



### **Saint Peter**

The Apostle holds the great but very weighty Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, promised by the Lord, as is proclaimed in today's gospel reading

## **The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Year**

**at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary**

August 27, 2017

## St Bernadette Parish.

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

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

cover picture: [Saint Peter](#)

### our parishes.

**Father Thomas Kessler** (614) 634-0499 [wthomaskessler@icloud.com](mailto:wthomaskessler@icloud.com)  
pastor

#### at St Bernadette Parish

**Jeff Carpenter** (740) 681-9918 [carpenter.277@osu.edu](mailto:carpenter.277@osu.edu)  
deacon  
**Mark Scarpitti** (740) 438-3970 [dcn.mark@frontier.com](mailto:dcn.mark@frontier.com)  
deacon  
**Ann Essman** (740) 653-9347 [aessman001@att.net](mailto:aessman001@att.net)  
pastoral minister  
**Steve Huber** (740) 654-3137 [shuber57@yahoo.com](mailto:shuber57@yahoo.com)  
facilities coordinator  
**Angie & Kent Kerns** (740) 654-2588 [kwkerns@gmail.com](mailto:kwkerns@gmail.com)  
religious education  
**Liz Latorre** (740) 243-1872 [lizlatorre@gmail.com](mailto:lizlatorre@gmail.com)  
liturgical music

*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

<http://stbernadetteparish.net>

#### at Bremen St Mary Parish

**Ben Factor** [b\\_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us](mailto:b_factor@lancaster.k12.oh.us)  
liturgical music  
**Sarah Borah** [sborah920@gmail.com](mailto:sborah920@gmail.com)

*The St Mary Parish office* is at the church vestibule.

Hours are 9-11 AM, Tuesdays.

602 Marietta St,  
Bremen, OH 43107 (740) 569-7929

#### at both parishes

**Stephen Karnes** (740) 654-1893 [stbernbook@gmail.com](mailto:stbernbook@gmail.com)  
bookkeeper  
**Kathy Kehnast** (740) 654-1893 [stbernparish@yahoo.com](mailto:stbernparish@yahoo.com)  
pastoral coordinator  
**Julie & Chase Stalford** (740) 808-7294 [maristellaspirt@gmail.com](mailto:maristellaspirt@gmail.com)  
youth ministry

#### Saint Bernadette School

**Pam Eltringham** (740) 654-3137 [peltring@cducation.org](mailto:peltring@cducation.org)  
principal  
**Barb Huber** (740) 654-3137 [bhuber@cducation.org](mailto:bhuber@cducation.org)  
secretary

*Saint Bernadette School* is located at

1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701  
[stbernlan@cducation.org](mailto:stbernlan@cducation.org).

[www.stbernadetteschool.com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)

## St Mary Parish.

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

### 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 attend before the child is born. Next session is tentatively planned for October 19. If you are expecting or have a newborn or somehow have somehow haven't gotten around to have an older child baptized, call Kathy to make plans.

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.

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

We 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."

We bring Penance, Anointing, and Holy Communion to 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.

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## praying with the Church

### at Mass this Sunday the church prays :

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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.

### these days pope is praying

**in august**, that artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

**in september**, that our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

### we listen to God's word

<b>Sunday, Aug 27,</b> <b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	Isaiah 22:19-23	Psalm 138	
	Romans 11:33-36	<b>Matthew 16:13-20</b>	
<b>Mon, Aug 28</b>	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Ps 149	<b>Matthew 23:13-22</b>
<b>Tues, Aug 29</b>	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Ps 139	<b>Mark 6:17-29</b>
<b>Weds, Aug 30</b>	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Ps 139	<b>Matthew 23:27-32</b>
<b>Thurs, Aug 31</b>	1 Thessalonians 3:7-13	Ps 90	<b>Matthew 24:42-51</b>
<b>Fri, Sept 1</b>	1 Thessalonians 4:1-8	Ps 97	<b>Matthew 25:1-13</b>
<b>Sat, Sept 2</b>	1 Thessalonians 4:9-11	Ps 98	<b>Matthew 25:14-30</b>
<b>Sunday, Sept 3,</b> <b>22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	Jeremiah 20:7-9	Psalm 63	
	Romans 12:1-2	<b>Matthew 16:21-27</b>	

