3, from 8:30-11 AM, is a time for kindergartners and their parents to join St B kindergarten class and get the feel for a great program.

## at st bernadette parish

### Mass intentions at st bernadette

Saturday,	Feb 25	4 PM	Carl Aglio
Sunday,	Feb 26	11 AM	for the people of the parish
Monday,	Feb 27	8:20 AM	deceased of Seigny family
Wednesday,	Mar 1	8:20 AM	Jo Eilla Kiphen
Wednesday,	Mar 1	6 PM	for the people of the parish
Thursday,	Mar 2	6 PM	Raymond Shaw
Friday,	Mar 3	8:20 AM	Mrs Francis Nash
Saturday,	Mar 4	9 AM	Russ Camden
Saturday,	Mar 4	4 PM	for the people of the parish
Sunday,	Mar 5	11 AM	for the people of the parish

### sunday morning rosary

Come pray the rosary together at St Bernadette on Sunday at 10:35 (shortly before the 11 AM Mass). Pray for the peace that comes to our society from the conversion of our hearts to the Lord.

## sunday at Mass at st bernadette

	Lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Sat, Feb 25 4 PM	Bob Christy	Mallory, Mason & McKenzie Ortiz	Angie Christy Marguerite Grimm Denise McGuire	Teresa Scarpitti Craig Shaw Mickey Steyaert
Sun, Feb 26 11 AM	John Hartig	Ashlyn & Brennan Quaintance, Jack Tencza	Teresa Hartig Jim & Rita Merk Jean Robertson	Becky Wickham Amy Woo
Sat, Mar 4 4 PM	Terry Carpenter	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Rosalie DeFillippo Kathy Kehnast Jim & Becky Kuhn	Sandy Landefeld Brad Rider
Sun, Mar 5 11 AM	Tara Craaybeek	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Nancy Griffith Ben Peters Larry Sanford	Teresa Scarpitti Anna Seigny David Shonk

## at st mary parish

### Mass intentions at st mary

Sunday,	Feb 26	8:30 AM	for the people of the parish
Tuesday,	Feb 28	8:20 AM	Tom Kunkler
Wednesday,	Mar 1	NOON	for the people of the parish
Sunday,	Mar 5	8:30 AM	for the people of the parish

### world day of prayer

All ladies of St Mary Church are invited to join with ladies of the other Christian communities of the Bremen area to celebrate the World Day of Prayer on Saturday, Mar 3, at 7 PM, at the Bremen Presbyterian Church. If you would like to volunteer to usher and hand out programs or just need information, call Irene Kunkler at (740) 475-7736.

### sunday at mass at bremen st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sun, Feb 26 8:30 AM	Susan Foltz	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Wyatt Borah, Susan Foltz, Leo Kunkler Sr	Catherine Noll, April Schmelzer	Damian Schmelzer
Sun, Mar 5 8:30 AM	Paul Kunkler	Brooke Holt, Isaac Schmelzer	Irene Kunkler, Dismas Schmelzer, Jim Schmelzer	Paul Kunkler Family	Jim Schmelzer



## st vincent de paul at bremen

For people in a financial jam, the season of need seems to go on throughout the year, especially when it gets really cold out. So, the *St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen* takes up a collection after Mass on the first Sunday of the month, every month. New members are always welcome. For information, call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027.

## in the diocese of columbus

### learn to teach natural family planning

Individuals in health professions and couples with NFP experience are encouraged to attend a free diocesan NFP Teacher Training at Mt Carmel East in Columbus on Tuesday evenings, Mar 7-Apr 4. Participants will learn to communicate effectively the basics of fertility, charting, and family planning to engaged and married couples. Want information? Interested, but the class dates don't work? Contact Jennifer, Diocesan NFP Coordinator, at (614) 241-2560 or [jfullin@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:jfullin@columbuscatholic.org).

### catholic men's luncheon club

The next Catholic Men's Luncheon Club will feature **James Foley, president of Columbus Cristo Rey High School** on Friday, Mar 3, at St Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. Mass is at 11:45 AM followed by lunch and Jim's presentation about Cristo Rey until about 1 PM. No reservations are necessary and \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! For information visit [CatholicMensMinistry.com](http://CatholicMensMinistry.com) or contact Tim Merkle, CMLC President at [htm@ejhlaw.com](mailto:htm@ejhlaw.com).

