

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



The Good Shepherd

... Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep."

John 10:7, from today's gospel reading

*Painted (1806-1864) by William Dyce
Art Museum of Manchester*

The 4th Sunday of Easter

MAY 7, 2017

our parishes

FATHER THOMAS KESSLER (614) 634-0499
pastor wthomaskessler@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 (740) 215-3894
maintenance chair
TYNA FOX-SCHMELZER (614) 371-7702
religious education

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 businessmtbparish@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 Kehnast 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.

belonging to the Church

If you actually live in the neighborhood of one parish and go to church in another parish for a good reason, register where you worship. But don't go shopping for a parish home the way you might decide which grocery serves you best, has the best produce or the best prices. Our commitment to the Lord and his Church must never be reduced to a matter of consumer shopping. It is more a matter of blooming where you are planted. Our permanent membership is in the Catholic Church; parish membership needs to be registered with the parish where we worship each Sunday. 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!

praying with the Church

at Mass today

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

with the pope in may: christians in africa

That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

the regina coeli

Queen of Heaven rejoice, alleluia:
For He Whom you did merit to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as He said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, Who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

world day of prayer for vocations

Today is the 2017 **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. The purpose of the is observance is to fulfill publically the Lord's instruction to,

"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest."
Matthew 9:38; Luke 10:2

As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations

- to the **ordained ministries** (priesthood and diaconate),
- to the **religious life** in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic),
- to **societies of apostolic life**, to secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and
- to the **missionary life**, in the particular sense of "mission *ad gentes*", to the nations.

The Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life?

Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead.

Keep our parish priests in your prayers throughout the week. Pledge to pray for vocations at the international website, invisiblemonastery.com. It was inspired by a call from the Vatican urging Catholics to "organize an 'invisible monastery' in which many persons, day and night, are committed to continuous prayer for priestly vocation."

Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.

On the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, consider praying a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.

- Pray the 1st decade that you may grow in holiness in your own vocation.
- Pray the 2nd decade for all those called to marriage.
- Pray the 3rd decade for those called to the permanent diaconate.
- Pray the 4th decade for all those called to religious life.
- Pray the 5th decade for all those called to the priesthood.

prayer for vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

may is Mary's month

Mary is the mother par excellence! She is the Mother of God and our Mother. Making May her month is a fairly modern step; it isn't found in the ancient liturgical calendars, although there is a feast of the coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven (May 31). But if you were casting around for a time to celebrate a month for Mary, May would be a good choice. It is a beautiful month. Winter is decidedly over, the fields and trees are green, lots of flowers are in bloom, cattle are back in the fields. It is a **month of new life and of hope**. That fits.

During the month of May, at both our parishes, we will pray the **Rosary before Mass on Sunday mornings**. Join in Mary's prayer

- at 8:30 AM at St Mary in Bremen or
- at 10:30 AM at St Bernadette.

Come celebrate the **100th anniversary** of the first of the **apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, on Saturday, May 13**, beginning with a rosary at 8:30 AM. **Mass will be offered at 9 AM.**

God's word ...at sunday Mass

<i>Sunday, May 7,</i>	Acts 2:14-41	Psalm 23
<i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	1 Peter 2:20-25	John 10:1-10
<i>Sunday, May 14,</i>	Acts 6:1-7	Psalm 33
<i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	1 Peter 2:4-9	John 14:1-12

... during the week

<i>Mon, May 8</i>	Acts 11:1-18	Ps 42	John 10:11-18
<i>Tues, May 9</i>	Acts 11:19-26	Ps 87	John 10:22-30
<i>Weds, May 10</i>	Acts 12:24-13:5	Ps 67	John 12:44-50
<i>Thurs, May 11</i>	Acts 13:13-25	Ps 89	John 13:16-20
<i>Fri, May 12</i>	Acts 13:26-33	Ps 2	John 14:1-6
<i>Sat, May 13</i>	Acts 13:44-52	Ps 98	John 14:7-14

the feast days this week

May 10 Saint Damien de Veuster, priest
May 12 Saints Nereus & Achilleus, Saint Pancras, martyrs
May 13 Our Lady of Fatima

let us adore Him

Spend a **holy hour** with our Lord in the presence of his Blessed Sacrament in either of our parish churches. Or spend a **few holy minutes**. We try to keep both churches open all through the daylight hours. Anybody can come, any time. Perhaps you could.