### feast days this week

Aug 28 Saint Augustine, bishop & doctor of the Church  
Aug 29 The **Passion of St John the Baptist**

## at both our parishes

### YDisciple youth ministry

Are you ready for fun, faith, and friendships? **Pizza kickoff** is Sunday Sept 10, at 6 PM at St Bernadette in the Mary Good Center. Don't miss the opportunity to grow in the most important area of your life—God! Make it a priority to share, learn, and have an amazing time together while walking on a journey growing in faith. All interested high school youth are invited. Become energized to experience the love of God and build life-long friendships that truly help you walk closer to God. Contact Chase or Julie Stalford at (210) 781-0254 for information and to RSVP.

### 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebration

*"I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me."* Galatians 2:20

Parishioners of St Mary Bremen and St Bernadette are invited to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebration of **Sister Nancy** Ames OP on Sunday, Sept 17, from 3 to 5 PM at Holy Trinity School in

Somerset. A tour of the newly renovated part of the convent will be available for interested guests. Refreshments will be served in the school gym. RSVP by Sept 4 to Kathy at stbernaparish@yahoo.com or (740) 654-1893.

### st bernadette school: affordable and catholic!

Don't delay. School started this week!

The goal of a Catholic education at St Bernadette School is to **prepare our students to take their place in society as disciples of Jesus Christ, called to live the Gospel through their daily interactions** with family, friends, and neighbors. Our school educates the whole child through challenging academics and activities with opportunities for service that help our students carry out our calling to serve and provide both fun and personal development for our students.

Our school has **highly qualified teachers**,

- licensed by the Ohio Department of Education,
- certified in religion by the diocese,
- with the required background checks,
- trained in school safety and abuse prevention,
- and participating in ongoing professional development.

Please take advantage of **accessible Catholic education**. Tuition assistance is available to qualifying families. The EdChoice Expansion is available to students new to our building in grades K and 1. St Bernadette School is also a provider of the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, and the Autism Scholarship Program.

## rcia —participants needed

Now is the time! Who are you going to invite at least to think about the Catholic Christian Faith? This year?

The Catholic Faith has **beautiful and true answers to the questions people ask about the meaning of our lives**. Are you or is your husband or wife or a friend searching for that meaning? Do you want to find deeper unity for your marriage and family? You or someone you know may want to learn what this Faith has to offer. Not the cartoon image of Catholicism that a hostile society presents, but the Faith of the Church herself. Sometimes a person already Catholic wants to find out what it is really all about. It can be anyone, in any circumstance of life.

The RCIA helps such folks to find what they are looking for. Many people don't know of this vital resource—unless we tell them. It is not a matter for insistence or pressure. It is a sharing, an invitation that is respectful. **The invitation** will be much more attractive when extended by **someone willing to accompany the quester** along the way.

**People who have benefitted personally from the RCIA** experience are urged to gather with the inquirers, serving as sponsors and mentors of various kinds, to help them, if it is God's will, to become grafted onto the life of the Catholic Christian Church.

For information about RCIA (the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults) in our parishes, contact Kathy at (740) 654-1893.

Pray that you will have the grace and the courage to welcome and invite someone to the sacramental life!

## parish endowment funds

St Bernadette Parish has two endowment funds at The Catholic Foundation. They grow by market growth and by our generous (and tax-sheltering) gifts. Bremen St Mary could also have such an endowment, if a generous donor would like to start one. There is no required minimum to contribute to these funds. Endowment funds are accounts are made of gifts that are never spent. Instead, they are invested to generate a perpetual income stream. It's **a way to leverage donations so that in the long term, they generate far more benefit than just a one-time gift**. These funds are setup to benefit you. To find out how these funds benefit (or could benefit) your parish community, contact Scott Hartman at (614) 443-8893 or email shartman@catholic-foundation.org.

