

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



Samuel, the Judge, Anoints David to be King

scene of today's first reading, telling how God's calling and commissioning of the great ancestor of Jesus shows again that "God's ways are not our ways."

Painted (249 or 250 AD) on the wall of Dura Europa synagogue

located on a cliff overlooking the Euphrates River in Eastern Syria
After surviving amazingly intact for more than twenty centuries, the extraordinary Jewish and Christian ruins of this town were severely looted and most subsequently demolished by the Islamic State (ISIS) a few years ago.

The 4th Sunday of Lent

MARCH 26, 2017

belonging to a parish

It makes sense that Holy Mother the Church expects that we will worship in the parish where we live. There are exceptions: military people, college students, people visiting or caring for relatives, and the like. But we all live somewhere and have neighbors. We go to the Church there, with them. If you have moved to another place (or from another place), for more or less all of the foreseeable future, you should register in the parish in the new place. If you are going to be a practicing Catholic, you will most likely practice your faith with the people who live nearby and in the church that is nearby. We are not like some Christian denominations for whom membership in a congregation is permanent and is a matter of taste preferences. 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 if we don’t live there anymore it is not likely to be our actual place of worship on anything like a regular basis. For purposes of baptism, first Communion, confirmation, marriage, sacramental sponsorship, 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 grow up, establish a home, and sometimes have to move to another place. Whether it is here or there, register in the parish where you worship on Sundays!

our parishes

FATHER THOMAS KESSLER (614) 634-0499
pastor wnthomaskessler@icloud.com

AT ST BERNADETTE PARISH

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

MARK SCARPITTI (740) 438-3970
deacon dcn.mark@frontier.com
JEFF CARPENTER (740) 681-9918
deacon carpenter.277@osu.edu
ANN ESSMAN (740) 653-9347
pastoral minister aessman001@att.net
STEVE HUBER (740) 654-3137
facilities coordinator shuber57@yahoo.com
LIZ LATORRE (740) 243-1872
liturgical music 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
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
KATHY KEHNAST (740) 654-1893
pastoral coordinator stbernparish@yahoo.com
ANGIE & KENT KERNS (740) 654-2588
religious education kwkerns@gmail.com
JULIE & CHASE STALFORD (740) 808-7294
youth ministry maristellaspirit@gmail.com

AT ST BERNADETTE SCHOOL

PAM ELTRINGHAM peltring@cducation.org
principal
BARB HUBER bhuber@cducation.org
secretary

Saint Bernadette School is located at
1325 Wheeling Rd, (740) 654-3137
Lancaster, OH 43130-8701
www.stbernadetteschool.com
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; those parents 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.

Remember, Catholics who marry outside the Church have left the sacramental life and need to change that situation before receiving the other sacraments.

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.

praying this week

with the Church today

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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 pope

in March: support for persecuted Christians

Pope Francis asks us to pray that persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

in April: young people

Pope Francis asks us to pray that young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

God's word at sunday Mass

Sunday, Mar 26, 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23
4th Sunday in Lent Ephesians 5:8-14 **John 9:1-41**
Sunday, Apr 2, Ezekiel 37:12-14 Psalm 130
5th Sunday in Lent Romans 8:8-11 **John 11:1-45**

God's word during the week

Mon, Mar 27 Isaiah 65:17-21 Ps 30 **John 4:43-54**
Tues, Mar 28 Ezekiel 47:1-12 Ps 46 **John 5:1-16**
Weds, Mar 29 Isaiah 49:8-15 Ps 145 **John 5:17-30**
Thurs, Mar 30 Exodus 32:7-14 Ps 106 **John 5:31-47**
Fri, Mar 31 Wisdom 2:1-22 Ps 34 **John 7:1-30**
Sat, Apr 1 Jeremiah 11:18-20 Ps 7 **John 7:40-53**

in both parishes

christian initiation

Please pray for the new members (albeit not yet full members) of the household of faith, who have ratified their desire to become baptized members of the Catholic Church and are preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Our elect include **Ralph Mohler** and his son **Bryant** of Bremen St Mary, and **Jennifer Palmer** of St Bernadette. They are in the period of final, more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation, during which they will be encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity. Lent is the season of their final preparation to become baptized members of the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

And **Dick Usilton** of St Bernadette Parish will make a profession of his Catholic Faith, be confirmed, and receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. He has been preparing for entry into the Church on a separate schedule because of scheduling problems. His sacramental reception is different because he is already a baptized Christian. But your prayers for all four are still very much appreciated.