in both parishes

christian initiation

Keep praying all through the Easter season for the new members of the household of faith, **Ralph Mohler** and his son **Bryant** of Bremen St Mary, and **Jennifer Palmer** of St Bernadette. They were baptized and confirmed and received Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil at St Bernadette Parish at the Great Easter Vigil liturgy of the Lord's Resurrection. And pray for **Dick Usilton** of St Bernadette Parish who made a profession of his Catholic Faith, was confirmed, and received Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday. His sacramental reception was different because he was already a baptized Christian. Please welcome all of our new members. And please be thinking now about **who you are going to invite to join the Church in the coming year.**

anointing the sick

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick** at **Sunday Mass next week.** You should be anointed if you are a Catholic, age 7 or more, in the state of grace, and suffering serious health problems (like chronic or dangerous diseases, old age, or the prospect of major surgery). Determine before Mass begins if you will receive the sacrament, sit in the front row or at the end of the pew, and come to the altar when you are called (or notify an usher to ask the priest to come to your place in the pew if coming forward is difficult). Everybody else: Pray for our sick. Keep them in your prayers.

We Need a Bookkeeper

St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary Parishes are seeking a **part-time, full charge bookkeeper** to perform such accounting procedures as cash receipts, accounts payable, payroll, budget preparation, account reconciliation, financial reports, and data entry. The bookkeeper's work will ordinarily need to be performed **in the parish offices during morning and early afternoon office hours.**

A candidate should have an associate's degree in accounting / finance and/or 2+ years accounts payable & payroll experience. Completion of bookkeeping and accounting courses is a very big plus. Computer skills should include a **strong working knowledge of Word, Excel and Quickbooks.** This position requires both an understanding of basic accounting procedures and attention to the accuracy of accounting / financial reporting information. There is also a need for confidentiality, promptness, and good general office procedures.

Interested candidates should e-mail resume, salary requirements and references to the business office at stbernaparish@yahoo.com.

happy mothers day

Participate in the PDHC's **Baby Bottle Campaign** by collecting your loose change **from Mother's Day to Father's Day** to help local parents and would-be parents in need. Spare change from baby bottles goes a long way to continue offering free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, material assistance and life-affirming programs to strengthen families. Grab a bottle and bring it back on Father's Day. Let us give thanks to our father and mother for choosing life and help a local family do the same.

vacation church school

Vacation Church School happens this summer at Schmelzer's Grove on the evenings of June 26-30. Anyone interested in helping should contact Angie Kerns at (740) 654-2588. The next two planning meetings for Vacation Church School happen on Monday, May 15, at St Bernadette and on Sunday, May 21, at St Mary Bremen, both at 7 PM.

parish contributions

what you gave in the collection in April

St Bernadette	Apr 2	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	Totals
weekly	7,553	8,006	7,235	5,535	5,191	33,520
electronic funds transfer	2,548	156	156	156	156	3,172
educational support	241	60	495	145	25	966
Total given to the parish	10,342	8,222	7,886	5,836	5,372	37,658
Aid to Church in Europe	50	229	0	0	5	284
Good Friday	25	0	410	96	35	566
Rice Bowl	70	75	1,335	232	43	1,755
Total sent beyond parish	145	304	1,745	328	83	2,605

Bremen St Mary	Apr 2	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	Totals
weekly	1,943	4,426	1,409	1,709	1,337	10,824
Total given to the parish	1,943	4,426	1,409	1,709	1,337	10,824
Aid to Church in Europe	25	60	5	0	0	90
Good Friday	25	0	35	10	0	70
Rice Bowl	25	20	205	127	0	377
St Vincent de Paul	353	350	40	120	120	983
Total sent beyond parish	428	430	285	257	120	1,520

the bishop's annual appeal

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2017

"LIVING THE GOSPEL IN FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY"

The Bishop's Annual Appeal **begins today.** It's time for us to do what we can to support the programs and ministries that benefit both our parishes and the wider community. The Appeal **supports our parish schools of religion and the education of our future priests and deacons, and many families in need of our help.** Your gift and your prayers will help to make this year's appeal a success.

Here are the goals, the amounts we have been asked to raise:

Diocesan goal	\$ 6,500,000
St Mary Parish	\$ 12,443
St Bernadette Parish	\$ 42,210

Every contribution counts; every dollar that we raise over the stated goal will be returned to our parishes to benefit our communities directly. Last year St Bernadette pledged slightly over and collected slightly under the goal. Bremen St Mary pledged well over the goal and has received the rebate of \$4,947 from the diocese. So we know we can do this if, after thoughtful consideration and prayer, every one of us gives according to our ability. We are blessed with much; let us remember the needs of others.

at st bernadette parish

new teachers for st bernadette school

St. Bernadette School is accepting resumes for a **kindergarten** and a **third-grade** teaching position, both to begin the 2017-18 school year. The candidate must

- be a practicing Catholic, well versed in the Catholic Faith;
- hold an appropriate Ohio teaching license (1-8, K-8, K-3; professional, provisional, permanent, or resident educator) or be eligible to obtain one by August 2017;
- have current BCI&I and FBI background checks;
- have attended or be willing to attend a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Safe Environment seminar;
- completed the online teaching application for the Diocese of Columbus.