### catholic youth summer camp

Catholic Youth Summer Camp is Ohio's week-long, residential high adventure camp for students entering grades 6-12. 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](http://www.cysc.com) for information and to register for:

- high school sessions in the weeks of June 11, 18, 25, & July 2;
- middle school sessions in the weeks of July 9, 16, 23, & 30.

Registration is open now.

### happily ... 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 Apr 21-23. For information or to register, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmecolumbus.org](http://www.wmecolumbus.org).

### sunday evening Mass

Holy Family Church, 584 West Broad St, Columbus, will begin offering an **8 PM Sunday Mass** in English on March 5 to better coincide with many people's work schedule. Contact the parish office at (614) 221-4323.

## the holy season of Lent

### lenten fast and abstinence

During Lent, Catholics in the United States

- **abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent.** Catholics 14 and older are bound by the law of abstinence;
- **fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** — which means eating only one full meal on those days. One or two smaller meals may be taken on those days, but may not total one full meal. And no eating between meals. All adults are bound by the law of fast until they are 59.

Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

### ash wednesday

Ash Wednesday is March 1. Ashes will be imposed during:

- **St Bernadette** at 8:20 AM and at 6 PM Masses and
- **St Mary** at NOON Mass.

Solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Bernadette will occur after morning Mass as usual.

- **abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday (and on all the Fridays of Lent)**
- **fast on Ash Wednesday (and Good Friday)** — which means eating only one full meal on those days.

### way of the cross

On all the Fridays of Lent at 7 PM St Mary and St Bernadette parishes will both pray the Way of the Cross, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. You could join in. And bring your kids. There are few better ways for them to learn the mystery of the Cross. And for you to let it sink in.

### rice bowl

This year's theme for Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl is "**Encounter Lent.**" This Lent, we answer the call to serve the "least of our brothers and sisters" through Rice Bowl. It offers Catholics in the US a way to connect with our brothers and sisters around the world. This Lent, CRS invites us to **pray** with our families, **fast** in solidarity with those who hunger, learn about the challenges of poverty overseas, and **give sacrificial contributions** for those in need. Visit the Rice Bowl website at <http://orb.crs.org>.

### k of c fish fry

Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** will fry fish on Ash Wednesday (Mar 1) and on the Fridays of Lent (Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and Apr 7). After the fish, come to St Bernadette or Bremen St Mary for the Stations of the Cross. Cost (for the fish, not the Stations) for adults is \$8 and for children is \$6. The KofC hall is at 343 East Walnut Street.



## special events this lent

### *the Lamb's supper, the Mass as heaven on earth*

That is, to say the least, a stretch. We usually don't think about it that way. But sometimes we need to stretch, to look more deeply into what it is we do when we worship God at Mass, when we come into communion with the one who died for our sins and that we may have life. Scott Hahn finds a way in, through a refreshed reading of the Book of Revelation in his book.

Our parishes distributed 100 copies of *The Lamb's Supper* at Christmas time. Quite a number of people said that reading this book opened their eyes to **the Mass in a whole new way**. Some asked for an opportunity to explore this mystery further. So let's do that for Lent. Here's the plan:

**Every Thursday during the Season of Lent** (that's Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and Apr 6), let's gather for the 6 PM Mass (or come one of those weeks at 5:30 for Confession too). Then we can repair to the Mary Good Center for supper, a very light and brief and Lenten kind of supper with **soup and bread**. No soft drinks, no condiments, no dessert ... but a special supper, none the less. Soon after 7 PM Father Kessler will guide those who attend in learning about and discussing several aspects of **this startling Biblical way of thinking about the Mass**. People might bring along their copy of *The Lamb's Supper* and a New Testament. Hahn's book is not required reading, but it is available at Amazon. **The Book of Revelation is ... a peculiar book**, a book with which we all need guidance. But it is the word of God and guides us on the way to the Truth. These Lenten Thursdays will conclude with prayer before 8:30 PM.