## at bremen st mary parish

### parish homecoming and picnic

Bremen St Mary Parish is looking forward to our annual **Parish Homecoming and Picnic**. The plan is to have this happen at Schmelzer's Grove on Sunday, Sept 24. In recent years this has been a day of good food, dancing, hay and pony rides, games and some fine Dixieland music. That's the plan and this plan can be fulfilled if some parishioners will step forward to help make the arrangements. For information or if you would like to volunteer, call the St Mary parish office at (740) 569-7929.

### an unexpected visitor

An unexpected visitor has been cooking meals in the parish hall at St Mary—leaving the pantry light on, the gas on the stove lit, and even an empty soup can and dirty dishes in the sink. So, we are going to have to **keep the parish hall locked** except when there is a responsible person from the parish in the building. We will make adjustments as soon as possible so that the Church can be left available again for prayer during the daylight hours.

### st vincent de paul at bremen

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen takes up a **collection after Mass on the first Sunday** of every month. **New members** are always welcome. Call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027.

### Mass intention at st mary

Tuesday Mass will be celebrated for Helen Kunkler.

### ministry at Mass at st mary

Aug 27 & Sept 3	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
<b>Sunday 8:30 AM</b>	Paul Kunkler	Regan Conrad, Charles Schoenlaub	Irene Kunkler, Jim Schmelzer, Angi Skinner	Paul Kunkler family	Jim Schmelzer
<b>next Sunday</b>	Linda Qualls	Cody Fyffe, Jillian Wilkinson	Neil Boch, Damian & Deborah Schmelzer	James Noll Jr family	Damian Schmelzer

### small maintenance jobs

Our parish needs a person or persons who could handle **small maintenance jobs** at the church, the rectory, and the Grove, on an as-needed basis. The qualifications are simple: Be handy and responsible and reasonably knowledgeable about basic maintenance and good upkeep. Jim Schmelzer has been the go-to-guy for these tasks for a number of years. And he has done a super job! But he feels the need now to pull back some. A replacement helper will not be held to the high standard of helpfulness, skill, and common sense that Jim has shown. But he will be very much appreciated. To learn

how you could help or to volunteer, call Kathy at either parish office.

## at st bernadette parish

### parish school of religion

St Bernadette PSR begins today, Sunday, Aug 27, at 9:30 AM. Parents are invited to this first session for a **meeting while their children attend class**. Last minute registration can still take place at this meeting. Just a reminder: Catholic parents have a solemn moral duty to see that their children are properly and completely instructed in the Catholic Faith. And they have a duty to see that their children attend every week (barring health or weather deterrents). And children will find getting to know Jesus and his Church to be an irreplaceable and joy filled part of their upbringing.

### Mass intentions at st bernadette

Monday, Aug 28	8:20 AM	Diana Harris
Wednesday, Aug 30	8:20 AM	Robert Berens
Thursday, Aug 31	6 PM	Robert Reade
Friday, Sept 1	8:20 AM	Alvin Merk
Saturday, Sept 2	9 AM	Margaret Rice

### ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Marguerite Grimm	Clara & Susan Craaybeek, Eve Darfus	Tara Craaybeek, Lee Guinan, Kathy Kehnast	Brad Rider, Teresa Scarpitti, Mickey Steyaert
<b>Sunday, Aug 27, 11:00 AM</b>	David Shonk	Jack Tencza, Brooke & Bryson Vogel	Pat Dreyer, Ben Peters, Jim & Rita Merk	Jean Robertson, Larry Sanford
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary Jane Vajen	Amelia Robertson, Hyde O'Rielley	Patricia Dreyer	Kathy Kehnast
Wednesday, 8:20 AM	Bob Christy	Kyndra Nagle, Daschel Neighbor	Angie Christy	Mary Jane Vajen
Thursday, 6:00 PM	Kathy Kehnast	Isabelle Lazar, Olivia Reynolds	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Morgan Cox, Silus Hopkins	Jim & Rita Merk	
Saturday 9 AM	Kara Tencza	Jack Tencza	Jim & Rita Merk	
<b>Saturday, 4:00 PM</b>	Becky Kuhn	Abby, Mary & Sam Frazier	Rosalie DeFillippo, Susan Garrett, Marguerite Grimm	Jim Kuhn, Denise McGuire, Kathy Wagner
<b>Sunday, Sept 3, 11:00 AM</b>	Amy Woo	Daniel Turner, Diana & Sarah Woo	Patrick Gins, Anna Sevigny, John & Teresa Hartig	David Shonk, Becky Wickham