Contact Principal Pam Eltringham by e-mailing resume and letter of interest to peltring @ cdeducation . org.

Mass intentions at st bernadette

Monday,	May 8	8:20 AM	Tommy Hartung
Wednesday,	May 10	8:20 AM	Jo Ella Kiphen
Thursday,	May 11	6 PM	Showman & Spizzirri families
Friday,	May 12	8:20 AM	Chuck Beiter
Saturday,	May 13	9 AM	Mary Lou Beiter

The Church requires the pastor to offer Sunday Mass for good of the people of the parish.

ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Sat, May 6 4 PM	Patrick Gins	Isabelle Gentile, Avee & Drew Solt	Lee Guinan Brad Rider Craig Shaw	Mickey Steyaert Shelia Taylor Kathy Wagner
Sun, May 7 11 AM	James Merk	Caroline Messerly, Dominic & Emeline Neighbor	Rita Merk Anna Sevigny David Shonk	Mary Jane Vajen Becky Wickham Amy Woo
Mon 8:20	Mary Jane Vajen	Becca Fuller Jack Gentile	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Weds 8:20	Bob Christy	Brianna Hilyard Joey Mannella	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen
Thurs 6 PM	Kathy Kehnast	volunteers	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Fri 8:20	Jim Merk	volunteers	Jim & Rita Merk	
Sat 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim & Rita Merk	
Sat, May 13 4 PM	Sandy Landefeld	Kendall Cox, Samantha Kerns, Cady Tipple	Terry Carpenter Bob & Angie Christy	Rose DeFillippo Susan Garrett Marguerite Grimm
Sun, May 14 11 AM	David Shonk	Brooke, Bryson, & Zachary Vogel	Tara Craaybeek Pat Dreyer Patrick Gins	John & Teresa Hartig Ben Peters

holy communion

Pray for the continuing growth in the love of God and of his holy Church of Dylan Barringer, Zoe DeLeon, Gabriella Fitzgibbon, Jaed Gildee, Collin Kuyoth, Keira Lazar, Deaglan Neighbor, Ethan O'Rielley, Michael Pennington, Sophia Peters, Erica Sharp, Samuel Tencza, and Elijah Wolfe all of whom receive Holy Communion for the first time this Sunday at St Bernadette.

blood drive

Our next St Bernadette blood drive will be Saturday, May 20, from 9 AM-2 PM in the parish hall. Lunch and cupcakes will be served. To help make up for drives cancelled by winter weather, please attend if you can. Appointments at [www . redcross . org](http://www.redcross.org) or Joyce Guenther at (740) 974-5040. Thank you.

school advisory board

There are two open seats on the St Bernadette Advisory Board for next Fall. The term is three years. If you are interested, please submit a simple bio, or pick up a bio/nomination form from the school office. Please submit nominations as soon as possible.

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. 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 intention at st mary

The Church requires the pastor to offer Sunday Mass for good of the people of the parish. Tuesday morning Mass will be celebrated for Mary Johnson.

sunday at Mass at bremen st mary

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sun, May 7 8:30 AM	Joe Young	Reagan & Spencer Conrad	Neil Boch, Joe & Cathy Young	Joe & Cathy Young	Joe Young
Sun, May 14 8:30 AM	Susan Foltz	Sydnee Rogers Isaac Schmelzer	Susan Foltz, Damian & Schmelzer	James Noll Jr family	Damian Schmelzer



in the deanery

irish alumni golf

Alumni of St Mary, Bishop Fenwick and Fisher Catholic High Schools play at **Pleasant Valley Golf Course**, Coonpath Rd, on Saturday, June 10, at 9 AM. Cost is \$150 per team, 3 player scramble format. Send your check payable to A One Events, LLC, with entry to: A One Events, 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](mailto:mike@miller-lewis.com).