walking with purpose

The current 9-week session of **Walking With Purpose**, our women's faith sharing group, has begun, but you can still register. Contact Amy Woo at acfaching@yahoo.com or (414) 882-1863. New participants and friends are welcome. Come to as many sessions as your schedule allows.

irish alumni golf outing 2017

Alumni of St Mary, Bishop Fenwick and Fisher Catholic High Schools play at Pleasant Valley Golf Course, Coonpath Road, Lancaster, on Saturday, June 10, at 9 AM shotgun start, \$150 per team, 3 player scramble format. Make checks payable to A One Events, LLC. Mail with entry to: A One Events, PO Box 961, Lancaster, OH 43130, and include player name, class year, email or phone. For information contact Mike Wolshire at (740) 687-0055 or mike@miller-lewis.com.

catholic foundation scholarships

The Catholic Foundation **will award scholarships to 22 students in the Columbus diocese**. To streamline the scholarship funds stewarded by the Foundation process, the Foundation has a complete listing of available scholarships, qualifications, and applications on its website. The scholarship deadline is Apr 7, and the recipients will be notified in May. Recipients are selected according to criteria established by donors who created the funds to support gifted and deserving students by assisting them with the costs of their education. Donors often establish scholarship funds to honor or memorialize friends, teachers, family members, or other loved ones. Since 2007, The Catholic Foundation has awarded over \$287,000 in scholarships empowering 94 young people to continue their academic and vocational studies. With continued generosity of donors who share this dedication to education, the Foundation will continue to support students as they answer God's call. For detailed information and the full list of scholarships, call the Foundation at (614) 443-8893.

what you may need in your yard

Is there a **lot of traffic** past your house? Then it might just be a good place to put a yard sign that tells the world about St Gabriel Catholic Radio, AM 820. You know, just like the bumper magnet on your car, only bigger and it won't be lost at the car wash. Why on your lawn? To give a **gentle witness to the joyful reality of the Catholic answer to the questions** that so many of our friends and neighbors have. We have **some of those signs at the parish office**. You would be welcome to have one.

prayer in the morning

All through the year we gather for prayer on the weekday mornings at 8 AM in whichever parish is having 8:20 Mass. It is called **Lauds** because the point of it **is to sing the praises of God**. The heart of the prayer is the recitation of the selected psalms together. If you want to have Lenten renewal in your prayer life, please join us. It is the Church's ancient scriptural way of prayer.

at st bernadette parish

a way you could help

Jillian's Dinner, a St Bernadette fundraiser held each October for an individual or family in need, has openings for volunteers to chair committees at the dinner and raffle. For information, call Marlene Clark at (740) 687-5709 or Kathy Wagner at (740) 687-0504.

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.

ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	Lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Sat, Mar 25 4 PM	Becky Kuhn	Kendall Cox, Clara & Susan Craaybeek	Joyce Guenther Lee Guinan Jim Kuhn	Sandy Landefeld Craig Shaw Kathy Wagner
Sun, Mar 26 11 AM	Teresa Scarpitti	Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messerly	Pat Dreyer Jean Robinson Anna Seigny	Dave Shonk Mary Jane Vajen Becky Wickham
Mon 8:20	Mary Jane Vajen	Becca Fuller Sarah Woo	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Weds 8:20	Bob Christy	Brianna Hilyard Gunner Robertson	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen
Thurs 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Carley Matson Mitchell Ortiz	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Fri 8:20	Jim Merk	Jack Gentile Lexi Utz	Jim Merk	Rita Merk
Sat 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim Merk	Rita Merk
Sat, Apr 1 4 PM	Sandy Landefeld	Abby & Mary Frazier	Bob & Angie Christy Rosalie DeFillippo	Susan Garrett Marguerite Grimm Mickey Steyaert
Sun, Apr 2 11 AM	Jim Merk	Kendall Cox, Daniel Turner, Diana Woo	Tara Craaybeek Patrick Gins Kathy Kehnast	John & Teresa Hartig Rita Merk

Mass intentions at st bernadette

Saturday,	Mar 25	4 PM	the people of the parish
Sunday,	Mar 26	11 AM	the people of the parish
Monday,	Mar 27	8:20 AM	Louise Young
Wednesday,	Mar 29	8:20 AM	James Mahon
Thursday,	Mar 30	6 PM	Veral Dick Kilbarger
Friday,	Mar 31	8:20 AM	Wilford & Loretta Beiter
Saturday,	Apr 1	9 AM	Jo Ella Kiphen
Saturday,	Apr 1	4 PM	the people of the parish
Sunday,	Apr 2	11 AM	the people of the parish

at st mary parish

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.

