



## **Mater Dolorosa**

As Simeon had foretold when he met the infant Jesus and his mother, (Luke 2:35)  
a sword of sorrow pierced her heart.  
Remembering that sorrow and that love on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, this Friday, September 15

## **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year** **at Lancaster St Bernadette and Bremen St Mary**

September 10, 2017

## St Bernadette Parish.

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

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

cover picture: **Mater Dolorosa (Sorrowful Mother)**

### our parishes.

**Father Thomas Kessler** (614) 634-0499  
*wmthomaskessler@icloud.com*  
pastor

#### at St Bernadette Parish

**Jeff Carpenter** (740) 681-9918 *carpenter.277@osu.edu*  
*deacon*  
**Mark Scarpitti** (740) 438-3970 *den.mark@frontier.com*  
*deacon*  
**Ann Essman** (740) 653-9347 *aessman001@att.net*  
*pastoral minister*  
**Steve Huber** (740) 654-3137 *shuber57@yahoo.com*  
*facilities coordinator*  
**Angie & Kent Kerns** (740) 654-2588 *kwkerns@gmail.com*  
*religious education*  
**Liz Latorre** (740) 243-1872 *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*  
*liturgical music*  
**Sarah Borah** *sborah920@gmail.com*  
*religious education*

**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 *stbenbook@gmail.com*  
*bookkeeper*  
**Kathy Kehnast** (740) 654-1893 *stbernaparish@yahoo.com*  
*pastoral coordinator*  
**Julie & Chase Stalford** (740) 808-7294 *maristellaspirt@gmail.com*  
*youth ministry*

#### Saint Bernadette School

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

**Saint Bernadette School** is located at  
1325 Wheeling Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130-8701  
*stbernlan@cducation.org*  
[www.stbernadetteschool.com](http://www.stbernadetteschool.com)

## St Mary Parish.

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

painted (1541-1614) in oil on canvas by el Greco (1541-1614)

*Musée des Beaux-Arts de Strasbourg*

### 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 new born or 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.



## praying with the Church

### at Mass this Sunday the church prays :

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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.

### in September the pope is praying

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, Sept 10,</b>	Ezekiel	33:7-9	Psalm 95	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	Romans	13:8-10	<b>Matthew 18:15-20</b>	
<i>Mon, Sept 11</i>	Colossians	1:24-2:3	Ps 62	<b>Luke 6:6-11</b>
<i>Tues, Sept 12</i>	Colossians	2:6-15	Ps 145	<b>Luke 6:12-19</b>
<i>Weds, Sept 13</i>	Colossians	3:1-11	Ps 145	<b>Luke 6:20-26</b>
<i>Thurs, Sept 14</i>	Numbers	21:4-9	Ps 78	Philippians 2:6-11 <b>John 3:13-17</b>
<i>Fri, Sept 15</i>	1 Timothy	1:1-14	Ps 16	John 19:25-27
<i>Sat, Sept 16</i>	1 Timothy	1:15-17	Ps 113	Luke 6:43-49
<b>Sunday, Sept 17,</b>	Sirach 27:30-28:7	Psalm 103		
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	Romans	14:7-9	<b>Matthew 18:21-35</b>	

### feast days this week

Sept 12	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Sept 13	Saint John Chrysostom, bishop & doctor of the Church
Sept 14	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sept 15	Our Lady of Sorrows
Sept 16	Saints Cornelius, pope, & Cyprian, bishop, martyrs

## at both our parishes

### representation

The pastor is requested to appoint

- two parishioners from each parish to represent their parish on the Fairfield / Hocking / Pickaway County **deanery pastoral council (DPC)**

The DPC meets **bi-monthly** on a Monday evening for about an hour at a different parish each meeting. Parishioners with some experience on parish pastoral council make especially good representatives because they can share and work together on concerns common to all of the parish communities.

He is on the lookout for St Bernadette parishioners to serve on the

- Lancaster **St Mary School Advisory Board** and
- Fisher Catholic High School Advisory Board.**

The school boards each meet **monthly** in the evening during the school year. They serve to keep communications happening between their own parish and the Catholic schools.