in the diocese of columbus

service & retreat opportunity

The Dominican Sisters of Peace are sponsoring a four-day service and retreat opportunity for single Catholic women between the ages of 18 to 45 who are discerning a possible call to religious life or lay ministry in the church. This experience is scheduled for May 18-21 in Columbus and includes prayer, service, community, and fun. Participants will live together in a small community house and serve at an ecology farm—Shepherd’s Corner—and at a local soup kitchen. Group prayer and reflection time will explore the connection between service and justice. Space is limited; free room and board provided. Visit <https://oppeace.org/pray-serve-reflect/> to register, or for information contact Sr Pat Dual, OP at (614) 216-7688 or email at pdual@oppeace.org.

marriage preparation volunteers

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.

celebrate two great moms

Honor the Blessed Mother and your own favorite earthy mother or mother figure in your life by attending a special Marian event at St Peter & Paul Retreat Center in Newark on Saturday, May 13, the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima. Elizabeth Ficocelli will present “**Spiritual Warfare in the Age of Mary**”, recounting key visits of Our Lady. The event runs from 9 AM until noon and includes a continental breakfast. Registration costs \$20 and can be made by contacting www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com or calling (740) 928-4246.

EWTN Global Catholic Network is airing extensive **coverage of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Fatima** including the canonization by Pope Francis of Fatima visionaries Francisco and Jacinta Marto. For a full list of Fatima programming go to ewtn.com/fatima/programming.asp.

diocesan senior citizens celebration

On Tuesday, June 6, **senior citizens will be honored** at St Joan of Arc Church in Powell. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass at 10:30 AM, and a luncheon will follow. Registration is \$10; send a

check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, Catholic Diocese of Columbus, 197 E Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For information, call (614) 241-2540 or email socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org. Registrations are needed by June 1.

centennial of our lady at fatima

This Mass takes place on Saturday, May 13, at 10 AM at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus. Cathedral rector Fr Michael Lumpe will celebrate the Mass, Msgr Frank Lane will deliver the homily. Before Mass, at 9:30, a rosary will be prayed. All are invited. Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence for specific Fatima centennial celebrations; this Cathedral occasion would be one of three ways to receive the plenary indulgence. For information about this Mass call the Cathedral at (614) 224-1295, or visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org.

passion and purpose for marriage

What’s **the most important word in a marriage**? What is really going on in your wife’s head? What do you wish your husband knew about you? Join Dr Allen Hunt at St Catharine of Siena Church in Columbus, on Sunday, May 7, at 12:30 PM, to discover key ingredients to a healthy and happy marriage. Take your relationship to a whole new level. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at www.DynamicCatholic.com/Columbus or by calling (859) 980-7900.

2017 service awards

The Columbus Diocese Office of Vocations announces the 2017 Service Awards. The chance to win a \$500 Service Award is available to all students in grades 8-12 in the diocese whether attending public, Catholic, or home schools as well as home schooled students. Criteria for award eligibility include parish involvement, service, and a short essay on the topic “If you could model yourself after one person (teacher, priest or seminarian) who would it be and why? How are they walking in the steps of Christ?” Enter at faceforwardcolumbusblog.com/service-awards/. For information, visit faceforeardcolumbus.com; submit entries by May 19.

healing Mass at saint joseph cathedral

A Mass of healing will be celebrated on Monday, May 15, at 6:30 PM at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus. Following the Mass, a service of healing begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, veneration of a relic of the true cross of Christ, and an opportunity for each person to speak individually with a priest and receive prayers of healing; the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is also available. The service closes with Benediction. Call the Cathedral with questions at (614) 224-1295.

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>
<i>Monday</i>		8:20 AM	7 AM	8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
<i>Tuesday</i>	8:20 AM		9 AM	8 AM	NOON	7 AM	8 AM
<i>Wednesday</i>		8:20 AM	7 AM	6 PM	6:30 PM	9 AM	9 AM
<i>Thursday</i>		6 PM	9 AM	8 AM	NOON		
<i>Friday</i>		8:20 AM		8 AM	8 AM	9 AM	8 AM
<i>Saturday</i>		<i>1st Saturday only 9 AM Mass</i>				10 AM	9 AM
<i>confessions</i>	Sunday @ 8AM	Thursday @ 5:30 PM 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

A Very Short Explanation of Catholic Music

“Catholic music” ... what’s that? It’s the music of the liturgy. And what’s that?