### walking with purpose

*Walking with Purpose* is a program that helps women to know Christ through Scripture. Join us for our next session, **Opening Your Heart**, starting Thursday, Sept 14. This twenty-two session course **cultivates our relationship with Christ by expanding our knowledge of the Catholic Church's teachings and the Bible**. For this session, we are partnering with Lancaster St Mary Parish.

- The morning group will meet on Thursdays from 9-10:30 AM at St Bernadette Mary Good Center
- The evening group will meet on Thursday evenings from 7 - 8:30 PM at St Mary Spirit Center

Cost is \$40 for a book; please register by September 3 to have your materials.

Walking with Purpose is Catholic **faith-sharing that aims to bring women to a deeper personal relationship with Christ**. Through personal study and small group discussions, the group

helps to link our everyday challenges with solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. It aims to meet women where we are in our everyday lives. As we explore our faith, we invite you to join us for as many sessions as your schedule allows. For questions or to register, contact Amy Woo at (414) 882-1863. For general program information, visit [www.walkingwithpurpose.com](http://www.walkingwithpurpose.com).

## in our deanery

### grounded in faith, growing to serve

Many of us include our family in our wills, trusts, and life insurance policies. As stewards of God's gifts, we should include our Catholic faith, too. As Catholics, we are called to plan for the future of our parishes and our schools in the same way. Many have come to love William V. Fisher Catholic High School because within its walls we grew with Jesus Christ, built on our future, and developed long-lasting relationships. We have practiced our faith and received an enriched education. As a result we became a lasting part of this Catholic community.

Fisher Catholic High School works with the Catholic Foundation as a trusted partner because they assure peace of mind that our endowments are invested in alignment with our Catholic faith. You can help Fisher Catholic grow its endowment fund by identifying an end-of-life planned gift in your will, trust, or life insurance policy. You can also make a gift to the Fisher Catholic High School Endowment Fund now, in any amount. God has given us many blessings in our life. Please consider how we can use those blessings to support the future Fisher Catholic High School. The Catholic Foundation can assist you with creating a plan that best fits your family's individual needs and charitable goals.

To learn more about **how you can support William V. Fisher Catholic High School**, please contact Scott Hartman at the Catholic Foundation at (614) 443-8893 or [shartman@catholicfoundation.org](mailto:shartman@catholicfoundation.org).

## in the diocese of columbus

### Sacred Heart congress

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Sacred Heart Congress will be Saturday, Oct 14, at Christ the King Church in Columbus from 8 AM to 1:15 PM. It features Fr John Paul Mary, director of EWTN pilgrimages; Sr Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz OP, vocations director of Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; and Fr Stash Dailey, spiritual director of Sacred Heart Columbus and administrator of Holy Family Parish. The day includes talks, recitation of the rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Mass at noon. A free-will offering will be taken. For information and registration visit [www.sacredheartcongresscolumbus.org](http://www.sacredheartcongresscolumbus.org).

### from the chair

Join Bishop Campbell of the diocese of Columbus on Tuesday, Sept 5, for your questions from 5 to 6 PM on St Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820.