Each of these reps is a volunteer appointed by the pastor for a fixed term. A school advisory board member need not be a parent or an alum of the school concerned. Each can help keep the pastor and the corresponding councils in our own parishes in the loop. Several of the positions are already staffed, but we always need a "strong bench" of people to help. Please call to notify Fr Kessler of your interest.

## YDisciple youth ministry

Are you ready for fun, faith, and friendships? **Pizza kickoff** is this evening, 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 to Kathy at stberndparish @ yahoo . com or (740) 654-1893.

### jillian's dinner

On Saturday, Oct 21, St Bernadette Parish will host the 17<sup>th</sup> annual **Jillian's Dinner**. This dinner raises money to assist a family from our area who has suffered catastrophic illness, the loss of a loved one, or some such major adversity. To recommend someone who might benefit from Jillian's Dinner, contact Kathy Wagner at (740) 687-0504. Nominations will be considered by a lay committee and are kept confidential. A raffle is held during the dinner to generate more funds to help the family. If you have items to donate, you may bring them to the St Bernadette parish office by Oct 13.

### a very special collection

Last Sunday our special collection to help the local churches in Texas and Louisiana affected by **Hurricane Harvey** raised :

- \$ 3,016 from St Bernadette Parish and
- \$ 647 from St Mary Parish in Bremen.

These funds have been forwarded to our diocesan chancery office to be sent on and used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and other Catholic agencies as they reach out to provide humanitarian aid in Texas and other affected parts along the Gulf Coast. You were especially generous to this appeal even though the timing had made it impossible to give you advance notice. If you would still like to make a contribution (or increase your gift), please place it (in an envelope marked "Hurricane") in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office.

### 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](mailto:shartman@catholic-foundation.org).

## at bremen st mary parish

### parish school of religion

Bremen St Mary PSR begins today!

And it meets each Sunday at 9:30 AM. Registration can be completed at the parent meeting today.

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). Children will find getting to know Jesus and his Church to be an irreplaceable and joy-filled part of their upbringing.

Contact Sarah Borah with any questions at (740) 974-5925.

### 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. For several years now this has been a day of good food, hay and pony rides, games and some fine Dixieland music, and square dancing. That's the plan and this plan can be fulfilled if some parishioners will step forward to help make the arrangements. For information or to volunteer to help, call the St Mary parish office at (740) 569-7929.

### men's night out

The next Men's Night Out gathering and dinner happens at Bremen St Mary on Wednesday, Sept 13, at 6:30 PM in the parish hall. All men of the parish are invited. Bring a friend. For information, contact Jim Schmelzer at (740) 215-3894 or Patrick Gins at (740) 536-7402.

### st vincent de paul at bremen

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen usually takes up a **collection after Mass on the first Sunday** of the month. Because of the collection last Sunday for the folks suffering from the effects of Hurricane Harvey, the St Vincent de Paul Society in Bremen has postponed their first-Sunday-of-the-month collection until this week. So you still have a chance to be generous. St Vincent always needs members. Call Angi Skinner at (740) 438-0027 if you can help.

### Mass intention at st mary

Tuesday Mass will be celebrated for the deceased members of the Schmelzer family.

### ministry at Mass at st mary

8:30 AM Sunday Mass	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	gifts	sacristan / usher
Sept 10	Jeanne Schmelzer	Spencer Conrad, Alex Schmelzer	Leo Kunkler Sr, Pam Redding, Dismas Schmelzer	Maurice Schmelzer family	Joe Young
Sept 17	Barb Van Fossen-Cook	Isaac Schmelzer, Nicole Terry	Tyna Schmelzer-Fox, Angi Skinner, Barb VanFossen-Cook	Nick Schmelzer family	Jim Schmelzer

### 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.

## at st bernadette parish

### parish school of religion

St Bernadette PSR meets each Sunday at 9:30 AM. Last minute registration can still take place. Catholic parents are reminded of their solemn moral duty to see that their children are properly and completely instructed in the Catholic Faith. They need to see that their children attend regularly (barring health or weather deterrents). Even if some weeks they are reluctant to attend, the 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, Sept 11	8:20 AM	John & Ann Muetzel
Wednesday, Sept 13	8:20 AM	Showman & Spizzirri families
Thursday, Sept 14	6 PM	Paul Gallagher
Friday, Sept 15	8:20 AM	deceased of Sevigny family