Mass intentions at st mary

Sunday,	Mar 26	8:30 AM	for the people of the parish
Tuesday,	Mar 28	8:20 AM	Leo & Eileen Schmelzer <i>in thanksgiving 60 years of marriage</i>
Sunday,	Apr 2	8:30 AM	for the people of the parish

+

sunday at Mass at bremen st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sun, Mar 26 8:30 AM	Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Caden & Cody Fyffe	Neil Boch, Wyatt Borah, Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Nick Schmelzer family	Nikki Schmelzer
Sun, Apr 2 8:30 AM	Karen Wolfe	Brooke Holt, Jillian Wilkinson	Leo Kunkler Sr, Jim Schmelzer, Karen Wolfe	John Schoenlaub family	Jim Schmelzer

bremen fish fry

Come to the Bremen St Mary Annual Fish Fry on Friday, Mar 31, from 4:30-6:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Sign up now, so the cooks can prepare accordingly. If you can volunteer some time or a dessert for this event, sign up also. Stations of the Cross and Benediction begin at 7 PM in the church, so why not make an evening of it?

in the diocese of columbus

catholic men's luncheon club

The next Catholic Men's Luncheon Club will feature a talk by John Bradford, the founder of Wilderness Outreach, on Friday, Apr 7, at St Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. Holy Mass begins at 11:45 AM followed by lunch and John's talk until about 1 PM. No reservations are necessary, \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! For information on Catholic Men's Luncheons, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc or contact Tim Merkle, CMLC President at htm@ejhlaw.com.

from the chair

Bishop Campbell talks with our college students for the annual **College Student Forum** on Tuesday, Apr 4, from 5-6 PM on AM 820 St Gabriel Catholic Radio.

catholic church tour

Imagine making a holy pilgrimage this Easter season. What would it be like to explore the holy places and churches found right here in Ohio? Join Father Joshua Wagner and hundreds of other pilgrims on the **annual Easter pilgrimage**, "The Catholic Church Tour." This year they will be exploring the churches and shrines of Western Ohio (Maria Stein), of Perry County, and of downtown Columbus. Energize the upcoming Easter Season. Get information and reserve your spot immediately by going to CatholicChurchTour.com.

natural family planning classes

Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods are effective for postponing or achieving pregnancy and are completely natural—no pills, patches or devices. **Good for the body and great for the soul.** Engaged and married couples are invited to learn NFP by attending a diocesan NFP Class Series. Dates and locations are online at familylife.colsdioc.org; contact the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560 or familylife@colsdioc.org for information

fisher catholic bid o' luck

You are invited. The 36th Annual Fisher Catholic Bid O' Luck Dinner Auction happens Saturday, Apr 29, 2017. This year's theme is Moonlit Masquerade, which promises to be an evening of

elegance and splendor. Attend a gourmet meal prepared by Cheers & Lakeside Chalet, a full selection of beverages, and fabulous items in the Silent and Grand Auctions. Raffle tickets will be available to win the Pot-of-Gold prizes (one \$7,500 and five \$500 payouts). For information, contact Kellie Shonk at (740) 654-1231, or fishercatholic . org/bid-o-luck.

lancaster st mary school flower sale

The St Mary Teacher Association is taking orders until Apr 13. All proceeds benefit the **St. Mary Tuition Assistance Fund**. Order forms are online at saintmarylancaster . org or by calling the school office Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM, at (740) 654-1632. Flowers can be picked up at St Mary School on Friday, May 5, from 2-6 PM and Saturday, May 6, from 9 AM-noon. Payment is due at that time.

job opening

Logan St. John School, a PreK-6 Catholic School, has an opening for the position of principal for the 2017/18 school year. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic, well versed in the Catholic Faith and have (or be working toward obtaining) an administrator's license, and have a **passion for Catholic education**, excellent communication skills, leadership and management abilities, a current FBI/BCI background check, proof of attendance at a Protecting God's Children seminar, and have completed the online administrator's application for the Diocese of Columbus. Salary is commensurate with candidate's education and experience. Submit materials including a cover letter of interest, resume, educational philosophy, a letter from the candidate's current pastor speaking to membership and participation in the Catholic Church, and a list of five references to the Office of Catholic Schools, 197 E Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215. Contact Jeanne Gissel at (614) 221-5829 or jgissel @ cdeducation . org with questions.