### holy land pilgrimage

Have you considered adding a new dimension of understanding regarding your Christian history and the life of Jesus? Father Nic Ventura, a Fisher Catholic High School alum and Lancaster native, invites you to join him on a life-changing pilgrimage to the holy land of Israel. Travelers will experience the places where

Jesus walked, lived, taught, and performed miracles. Mass will be celebrated daily at various holy sites. The dates for this spiritual journey are Feb 21-Mar 2, 2018. The cost is \$3179 per person with breakfast, dinner, fees, and tips included. For information contact Aimee Walton at [frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:frnicpilgrimage@gmail.com) or (740) 225-6136.

### breakfast with the bishop

This year's breakfast happens on Friday, Sept 8, from 7:30 to 9 AM at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown, 15 N Third St, Columbus. Featured speakers will be Bishop Campbell and Columbus City Auditor Hugh Dorrian. For registration and sponsorship information call (614) 857-1254 or visit [www.colscss.org/upcoming-events/](http://www.colscss.org/upcoming-events/).

### pilgrimage to Carey

Join a Marian Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Consolation Basilica and Shrine in Carey, on Wednesday, Oct 4, for a **day of prayer**. Cost is \$25. Lunch may be purchased at the cafeteria. Send a check (payable to Margaret Kronenbitter, 2700 Wayne Ridge Rd, Zanesville, Ohio 43701) by Wednesday, Sept 6. The bus will depart @ 7:50 AM and return @ 6:45 PM. Call Rita Merk at (740) 654-3255 or Ann Messerly at (740) 654-3447 for information.

### healing Mass and prayer ministry

Mass will be celebrated at 4 PM on Saturday, Sept 10, at St Elizabeth Parish by Fr John Vadakkettom, CFIC. Participants will prepare for Mass by praying the rosary at 2:30 PM, receiving reconciliation at 3 PM, and hearing a brief explanation of healing ministry. After Mass Fr John will administer the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and invite all present to lay hands on the recipients. Sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal; visit [www.cercolumbus.org](http://www.cercolumbus.org) for information.

### when you care enough to give the very best

Give yourself and your spouse the gift of a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next two weekends in our area are Sept 15-17 and Feb 16-18. For information or to apply, contact Paul or Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wmcecolumbus.org](http://www.wmcecolumbus.org).

### josephinum lecture series

The Pontifical College Josephinum invites you to hear Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, archbishop of Houston and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops speak on "**The Gospel of Joy is the Gospel of Life: The Human Person**" on Wednesday, Sept 6, at 7 PM at the Jessing Center.

### fall tour day at the josephinum

Seminarians Josephinum will offer tours of their seminary and the newly renovated chapel on Saturday, Sept 16, from 10 AM-3 PM. Admission is free. Tours will begin every half-hour and last about 45 minutes, followed by refreshments. For information or to make a reservation, call the Josephinum at (614) 985-2203.

### blue Mass

St Timothy Parish will host the Blue Mass on Monday, Sept 11, at 5 PM. The Blue Mass is an opportunity to pray for all active, retired and deceased first-responders. Celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Frederick Campbell. All first-responders and their families are invited. For information, contact Mark Gideon at [mgideon@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mgideon@columbus.rr.com).

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## the beauty of the feminine

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual **Beauty of the Feminine Catholic Women's Conference** will happen on Saturday, Oct 7, from 8 AM to 3 PM at St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Zanesville. It is a day of fellowship, prayer and faith formation. This year's theme is "**Anchored in Hope.**" To register call St Thomas at (740) 453-3301 or email [thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com](mailto:thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com). If you register by Sept 30, your \$20 include breakfast and lunch. Registration on the day of the event is \$25. Contact Susan with questions or visit [www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com](http://www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com) and Facebook @TheBeautyOfTheFeminine for information.

## catholic men's luncheon club

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is back in session beginning Friday, Sept 1. Their luncheon features a talk by Ben Hartings of St John Neuman Parish in Sunbury. St Patrick Church in downtown Columbus hosts **Ben's talk about his book, *Return to the Altar, A Sacred Journey Through Grief and Joy***, coauthored with his wife, Lynn. Mass at 11:45 AM will be followed by lunch and the talk until 1 PM. Reservations are not necessary; \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend. For information, visit [www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc](http://www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc) or contact Tim Merkle at [htm@ejhlaw.com](mailto:htm@ejhlaw.com).