Everyone is welcome. But **we need to know how many are coming** — to determine: How much soup do we need? a few cups or a few gallons? **To register**, please call (740) 654-1893 and tell Kathy you are coming (or leave a message). And please invite a friend.

### parish missions

**St Mary of the Assumption Parish** in Lancaster invites you to their parish mission, presented by Fr Thomas Blau OP, on **the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church**. The Mission will be offered Monday through Thursday, Mar 6-9, at 7 PM in the church. Tuesday's session will also include the celebration of the Lord's mercy in the sacrament of Confession.

**St Mark Catholic Church** presents Elizabeth Ficocelli at 7 PM on Mar 6-8. Her topics are: talk #1 – A Journey in Grace from Non-Catholic to Catholic Evangelist, talk #2 – From Burden to Joy: The Sacrament of Reconciliation in a Way You've Never Experienced It, talk #3 - Discovering, Living and Sharing Our Mission.

### lenten morning of reflection

Join Sister Louis Mary Passeri for the Sts Peter and Paul Retreat Center's sponsored talk: **"I Thirst (John 19:28) for Your Love."** Come and pray and reflect on this loving relationship between God and ourselves on Saturday, Mar 18, from 9 AM-noon at the center located at 2734 Seminary Rd in Newark. The cost of \$20 includes continental breakfast. Register by phone (740) 928-4246 or visit [www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com](http://www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com)

### lenten retreat: overshadowed by the Holy Spirit

The Franciscan Sisters TOR invite you to be **immersed in the Holy Spirit at their Lenten retreat** on Saturday, Mar 25, from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. The retreat includes Mass, adoration, lunch, talks, and testimonies, and happens at Our Lady of Sorrows Monastery in Toronto, Ohio. Registration is required by Monday, Mar 13. Suggested donation is \$25. Register online at [www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-2017/](http://www.franciscansisterstor.org/lenten-retreat-2017/) or call (740) 544-5542 ext 112.

## times to retreat

### vocation to be a sister

**The Dominican Sisters of Peace** invite single, Catholic women, ages 18 to 45, to attend a **"Come and See"** discernment retreat designed to **explore contemporary Dominican life**. Experience Dominican prayer and community with the sisters and reflect on God's call. The retreat happens from 4:30 PM Friday, Mar 10, until noon on Sunday, Mar 12, at the sisters' motherhouse in Columbus. For information, call or text Sister June Fitzgerald at (570) 336-3991 or email [jfitzgerald@oppeace.org](mailto:jfitzgerald@oppeace.org). Participants may register online for the retreat or request a form. Some travel assistance is available.

### a women's silent retreat

Women of the Columbus diocese are invited to come away during this Lenten season for a week-end, to **disconnect from the cyber world and connect with God** at a silent retreat for women from Mar 3-5 at St Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E Broad Street, Columbus. Sponsored by the Catholic Laywomen's Retreat League, the retreat will begin Friday evening and end Sunday at noon. Fr Al Naseman, CPPS will be the retreat master. A member of the Cincinnati Province of the Precious Blood order, he will give four conferences on **"Reflections on Lent from the Book of Ecclesiastes."** The fee of \$140 will cover six meals and a private room. For information, email [retreatleague@gmail.com](mailto:retreatleague@gmail.com) or call Sharon Gehrich, CLRL secretary, at (614) 882-1946.

### and another women's silent retreat

**"The Seven Deadly Sins vs Life to the Full"** is the theme of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual Women's Silent Retreat, to be held Mar 31-Apr 2, from 5:30 PM Friday to noon Sunday, at the St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Presenter is **Father Charles Shonk, OP**. Event donation is \$115; registration deadline is Mar 22; \$50 is due with registration, balance due at start of event. Visit [www.dccw.colstdioc.org](http://www.dccw.colstdioc.org) or contact Mickey McCormick at (614) 228-8601 or [mmccormick@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:mmccormick@columbuscatholic.org) for information.

## the pilgrimage season

### to our lady of consolation

A **pilgrimage to Carey**, Ohio, to the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation happens on Wednesday, May 3. Meet at the

St Bernadette parking lot at 7 AM. Cost is \$25 and lunch may be purchased at the cafeteria. Paid reservations are due by Monday, April 3. Make checks payable and send to Margaret Kronenbitter, 2700 Wayne Ridge Rd, Zanesville, OH 43701. For information, call Ann Messerly at (740) 654-3447 or Rita Merk at (740) 654-3255.