volunteers needed

Looking for a way to serve in 2017? Engaged couples in our diocese need your help. Volunteer to serve on the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Team as a speaker and presenter. Present virtues-based topics to engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. **If you are currently married, and have wisdom and experience to share**, you already qualify. For information, contact Kathleen Hall at khall @ columbuscatholic . org or (614) 241-2560.

silent retreat for men

The Catholic Layman's Retreat League sponsors a Palm Sunday Silent Retreat for Men from 5:30 PM on Friday, Apr 7, until noon on Sunday, Apr 9, at the St Therese Retreat Center in Columbus. Director is Fr Ricardo Pineda CPM and the theme is **Fight the Good Fight: Forming Men for Spiritual Battle**. Cost is \$160. For information call Dave Ball at (614) 753-1696 or Bob Muetzel at (740) 743-3848.

a 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; \$50 is due with registration, balance due at start of event. Visit www . dccw . colsdio . org or contact Mickey McCormick at (614) 228-8601 or mmccormick @ columbuscatholic . org for information.

sunday evening Mass

Holy Family Church, 584 West Broad St, Columbus, has begun offering an **8 PM Sunday Mass** to accommodate many people's work schedule. Contact their parish office at (614) 221-4323.

face forward

Face Forward announces the launch of its first mobile App. Developed for the **Vocations Office** of the Columbus Diocese, this free app contains valuable information for Catholics right at their fingertips. The Face Forward mobile app includes such features as the **verse of the day, pray for priests, care for the common home, saint of the day and the Face Forward blog**. The Office of Vocations recognizes the importance of being able to reach young Catholics where they are, and that place is on their mobile devices. 73% of kids between 5-19 years old are connected within an hour of waking up. Face Forward wants to give them something meaningful to read when they power up. Discerning a vocation and what God is calling you to do can be a long journey full of many questions. Having **easily accessible information is invaluable to the discernment process**. This new app provides just that. Face Forward will continue to add fresh and relevant content to the app daily with the goal of getting users to come back each day for new offerings. With the repeat visits and usage of the app, the hope is that users will gain more love, knowledge and understanding about the Catholic faith and **clarity on what God is calling them to do**. The Face Forward app is available now in the iTunes store. Face Forward is a program of the Office of Vocations that allows for interaction with the youth in the Columbus Diocese and provides platforms for communication, events and opportunities to learn more about the Catholic faith and a life in vocations. There are currently over 12,000 people within the Face Forward community. For information about the Face Forward App, contact Anne Harkin at (614) 787-2377 or anne . harkin @ mj2marketing . com.

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.

remaining lenten penance services

Sugar Grove St Joseph Monday, Mar 27, 7 PM	St Bernadette Sunday, Apr 2, 2 PM	Bremen St Mary Sunday, Apr 9, 3 PM
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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.

2017 crs rice bowl family challenge

*Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace” (Pope Francis, 2017). Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the chains in our lives that keep us from loving our neighbors, whether that’s money, unhealthy habits, or something else. The 2017 CRS Rice Bowl Family Challenge give us opportunities to discuss how we spend our families’ capital and how we might free ourselves from our chains and instead **provide better futures for the most vulnerable members of our human family.** For information and the family challenge form go to <http://socialconcerns.colodioc.org>.*

k of c fish fry

Lancaster **Knights of Columbus** will fry fish on the Fridays of Lent (Mar 31, Apr 7, Apr 14, and also Apr 21). 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 K of C hall is at 343 East Walnut St.

special events this lent

lenten tv programming

Learn more about your Faith during this special time of the year. EWTN will have movies, documentaries, children's programming, and more to help you to grow in your spiritual life. Get program details at www.ewtn.com.

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.**

Every Thursday during the Season of Lent (that’s Mar 30, and Apr 6), we will 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 **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 by 8:30 PM.

carry the cross

Men of the Columbus diocese, complete your Lenten fast with a truly masculine prayer and participate in “Carry the Cross”, a 12-mile hike with 14 stations of the cross. This happens on Holy Saturday, Apr 15, at Clear Creek Metro Park. Arrive at 7:30 AM, with Morning Prayer from 7:45-8 AM. The Hike begins at 8 AM in the parking lot and shelter house at the Barneby Hambleton area at the western end of the park with the reading of the first station of the cross and ends with the final prayer at 2 PM. “Carry the Cross” is sponsored by Wilderness Outreach for the men, fathers and sons, of the Columbus diocese. A cross constructed of 3” x 6” timber, approximately 10’ long with a 7’ cross beam is carried by the men on the journey with the Stations of the Cross prayed every mile or so. The men should bring a day pack with 2-3 liters of water, snacks, and rain gear if appropriate. During the hike, prayer and silent meditation on our Lord’s passion is encouraged. For information contact John Bradford at wildernessoutreach2560@gmail.com or (614) 679-6761.