## universality of catholicism – east and west

Fr Ignatius Harrington, pastor of Holy Resurrection Melkite Church will discuss the universality of the Catholic Church in the Eastern and Western Churches. He will tell **how the Eastern Churches are in communion with Rome and the Holy Father and why some aspects fell apart**. You are invited to Liturgy at Holy Resurrection Church at 11 AM on Sunday, Sept 24. Following Liturgy, enjoy a social; the talk by Fr Harrington begins at 1 PM. Attending this Liturgy does indeed fulfill your Sunday obligation.

## 7 steps to cultivate a eucharistic marriage

All married couples are invited to the **diocesan retreat for married couples**, Saturday, Sept 9, from 9 AM-4 PM at St Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Rd, Upper Arlington. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass and offer a morning reflection. Greg Schutte, author of "*Discovering our Deepest Desire*" and director of *Marriage Works! Ohio*, will continue with presentations on **enhancing the intimate relationship of husbands and wives**. A guided holy hour will be included in the day's schedule. Continental breakfast and warm lunch will be provided. Cost is \$65. Register by Sept 1 at [columbuscatholic.org/retreat](http://columbuscatholic.org/retreat) or (614) 241-2560.

## men's silent retreat

The annual Catholic laymen's fall silent retreat will be held at St Therese Retreat Center from 6 PM on Friday, Sept 8, through noon Mass on Sunday, Sept 10. Fr Dave Pivonka, TOR, will lead men to

appreciate the power of the Holy Spirit by developing his theme: **To Have a Relationship with the Holy Spirit and His Mercy is Everlasting**. Cost is \$150. Make your reservation now. And consider bringing a friend. Contact Charles Kielkopf at (614) 268-0175 or [kielkopf.1@osu.edu](mailto:kielkopf.1@osu.edu).

## new diocesan website

The Diocese of Columbus has a new website—[www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org). It provides greater access to news and information from both the Catholic Times and Catholic News Service, improved navigation and search capabilities, language translation, mobile device compatibility, and other features. Bookmark [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org) in your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

## more to think about

### spirit of peace clinical counseling

Julie Stalford, a parishioner at St Bernadette, a recent graduate with a Master of Arts degree in clinical social work from Ohio University and a licensed professional clinical counselor, is hanging out a shingle at St Bernadette as a clinical therapist. A member of the Spirit of Peace Counseling Services of Columbus, she is **offering Catholic/Christian counseling services** for greater Fairfield county here at St Bernadette.

Anyone can contact Julie to schedule an appointment by calling (210) 781-0254 or by emailing [julie.sopcc@gmail.com](mailto:julie.sopcc@gmail.com). The Spirit of Peace website is [spiritofpeaceclinicalcounseling.com](http://spiritofpeaceclinicalcounseling.com).

### safe environment reminder

A complete copy of the **parish safe environment policies and procedures**, including the diocesan policies and guidelines for parish youth ministry is available by calling either parish office.

All adults who have not previously attended a **Protecting God's Children training session sponsored by the diocese** of Columbus are urged to do so. A schedule of training sessions can be found at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

Articles on **sexual abuse prevention** are available at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). All adults are encouraged to access this website monthly and read the articles. Contact information for **reporting suspected abuse of minors** can be acquired from the parish office.

The **PGC workshop** is necessary for anyone who will be working around children. It is offered free of charge, on a regular basis, at churches and schools throughout the Diocese. Coming classes will be held at Seton Parish in Pickerington on Sept 9, at St Francis in Newark on Oct 7, and at many other locations in the Columbus area. For a complete listing of workshops and dates, and/or to register online for a session, visit [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

## confessions & weekday Mass nearby

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

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



# Theology of the Body: a Surprising Service from Peter's Successor

I returned to Rome for graduate study in theology in 1978. That was the “year of the three popes” when Paul VI had just died and first John Paul I in August (with one of the shortest papal reigns ever) and then John Paul II in October (with one of the longest) were elected. A lot of attention was turned to the papal office, which is, after all, the office of the successor of Peter, a role that Jesus speaks of in today's gospel.