### to medjugorje

A **pilgrimage to Medjugorje** happens from Monday, Oct 23 to Friday, Nov 3, led by Cindy Lane and accompanied by Fr Stash Dailey. Cost is \$2,625 inclusive double occupancy. An informational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Mar 15, at the Holy Family Parish Office at 6:30 PM. Contact Cindy Lane at clane18@columbus.rr.com or (614) 361-1042 for details.

### 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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 Mar 15.

### to the holy land

Have you considered adding a **new dimension of understanding regarding Christian history and the life of Jesus**? Fr David Schalk and hosts Aimee and David Walton invite you to the Holy Land of Israel. Experience the places where Jesus walked, lived, taught, and performed miracles. Mass is celebrated daily at various holy sites, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of our Lord's crucifixion and tomb. This spiritual journey happens from October 17 to 26. Cost is \$4149 per person with meals, fees and tips included. For information, contact Aimee Walton at waltonisraelpilgrimage@gmail.com or (740) 225-6136.

### to italy

Fr Jeff Rimelspach, former pastor of St Mary Bremen, will lead a pilgrimage to Italy from Oct 2-14. The trip will include visits with daily Mass to **Venice, Bologna, Assisi, Cortona, San Marino,**

**Rome, the Vatican,** and the island nation of **Malta**. Brochures are available at the parish office or by contacting Fr Rimelspach at St Margaret Church, 1600 N Hague Ave, Columbus, OH 43204 or jrimelspach@msn.com. This is a great **opportunity to visit many holy places in Italy**. And it is a great time of year to go.

## a very fine school

### st bernadette school can be affordable

There is money out there for tuition assistance for children attending or hoping to be able to attend our Catholic school. Read on. Here are four sources of substantial financial aid: one is a full scholarship; three others are substantial financial assistance. And if you try all of those without success, let's continue the conversation. Where there is a will, there is a way.

- o **EdChoice Expansion Scholarships** are income-based vouchers available for Ohio families from the Ohio Department of Education. Students whose families meet the income eligibility requirements (eg: family of 4, income \$49,200) can attend St Bernadette School next fall at no cost to parents, thanks to scholarships available for kindergartners, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This is an extraordinary opportunity for single parents, one-income homes, fixed-income households, and working families. Every family is encouraged to explore this possibility. Contact the school office for information.
- o **Diocesan Tuition Assistance** applications must be completed on-line at www.factstuitionaid.com. File your 2016 taxes early, as that information is required on your application. All applications must be submitted and verified by Mar 15.
- o **Local Tuition Assistance** uses the diocesan application mentioned above. Local assistance will be awarded based on the prioritized list generated by the diocese. (This does not refer to your parish subsidy).

**Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union** will award \$35,000 in Catholic education scholarships. Online applications are at http://www.ohiocatholicfcu.com before Friday, Mar 3. To become a member, visit http://ohiocatholicfcu.com or call (888) 696-4462.



confessions & weekday Mass nearby			These times sometimes change, though, so be sure to call ahead!				
	<i>Bremen St Mary</i>	<i>Lancaster St Bernadette</i>	<i>Lancaster St Mary</i>	<i>Lancaster St Mark</i>	<i>Sugar Grove St Joseph</i>	<i>Circleville St Joseph</i>	<i>Logan St John</i>
Monday		8:20 AM	7 AM	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
Tuesday	8:20 AM		9 AM	8 AM	NOON	7 AM	8 AM
Wednesday		8:20 AM	7 AM	6 PM	8 AM	9 AM	9 AM
Thursday		6 PM	9 AM	8 AM	NOON		
Friday		8:20 AM		8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
Saturday		1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday only 9 AM Mass				10 AM	9 AM
confessions	Sunday @ 8AM	Saturday @ 3 PM & @ 8:30 am on 1st Saturday only	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 5:30 PM	½ hour before Mass	Saturday @ 4 PM	Saturday @ 4 PM

# Make up Your Mind about Lent ... before Ash Wednesday

It's time now to make up your mind about Lent, which starts this week. This Wednesday, March 1, is Ash Wednesday. The Mass readings that day will tell us about **the right way** to pray, fast, and give alms.