### ministry at Mass at st bernadette

	lector	servers	extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion	
Saturday, 4:00 PM	Brad Rider	Avee & Drew Solt, Cady Tipple	Tara Craaybeek, Lee Guinan, Bob & Angie Christy	Sandy Landefeld, Craig Shaw
Sunday, Sept 10, 11:00 AM	Scott Wood	Collin & Emma McCrady, Caroline Messerly	Jim & Rita Merk, Jean Robertson, Teresa Scarpitti	Mary Jane Vajen, Amy Woo
Monday, 8:20 AM	Mary J Vajen	Isabelle Lazar, Olivia Reynolds	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	Morgan Cox, Silus Hopkins	Lee Guinan	Paul Lonergan
Friday, 8:20 AM	Jim Merk	Hyde O'Rielley, Amelia Robertson	Jim & Rita Merk	
Saturday, 4:00 PM	Terry Carpenter	Kendall Cox, Becca Fuller, Addy Myers	Rosalie DeFillippo, Susan Garrett, Marguerite Grimm	Joyce Guenther, Denise McGuire, Mickey Steyaert
Sunday, Sept 17, 11:00 AM	Dennis Forquer	Dominic & Emeline Neighbor, Gunner Robertson	Pat Dreyer, Patrick Gins, Nancy Griffith	John Hartig, Teresa Hartig, Ben Peters

### sandwich saturday

School has started and the students are ready to begin serving the community by participating in the "Sandwich Saturday" program. This is a service project where students show discipleship by making sandwiches for Foundation Dinners, usually on the last Thursday of each month. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be made through the school or parish office. Please contact the school office for information at (740) 654-3137.

### 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 early to have your materials ready.

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 they are in their everyday lives. As they explore our faith, they invite you to join them 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

### day of recollection

A day of recollection, **Parables ... From Other Places**, happens on Saturday, Sept 23, from 10:30 AM until 3 PM at the Spirit Center at St Mary Parish in Lancaster. Presenter is Sr Louis Mary Passeri OP who will tell how parables surround us if we have eyes to see. Registration fee is \$15 which includes lunch. To register call the St Mary Parish office at (740) 653-0997.

### PDHC celebration

You can save and change lives. Attend a **Life & Liberty Celebration** benefitting Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) on Wednesday, Sept 20, at 6 PM at Fairfield Christian Church. Enjoy *hors d'oeuvres* and then be inspired by guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North. Attendance is complimentary. You will be given **an opportunity to make a contribution to save lives.** You must register before Sept 15. Register at [SupportPDHC.org](http://SupportPDHC.org). To sponsor this event and to meet LtCol North, contact Kathy Scanlon at [KathyS@pdhc.org](mailto:KathyS@pdhc.org) or (614) 888-8774, ext 6117.

### 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 **how you can support Fisher Catholic High School**, contact Scott Hartman of the Catholic Foundation at (614) 443-8893 or [shartman@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:shartman@catholic-foundation.org).



## looking for an organist and music coordinator

Sugar Grove Saint Joseph Church, with an enthusiastic congregation and a strong tradition of sacred music, is seeking an organist for one Saturday evening and one Sunday morning Mass, funerals, and other special occasions. Applicant should have some experience and the ability to work with cantors and a choir. For information, email or call Father James Walter, pastor, at [stjosephsugargrove@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsugargrove@gmail.com) or (740) 746-8302.

### help needed

Are you looking for a way to share your talents and time? **St Vincent de Paul Society in Lancaster is in great need of help with the food pantry, the store, and client aid.** Volunteering is a great way to give to someone in real need. Consider helping one day a month or one day a week, but please consider just helping. Contact Jill or Ed Weber at (740) 654-4148.

## in the diocese of columbus

### catholic record society

A quarterly meeting of the Catholic Record Society happens on Sunday, Sept 24, at 2 PM at the Jessing Conference Center on the campus of the Pontifical College Josephinum. The speaker will be Clyde Gosnell, retired local architect, who will present **A Tale of Two Landmarks: The Kelley Mansion and the Christopher Inn.** The Kelley Mansion, constructed in 1838, became the St Joseph Cathedral School, owned and operated by the Cathedral Parish from 1907 to 1958. It was dismantled in 1960 to make way for the futuristic, circular Christopher Inn, a Columbus landmark and destination for many years. The Inn's interesting connection to the Catholic Church will be brought out during the presentation. For information contact Chairman Mike Finn at [fcoolavin@aol.com](mailto:fcoolavin@aol.com) or (614) 268-4166.