The liturgy is the official prayer of the Church. Only **I hate calling it “official,”** because that sounds like it is the prayer that is organized by the people who like to organize things and boss other people around. And that doesn’t sound like much of a way to approach prayer. After all, prayer comes from the heart, doesn’t it? And it has a spontaneity about it. That’s right, the personal prayer that gets us warmed up for the Divine Liturgy is just like that. But **the liturgy comes from the Lord:** It is based on the Word God spoke to us and which is written down in the Scriptures (especially the Book of Psalms that the Lord gave us as the Church’s prayer book) and the seven sacraments that the Lord gave us to get us involved in the dying and rising of Christ (especially the Holy Eucharist which is the liturgy’s source and summit).

The Church has, through the course of twenty centuries, framed a wonderful liturgical life based on these 150 psalms and these seven sacraments. She prays the psalms in the Liturgy of the Hours, seven hours (actually quarter hours or so) of chanting the psalms each day. She prays the sacraments in her **rich array of various rites** that get every aspect of a person’s life involved in the paschal mystery of Jesus. These have developed thought the centuries. But they have **developed organically; they cannot simply be improvised.** The development has been entrusted to the pope and the bishop so that **it may never deviate from the original gift from the Lord** (that is their office, their responsibility, which is why we call it “official” prayer). To say that the development must always be organic is to say that, **like the growth of a fetus into a baby into a child into an adult, this is not a development that we can manipulate or recreate into a different creature.** The Divine Liturgy must not develop into something different from the gift the Lord gave us in the first place. That has been attempted sometimes, and the disastrous results have not always been obvious to the improvisers. But it leads people away from the truth of God’s gift. And it is the office of the bishops and the popes to safeguard that truth. They have done that through the centuries and have led believers in the way of the truth.

When we Catholic Christians come together for the liturgy, we come making music. That is **not the same as saying that we “sing at the liturgy.” Instead we “sing the liturgy.”** Did you catch the difference? We don’t just find some generally religious music to sing at the Mass. **We sing the music and the words that have been prepared for us by centuries of the Church’s life.** Instead of creating liturgies or selecting things we want to do at the liturgy, we need to rediscover the Church’s worship.

Now, I realize that is not the way things tend to work right now in most parishes. Don’t worry; we’ll get there. It will take time and a lot of work and a lot of patience. But we’ll get there. How did we lose track of it? Mostly, we drifted away from what we need to try to do because it takes an effort. When pioneers came here to our country to settle, they tended to be so caught up in the business of survival that they didn’t give it too much of an effort at first. When I was a boy my home parish underwent a real liturgical revival, the revival that Pope Saint Pius X called for a half century before. We went from being a parish where only the choir ever sang, where most Masses were silent, to being **a parish where the school children and, in time, the rest of the parish began to sing a variety of the simpler chants each day at Mass.**

And then came Vatican II; the ecumenical Council of the early 1960s encouraged that same revival. But it also introduced the **very good idea of permitting the celebration of the liturgy in the many vernacular languages.** The unintended consequence of the Council’s liturgical reform was the (temporary) collapse of her liturgical music. The chants of the liturgy are Latin prayers, which best fit the Latin language. And they were hard to translate. So, **many parishes simply substituted hymns.** They found some good hymns in the Catholic devotional repertoire (for instance, from Benediction, the Stations of the Cross, devotions to Mary, Christmas carols, and the like) and from **the wonderful treasury of Protestant hymn-singing** (with treasures by many leading Protestant reformers). We soon found a supplement for this in a very prolific hymn-writing effort. **A lot of good (and some not so good) music came out of all this.** But we often strayed farther and farther from the music of the Catholic liturgy. No wonder we sometimes went **from singing the Mass to singing at Mass.**

And we also sometimes lost track of the fact that **the two primary instruments of our Church’s musical life are the human voice and the organ — in that order,** the organ because it is adaptable like the human voice, the voice because it is our first way to make music. A wonderful variety of other instruments came to be used, in keeping with the experimentation and informality of an era of very rapid change.

The current restoration to the central role of the voice and the organ as the two main instruments for singing the Catholic liturgy is not at all intended to repudiate the generosity and the imaginative innovation of so many people in the past forty years, but **we are Catholics and must never ignore our sacred heritage.**

This was what the fathers of the Second Vatican Council had in mind, what the popes had been calling the Church to do throughout the twentieth century. Pope Benedict, himself a musician as well as an expert in the theology of the liturgy, called us back to the heritage of our Catholic liturgical music. His insistence that we observe the organic character of the development of the liturgy reminds us that when we make necessary adjustments we should do so charitably and moderately, with respect for the practices of the recent past. And we should do so truthfully, with a sense of our fundamental identity as Catholics at worship, the identity which has been ours through the ages. It isn’t always easy. But it is always a part of our call to holiness.

— *Father Kessler*

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