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 some 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.

- **EdChoice Expansion Scholarships** are income-based vouchers available from the Ohio Department of Education. Students whose families meet the income eligibility requirements can attend St Bernadette School next fall at no cost to parents, thanks to scholarships available for kindergartners, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th 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.
- **Local Tuition Assistance** uses the **Diocesan Tuition Assistance** application completed on-line at www.factstuitionaid.com. Local assistance(not refer to your parish subsidy) is based on the prioritized list generated by the diocese..

confessions & weekday Mass nearby				These times sometimes change, though, so be sure to call ahead!			
	Bremen St Mary	Lancaster St Bernadette	Lancaster St Mary	Lancaster St Mark	Sugar Grove St Joseph	Circleville St Joseph	Logan St John
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	6:30 PM	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 st 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

Seven Reasons to Begin Frequent Confession during Lent

by Taylor Marshall

Saint John Paul II, who went to confession weekly, said:

“It would be an illusion to seek after holiness, according to the vocation one has received from God, without partaking frequently of this sacrament of conversion and reconciliation. Those who go to Confession frequently, and do so with the desire to make progress, will notice the strides that they make in their spiritual lives.”

So here are seven reasons to begin frequent confession this Lent (weekly or every other week):

1. Priestly absolution is a generous gift that Jesus gave us.

Christ gave us this Sacrament and wants us to enjoy His grace through it. He told His first priests, the Apostles:

Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins are forgiven (John 20:22).

Christ gave us this sacrament of grace and forgiveness because He loves us. It is a divine gift of mercy and love — not merely an obligation.

2. You are a sinner.

We are sinners and we need to examine the sinful patterns of our hearts and have a priest give us absolution, counsel, and penance.

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8).

We are often not honest with our hearts and it takes an objective “physician of souls” to help diagnose us spiritually. If you injured your hand or back, you would consult a doctor. If you injured your soul through sin, shouldn’t you see a priest?

3. Confession is a means of grace.

Confession shouldn’t be terrifying. It is peaceful. We get excited over baptisms, weddings, and ordinations. Why not this remedy for our greatest Christian struggle? Why not be excited about Christ’s forgiveness being declared by His appointed deputies—the priests of His Church?

4. You may have committed mortal sin.

There is a such thing as mortal sin:

If any one sees his brother committing what is not a mortal sin, he will ask, and God will give him life for those whose sin is not mortal. There is sin which is mortal. (1 John 5:16)

Mortal sin is deadly and it separates our souls from the pure eternal life that exists within the Blessed Trinity. Contrition and priestly absolution restores our hearts to a position of love toward God and our neighbors. The absolution infuses our souls with grace. It ratifies our contrition.

5. Guilt is unpleasant.

Often Satan weighs us down with guilt. Guilt can be a good thing if we transform it into repentance. Of course, Satan hates this and God and the angels love it. So free yourself from guilt and hear a tangible person with priestly authority say, “I absolve you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

6. Confession unites you more fully to the Church.

When you make your confession to a priest, you acknowledge that you have sinned not only against God, but against every single other Christian, because by your sin, you have weakened the universal witness of every single Christian. You have given the non-believer the excuse that “All Christians are hypocrites.” When you go to Confession you acknowledge that you have caused every Christian to suffer by your sins.

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together” (1 Cor 12:26).

The priest, who represents both God and the Church by his ordination and office, receives your repentance and you have the assurance of not only God’s forgiveness, but also the implicit forgiveness of the entire Church.

7. Receiving the Eucharist becomes even more powerful.

When you receive the Holy Eucharist you receive the true Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ our Redeemer.

When you confess your sins in a sacramental way, you also have a stronger sacramental union with Christ in the Eucharist. Also, if you are living in mortal sin, you should NEVER receive the Eucharist because you blaspheme Christ and set yourself up for greater judgment and eternal damnation! Consequently, confession heals and deepens your devotion to Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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