Are you going to do anything about it? Like pray or fast or give alms? You could just get some ashes on Ash Wednesday and some palm on Palm Sunday and lie low in the meantime. But why? Or you could do the works of this holy season: Pray and fast and give alms! Together they are a good idea. None of them is dispensable.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. The people who come to church get their faces dirty and the priests and deacons get their hands dirty with ashes, saying many times to many people: "**Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return.**" (There is one other phrase that the priest can say as another option: "**Repent and believe the Good News.**" Both are good things to say. I tend to stick with the older option, because I think it is what people come to church that day for.)

There is an amusing irony in the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of the people. In the gospel reading for that day Jesus talks about **prayer, fasting, and alms-giving**. Now it is important to remember that these three activities are not originally Lenten practices, things we just do during the 40 days of Lent. They aren't specifically Catholic things either. Jesus was talking to ordinary Jews about ordinary religious practices. He wasn't saying, "I want you to do these things during Lent." Nor even, "I want all my followers to do these things." He just presumed that people who were serious about serving God would do them. His point was that **when you do them, do them right**. Don't do them the way the hypocrites do them. It wasn't a matter of how long or what prayers you were to pray, how much fasting or abstaining from what foods, or how much or to whom you ought to give alms. It was a matter, rather, of **whom you are doing these religious things for**. If it is for public opinion you do them, as it is for the hypocrites, then it is not for God. And it will not be rewarded by God. In each case it is, no, do what you do "in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

In the case of the fasting, the way of the hypocrites is the way of the battered look. "They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and **wash your face**, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden" (Matthew 6:16-19).

The ironical part of my story is that, moments after listening to this injunction by Jesus, **we proceed to get our faces dirty**. The ashes on our foreheads stay there all day. And our friends and neighbors, coworkers and classmates, see the **evidence that we are beginning a season of fasting**. Have we missed the point of the Gospel reading or what?

And if that getting our faces dirty weren't enough of a surprise, my experience of how popular "getting ashes" is, even with otherwise less active Catholics. In the years I was chaplain to the Catholic students at Kenyon College and at Ohio Northern University, I found that the best attended Mass during the year for those student communities was the Mass of Ash Wednesday. Of course students almost all went home for the Christmas and Easter holidays, so I didn't see how well they attended then. But still Ash Wednesday was the biggest day for church-going in the school year. I thought a lot about why this day in late winter, which was no holy day of obligation, should have such appeal even to some Catholics who were not reliably faithful about their duty to attend Mass each Sunday. If there were some pleasant gift being handed out or some special entertainment, perhaps it would have been easier to understand. But **ashes on the face and somber words about death**, spoken by a priest looking them directly in the eye, on a day when they didn't have to be there? What was there in that to draw the young to church.

I think that the words and gestures of Ash Wednesday communicate something important to people. We don't enjoy admitting that we are mortal, but we also don't want always to have to be in hiding from the fact either. When spoken to us **ritually in a formal but graphic way** — a sacramental way — that saying about being dust and having to return to dust is strangely attractive. If it were just showing off — "doing what the hypocrites do" we would be telling the world "Can't you see that I am very religious?" But that is not what is going on. Instead, it is a ritual gesture of humility and admission of that painful but fascinating fact "I am going to die." And that I want to be ready. Or at least, I want to start to get ready.

Sacramentals and **the little rituals** that accompany the sacraments are like that. They have aspects of being **statements in small doses of important facts about our lives**. Certainly they can be misused: we misuse the ashes of Ash Wednesday if we let them be a substitute for awareness of mortality and efforts to prepare for death, if they become ways to show off our religiosity. But if they are these moments of reality therapy, when we take small glimpses into important but not easily reachable aspects of life — like the fact that we are going to return to dust — then they can be very helpful.