### catholic conversations

Catholic Conversations presents Msgr Frank P Lane on Sunday, Sept 10 from 6-8 PM at Sports on Tap, 4030 Main St, Hilliard, in the Upper Room. Msgr Lane will be speaking on the topic *Immigration: Seeing beyond the Politics*. There is no cost to attend; only fee is for food and beverages. To register visit Event Brite and type in the search field- Catholic Conversations. For questions, contact Nancy Whetstone at [nancywhetstone@gmail.com](mailto:nancywhetstone@gmail.com) or Julie Naporano at [julienaporano1@gmail.com](mailto:julienaporano1@gmail.com).

### after divorce retreat: adventure into the interior life

A day-long retreat of healing for individuals who are separated and/or divorced, lay leaders, and clergy, will take place on Saturday, Sept 23, from 8:30 AM - 4 PM at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Grove City. The day will be led by Rose Sweet, Catholic speaker and author of seven books including the program "*Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family*." Participants will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the option to end the day with a Vigil Mass. The cost is \$20 (financial help is available) and lunch will be provided. Register at [DivorcedCatholicColumbus.org](http://DivorcedCatholicColumbus.org) by Sunday, Sept 17.

### live bible seminar

Jeff Cavins will present a live seminar "**Walking Toward Eternity...Making Choices for Today**" on Friday, Sept 29, from 7-8:30 PM and Saturday, Sept 30, from 9 AM-3 PM at the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany. This is an adult faith formation program, part inspirational talk and part hands on workshop. Register online at [www.cotrna.org](http://www.cotrna.org) or contact Gayle Kerkman at

(614) 429-7308 or gkerkman @ gmail . com. Cost of \$45 includes registration, seminar materials, light breakfast and boxed lunch.

## healing Mass at saint joseph cathedral

A Mass of healing will be celebrated on Monday, Sept 18, 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.

## 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).

## 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.

## taking care of your marriage

The next two weekends of a **Marriage Encounter Weekend** 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 . wmecolumbus . org](http://www.wmecolumbus.org).

## a tour of a pontifical seminary

Seminarians at the **Josephinum** will offer **tours** of their seminary on Saturday, Sept 16, from 10 AM-3 PM. Admission is free. Tours begin every half-hour, last about 45 minutes, and will be followed

by refreshments. For information or to make a reservation, call (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. First-responders and their families are invited.

## the beauty of the feminine

The **Beauty of the Feminine Catholic Women's Conference** will happen Saturday, Oct 7, from 8 AM to 3 PM at St Thomas Aquinas in Zanesville. The theme is "**Anchored in Hope**." For information visit [www . thebeautyofthefeminine . weebly . com](http://www.thebeautyofthefeminine.weebly.com). Registration, which includes talks, breakfast, and lunch, and costs \$20 until Sept 30, or \$25 on the day of the event, call St Thomas at (740) 453-3301 or email [thebeautyofthefeminine @ gmail . com](mailto:thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.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, telling **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.

**new diocesan website:** [www . columbuscatholic . org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org)

## 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 parish rectory** 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).

## 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



# When Someone Leaves the Church

Families hurt when a member leaves the Church. They should. If they don't care, they are shrugging off **something awfully important**.

Sometimes it is a matter of adolescent rebellion against the ways of the previous generation. Then it usually is not a lasting departure. Sometimes it is the rejection of the Faith by someone who just doesn't want to go to **the trouble that fidelity requires**. But for people who treasure their Catholic Faith, who had some difficulties in passing it on as their most precious heritage to the ones they love most, it is traumatic to see a younger generation or dear friends just chuck it.