Peter is the apostle whom Jesus promised to give the keys of the kingdom of Heaven and the authority to bind and loose. He is the apostle whom Jesus told that, when he had “turned again” (recovered from the failure of his denial) he should “strengthen the brothers.” He is the apostle whom Jesus instructed to “feed my lambs” and “tend my sheep.”

Late in his first year as pope, JP II, with a wonderful combination of star quality and an insight into what kind of tending the modern flock needs, launched out on a series of “audience talks” reflecting on the beginning of the Book of Genesis (literally the book of the “beginnings”). I attended the audiences a few times, but at first, I couldn't make sense out of what John Paul was up to. After all, the Wednesday audiences are the opportunity that tourists and pilgrims (there is an overlap but also an important distinction) have to see, photograph, be blessed by, and, perhaps, even to touch the Holy Father. No matter what language the pope speaks in, it is going to be a foreign language to most of the audience crowd. So why would he want to give a series of scholarly reflections on the Book of Genesis?

I had to notice that he wasn't mainly talking about what some of our Christian brothers and sisters fix on when they look into the book of Genesis, the issue of evolution and the seven days of creation and all that. He was addressing a different kind of need, the need for all of us to understand that our Faith has a teaching not so much about how creation took place or how it is reported, but about what creation is, how it is God's work, how the pinnacle of that creation is the creation of the human person. And then about what went wrong in that creation. John Paul reminded his listeners:

- that God created them male and female;
- that male and female are profoundly different from each other but are completely equal in dignity;
- that God made them to be sexually attracted to each other;
- that he did all that for a reason;
- that the way he had made humanity was very good indeed;
- that marriage is “a blessing which was not taken away in punishment for original sin nor by the sentence of the flood” (as the nuptial blessing in the Catholic Wedding rite reminds us).

Pope John Paul was making a significant advance in the Catholic Church's way of reflecting on the teaching of divine revelation about marriage and the human body. The Church has often been accused of having a negative perspective on human sexuality. She might seem to be guilty as charged when the emphasis gets stuck on what you have to do and what you must not do. John Paul wanted to ground the teaching in its original Biblical framework. He is saying that the Church has something very positive and very encouraging to say about the human body.

In his 129 Wednesday audiences, given between 1979 and 1984, he spoke of the Biblical vision of the human person, of who he/she was in the beginning, who he is now (after original sin), and who he will be in the age to come. He applied this message to the vocations of marriage and celibacy, in preparation for the Kingdom of Heaven. His reflections on the “Theology of the Body” showed that there is something wonderful in what the Scriptures and the Church teaching have to say about the human person and about sexuality. It isn't a new teaching, but a vitally helpful insight enabling us to understand the ancient truth. He explained that the physical human body has a specific meaning and can reveal answers to fundamental questions about us and about our lives.

Christopher West, a young American layman, is a Catholic theologian who has studied this remarkable teaching of Pope John Paul. He has written:

Brace yourself! If we take in what the Holy Father is saying in his Theology of the Body, we will never view ourselves, view others, view the Church, the Sacraments, grace, God, heaven, marriage, the celibate vocation ... we will never view the world the same way again.

The pope maintains that the human person is the pinnacle of creation. He speaks of the language of the body: Sexual communication is a language of intimacy, of love, of making new life. If we are to understand the meaning of our Catholic teaching about sexual morality, we must see that it is all about telling the truth with our bodies.

There is a lot more to tell about this marvelous teaching. To find out more now, go to [www . theologyofthebody . net/](http://www.theologyofthebody.net/). But brace yourself!

— *Father Kessler*

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