It is **different with the seven sacraments that Jesus instituted**. They do all of the same kind of symbolizing that the sacramental do, only on the most fundamental level. And in addition, **they actually accomplish what they symbolize**: they actually give the grace of new **BIRTH INTO THE LIFE OF GOD** (Baptism) of **spiritual maturation and strengthening** (Confirmation), of **nurture and banqueting with God** (Holy Communion), of **forgiveness** (Penance), of **healing** (Anointing of the Sick), of **authorizing priestly mediation** (Holy Orders), of **joining two to become one flesh** (Matrimony).

When you think about it, taking the ashes of Ash Wednesday is neither disobedient to the command of Jesus that we not pray, fast, or give alms hypocritically. Nor are they so very out of character for us humans who always live in fear of death. We also live in fascination with death. And taken in small ritual doses, we come face to face with death. And ponder, usually only briefly, its reality.

What would turn going to church to get the ashes into a sad and empty action would be the failure to **follow through during the holy season of Lent**. Going to church that one day and then not showing up again until Easter — if even then — is missing the point. The **follow through is the natural response** if we take to heart the message of that one day: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." So, "repent and believe the Good News." Spend **the next forty days** in coming to terms with **this bracing message**, so that you can spend **the rest of your life** living with an awareness of the God who made us for eternal life.

— Father Kessler

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

**Home Instead**  
SENIOR CARE *Truly, it's personal.*  
654-4250  
www.homeinstead.com/763  
Erica 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

**Papa John's**  
"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

**BOY FOOD MARKET**  
Corner of S. Maple and Walnut  
Lancaster's Only Home-Backed Store  
740-653-9606  
boyfoodmarket.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@bncglobal.net

740-654-8030  
1-877-ONE-DENT  
**ORTHODONTICS**  
Amanda M. Connor, 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  
600 N. Broad Street  
740-653-5302 • johnkelley@edwardjones.com

**Lancaster Animal Clinic**  
Neil B. Bonham, 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

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

**TRADERS Cafe**  
416 N. Columbus Street, Lancaster, OH  
Monday-Friday, 6a-9p; Saturday, 6a-2p  
Closed Sunday  
Carry-out Available 653-5255

**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 TOWNVILLE RD. NE, BISHOP, 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

"Do it! It Great Since 1908"  
Family Owned & Operated  
**PINK CRICKET RESTAURANT**  
909 E. Main Street, Lancaster, OH  
740-653-7300  
Monday-Saturday: 11a-1a  
Dine in • Carry out  
Like us on Facebook for Special Discounts

**MORRIS VETERINARY CLINIC** 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 43130  
Office: 740.653.4084 • Fax:740.654.114  
www.morrisvetclinic.com

**Chuck Stowe REALTOR®**  
Office: (614) 888-8200  
Cell: (740) 901-1633  
charlistowe@howardhanna.com  
10020 Steadick Eastern Rd.  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
www.howardhanna.com RealTeam Realty, LLC  
Member Equal Housing Opportunity

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

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

**Crestview Rehab & Skilled Nursing**  
Physical • Occupational • Speech  
Aquatic • Cardiac Rehab  
**Crestview**  
(740) 651-2631 • www.crestviewrehab.com

**Sparks Family Chiropractic, Inc.**  
740-689-1175  
Drs. Robert & Laura Sparks  
Bring in ad for massage consultation, examination and x-rays for \$37!  
This offer does not include treatment  
Serving Lancaster for 17 years  
365 E. Main St., Lancaster

**BOYDEN**  
614.801.5600 • FREE ESTIMATES  
www.boydenrenovations.com

**Morgan Funeral Home**  
"A life lived is a life worth remembering."  
740-569-4195 • 124 Port St., Steeles  
www.MorganFuneralHome.Ohio.com  
Mark & Sherri Morgan, Owners

**FAIRFIELD PULMONARY** Schedule an appointment today!  
**CRITICAL CARE ASSOCIATES** (740) 689-6833  
Dr. Jarmo Bruce, Dr. Chantal Pariza, Dr. Andrew Twelhusse and Ginger Davis, D.M.P.

**Fairfield Federal Savings and Loan**  
653-3863  
Member FDIC

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

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

**WALKER'S SHOE CENTER**  
Established 1935  
"No Ohio Agency for six generations!"  
740-654-3166

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