Many of us have ancestors who did indeed go to **a lot of trouble to keep the Faith**. If you are of **Irish** descent, for instance, you probably have had Catholic ancestors who suffered economic persecution, often crippling their resources with confiscatory fines, for not attending the established Protestant denomination that was imposed from outside. If your people are from **Western Europe**, your ancestors may have been victims of the brutal and murderous persecution that was unleashed on many countries by the French revolution. And such persecution has extended into our own times. In **Mexico** and in **Spain**, within living memory, people were often put to death for their adherence to the Catholic Faith. If your people come from **Eastern Europe**, you might be aware of the persecution your cousins underwent from communists or Nazis. This has been a permanently recurring aspect of the life of serious Catholics. And our Catholic Faith is a faith worth dying for. This explains the hymn most of us grew up knowing

**Faith of our fathers**, living still,  
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy  
Whenever we hear that glorious Word!  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, we will strive  
To win all nations unto Thee;  
And through the truth that comes from God,  
We all shall then be truly free.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, we will love  
Both friend and foe in all our strife;  
And preach Thee, too, as love knows how  
By kindly words and virtuous life.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
**We will be true to thee till death.**

The claims of our Catholic Faith are true or they are not true. The demands of the Church oblige us or they do not oblige us. It is worth staking your life on or it is not worth staking your life on. I believe it is **the True Faith**. I believe that **the Church's demands oblige us**. I believe it is **worth staking my life on**. A "Catholic Lite" which waters all that down is just not worth the bother.

In our era, for lots of different reasons, many young (and not so young) **people drop out of the Faith**. They quit going to Mass; they marry out of the Church; they don't have their children baptized in the Faith; they don't bring their children to church or to religious education; they allow adolescents to opt out of attendance; they even choose other Faiths to raise their children in. **These behaviors are sinful**.

I wish I could water down that last sentence, say something like "These behaviors aren't nice," "aren't the best we can do." I'd like to say something less offensive, something that doesn't make me sound judgmental. But **we must make a judgment. God does**. And he tells us the judgment that he makes. We must **decide for the truth**. "Jesus said to them, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not **have life within you**.'" (John 6:53).

So, if we determine to follow the ways Jesus taught the Church in determining that some behaviors are sinful, what are we saying? That a person, our loved one, is damned? No, but rather, that **behaviors by which a person abandons the Faith are seriously, mortally sinful**. **The person who commits these acts — or, more typically, drifts into them, has done the wrong thing**. Is that person guilty of sin? That judgment is for God to make. We know that a person is guilty only **if three things apply**: 1) it is **serious matter** (and this is serious matter); 2) **the person knows** that it is serious matter (they should know this; why don't they); 3) **the person gives full consent** of the will. All three of these must apply for the person to be guilty of the mortal sin of leaving the Church.

You might say, isn't this awfully **inconsistent**? After all, there are many fine, indeed saintly members of other Christian ecclesial communities. These are people we love and people we should love. And when a non-Catholic person, Christian or otherwise, becomes a Catholic, we welcome that person as a convert or as an entrant into the full communion of the Catholic Church. But here we are discussing a serious sin in the case of a Catholic who seems to be taking the same trip in the other direction. Isn't that **hypocritical**?

If it really were the same trip, it would be. If there were lots of truth out there and we each could pick and choose the truths we like best, then it would be making too much of a small matter. But there is a difference, if the Catholic Church is teaching the truth — and Catholics are people who joyfully stake their lives on this truth. The Truth isn't up to me to determine. **The Catholic is the fellow who accepts that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, that he has built his Church on the apostle Peter (notice that it is not just "the church of our choice" which we can construct as we see fit), that this Church of his can be relied on in her teaching because Jesus promised to be with her and gave Peter and his successors the keys of the kingdom of heaven, gave him the job of tending the flock**. Through this Church of Jesus', we have membership in the very Body of Christ, we have access to all seven of the sacraments. **To enter this, from wherever we come, is a fine thing; to drop out is, at best, a disturbing thing; it cannot be neutral**. When it is our loved ones who are involved, **we cannot be neutral**.

I have loved ones who have left the Faith, you say; how should I deal with them? Just lightening up and saying it's no big deal, different strokes, and all that, is not an option for someone who takes Jesus seriously. Nor is rejection and resentment. **Prayer and support of the loved one, without ever stopping loving them, is the real need. And so is the gentle but firm insistence on the truth and on the humble invitation to return** to the way of the Lord Jesus.

—Father Kessler

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